

Gulf national gets three-year jail for 'illegal entry' to the Kingdom

Accused was earlier convicted of consuming and possessing drugs

TDT | Manama

A Gulf national, who succeeded in entering the Kingdom using a stolen identity card, was caught on King Fahad Causeway on his way out of the Kingdom.

This was revealed when the man, who is in his thirties, stood trial before the First High Criminal Court, which sentenced him to three years and blacklisted him from entering the Kingdom.

The details of the case show that the man was wanted to serve

an imprisonment sentence issued against him here in absentia after he was convicted in a drugs consumption and possession case.

In his statement, he told the interrogators that he stole someone's wallet in his country and used the identity card of the person to enter Bahrain through the causeway without being questioned.

The man apparently succeeded to cheat the Customs Officer and entered the country in a taxi after using the card that he claimed was his, according to



The man succeeded to cheat the Customs Officer and entered the country in a taxi after using the card that he claimed was his.

PROSECUTORS

Prosecutors.

After he finished his trip here, he attempted to exit Bahrain using the same method, they added.

However, this time, the Customs Officer on the Bahraini side of the Causeway suspected whether the card originally belonged to the defendant.

According to court files, the defendant was asked by the officers more than once if the card belonged to him, to which he insisted to claim that it was his.

The unconvinced officers then decided to escort him to the Saudi Customs, where his fingerprint could be checked.

According to the officers' testimonies, the defendant confessed

that he stole the card so he could use it to enter Bahrain because he was wanted to serve an imprisonment sentence issued against him here.

The defendant was then handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Department in Interior Ministry, which later referred the Public Prosecution.

On October 31, 2019, the prosecution charged him of providing wrong data to a government body, using someone else's identity as if it was his own and illegally entering Bahrain.

Asian sentenced for selling drugs

TDT | Manama

An Asian man was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and fined BD10,000 after the Fourth High Criminal Court found him guilty of selling marijuana in the Kingdom.

Court files showed that the Anti-narcotics Directorate within the Interior Ministry received a tip-off on the man's illegal activities and an undercover officer was tasked to buy BD150 worth of marijuana from the defendant in order to arrest him.

Another person, along with an undercover cop, met the defendant at a previously agreed to spot, handed him the money and received the drugs, according to Prosecutors.

The undercover cop then arrested the defendant redhanded and found the amount in his possession, as well as a rolled joint of marijuana.

He was referred to the Public Prosecution, which interrogated him, heard witnesses testimonies and examined the seized evidence, before referring him to the court, which ordered to imprison and fine the defendant for his crime.

Man who shot teargas canister at crowd to learn fate next month

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has adjourned the case of a Bahraini man, who's charged with possessing a firearm without permission, to March 15, 2020, to announce its final verdict.

The 25-year-old was arrested back in 2018 after he allegedly shot a teargas canister at a crowd in Eker village in the Capital Governorate.

The man wasn't immediately arrested, but police investigation and the results of laboratory tests on the canister showed traces of his DNA, leading to his identification and arrest.

The High Criminal Court began hearing the case of a 24-year-old man accused of throwing a tear gas canister at a group of people. The statements of an eyewitness mentioned: "We are a group of friends who always gather in one place, but we were stunned when a man passed by us with his car and pelted the canister at us without any reason.

"We couldn't note down his car's registration plate number due the heavy smokes emitting from the canister."

On June 23, 2018, the Public Prosecution announced that it charged the defendant of possessing the firearm and the canister without obtaining the necessary permit from Interior Ministry.

'India should invest more in education, public health'



Mr Sardesai speaks at the BKS Book Fest 2020.

TDT | Manama

Pradeep Puravankara

India should invest more in the field of education and public health to meet the aspirations of its people, said prominent Indian journalist Rajdeep Sardesai yesterday.

Mr Sardesai, a news anchor, author and consulting editor at the India Today Group, said India is only investing, as of now, three per cent of its budget on

education, which is totally insufficient.

He was speaking at the fifth edition of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Book Fest 2020 yesterday in the presence of BKS President P V Radhakrishna Pillai.

He cited the example of Kerala, which could be emulated on a national level. "Look at Kerala, it has done a remarkable job in education and public health. The educational suc-

cess rate is high in the state and so are its public health indicators."

Mr Sardesai praised the Kerala Health Ministry for successfully tackling the corona threat, emphasising on the need to bridge north-south divide when it comes to implementing policies related to public health and education.

"In the north, Delhi government is doing a great job to

boost the education sector. The government there is spending nearly 35 per cent of the budget on education and the results are now evident."

The leading journalist said this is the right time for India to focus on its young population. "We need to work on this factor. After 2035, India will become an ageing society. Use the moment or seize the moment to build a better India or lose the opportunity," he said.

Shura raps Amnesty report

Manama

The Shura Council has deplored the fallacies and incorrect information in Amnesty International's report that targets the progress of democracy and human rights in Bahrain.

In a statement, the Shura said international organisations have the duty of taking information from reliable sources and of communicating with the relevant authorities on human rights instead of drafting reports that lack objectivity and integrity.

The Shura said it was well aware of the report issued by Amnesty International and the false information and incorrect data it contained, stressing that it was not based on facts and that it did not reflect the reality in Bahrain nor its efforts to guarantee human rights and freedoms.

Gulf Air becomes official carrier of Bahrain Film Festival

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom, has announced its collaboration with and sponsorship of the upcoming Bahrain Film Festival as the official carrier of the first edition of the festival due to be held from 4 to 8 of March, organised by the Bahrain Cinema Club.

The sponsorship is part of the airline's strategy to support various activities that are aimed at enhancing the cultural, artistic and tourism scene in the Kingdom of Bahrain

During the signing ceremony which took place at the airline's headquarters, Gulf Air's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi said: "Gulf Air has a track record in support-



Mr Al Alawi, Mr Al Maskati sign the co-operation agreement.



We will transport festival guests to participate in this promising festival, which is part of the esteemed Spring of Culture calendar of events.

MR AL ALAWI

ing such events over the years.

"We will transport festival guests to participate in this promising festival, which is part of the esteemed Spring of Culture calendar of events. Bahrain is well known for its efforts to enrich the cultural movement and enhance its position as a cultural hub in the region." For his part, the President of the

Bahrain Cinema Club Mr Nader Al Maskati appreciated the support provided by Gulf Air, stressing the importance of this partnership to achieve the desired goals of the first Bahrain Film Festival.

He said: "We praise Gulf Air's efforts as the national carrier in supporting local events aimed at promoting art and culture as well as positioning Bahrain on the global map of art and culture."

The Bahrain Film Festival aims to present a cultural cinematic event that will add to the cultural movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The festival will support young talents in Bahrain and the Arab region by discovering and encouraging content creators and film enthusiasts.