

Not confessions, evidence matters

Interior Minister highlights the need to look beyond courtroom confessions in determining crimes

● **“It is crucial to look beyond ‘confessions in courts’ while determining crimes,” Interior Minister said.**

● **Shaikh Rashid said the ministry is currently studying the open prisons systems of other countries**

TDT | Manama

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa called on law enforcement authorities to depend on “conclusive material evidence” while pressing charges against an individual.

“It is crucial to look beyond ‘confessions in courts’ while determining crimes,” the minister said.

“For this, the ministry has a Criminal Investigation Directorate, forensic labs, capacity building, and latest technologies.”



”
The continuous support of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to the ministry enables “all the ministry’s personnel to assume their duties with greater resolve and dedication, under the leadership of His Majesty the King

INTERIOR MINISTER

The directives came as the Interior minister reflected on the path-breaking changes outlined by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa during a press meet with the editors-in-chief of local newspapers.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister had called for a comprehensive review of the justice system in the Kingdom based on the open prison approach,

amongst other measures.

Shaikh Rashid said the directives to develop the reformation and rehabilitation centres, and adopt a programme for open prisons will “strengthen the principle of justice” in the Kingdom.

The approach, Shaikh Rashid said, stems from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s reform programme.

On the Open Prison system,

the Interior Minister said, “The approach would widen the scope of the alternative punishment system.”

Bahrain, Shaikh Rashid recalled, was one of the first Arab countries to implement an alternative punishment law to promote the criminal justice system. “The ministry has been working on to develop the Kingdom’s reformation and rehabilitation system to ensure the highest human rights standards.”

Explaining, the Interior Minister said, “The open prisons system enables the inmate, after serving a certain period of his sentence, to leave the prison for some periods to fulfil his responsibilities to his family and

society.”

The freedom relies on the inmate returning willingly to the reformation and rehabilitation centre after the decided period ends.

“Specific segments of inmates will be part of the open prisons system,” Interior Minister added.

“This will be determined based on the risk level, type of committed crime, the period left for the penalty to end, and the education level of the inmate,” Shaikh Rashid said.

“It also depends on the inmate’s behaviour while serving his sentence,” the minister stressed.

Shaikh Rashid said the min-

istry is currently studying the open prisons systems of other countries.

“Based on which, amendments will be made to the reformation and rehabilitation organizations law, and its executive regulations,” the minister said.

In this regard, the minister highlighted the role of HRH Prince Salman, and HM the King, in implementing the forward-looking goals.

Shaikh Rashid also thanked HRH the Crown Prince for his continuous support to the ministry, which enables “all the ministry’s personnel to assume their duties with greater resolve and dedication, under the leadership of His Majesty the King.”



What is open prison system?

Open prisons have relatively less stringent rules as compared to the controlled jails. They go by many names like minimum-security prison, open air camps or prison without bars. ... The jail does not confine them completely but requires them to earn their living to support their families, living with them inside the jail.

Digital revenue collection: Government signed 6 deals



TDT | Manama

Bahrain has so far signed six contracts with various digital payment platforms for revenue collection, the Minister of Finance said.

The Kingdom also subject these contracts to periodic review to determine their service quality and costs by communicating with all service providers.

“The ministry is constantly reviewing the contracts signed with payment platforms for collecting payments for the government,” said Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy.

“This is to ensure the best service at the lowest possible cost and to keep pace with the latest

developments in the field,” the minister said adding, the digital payment sector is witnessing continuous and accelerated development.

Replying to a parliamentary question by MP Youssef Zainal, the minister said the government is pursuing a policy of non-monopoly and had opened doors to specialised institutions and companies per the best international practices.

“All contracts for the collection of government revenues are based on the percentage of collection. The collection rates paid by the government to service providers vary according to the type and nature of the service.”

The rates generally oscillate between 0.8% and 1.25%, the minister revealed.

Bahrain extends dosing interval of Covishield

● **A WHO panel had found that the efficacy and immunogenicity of the Oxford and AstraZeneca vaccine increase with a longer interdose interval.**

● **WHO recommends an interval of 8 to 12 weeks between the doses**

● **Clinical trials conducted by Oxford and AstraZeneca in the UK showed that the vaccine had only around 54% efficacy as compared to 79% if the gap is 12 weeks.**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has extended the dosing intervals of the Cov-



The decision followed a recommendation made by an expert panel of the World Health Organisation

id-19 vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca to eight weeks instead of four weeks.

The decision followed a recommendation made by an expert panel of the World Health Organisation, said Dr Mariam Al Hajeri, the Undersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health. Al Hajeri is also a member of the Technical Con-

sultative Committee of the Arab Health Ministers Council.

A WHO panel had found that the efficacy and immunogenicity of the Oxford and AstraZeneca vaccine increase with a longer interdose interval.

“In light of the observation that two-dose efficacy and immunogenicity increase with a longer interdose interval, WHO recommends an interval of 8 to

Serum Institute of India is manufacturing the vaccine under the brand Covishield.

12 weeks between the doses. If the second dose is inadvertently administered less than 4 weeks after the first, the dose does not need to be repeated,” the WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) said on Wednesday.

The group also recommended giving the vaccine at the earlier possible opportunity, if the administration of the second dose is inadvertently delayed beyond 12 weeks.

Serum Institute of India is manufacturing the vaccine under the brand Covishield.

Bahrain approved the Covishield-AstraZeneca vaccine for emergency use on 21 January 2021 to expedite vaccine delivery to vulnerable groups, including the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

Capital municipality officials taking part in a campaign to enhance green spaces in the villages of Al-Salhiya and Al-Qalaa, as part of the Tree week. The Director-General of the Capital Municipality, Muhammad Saad Al-Sahli, said the Capital Municipality is implementing several projects to enhance the green cover as part of sustainable development projects. The head of the Capital Municipality, Saleh Tarrada, said, “The Municipality is providing all necessary materials to prepare the land and seedlings, while people are taking care of them.” “The initiative aims at enhancing the interest of the people in the environment and quality of life in line with the goals of the My Capital City is Most Beautiful campaign,” said the head of the Public Relations and Media Committee at the Capital Secretariat.

