

# Deadly cigarette leads to tragic hotel death

Police traces fatality in hotel to lethal pre-rolled cigarette sold by drug peddler

● Court awards 15 year jail term, BD10,000 fine, drug peddler files appeal

● Victim's friend gets a year in jail, BD1,000 fine

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A young man found dead in a hotel room in the Kingdom was determined by police to have been killed by a lethal cigarette he smoked before going to sleep.

Authorities disclosed that the victim and his friend had purchased a contaminated pre-



Representative picture

rolled cigarette from a drug peddler whom they encountered outside their hotel.

According to the police, the victim, an Asian national who arrived in Bahrain just last year,

had a habit of purchasing and smoking illegal drug-filled cigarettes from such peddlers.

A competent court in the Kingdom sentenced the drug peddler to a 15-year jail term and fined him BD10,000, while the deceased's friend received a lighter sentence of a year in jail and a BD1,000 fine.

However, the drug peddler has appealed the verdict, which the High Criminal Appeals Court is set to hear on the 19th of this month.

Both individuals also faces deportation after their jail terms conclude, with a ban on re-entry imposed by the court.

Court files say, police were notified of the death by the hotel

reception, who were alerted by the victim's friend sharing the same room.

During interrogation, the friend revealed that the victim had smoked a cigarette they purchased for BD5 from an acquaintance outside the hotel, out of curiosity, unaware of the lethal substance in the cigarette.

"After smoking, my friend went to sleep but didn't wake up," he told the police, adding, "I immediately alerted the hotel reception."

Law enforcement officers, who reached the scene immediately, rushed the victim to a hospital while questioning the friend.

Police said they also discov-

ered undisclosed quantities of illegal drugs during a search of the hotel room.

Later, the victim's friend admitted to regular drug purchases from a dealer near the hotel.

Following his description, the police identified and apprehended the drug peddler, later confirmed by the deceased person's friend as the one who sold them the deadly cigarette.

Further investigation revealed the drug peddler's operations in the hotel vicinity, targeting customers on the streets.

The Public Prosecution charged the suspects with possession and distribution of illegal substances within the Kingdom.

# Man steals BD11,000 given for converting to US dollar; Court upholds year in jail

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The Court of Cassation has confirmed a one-year prison sentence awarded to a man found guilty of embezzling money from an associate.

The incident traces back to a year ago when the victim enlisted the accused's services to convert 11,000 Bahraini dinars into US dollars.

As per court records, the accused had agreed to handle the currency exchange and return the equivalent funds to the victim. Regrettably, after receiving



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the money, the accused allegedly reneged on the transaction, failing to return the funds as agreed.

Prosecutors assert that the accused diverted the money for personal use instead of honouring the agreed-upon arrangement, despite repeated pleas from the victim.

Faced with unresponsiveness, the victim lodged a formal complaint, submitting social media exchanges as evidence of the transaction. An investigation ensued.

Following a thorough review of evidence, the lower court

**Despite the victim's intent to convert BD11,000 into US dollars through an agreed-upon exchange, the accused not only failed to fulfill this but allegedly diverted the funds for personal use.**

found the accused guilty of embezzlement, resulting in a one-year prison sentence last year.

Unsatisfied, the convicted individual appealed the ruling, but the appellate court dismissed the plea.

With no other recourse, the defence escalated the case to the Court of Cassation, Bahrain's

highest judicial authority.

In a recent ruling, the Court of Cassation upheld the initial one-year jail term. This decision marks the culmination of legal proceedings, affirming the convicted individual's imprisonment for misappropriating entrusted funds meant for a service previously agreed upon.

# KYC update fraud strikes yet again: Victim loses BD1,800 to scammers

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Despite numerous awareness campaigns, a bank date update fraud case has struck yet another victim in the Kingdom, resulting in the loss of BD1,800 after divulging sensitive banking details to scammers.

The victim, an Asian national, lamented the loss of BD1,800 from his account after submitting personal information via an electronic link, purportedly for updating his banking data.

Investigations revealed that the deceptive message falsely claimed association with a finance service provider known to the victim. Succumbing to the ruse, the victim keyed in his account number, ID card specifics, and a verification code received for the update.



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police.

Authorities' probe identified an Asian individual, primarily employed as a private driver, with ties to fraudulent activities.

Police said the suspect had accumulated a total of 5,000 dinars, including the amount siphoned from the victim's account, through previous fraudulent operations.

During interrogation, the suspect admitted to deceiving victims by sending fraudulent messages soliciting bank detail updates, effectively confessing to the scam. Another implicated individual disclosed receiving BD1,000 from the primary suspect, later transferring the sum to undisclosed accounts.

The High Criminal Court is slated to review the case on the 13th of this month.

# Direct flights to Shanghai, Guangzhou

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The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) revealed plans to introduce direct flights to Shanghai and Guangzhou in January 2024 during the World Travel Market (WTM) London.

Dr. Nasser Qaedi, CEO of BTEA, highlighted the intention to establish connections between Bahrain and China via Gulf Air, anticipating a significant upsurge in economic growth and improved global connectivity with the world's second-largest economy. This move aims to attract a substantial influx of Chinese tourists, enhancing Bahrain's tourism strategy for 2022-2026.

Jeffrey Goh, Gulf Air Group Holding CEO, said the operation of new flights linking Bahrain to Shanghai and Guangzhou will foster enhanced commercial and tourism collaboration between the two nations.



Officials during a group photo opportunity

BTEA is actively partnering with Chinese tourism operators, destination management companies, and agencies to position Bahrain as a premier tourist destination, designing tailored tourism packages to entice more Chinese visitors.

These packages cater to Chinese tourists flying via Gulf Air,

encompassing visits to Bahrain, accommodations ranging from five-star to three-star, transportation services, and curated experiences across diverse regions. Additionally, plans for a roadshow in China are in the pipeline, aimed at promoting the Kingdom of Bahrain as a sought-after tourist hotspot.