

# Court strikes down doctor's suspension

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The High Administrative Court overturned a one-year suspension awarded to a doctor by the Medical Discipline Committee citing the committee's refusal to hear the defence witnesses.

The court viewed that by refusing to hear the witness account the committee has denied the doctor his inalienable right to defend himself.

The plaintiff's lawyer told the court that Inquiry commission was composed of doctors competitors. The court also underlined that the committee



Representative picture

didn't provide any evidence to prove the medical error made by the doctor while treating the

patient. The decision follows a case filed by the doctor requesting to suspend the medical

committee's decision.

"Following a complaint filed by the woman's husband, I was referred to the Medical Licenses Committee of the Medical Discipline Authority for investigations as it was accused that I didn't inform the woman of the risks associated with multiple pregnancies in short period," the plaintiff said in his complaint. "I appeared before the committee but all my requests to defend myself met with rejections," he told the court.

The committee earlier found the doctor has committed medical offences against a pregnant woman.

## High Criminal court acquits man of weapon smuggling

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The High Criminal Court acquitted an accused in a case of smuggling weapons as the prosecution witness turned hostile. According to the prosecution, the man was caught smuggling a gun and 28 bullets by land as well as other weapons.

A witness testimony was the main evidence. However, before the Court, the witness admitted that he wasn't present during the sting operation.

According to court files, the prosecution witness told the court that the case was based on a tip-off received from confidential sources regarding a man who is about to smuggle a gun through King Fahad Causeway. "I directly informed

police officers and an undercover agent was tasked to ambush him."

"The agent in plain clothes called him while I was with him. I heard him agreeing to buy a gun. A sting operation was thus planned and they agreed to meet in Amwaj Island. An officer in plain clothes proposed to buy a gun for BD500," he added.

Court records say they met in the agreed place and the defendant handed over the gun to the officer and he received the money. "I told the police officers who were waiting to go and arrest him," he continued.

However, the witness struggled to remember when the judges asked him, "What were the items seized from the defendant".

## Intelligence case: Public prosecution to appeal

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The High Criminal Court yesterday acquitted Ali Salman Ali Ahmad, Hassan Ali Juma Sultan and Ali Mahdi Ali Al Aswad in a trial for alleged spying for Qatar.

Advocate General Osama Al Oufi said he would appeal the verdict in a statement released by the public prosecutor's office.

Ali Salman was found not guilty along with two of his aides, who were tried in absentia. He has been behind bars since 2014 serving a four-year

jail sentence on charges of inciting hatred.

Al Oufi said that the Public Prosecution had submitted strong and varied evidence that included communication records between the defendants and Qatari officials that proved beyond any doubt the intelligence.

The links between them, he said, were for the purpose of inciting the violence and chaos that struck the kingdom in 2011. "Testimonies by witnesses evidenced the acts of violence and the extent of the conspiracy

between the defendants and Qatari officials."

Al Oufi said the conspirators provided intelligence about the movements of security forces and the Peninsula Shield troops to tackle the incidents, killings and acts of sabotage targeting Bahrainis, residents and public property.

"The testimonies also supported the material evidence presented by the Public Prosecution that revealed the tasks assigned to the defendants by Qatari officials," he said.

The Advocate General said

that the court in its decision to acquit the defendants did not properly assess the evidence and pronounced a ruling that did not match the accusations as revealed both in the investigations and in the trial sessions, particularly that the defendants and their lawyers could not refute the charges.

He said the Public Prosecution would appeal the verdict.

Bahrain's laws allow the prosecution and the defendants to appeal a ruling at the court of appeals and at the court of cas-

## Man caught selling drugs

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A fish seller was awarded a 10-year imprisonment and a fine of BD5000 for selling as well as consuming drugs. The accused is serving a 5-year jail term in a similar case.

The man was arrested in a sting operation on 14 April 2017 after police acted upon a tip-off that the suspect was keeping hashish with an intent to sell.

According to court files, the suspect confessed during interrogation that he received a call from a stranger who wanted to buy hashish. "The

buyer offered me BD200 and we agreed to meet near a supermarket in Juffair at 12:15 am," he told the court.

Anti-drug squad arrested him red-handed while receiving money from the undercover officer for the drugs.

"When we inspected him, the money was in his pocket. We took him to his home after extracting a search warrant. We inspected it and found other types of drugs, including shabu," an officer involved in the operation told prosecutors.

The suspect's saliva was tested positive for shabu and hashish.

## Britain favourite realty spot for Bahrainis

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When it comes to British real estate, investors surveyed in Bahrain responded most positively, said a survey, after those in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

At 86 per cent, investors in Bahrain account for the highest proportion by a country that agreed on the strength of UK property; indeed, all Bahraini nationals questioned agreed on the UK's qualities.

In the GCC, over three-quarters of investors opined that the UK would be a good place to buy real estate. The findings come from Select Property Group's GCC Investor Report 2018. "Across all six countries, most investors surveyed agreed that the UK is one of



Adam Price, Managing Director of Select Property Group

the world's preferred property markets," the report said.

Investors, at 79pc, from both UAE and Saudi Arabia also regarded the UK as one of the world's strongest overseas property investments.

UK was in the top four destinations where GCC investors buy property overseas, along with the USA, Turkey and UAE.

## 'Salman Town' housing unit first phase distribution begins

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The Housing Ministry yesterday announced beginning the distribution of housing units to beneficiaries of 'Salman Town' in the first phase.

The move follows the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 5,000 housing units. This also falls in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the ongoing efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.



The move follows the order of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Housing Minister, Bassim Al-Hamar, said that the actual operation of the new town has started following its official opening last month during which HM the King named it after HRH the Crown Prince.

Al-Hamar also pointed out that the gradual operation of the East Hidd Town and Al-Ramli Suburb housing project will start later this year.

He stressed that the progress witnessed by social housing in the kingdom is a realistic translation of HM the King's directives to build 40,000 housing units, from which the government's commitment to constructing 25,000 units within its current action plan.

## Bahrain celebrates Yoga Day, sessions held in various schools

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The Indian Embassy in Bahrain in association with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs celebrated the fourth International Day of Yoga at Isa Sports City Hall last night with various programmes highlighting the Yoga's holistic approach to health and well-being.

Students from various CBSE schools attended the celebrations with the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) sending 600 students to take part in the programme.



Yoga Day in ISB Riffa

As part of the celebrations yesterday an early morning Yoga

session was also held at the Indian Embassy which was attended

by Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha along with the Em-

bassy officials, a team from the Art of Living Bahrain and ICRF.

The session was joined by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's live Yoga session held at the Forest Research Institute campus in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Yoga has become one of the most powerful 'Unifying Forces' in the world. He performed Yogasan, Pranayama and Dhyana with about 50,000 yoga enthusiasts and volunteers at the Forest Research Institute campus.

"It's a proud moment for everyone that today, all over the world; people are welcoming the brightness and warmth of the sun with Yoga. From Dehradun to Dublin, from Shanghai to Chicago, and from Jakarta to Johannesburg, yoga is now spread everywhere", Prime Minister said. Yoga unites. Instead of further animosity, Yoga assimilates. Instead of increasing suffering, Yoga heals," he added.

Yoga sessions were held in various schools in the Kingdom including the Indian School and Bahrain Indian School.