

Justice has been served

Human traffickers get five years in jail, BD3,000 fine

● The victim was trapped with offers of a well paid job as well as travel expenses

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Justice has finally been served to a hapless young woman who came to Bahrain with colourful dreams but found her trapped in the clutches of ravaging flesh traders.

On the wrong side of the case also are women, two Asian nationals.

The Fourth High Criminal Court, who found them guilty, awarded them five years in jail and slapped them with a BD3,000 fine. The court also ordered the defendants to pay for the repatriation expenses of the victim, who is now at the Expats Protection Centre, aka the Anti-human Trafficking Shelter, in Northern Sehla.

The harrowing string of incidents kicked off with the victim approached by the two women here with job offers, attractive enough to make her accept the offer.

Besides, the defendants, to gain her trust, also wire transferred her money for her travel expenses.

The unsuspecting victim, trusting the women, flew to



Investigation resulted in handing over the case to Public Prosecution and the Fourth High Criminal Court.

Public Prosecution, Trafficking in Persons Chief Prosecutor Nasser Al Sheeb said the court also ordered the defendants to pay repatriation expenses of the victim

find herself trapped and locked.

The defendants then threatened the victim to return their money or compensate them by accepting customers.

The defendants took the woman to several hotels room and furnished apartments, where customers awaited to use her sexually.

The victim had to follow the orders of her captors, who kept on collecting money from customers.

The harrowing story caught

Court files showed that the first defendant persuaded the victim by promising her with a job in Bahrain and transferred money to her so she would be able to buy tickets and travel to the Kingdom

public attention only when the victim got an opportunity to escape and reach a nearby police station.

Upon learning about the ordeal, police officers sprang into action and brought the culprits into custody in no time.

The ensuing investigation resulted in handing over the case to Public Prosecution and the Fourth High Criminal Court.

The trial resulted in the court slapping them with a fine of BD3,000 and awarding jail terms of five years. Authorities will also deport them permanently when their jail terms end.

RBNS Al-Zubara boosts Navy's firepower

Al-Zubara arrives in Bahrain from UK



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Nearly a three-month wait for "RBNS Al-Zubara", Bahrain's newest addition to its naval fleet, ended yesterday with the River-Class offshore patrol vessel docking at the Salman Naval Base.

RBNS Al-Zubara, which was handed over to Bahraini Navy at a ceremony in the HMNB Portsmouth Naval Base in the UK on August 7, 2020, began its journey to the Kingdom last month with several stopovers in brotherly and friendly ports.

Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF)'s Salman Naval Base welcomed her yesterday with an official ceremony.

"Al-Zubara is the fruitful outcome of the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, and the follow-up of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Field Marshal, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa," RBNF Commander, Rear Admiral, Mohammed Yousef Al Asam, said.

The new vessel, Al Asam said, will increase RBNF's ability to protect the national gains, coasts, as well as territorial and economic waters.

Patrol warship "RBNS Al-Zubara", is one of the most modern offshore patrol vessel (OPV) built by British BAE Systems. She has features and capabilities that use modern technology in the management, operation and control of its systems, giving her the strength and durability to operate in the worst weather conditions and during long journeys.

Formerly, HMS Clyde, RBNS Al-Zubara has a length of 81.5 m (267 ft 5 in) hull, a top speed of 21 kn (39 km/h), a 30 mm cannon, two miniguns, and mountings for five general-purpose machine guns.

Her hull permits a 20-meter strengthened flight deck able to accommodate a Merlin-sized helicopter, according to navy recognition.

She, reportedly, is powered by two Ruston 12RK 270 engines developing 4,125 kW (5,532 hp) at 1,000 rpm, the report said.



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Police bust gold smugglers gang

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Bahraini police officers foiled attempts to smuggle several kilograms of illegally bought gold bars out of Bahrain.

The accused had with them several kilograms of gold hidden inside their baggage when arrested.

Chief prosecutor Mohammed Jamal Sultan said eight-person are in custody.

The Public Prosecution completed an investigation into the case.

The accused will now face trial as per Bahrain's criminal law.

The gang, Chief prosecutor said, violated bullion law defining the amount of gold a person can purchase from Bahrain using cash, as well as failed to disclose the jewellery they were carrying to customs.

The accused also face laws concerning Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

Case files say the suspects tried to leave the country through the airport, with each of them hiding two gold bars in their luggage.

Investigators also found that the two jewellery stores sold the bullion by accepting cash exceeding the permissible limit.

Public Prosecution said the defendants confessed to their crimes are in preventive detention.

Mohamed Gamal Sultan warned that the Public Prosecution would take legal measures against any practices that violate the provisions of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law and



Representative picture (Courtesy of 911 metallurgist)

the executive decisions.

He called on the institutions and individuals here to abide

by the law, to activate community partnership in combating crime.

For the convenience of arriving travellers, Bahrain customs implements a Red and Green Channel system at all border entry points.



Using the Green Channel

You may proceed to the Green Channel if you are not carrying any dutiable, restricted or prohibited items. However, the customs officer positioned at the channel may still conduct selective checks. If you are in doubt, then always seek clearance at the Red Channel.



Using the Red Channel

You should proceed to the Red Channel if you are carrying any of the following:

Prohibited items

Restricted, Controlled items
Counterfeit/Pirated items
Dutiable items or gifts which exceed the duty-free concession
Cash which needs to be declared

At the Red Channel you must verbally declare to the Customs officer any of the above items that you are carrying and produce the import permit/approval for the restricted or prohibited item.



BD476,000 scam: Govt director gets 10 years in jail

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The High Criminal Court sentenced a fugitive public servant to 10 years in jail for masterminding a scam that emptied BD 4,76,812 of his office account.

Hassan Al-Muhaize, the Chief Prosecutor at the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, said the court also ordered the accused to return the money taken and fined with him the same amount. This also brought the total fines to more than BD800,00.

The Public Prosecution opened an investigation into the case based on a report filed by the National Audit Office during the year 2018-2019.

Investigators found that the accused siphoned away funds by conducting fraud in electronic records and also deleted the data to mask the crime. He also managed to escape the country.

The Public Prosecution then issued an order to disclose the transactions of the defendant's bank account and an international warrant to arrest him.

Bahrain's Public Prosecution also ordered to seize the funds taken away by the accused.