

Life Terms Budaiya Killing

Defendants confessed to tracking victim for two months before fatal attack

● **Old dispute cited as motive**

● **Forensic evidence confirms guilt**

● **Body found in Al Budaiya alley**

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Two Asian men have been jailed for life for murdering a man in his fifties in Budaiya after stalking him for nearly two months in what prosecutors called a planned revenge killing.

The High Criminal Court also ordered the men, aged 25 and 28, to be deported from Bahrain for good once they have served their terms.

The victim, an Asian man of the same nationality as the defendants, was killed on 28 December 2025 in the Northern Governorate. Prosecutors said the pair bought a knife and a cleaver for the attack, watched his movements for around two months, and lay in wait near his home after learning when he usually left and returned.

As he came back to his house, the court heard, one man attacked him from the front while the other came from behind. They then struck him with the knife and cleaver in different parts of his body, meaning to kill him, prosecutors said. His wounds, listed in the post-mortem report, led to his death.

A police investigation officer told the court he went to the scene after a report was made and found the victim lying on the ground, surrounded by blood.

Footprints were found nearby.

He said police inquiries, confidential sources and security camera footage from a nearby house led officers to the two men. The footage showed the pair attacking the victim with the knife and cleaver, with the blows aimed mainly at the upper part of his body, he said.

The officer added that they did not stop when the victim fell. They kept striking him until he stopped moving.

Police later arrested the men as they tried to flee across King Fahd Causeway, the court was told. Both admitted their role in the killing.

A witness of Arab nationality said he had left work and was speaking to his mother on the phone while walking to drink karak when he heard screams in a passageway. He saw two men carrying sharp tools and attack-

ing the victim.

He shouted at them and they ran away, he told the court. One of them then returned to the scene, picked up a bag and fled again.

A Bahraini witness said he was at home when he heard the victim calling for help. He opened a window and saw the man lying alone on the ground, covered in blood. He called the police and later gave them footage from his home cameras after they asked for it.

The victim's brother told the court that his brother had spent 12 years in prison in their home country over what he described as a malicious murder case before being cleared. He said he brought him to Bahrain because he was being pursued at home and feared he would be killed.

The brother said the victim had been in Bahrain for three

months. Five days before the attack, he had gone to perform Umrah and told him that others were still following him.

He also claimed that one of the defendants had followed another of his brothers to a European country, where that brother had been sent for safety, and killed him there. He showed the court a photograph of one defendant with another man whom he described as the person giving the orders.

A forensic doctor said the victim had stab, cut and blunt-force wounds caused by hard objects with sharp edges. The injuries were concentrated on his upper body, and several would have been enough to kill him.

A police officer also told the court that the defendants later led officers to their home and showed them the tools used in the killing.

Bus Driver Loses Appeal Over Pedestrian Death

A bus driver who said sleep overtook him at the wheel has lost his appeal against a one-year jail term after his vehicle left the road and killed a pedestrian.

The First High Criminal Appeals Court upheld the lower court's ruling after finding that the driver had caused the man's death by failing to take proper care while driving.

Prosecutors said the appellant had driven without the utmost care, damaged property belonging to others, failed to use caution, and drove in a way that put pedestrians on the carriage-way at risk.

The crash took place at around 3.40pm near a bend on a public road. The victim was in a farming area behind a metal barrier when the passenger bus driven by the appellant came towards the bend.

Court papers say the driver was tired and drowsy. As he reached the bend, the bus drifted to the right, struck a road sign, then hit a metal barrier.

It mounted the barrier while skidding and then hit the pedestrian head-on.

The impact threw the man into another road sign. His body came to rest 5.11 metres from the point where he was struck.

The bus kept skidding, hit two further signs, overturned and stopped on its roof off the road, inside the side farming area, 22 metres from the point of impact.

The crash damaged two road signs, a metal barrier and the farming area, while the bus suffered moderate damage.

The pedestrian died at the scene from severe injuries.



Alliance Strength

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Adviser and Royal Guard Commander, received Lieutenant General Joseph Clearfield, Commander of the US Marine Forces Central Command, in Manama. He highlighted the "deep

and longstanding" friendship between Bahrain and the United States and the importance of building on existing strategic agreements, including the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), to serve mutual interests.

“We value the deep and longstanding friendship between Bahrain and the United States, and our commitment to advancing shared strategic goals.”

Roads Under Pressure

TDI | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Metal poles, concrete blocks and chains have turned public streets into private spaces, as authorities move to reclaim roads following mounting complaints from residents.

In Manama's older neighbourhoods, this scene has become familiar. Iron stakes driven into the asphalt, concrete barriers placed along kerbs, and chains stretched across pedestrian pathways have restricted access to roads meant for everyone. For many residents, the impact is immediate, ranging from struggling to find parking to navigating narrowed streets and blocked pavements.

The issue has now triggered a formal government response. During its 301st meeting, the ministerial committee for development projects and infrastructure, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, directed authorities to intensify inspection campaigns and remove unauthorised structures across the Kingdom.

The move follows public concerns highlighted by our sister newspaper Al Ayam, which doc-

umented the spread of violations affecting roads and public facilities.

Pressure

Residents describe the situation as placing a growing strain on daily life. In areas already facing limited parking, barriers placed by individuals have further reduced available space, disrupted traffic flow and increased tensions among neighbours.

Many stressed that public roads are a shared right, warning that individual control over these spaces undermines fairness and denies others access to essential facilities.

“Public roads belong to everyone,” one resident said. “When someone treats the street as their private parking space, it affects the whole community.”

Parliament

A related issue has also drawn attention in Parliament, where MPs backed calls for stricter penalties against the illegal occupation of roads and pavements.

Discussions highlighted a range of violations, including the placement of barriers, construction materials and commercial items without authorisation. Members warned that existing



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

penalties might not deter repeat offenders.

Response

Officials confirmed that inspection campaigns will intensify in the coming period, targeting unauthorised installations, blocked pathways and any structures affecting normal road use.

Khalid Saif Al Thawadi from the Urban Planning and Development Authority said that co-ordination with municipalities is ongoing to monitor violations and restore the proper use of public roads.

Residents have welcomed the renewed focus on enforcement, expressing hope that sustained action will ease congestion, improve safety and restore fairness in the use of public spaces.

Royal praise for Bahrain's first desert ultra finisher



Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman praised BDF players following the Muharraq Club's title-winning season.



Lieutenant Colonel Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa attended a ceremony on Wednesday honouring First Lieutenant Shaikh Duaij bin Khalifa bin Duaij Al Khalifa for completing the Marathon des

Sables in Morocco.

The event, organised by the Military Sports Federation in cooperation with the Bahrain Athletics Association, recognised Shaikh Duaij as the first Bahraini to finish the gruelling desert race, widely regarded as one of the world's toughest endurance events.

Shaikh Mohammed highlighted the strength of Bahrain's sports sector, attributing its progress to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. These efforts have enabled national athletes to excel internationally.

During the ceremony, he further congratulated Bahrain Defence Force personnel involved in Muharraq Club's recent successes, including winning the King's Football Cup, the Zain Bahrain Basketball League, and the Khalifa bin Salman Basketball Cup.

Strong Strategic Partnership



HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment, received US Ambassador to Bahrain Stephanie Hallett. Shaikh Abdullah highlighted the longstanding strategic friendship between Bahrain and the United States and praised the continued growth of cooperation across various fields, while the ambassador reaffirmed Washington's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

