

'Dragged from track' to jail

Drag Racing Club Chairman gets two years in jail for embezzlement

● The court also ordered the defendant to return BD34,000 misappropriated from the organisation

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The chairman of the now-defunct Drag Racing Club has been awarded a two-year jail term on embezzlement charges by the Lower Criminal Court.

In February this year, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, had directed to prosecute the club's officials based on a forensic audit report by the National Audit Office citing misappropriation of public funds.

The court also ordered the defendant to return BD34,000 misappropriated from the organisation.

In February this year, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister, had directed to prosecute the club's officials based on a forensic audit report by the National Audit Office citing misappropriation of public funds.

At that time, HRH also em-

phasised the importance of enhancing accountability and responsibility while consolidating the principles of integrity and professionalism to preserve public funds.

The malpractices came to light after the Public Prosecution assigned one of the auditors at the National Audit Office to examine the club's accounts.

Pursuantly, the Public Prosecution issued an arrest warrant against the Chairman and Treasurer of the Club and ordered pre-trial detention.

The club was dissolved by HH

Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

In its investigation, the Public Prosecution had removed the confidentiality of the accounts, allowing the prosecution to track the source of funds.

Investigators verified accounts, transactions, spending and sources of funds during the probe.

Investigations also focused on the contracts signed by the club

with all parties.

The General Department for Combating Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security also conducted a parallel investigation into the club's activities.

Following the trial, the court, in its ruling, said that there are indisputable facts proving the hand of the defendant, who had pocketed the money owned by the club for his activities.

Based on this, the court ruled the club's chairman guilty of taking advantage of the club's assets for personal gain.



Picture for representation only

Son gets six months in jail for stealing from his father

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Stealing money from his father's account landed a 16-year-old Bahraini boy in jail for six months.

The boy, whose parents are separated, is charged with stealing more than BD11,000 from his father's account.

The court will review his case three months after and based on a report by the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre.

The court, however, acquitted the boy's mother, who stood accused along with the boy in the crime.

The father said he filed a complaint after receiving a call from his son's friend, who told him that his son had transferred money from his BenefitPay account.

The father told cops that he and his ex-wife had differences over the custody of their son and alimony.

When the boy visited my place, he took my phone, which he said was for playing games. However, it turned out that he was transferring funds through



Representative picture

my BenefitPay to several accounts, including my ex-wife.

"I was shocked that only BD3,000 was in the account, which had around BD14,000."

Investigators found that the boy took the money through fraudulent transactions on the BenefitPay app.

The boy confessed during interrogation that he committed the crime after taking his father's phone under the pretext of playing a game.

Court files say the boy also tricked one of his friends into withdrawing the funds through

BenefitPay.

The friend, who turned witness, told investigators that the boy said he needed funds for his uncle's treatment in an Asian country as he could not withdraw funds from there.

He also asked me to transfer money to his account through his uncle's Benefit account, which later turned out as the account of the boy's father itself. Investigators also found that the boy later sought the help of another friend to withdraw funds by telling him that his father was ill.

Court acquits suspect in property fraud case for lack of evidence

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The Fourth Minor Criminal court acquitted a man accused of duping people by leasing plots owned by others for lack of evidence.

The Public Prosecution referred the suspect to trial in March 2021 on charges that the person cheated two by leasing them a plot of land on which the suspect has no right.

Lawyer Omar Al-Omar, representing the defendant, rejected the charges and told the court that there was no evidence to support the claims



made by the victims.

The court also accepted as

proof correspondents from the General Department of Civil Defence addressing the accused as the owner of the plot of land.

The lawyer also told the court that whoever denies this had no documents to prove their claims.

Ruling in favour of the accused, the court ruled that the evidence provided against the suspect lacks clarity and is not good enough to convict or slap a fine.

"Therefore, the court orders to acquit the accused as per Article 255 of the Criminal procedure code."

Court overturns BD1,800 compensation in debt non-payment case

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The High Civil Court had overturned a ruling by the first instance judge awarding a BD1,800 compensation in a case filed against non-payment of debts.

Case files say the accused had borrowed BD1,800 from her friend and husband after los-

ing her job. They agreed to pay back the amount in instalments, which the accused lawyer told the court she did without taking receipts.

"However, after receiving most of the borrowed money, the friends filed a lawsuit demanding the full amount and a legal interest rate of 10%," the lawyer said. One of the daugh-

ters of the suspect told the court that her mother borrowed the money and paid it back as instalments at a clothing store, but without taking receipts, for they trusted them.

The payment was later proven by investigators from the shop's account, leading the court to overturn the earlier judgement.

Supermarket fails to pay rent: Court order to vacate building, pay BD16,200

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Failure to pay rent for nine months landed a supermarket operator in hot waters.

The High Tenancy Court ordered the tenant to pay the building owner BD16,200 towards nine-month dues.

The Court also ruled to expel the tenant from the property.

Lawyer Zainab Ibrahim Sabt, who appeared for the plaintiff, said the court order came against a person who



Representative picture

signed a two-year lease contract for a monthly rent of

BD1,800. The agreement was that the tenant should provide

the rent as post-dated checks during the lease period.

"However, when my client went to cash the checks, it bounced," the lawyer said.

This way, the defendant failed to pay rent from January to April 2022, which amounts to BD16,200.

The Court accepted photocopies of the lease contract that the defendant had signed.

The Court also ruled to expel the defendant from the property as the contract period expired.

Human trafficking: Police arrest 34-year-old man

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Police arrested a 34-year-old Bahraini man accused of tricking and forcing girls of foreign nationalities into prostitution with fake offers.

The Ministry of Interior, in a tweet, said the arrest followed an investigation into an audio clip that went viral online.

Director General of the Department of Investigation and Criminal Evidence said the case is currently before a competent court.

Investigators said the suspect also had a history of trafficking and had served ten years in jail for possessing drugs in 2010.