

'Poor financial management, unethical behaviour, delay in holding elections'

Indian School management says parent's committee allegations are 'baseless'

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A parent's committee in one of the largest expatriate schools in the Kingdom has allegedly accused the school management of poor financial management, unethical behaviour towards the students, and delay in conducting the elections.

The chairman of the parent's committee raised many allegations, including poor financial management, resulting in an accumulated deficit of BD1,282,410, and threatening students from the poor economic background by withholding their results and not promoting them to the next level.

Abraham John, the chairman of the Indian School parents committee, told The Daily Tribune that the school management is delaying the school elections inordinately without valid reasons. He also accused the school committee of not replacing the board members who left the committee for various reasons.

According to reliable sources, the principal of the Riffa School campus sent a circular to the parents of those students who failed to pay the fees due to the impact of the pandemic.

The circular also describes the overdue fees of BD634,932 from parents of 5,719 students on February 6, 2023, and demands immediate payment or else withhold their results and restrict them from upgrading to higher classes.

The parent committee, popularly known as UPP, claims that the school management has postponed the annual general meeting without any reason. He also challenged the status



"It is a completely false allegation, I am not concerned about these false rumours, nor do I have any comment on this matter. However, the management always does its best to benefit the school, parents, students, and staff."

- PRINCE NATARAJAN, CHAIRMAN OF INDIAN SCHOOL



"The school managed to raise nearly BD4 million in 2015 by increasing the fee structure. Where are those funds? We increased the fees to improve the cash flow and increase the teachers' salaries. The school also collected infra-structural development fees even during the pandemic, but the school management failed to pay 25 instalments, nearly BD1.2 million. Where are those funds utilised?"

- ABRAHAM JOHN, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN SCHOOL PARENTS COMMITTEE



of many of the board members, including the chairman, whose kids left the school for good.

While speaking to The Daily Tribune, John said: "The school managed to raise nearly BD4 million in 2015 by increasing the fee structure. Where are those funds? We increased the fees to improve the cash flow and increase the teachers' salaries. The school also collected infra-structural development fees even during the pandemic, but the school management failed to

pay 25 instalments, nearly BD1.2 million. Where are those funds utilised?"

Baseless

The Indian School Bahrain stated the allegations as baseless. The school formally sent a statement issued by the school committee clarifying their end.

The statement issued by the school committee confirmed that the Schools Executive Committee had informed the Minis-

try of Education (MoE) that the AGM and the election to the Executive Committee 2020-2023 were due to be conducted at the end of October 2020 through a letter dated September 6, 2020. The EC requested the MoE's directives and advice for further action during the pandemic.

The school received the directives from the MoE on November 24, 2020, granting the option to extend the current board's term for a further three-year period or elect a new board of

directors (EC) through electronic voting.

The EC convened an emergency meeting on November 25, 2020, and discussed the options granted by the MoE. After thorough deliberations, all the members unanimously opted for continuing with the current EC until the situation becomes feasible to conduct the AGM and the election to the EC safely, securely and fairly with the necessary approval from the MoE. The ISB parents were informed about

these decisions in a circular dated 26/11/2020 from the school.

Following this, a parent who had contested and lost the election filed a case in the Supreme Administrative Court, Kingdom of Bahrain, against the MoE's decision to extend the term of the present EC due to the prevailing conditions of COVID-19. The case was filed against MoE, The Indian School and 11 EC Members.

The lawsuit was pleading to dismiss the current EC and appoint the complainant (plaintiff) and the other candidates who lost in the election held in 2017 as the new members of the EC, even if temporarily until the next elections are held. The petition was also pleading to conduct the polls for the EC as soon as possible, following provisions of the school's constitution through the usual methods of elections.

The Honourable Supreme Administrative Court issued the judgment in the public hearing held on 28/04/2021. The review states that "the court ruled with rejecting the case and obligated the plaintiff to pay the expenses against the attorney's fees". The ISB parents were informed about these rulings in a circular dated 16/05/2021 from the school.

AGM

The school applied to the MoE in September last year seeking approval for conducting the AGM and the election for the EC, for which the MoE has given directives to conduct the AGM.

Accordingly, the AGM will be held in the ISB Riffa Campus auditorium on March 10, 2023, with the concerned authority's approval.

'Sporadic rain' in Kingdom sparks Twitter reactions

Zahra Ayaz
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While the Meteorological Directorate predicted partly overcast conditions with a chance of sporadic rain showers tomorrow, several Twitter users expressed their opinions.

Throughout the previous several days, the Kingdom has seen warm weather during daytime, with temperature reaching the mid-thirties.

Many people are tweeting about how they are relieved if there is a chance of rain and how they are hoping for slightly better weather before the start of Ramadan as summer is coming and Ramadan is soon to follow.

"This morning I went out and was astonished to find the overcast weather," Fatoom tweeted.

"For a moment I thought it was going to rain after waking up today," tweeted Amal98.

Jailed for laundering drug money from drug sales

● Two Asian men buy and resell digital currency

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Two Asian men who laundered money obtained from drug sales by buying digital currency and reselling have been hit with heavy punishments.

The first defendant was sentenced to 10 years in prison, while the second received five years in prison.

Both men were fined BD100,000 each, while the Court ordered for the seizure of BD61,000 from the first defendant and BD19,520 from the second defendant.

Security investigations revealed that the defendants were part of an international drug trafficking network where their role was to receive sale proceeds and legitimise them through laundering. The first defendant received BD61,000, while the second received BD19,520.

The two defendants conducted laundering operations through three methods: mon-



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ey transfers through exchange companies, cash withdraws from ATMs that were re-positing in banks; and finally, by buying and reselling digital currency.

The second defendant confessed to receiving those sums and transferring them to his home country despite knowing their origin.

He indicated that on one occasion, he contacted the first defendant with a request to use his phone for the transfer of some amounts.

It turned out that the first defendant was in contact with individuals who transferred money, and thus, the two defendants worked together. The sums which they obtained and laundered exceeded BD80,000.

The prosecution charged the defendants with carrying out money laundering operations in the year 2022 with intention of legitimising sums obtained from the sale of narcotics.

Auction operator ordered to pay BD8,500 to gold store

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The High Civil Court obligated an auction operator to pay BD8,500 to a famous jewellery store after failing to cover the value of 25 gold coins which he received from the store to auction them.

The defendant is said to be

involved in running auctions, and the store approached him to use his service to sell the 25 gold coins.

The base value of the coins was more than BD8,000, and the store was interested in generating more than their value by inviting bids on them. However, the defendant claimed that the

coins were stolen before they were put up for auction.

"My client is a jeweller and has connections with retailers. He had 25 gold coins, whose combined value exceeds BD8,000. He agreed to put them up for auction as per a written agreement which included a clear description of the coins

and their value. However, the defendant handed neither the money nor the coins, although requests were sent to him," the plaintiff's lawyer told the court.

"He is obligated to compensate my client or return them back as per the agreement signed between them. My client has nothing to do with his claims that they

were stolen before the auction. It was his responsibility to keep them safe and protect them."

"His claims confirm the fact that he took the coins and didn't return them back," the lawyer pointed out.

The Court also refuted the defendant's claims, obligating him to pay BD8,500 to the plaintiff.