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Court story

# Arab man sentenced to 10 years in jail for trafficking teenager

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The High Criminal Court convicted an Arab man of trafficking a 19-year-old girl from his home country by luring her with a fake job offer in Bahrain and then forcing her into prostitution.

He was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and fined BD5,000, while a complicit Arab woman was sentenced to five years for participating in coercing the victim.

The court also fined her BD5,000 and ordered the pair to be deported from the country and to bear the expenses of returning the victim home.

Public Prosecution investigations revealed that the victim had come to work as a receptionist in a hotel.

The first defendant received her, took her passport and sheltered her in his residence for two days before moving her to a hotel to meet with the second defendant, who informed her that she would work in prostitution.

When the victim contacted the first defendant, he urged her to give it a try since she couldn't return to her country alone.

She met a number of clients while the second defendant took the profits and handed them to the first defendant.

Eventually, the victim suffered from fatigue.

A Gulf national she met decided to take her to the doctor but the second defendant refused and informed the first defendant, who took the victim to his residence. There, he beat her with a belt and verbally threatened her demanding that she continues working. He moved her to another hotel.

The victim was once more forced to meet with clients until the Gulf national took her contact number and learned her whereabouts. She confronted the first defendant to return her passport so that she may return home, but he refused. The Gulf national then reported where she was being held.

Investigations confirmed that the first defendant lured the victim to Bahrain with a false promise of employment. He received her at the Bahrain International Airport and then checked her into several hotels where he forced her to practise prostitution.

He transported her between two hotels in addition to housing her in his residence. He physically assaulted her when she refused work and withheld her passport to prevent her escape, using these means to exploit her youth and vulnerability.

# Growing Bahrain and Saudi economic relations reviewed

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Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro met with Saudi Minister of Commerce Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, virtually.

Fakhro affirmed the depth of the bilateral relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, which is directly reflected in the progress of inter economic relations.

The minister praised the continuous support provided by Saudi Arabia to various

investment projects that promote development of Bahrain.

The meeting discussed the most important joint government plans and programs undertaken by Bahrain and Saudi Arabia related to trade and investment.

The two sides reviewed cooperation in various fields and ways to enhance them, especially in the areas of trade and investment and economic diversification between the two countries.

# Construction of three mosques in East Hidd project begins

● Dr Al Hajri highlights royal support towards developing mosques

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The actual work to build a mosque in East Hidd housing project with an estimated total value of BD980,000 has begun.

This was confirmed by Sunni Endowments Council Chairman Dr Shaikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajri.

This came in implementation of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's order to develop and build mosques all over the Kingdom, under the



Dr Al Hajri

supervision of the Sunni Endowment Directorate.

Dr Al Hajri praised the support and interest of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister towards expanding and developing mosques in housing areas all over Bahrain.

## Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme

Health Minister Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan met the affiliates of the eighth intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme. Dr Jaleela affirmed the importance role played by the programme in enriching and developing the expertise and capabilities of promising government competencies. She indicated that it clearly embodies the ambitious visions of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop government cadres and provide them with opportunities to enhance their expertise, skills and participation in achieving the goals of the kingdom's comprehensive development process. The affiliates expressed thanks and appreciation to the Minister for briefing them on the work system at the ministry, which will motivate them to their best during their participation in the programme.



# New scams target 'booster vaccines'

Expatriate communities and citizens warned against falling prey to bogus calls and links

● Fraudsters hack victim's phone and obtain bank account information

● Expat deceived by caller posing as 'Health Ministry employee' and lost BD250

Zahra Ayaz  
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BeAware Bahrain is a mobile application against the COVID-19

targeting the online banking and financial transaction network in the Kingdom.

The released articles detailed the suffering of many Bahrainis and expatriates who collectively lost thousands of dinars to scammers. The majority of the victims have complained to the police, pleading with them to assist them in recovering their money.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Ambika Mass, an expat and victim of a vaccination scam, said: "I got a call for vaccination to register and take the vaccine, but this time the guy sent me a link and instructed me to download and input details. After leaving for work and returning home to look for my phone, I noticed that the Beware App had sent me a lot of messages

and that my bank had informed me that I had lost BD250.

"I gathered my bank information, took screenshots of every communication, and went to the Crime Investigation Department (CID). They claimed they would look into the situation, but there has been no response as of yet, and I have lost BD250. It is a large sum of money, equivalent to a monthly income.

"I'm still getting calls and mails about the booster vaccines right now. Not just myself, but many others are contacting me to claim they are in the same predicament. I plead with the authorities to intervene and provide instructions on how to stop these calls from coming to us."

It is learnt that many banks are flooded with calls from fran-



Scammers pose as Health Ministry employees and ask victims for information about their vaccinations to provide them with a ministry-issued certificate. Once the victims provide the information, scammers are able to hack their phone and obtain bank account information.

tic customers saying that their money has been stolen by scammers after hacking their bank account or fund transfer system.

The citizens had been warned against impersonation attacks which contain links pointing to legitimate websites that are often used by organisations, stressing the importance of individuals and companies taking all necessary measures to avoid cybercrimes.

# Outstanding private sector employees honoured

● HM King deputises Labour Minister to atend annual ceremony

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Humaidan attending the event

sector, which was held under the patronage of HM the King.

Humaidan, also Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Board of Directors, said that under the leadership of HM the King, and thanks to the fol-

low up of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain has succeeded in addressing the repercussions of the global spread of COVID-19

on various aspects of life with distinction, praising the existing cooperation between the three production parties.

Bahrain has adopted an integrated system to achieve sustainable development in various fields.