

Father is jailed for molesting daughter

By NOOR ZAHRA

A FATHER-OF-FIVE has been jailed for 10 years for molesting his nine-year-old daughter.

The 30-year-old Bahraini hotel employee was in the High Criminal Court yesterday where he previously denied sexual assault.

The defendant allegedly sexually abused his daughter at their home in Sitra last year while the mother and the child's siblings were asleep.

The crime came to light after the girl's eight-year-old brother spotted his father molesting her and reported the ordeal to his mother who then informed the authorities.

"The defendant will spend 10 years behind bars after being found guilty of the charges," read the court ruling.

"The evidence presented and the testimony of the victim were sufficient to prove that he had committed the crime."

A lawyer representing the victim and her mother said that she will file a compensation claim at the High Civil Court.

Previously, defence lawyer Hussain Jawad had claimed that his client was being falsely accused by his wife as their marriage was collapsing.

He said that he will lodge an appeal at the Supreme

Criminal Appeals Court against his client's conviction.

During the trial, the victim described how her father had forced her to undress and molested her several times.

Pictures drawn by the girl, which were attached to court documents as evidence, showed a man and a girl who was crying sitting on a bed. Next to the bed, there was a

heart with the word 'mother' written inside it.

A medical report said that the victim had not been raped but added that molestation might not leave any visible signs.

The mother previously told prosecutors that her husband admitted to molesting their daughter and said it was a "mistake".

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Embassy helps expats return home

TWO long-term illegal Filipino expatriate workers have been able to return to their home country after the Philippine Embassy stepped in to help.

The Philippine Embassy announced on social media that an undocumented female worker and male medical patient had been flown home last week.

A 67-year-old woman from Bulacan had lived in Bahrain for 38 years and a 56-year-old man from Zamboanga City, who had been in Bahrain for 31 years, was escorted by two medical professionals on a flight,

also arranged by the embassy.

"We also arranged all the documents and clearances of the repatriates and shouldered the costs of their airfare, immigration penalties and other repatriation expenses through the Assistance-to-Nationals Fund of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)," an embassy spokesman revealed in a statement.

Following the embassy's co-ordination with the DFA and other relevant Philippine government agencies, the two were 'extended airport assistance and medical check-ups' on their arrival in Manila.

12 behind bars for running visa racket

By NOOR ZAHRA

TWELVE people, including an expatriate businesswoman, have been sentenced to jail for producing dodgy visa documents in exchange for payments of thousands of dinars.

All the defendants were found guilty of bribery and forgery by the High Criminal Court yesterday.

The dirty dozen included three Bahraini employees – aged 39, 24, and 23 – at the Exits, Search and Follow-up Directorate, a 42-year-old retired Bahraini man, two 42-year-old Indian businessmen, a 47-year-old Indian businesswoman, a 31-year-old Indian cashier, a 46-year-old Indian manager, a 34-year-old Pakistani labourer, a 57-year-old Bahraini driver ... and a Bahraini accountant, aged 33, who is at large.

Two Bahrainis were jailed for seven years each and fined BD7,940, while three other Bahrainis were sentenced to five years behind bars each and fined BD2,685.

The Bahraini accountant was jailed for two years in absentia.

Four Indians, including the businesswoman, were sentenced to three years each in jail.

A Pakistani and Indian were each jailed for three years each.

The GDN previously reported that the defendants were arrested after prosecutors received a notification from the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs over a possible visa fraud.

The Exits, Search and Follow-up Directorate employees allowed Bahrain visit-visa holders to travel into and out of Saudi Arabia, via the King Fahad Causeway, without a valid Saudi visa. They also renewed expired visas of tourists by altering data in a government portal, which enabled travellers to have their visas renewed without leaving the country on a stipulated date.

The Public Prosecution earlier said that the three Bahraini employees, along with drivers and owners of clearance offices, accepted bribes to renew the visas.

The court previously heard that the 39-year-old Bahraini employee received BD2,685.500 through 94 BenefitPay transactions while his 23-year-old Bahraini accomplice received BD5,340 through 46 transactions.

The expatriate defendants will be deported after completing their sentences.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2022

	2022 US\$ 000	2021 US\$ 000
ASSETS		
Demand and call deposits with banks	102,969	131,599
Placements with banks	96,465	63,402
Investments carried at fair value through profit or loss	88,064	93,205
Investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income	104,021	104,160
Investments carried at amortised cost	25,036	25,172
Loans and receivables	21,690	33,528
Other assets	46,922	54,398
Investment in associates	87,050	83,429
Investment properties	99,962	100,564
Property and equipment	15,846	14,779
Goodwill and other intangible assets	63,556	65,151
Assets held for sale	2,306	-
TOTAL ASSETS	753,887	769,387
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to banks and other financial institutions	138,878	149,601
Deposits from customers	20,772	70,176
Long term loans	61,324	16,546
Long term bonds	130,595	132,371
Other liabilities	80,741	83,991
TOTAL LIABILITIES	432,310	452,685
EQUITY		
Share capital	116,132	116,132
Share premium	5,687	5,687
Statutory reserve	54,034	53,519
General reserve	33,765	33,250
Fair value reserve	(7,586)	(13,477)
Foreign currency translation reserve	(5,379)	(4,572)
(Accumulated deficit)/ Retained earnings	(1,425)	261
Equity attributable to the shareholders of the Parent	195,228	190,800
Perpetual Additional Tier 1 Capital	33,000	33,000
Non-controlling interests	93,349	92,902
TOTAL EQUITY	321,577	316,702
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	753,887	769,387

Consolidated Statement of Income For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 US\$ 000	2021 US\$ 000
Interest income	9,399	6,980
Investment income - net	10,082	30,081
	19,481	37,061
Fees and commissions - net	69,489	70,660
Foreign currency losses - net	(1,409)	(1,448)
Share of results of associates	4,955	7,726
Total income	92,516	113,999
Interest expense	(17,223)	(14,512)
Operating income before expenses and provisions	75,293	99,487
Operating income before provisions	14,112	35,739
Expected credit losses- net	(1,089)	(923)
Profit before tax	13,023	34,816
Tax expense	(1,065)	(4,964)
Net profit for the year	11,958	29,852
Net profit attributable to non-controlling interests	6,806	14,984
Net profit attributable to shareholders of the Parent	5,152	14,868

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 US\$ 000	2021 US\$ 000
Net profit for the year	11,958	29,852
Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods		
Revaluation surplus on property	-	3,470
Net change in fair value reserve of equity investments measured at fair value through OCI	1,684	(5,253)
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods		
Net change of cash flow hedges	443	(19)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1,693)	810
Net change in fair value reserve of associates	1,575	298
	325	1,089
Other comprehensive Income (loss) for the year	2,009	(694)
Total comprehensive income for the year	13,967	29,158
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
- Shareholders of the Parent	7,960	13,062
- Non-controlling interests	6,007	16,096
	13,967	29,158

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 US\$ 000	2021 US\$ 000
Net cash (used in) from operating activities	(34,180)	18,874
Net cash (used in) from investing activities	(4,652)	27,210
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	35,686	(21,777)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(3,031)	(1,558)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(6,177)	22,749
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	191,083	168,334
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER	184,906	191,083

Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Share capital US\$ 000	Share premium US\$ 000	Statutory reserve US\$ 000	General reserve US\$ 000	Fair value reserve US\$ 000	Foreign currency translation reserve US\$ 000	(Accumulated deficit) Retained earnings US\$ 000	Total US\$ 000	Perpetual Additional Tier 1 Capital US\$ 000	Non-controlling interests US\$ 000	Total equity US\$ 000
Balance at 1 January 2022	116,132	5,687	53,519	33,250	(13,477)	(4,572)	261	190,800	33,000	92,902	316,702
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,152	5,152	-	6,806	11,958
Other comprehensive (loss) income	-	-	-	-	3,615	(8					