

Football fraud

European conman sentenced to eight years in jail for BD3.37m investment scam

● Ronaldo and Messi autographs on merchandise forged

TDT | Manama

A European con artist has been sentenced to eight years in prison after cheating investors out of more than BD3 million with bogus autographs of football stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

The High Criminal Court heard that the man, operating under a false name, led the Ponzi scheme through an unlicensed firm, enticing backers with promises of exclusive sports mementoes.

The Public Prosecution's inquiry revealed that the main culprit, who has a criminal past abroad, slipped into Bahrain under a fake identity in 2022.

He set up a company that claimed to deal in keepsakes and souvenirs, drawing in investors without proper licensing.

His modus operandi in-



involved paying early investors with funds from newer backers; he went to great lengths to cover his tracks, faking records, meddling with electronic logs, and writing bad cheques to mislead both investors and officials.

Investigators uncovered that his three accomplices played active roles in the scheme, helping set up the business, forging documents, and organising unlicensed fundraising to attract more cash.

Authorities tracked over BD1.8 million laundered through personal and company accounts, exposing the steps

he took to disguise the money's origins.

A report from the Financial Intelligence National Centre laid bare the full scale of the fraud, showing how the fraudster used famous athletes' names to lure in investors while hiding his dodgy dealings with fake bills and records.

His accomplices aided in falsifying accounts and moving funds to dodge scrutiny.

Alongside the prison sentences, the court ordered the seizure of over BD1.8 million in ill-gotten gains and ruled that the fraudsters be deported once they complete their sentences.

Bahrain, Malaysia mark 50-year diplomatic ties



Attendees at the launching ceremony
Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Malaysia celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations with a grand launch at Water Garden City, showcasing a stunning montage of the Manama skyline.

The event, titled "Bringing Malaysia to You," highlights the deepening ties between the two nations, with both officials and citizens coming together to honor this significant milestone.

H.E. Shazryll Zahiran, the Malaysian Ambassador to Bahrain, addressed the gathering, reflecting on the lasting and evolving partnership between the countries.

"More than five decades of friendship have strengthened our bonds, transforming our relationship into a bold and strategic alliance," Ambassador Zahiran said.

He also emphasized the economic achievements of the collaboration, citing key projects like the Bahrain City Centre and Sitra Bridge, which symbolize the shared growth and development between Malaysia and Bahrain.

Collaboration

"These landmarks stand as a testament to our collaboration, contributing to the economic growth of both nations," Ambassador Zahiran told The Daily Tribune.

The ambassador further



From right, H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, H.E. Ambassador Shazryll Zahiran and Dr. Isa Nasser Al Noaimi (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)

Malaysia Fair 2024 Bazaar

Date: Friday, November 15, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Venue: Oasis Mall, Juffair

highlighted that the next phase of this partnership will focus on tourism and education, particularly providing educational opportunities for Bahraini students in Malaysia.

The event was attended by several prominent Bahraini officials, including H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Bahrain's Minister of Information, and Dr. Isa Nasser Al Noaimi, Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Representing the Bahraini government, Dr. Isa bin Nasser Al Nuaimi remarked, "The Bahrain-Malaysia relationship

Experience Malaysian culture firsthand

The Malaysia Fair will feature cultural performances, traditional cuisine, and a variety of Malaysian products, offering Bahrainis a unique opportunity to experience Malaysian culture firsthand.

The 50th-anniversary celebration marks a significant chapter in the history of Malaysia-Bahrain relations, with both nations looking forward to furthering their partnership in business, education, and cultural exchange.

is solid, built on shared values and cooperation. Our vision for the future remains aligned, ensuring a strong and prosperous partnership."

Over 500 attend ILA Diwali 2024 celebration



ILA officials and members along with other attendees
TDT | Manama

The Indian Ladies Association (ILA) hosted the grand ILA Diwali 2024 celebration on October 25 at its premises in Bu Ghazal, Bahrain, attracting over 500 attendees from various nationalities.

The event showcased the vibrant essence of Diwali, celebrating unity, tradition, and joy.

This year's theme, "Pink October," honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month with pink lanterns illuminating the venue, symbolizing hope and resilience.

In collaboration with Mega

Mart and Al Hilal Hospital, ILA Diwali 2024 featured a diverse array of attractions, including shopping and food stalls and free health check-ups, creating a wholesome and engaging experience for all.

Attendees explored a variety of stalls offering perfumes, handicrafts, and homemade delicacies, enjoying a rich tapestry of authentic and diverse flavors.

The day was filled with laughter and lively participation as games and interactive activities fostered an atmosphere of fun and friendly competition.

ILA President Kiran Man-

gle extended gratitude for the community's support, noting that ILA Diwali 2024 was not only a celebration of Diwali but also an opportunity to promote health awareness through Al Hilal Hospital's health check-up services.

The event provided a platform for connection, enjoyment, and cultural enrichment.

The generous sponsorship from Al Hilal Hospital was instrumental in the event's success, Megamart also put their stall in premises reflecting ILA's commitment to community service and the celebration of Indian culture with inclusivity and warmth.

In support of
Community Outreach
Programs

مستشفى الرسالة الأمريكية
American Mission Hospital

ISLAND CLASSIC
25th ANNUAL CHARITY
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

14, 15 & 16 November 2024

His Majesty King Hamad's
Private Golf Course
Saffriya, Bahrain

Gala Night
21 November 2024 (Thu)
Diplomat Radisson BLU Hotel

Sponsors

www.amh.org.bh/islandclassic