## Fines, jail for insulting public servants

Parliament considers higher penalties for insulting public service employees

Bill proposes raising fines for insulting public service employees from BD50 to BD500

Stricter penalties apply for insults made in court, with jail terms of at least three months or fines of BD1,000 or more

MP Ali Al Nuaimi said the law aims to protect public employees

**Mohammed Darwish** TDT | Manama

igher fines and possible jail terms could Lsoon be imposed on anyone who insults a public service employee, under a draft bill referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee.

The proposed amendments to Article 222 of the Penal Code would raise the maximum fine for such offences from

Dr Ali Al Nuaimi,



BD50 to BD500. The law covers insults delivered through gestures, speech, writing, or any other means against a public employee—or anyone performing a public service—while carrying out their duties.

Stricter penalties are also proposed for insults made in court, directed at the judiciary as a body or at individual judges. In such cases, offenders could face at least three months in prison or a fine of no less than

MP Ali Al Nuaimi, who submitted the draft, em-



Representative picture

as "the main pillar had been in force for decades, legal consequences.

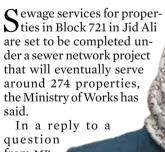
phasised the impor- on which the state is built" and but the existing penalties had tance of safeguarding essential to implementing gov- not provided sufficient deterpublic employees, ernment programmes and pol-rence, prompting the proposed describing them icies. He noted that Article 222 increase in fines and tougher

## Jid Ali sewer project to serve 274 properties as works near completion

Large parts of the Capital Governorate, including the Seventh Constituency, have been covered by sewer networks

About 90 per cent of Block 721 has already been connected to the sewer network

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lAmeer, the ministry confirmed that detailed designs for the project are ready and the necessary work permits have been secured. It noted that about 90 per cent of Block 721 has already been connected to the sewer network.

The remaining works will be implemented in a single phase, with the project expected to be put out to public tender in

The ministry said that large parts of the Capital Governorate, including the Seventh

> have been covered by sewer networks a d d e d

Constituency,

A modern sewer sys-

tem does more than carry away wastewater – it plays a crucial role in public health by preventing the spread of water-borne diseases and protecting groundwater and coastal areas from contamination.

in recent ried out across Bahrain in line years. It with approved priorities.

These priorities take into acthat infra- count factors such as the level structure of urban development, techniprojects are cal feasibility, the importance of the service and the approved budget, with ongoing coordination between the Ministry of Works, the Capital Municipal Council and the three municipal councils.

The ministry also said its wider work programme includes constructing sewer networks, paving unpaved roads and maintaining existing roads, alongside other infrastructure

## Half-fine traffic deal hits another roadblock in Shura

**Mohammed Darwish** TDT | Manama

Aproposal allowing traffic offenders to settle violations by paying half the minimum fine within 30 days has returned to the Shura Council,

The Foreign Affairs,

Defence and National Security Committee has recommended that the chamber uphold its ear-



lier decision to reject the draft torate of Traffic to close cases scheduled discussion on Sun-

The move follows a renewed vote in the Council of Representatives on November 11, 2025, when MPs reaffirmed but a key committee is urging their support for the amendmembers to block it once again. ment and referred it back to the ing it with a uniform 30-day upper chamber under Article window would weaken this in-84 of the Constitution.

minimum fine within 30 days of the offer.

The committee noted that Article 56 already fic offences, allowing the General Direc-

Dr Ali Al Rumaihi. Head of Shura's Foreign Affairs, **Defence and National** Security Committee

law in principle, ahead of a before they reach the Public Prosecution. Under the current law, a reduced settlement amount is linked to payment within seven days, creating an incentive for early compliance.

It warned that removing the seven-day provision and replaccentive.

The draft seeks to amend The committee also pointed Article 56 of the Traffic to Decree-Law No. 30 of 2025, Law by introducing a which amended the same law single settlement rule and increased fines, adding new under which offend- offences to the list eligible for ers who accept a com-settlement. It said the proposed promise would pay an amendment would not align amount equal to half the well with those recent changes.

In its report, the committee stressed the need for penalties to remain proportionate to offences, noting that fines serve permits settlement for as a deterrent against repeat via specified list of traf- olations and dangerous driving that can result in serious injury or death.

The Shura Council had previously rejected the draft at its April 13, 2025 session, but the elected chamber's insistence has brought it back for reconsideration.

## Final arguments set in false news and foreign state insult trial

**Rehab Mohammad** TDT | Manama

The Fourth Lower Criminal involving a defendant accused of broadcasting false news and

imposed.

At a previous hearing, he allegedly made statements estinian cause, while claiming edly made false and offensive division or violate legal provisented its written and oral instability. Prosecutors said he inactive. The Fourth Lower Criminal submissions and called for urged Banraini and Arab CitCourt has adjourned a case the maximum penalty to be izens to revolt against their received by the Cybercrime stitution guarantees freedom rumours, and insulting states submissions and called for urged Bahraini and Arab citgovernments, describing them Directorate, which monitored of opinion and expression, this are criminal offences punisha-According to court records, as submissive, and accused the televised interview and right is subject to the law and ble under the law, and fall outinsulting a foreign state to De- the defendant appeared in a tel- several Arab states of collusion related social media content does not extend to acts that un- side the scope of constitutional-

the Public Prosecution pre- calling for chaos and inciting that others remained silent and statements.

The case stems from a report the court that while the Con- inflammatory propaganda and cember 29 for final arguments. evised interview during which and conspiracy against the Pal- in which the defendant alleg- dermine national unity, incite ly protected expression.

sions. He stressed that broad-The Chief Prosecutor told casting false news, spreading