

Fishermen protest over licence reduction plan

They say the law, if implemented, will push their families into poverty

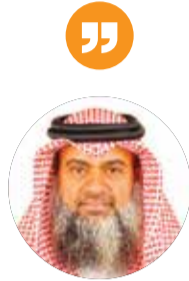
● The current law authorises the fishermen to lease out their licences, which, according to MPs, has only benefitted expats.

● The draft law presented by the Utilities Committee of the House of Representatives calls for a fine of BD5,000 if any fisherman is found leasing out his licence.

TDI|Manama
Thamer Tayfur

About 30 fishermen staged a protest at Muharraq Port over a proposal by the lawmakers to reduce the number of fishing licences per person from three to one.

The protesting fishermen said their



There is a consensus on it, especially since the draft law is in the public interest, and will maintain food security.

MR BUHASSAN

The law proposed by MPs aims at Bahrainising the fishing sector while protecting the marine resources of the Kingdom.

“We make BD750 by leasing out three licences a month, ie BD250 per licence. If the number of fishing licences are reduced our income will be limited to BD250 a month. How do you expect a family to survive with that money?” a fisherman, who doesn’t want to be named, told Tribune.

Another fisherman said the move will destroy the fishing industry. “Less licences mean less fish in the market. As the supply reduces considerably, the price will climb high. In my judgement, the prices of fish will go up at least by 70 per cent. People will stop consuming fish and it will eventually destroy the industry.”

“What are the parliamentarians intending to do? Do they get happiness when our families are pushed into poverty?,” he asked.

The current law authorises the fishermen to lease out their licences, which, according to MPs, has only benefitted expats.

The draft law presented by the Utilities Committee of the House of Representatives calls for a fine of BD5,000 if any fisherman is found leasing out his licence. However, there is no ban on recruiting foreign workers for fishing.

Speaking to Tribune, MP Jamal Buhassan said the draft law will be approved by the council in its next session.

“There is a consensus on it, especially since the draft law is in the public interest, and will maintain food security.”

“I do not fear that the prices of fish will increase, because the new regulation will encourage competition and more Bahrainis will get the opportunity to get involved in this industry. This will of course reduce unemployment and help more families create a source of income,” he added.

A’ali arsonists sentenced

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Six Bahraini arsonists convicted of burning tyres in A’ali have been handed down jail terms varying between one and five years.

According to court files, the defendants plotted the crime, which took place on August 8, 2017, through personal meetings and social media platforms.

The defendants are also said to have detonated a gas cylinder which they placed in the middle of burning tyres.

“I was tasked by the first defendant to arrange several tyre to burn them and to set off the gas cylinder,” the third defendant said during questioning.

“We went to Souq Waqif and got the tyres. We also brought with us firebombs as well as a bottle of petrol. When I met the first and sixth defendants, they were having a gas cylinder and they told me that they would detonate it,” he added.

Meanwhile, the first defendant told prosecutors that the fifth defendant requested him to participate in the incident and they used a conference call to monitor the area before advancing with their plan.

The defendants’ involvement in the incident had become clear during police investigations.

The fourth suspect was found to have a black mask, laser and black gloves upon his arrest. Police source say all these items are used by rioters across the country.

Bahrain to attend key UN meet on SDGs

TDI|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain will be among the countries to take part in the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development organised by the United Nations at its headquarters in New York next month.

The high level event, held from July 9 to July 18, will see the participation of 45 countries and will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

The ten day forum includes a three-day

ministerial meeting of the forum from Monday, 16 July, to Wednesday, 18 July 2018. The event is aimed to promote and review the implementation of sustainable development and to provide guidance and recommendations.

The theme of the event will be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

A spokesperson from UN Information Centre (UNIC) Bahrain said that more details about Bahrain’s participation will be announced next Wednesday.

“Thousands of government, business and civil society leaders will gather at

Forty-seven countries – both developed and developing – including Bahrain will speak on the actions they are taking to achieve the Goals during the three-day ministerial meeting.

UNIC BAHRAIN

the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from 9 to 18 July

at UN Headquarters in New York to review successes, discuss challenges and mobilise efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” UNIC Bahrain said.

“The forum is the central platform for tracking progress on the Goals at the global level. Forty-seven countries – both developed and developing – including Bahrain will speak on the actions they are taking to achieve the Goals during the three-day ministerial meeting from 16 to 18 July when they present their voluntary national reviews,” it added.

SCW stresses efforts to empower women



Shaikha Dina at the meeting.

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A delegation from the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) represented Bahrain in the 2018 UN Women Executive Council meeting held here at the UN Headquarters.

SCW Acting Director General for Policies and Development, Shaikha Dina bint

Rashid Al Khalifa, in her speech, affirmed Bahrain’s commitment to continue its role as a member of the UN Women Executive Council in promoting policies and practices that support the advancement of women.

Shaikha Dina Al Khalifa invited government committees and civil society organisations concerned to participate in the

Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment, highlighting its importance as an SCW-UN joint initiative aims at highlighting the role of states in supporting the policy of non-discrimination against women, in addition to encouraging visions and efforts that support the integration of women’s needs.

Three years jail for teenaged fake bomber

● The hoax bomb was made of a plastic box connected to an MP 3 gadget and was wrapped with a tape. His involvement in the incident was established after police found matching fingerprints.

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The High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini teenager to three years behind bars for planting a fake bomb. The defendant along with his brother is said to have gained specialised skills in the making of fake bombs and was already accused in many cases.

The device was found in Jid Ali on May 22, 2016, after the roadusers alerted the Capita Police Station.

The hoax bomb was made of a plastic box connected to an MP 3 gadget and was wrapped with a tape. His involvement in the incident was established after police found matching fingerprints.

“I wanted to con police officers and cause panic in the area, therefore we made this device with my brother,” the teenage defendant said.

“We decided to plant it in Jid Ali because it is a crowded place. And the presence of device will put everything at a standstill until police officers arrive,” he added.

Prosecutors say that the device was made for a terrorist purpose.