

'Criminal background' check costs a man his right to vote

● The Court ruling came in an appeal challenging a supervisory committee in the Muharraq Governorate

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What goes around will come around. A Bahraini man learned the meaning of this saying quite painfully the other day in a Courtroom.

The incident happened when the person in question approached the Second Civil Supreme Court of Appeal, appealing a decision to drop his name from the voters' list.

The court, however, after reviewing the appeal, told him that he did not stand a chance to vote because he had committed crimes against honour and trust.

The court reminded him that he had in his name a previous conviction for practising as a pharmacist in the Kingdom without a licence.

The Court ruling came in an appeal filed by the man challenging a supervisory committee



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tee decision in the Muharraq Governorate.

After finding that his name was not on the voters' list, the man filed a request before the supervisory committee.

The committee, after a review, rejected the application and informed him that in a text

message, following which he approached the court.

Explaining the rationale behind the ruling, the court said that universal suffrage gives the right to vote to all citizens. However, there will be an exception when it comes to criminal offences.

The court said that the law deprives that right to anyone convicted of a felony or a crime involving dishonesty or honour unless rehabilitated.

"He shall not have received jail terms in one of the electoral crimes stipulated in Decree-Law No. 3 of 2002 unless the sen-

tence is suspended or received rehabilitation."

In this case, the court said that the appellant had failed one of the conditions of not having criminal precedence.

The court viewed that selling drugs without registration and storing them outside a pharmacy in an unlicensed place are crimes against honour and trust.

The court also pointed out that the appellant failed to provide evidence for his rehabilitation.

"Therefore, he is deprived of the right to vote following Article 3 of Decree-Law No. 14 of 2002 regarding the exercise of political rights replaced by Law No. 36 of 2006."

The court confirmed the judgment of the election supervisory committee to drop the man's names from the voters' list.

The court also ordered the appellant to bear the expenses incurred.

In a similar case reported by Tribune, a sitting MP got his request for inclusion in the voters' list rejected for swearing at a woman in 2019.

The High Appeals Court rejected the appeal by the MP against cancelling his candida-

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ture on account of the old conviction.

The MP was found guilty in a phone harassment case filed by a woman. However, despite receiving a conviction, he was saved from paying penalties at that time after the Bahraini parliament refused to lift his immunity. But it proved fatal this time.

Unfair dismissal: Court orders \$310,000 compensation to European national

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A company in the Kingdom landed in hot waters for firing one of its directors after the High Labour Court ruled the dismissal unfair.

The court also ordered the company to pay the man a compensation of \$310,000 or BD120,000.

The ruling came in a case filed against the branch of a Gulf-based company by its ex-director, a European national.

Court files say the man started



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his career with the company as a Chief Technology Officer in 2020.

"He was drawing a monthly wage of BD18,000 at that time," the man's lawyer Ali Khalifa Al Shaikh, told the court.

However, after 18 months, the company allegedly sacked him without providing a legal justification.

The lawyer also claimed that the company cancelled his work permit and failed to pay his salary dues.

Accepting the arguments,

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the court ruled in favour of the plaintiff.

"The plaintiff had proved his claims, while the defendant failed to provide evidence of paying salaries. Therefore, the court rules in favour of the plaintiff," the court ruling read.

Fire engulfs apartment; three injured



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A fire engulfed a residential apartment in the Hooraa A'ali area, with authorities reporting minor injuries to three people yesterday.

The injured were rushed to hospital by the National Ambulance team.

Interior Ministry later said in a tweet that the victims suffered suffocation and minor burns.

Civil Defence Force had rushed to the scene soon after receiving an intimation and started rescue efforts, as police officers cordoned off the area to prevent further adversities.

Residents nearby said they saw thick smoke billowing from the building as the blaze burned the building ferociously.

The fire was brought under quickly, with firefighters also performing cooling operations to reduce the dangers posed by the hot smoke in enclosure fires.

It is, however, not clear what sparked the fire.

An investigation is ongoing.

Woman granted divorce from abusive husband ending nine-month marriage

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A Shariat Court granted a 21-year-old woman divorce from her abusive husband in a case filed nine-month after marriage.

The husband, the court heard, used to physically attack his wife, in one instance also using broken pieces of furniture.

The husband also allegedly failed to provide for his wife.

The woman told the court that the man ruined her dignity by constantly subjecting her to sex-



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ual, physical and verbal assaults.

The wife also told the court that she had to depend on her family to satisfy her financial

needs.

"My family helped me financially as he didn't give me any money and failed to live up to his

responsibilities as a husband," the woman told the court.

"He didn't even give me a proper space to live, in stark violations of the conditions, agreed in the marriage contract," she added.

Lawyer Khalil Ibrahim, who represented the woman in court, said his client has a legal marriage contract with him.

"However, it wasn't a smooth going from the start itself and disintegrated gradually to the point of no return, just in about nine months, despite her at-

tempts to save the wedlock."

The lawyer also told the court that the husband took away all her gold jewellery and other belongings with force.

The court ruled the evidence provided by the woman seeking a divorce as credible and reliable, including a medical certificate proving the physical and mental harassment she suffered from her husband.

"The Court grants here divorce based on the conditions she endured," the court ruling stated.