

BD50 fine over fight upheld

● Row sparked by misunderstanding

● Argument developed into fistfight

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A misunderstanding between two individuals escalated into a physical altercation, ending with both being fined BD50 by the Court of First Instance, a ruling later upheld by the High Criminal Court of Appeal and finally confirmed by the Court of Cassation.

The first appellant had challenged the fine imposed on him, but the court rejected his appeal after establishing that the assault was mutual and did not result in injuries causing incapacity for more than 20 days.

The incident occurred when a dispute arose while the first defendant was inside his vehicle. The argument quickly developed into a fistfight, resulting in minor injuries to both parties and their conviction by all levels of the courts.

Digital governance

Parliament backs wider use of AI and digitisation of routine government services

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Automation moved a step closer in government yesterday after Parliament approved a proposal urging ministries to expand artificial intelligence use and digitise routine services, with MP Hassan Ebrahim saying current use is still limited and must be turned into working systems.

The proposal, put forward by MP Hassan Ebrahim with Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Jaleela Alawi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi and First Deputy Speaker AbdulNabi Salman, calls for wider take-up of AI across ministries and public bodies, with more services handled through automated systems to speed up transactions, cut paperwork and lower running costs.

Speaking during the sitting, MP Ebrahim urged ministries to stop treating AI as a side project and push it into day-to-day work.

“We must press ahead towards generalising the use of AI technologies across ministries and government bodies, through automating services



“Expanding the use of AI can offer greater financial protection by reducing human intervention and limiting potential errors.”

— MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

and improving institutional performance,” he said.

He told MPs the case for AI was not limited to faster queues and quicker replies.

“Expanding the use of AI



Image used for illustrative purposes only

would speed up transactions, reduce administrative and financial burdens, raise government performance, and strengthen integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption,” he said, adding that it can offer “greater financial protection by reducing human intervention and limiting potential errors”.

Hassan Ebrahim said the next phase should be hands-on use, with clear checks on what changes on the ground.

Capabilities

“The capabilities are there to move strongly into AI, but current use remains limited, so we



The proposal calls for focused training for government staff on practical AI use.

must shift from theory to actual and experimental application, measure the impact, and set an ambitious plan to integrate it

into government plans and strategies in the near and medium term,” he said.

The proposal argues that AI tools can also support oversight by spotting odd patterns in financial activity and backing internal checks of public accounts, while service performance can be tracked through analysis of complaints and queries from the public.

It also points to uses in public safety and municipal work, including smart cameras and visual analysis to help monitor public spaces, and traffic systems that read vehicle flows and adjust signal timings.

Skills

Supporters say success depends on skills at home.

The proposal calls for focused training for government staff on practical AI use, backing for specialist hiring, and closer work with national universities and research centres on applied projects that fit Bahrain’s needs.

It also urges adding AI fields to scholarship plans to help build a pipeline of younger talent able to develop and run these systems.

Bahrainisation in primary healthcare hits 100% rate

● 88% doctors in government hospitals are Bahrainis

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Health Minister, Her Excellency Jaleela bint Al Sayed, told MPs yesterday that the government is widening training and hiring routes for Bahraini doctors and nurses, citing full Bahrainisation across health centres and primary care and an estimated 88 per cent Bahraini share of doctors in government hospitals.

Speaking during the parliamentary sitting in reply to remarks by MP Abdulnabi Salman, H.E. Al Sayed said the Ministry of Health was putting its weight behind Bahraini staff to keep the health system sustainable.

“We focus on investing in national cadres to ensure the sustainability of the health system



Abdulnabi Salman, first deputy speaker

through the hands of the people of this country,” she said.

She said the current legislative term had delivered a change in frontline staffing.

“The Bahrainisation of jobs in health centres and primary healthcare facilities has reached 100 per cent, and Bahraini doctors now account for around 88 per cent of doctors in government hospitals,” she told the chamber.

Al Sayed said the work was being driven through coop-



H.E. Jaleela bin Al Sayed

eration between Parliament, the government and executive bodies, and that initiatives launched since the start of the term were aimed at widening job routes for Bahrainis.

She pointed to a sharp rise in training places, from 83 doctors targeted for residency training in 2023, supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), to more than 700 training and job opportunities across 2024 and 2025 through residency and fellowship programmes. The push also covered nursing.

BD1,000 cap for witness evidence in civil cases approved

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to expand the use of witness testimony in lower-value civil disputes was approved by Parliament yesterday, lifting the ceiling from BD500 to BD1,000.

The change amends the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters issued by Legislative Decree No. 14 of 1996.



H.E. Nawaf Al Maawda

Articles 61 and 62 were replaced so that, in non-commercial cases, witness testimony



MP Mohammed Al Refai

can be used to prove the existence or ending of a legal transaction up to 1,000 dinars.

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