

Health Ministry may be sued over girl's death



■ Fatima days before the operation and, right, in hospital

BAHRAIN'S Health Ministry is facing legal action following the death of a 12-year-old girl, who was allegedly the victim of medical negligence.

One of Bahrain's main political groups has also demanded the resignation of Health Minister Sadiq Al Shehabi after Bahraini Fatima Ali Hussain died on Sunday, allegedly as a result of a botched procedure at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC).

Two medics have already been suspended while an investigation is carried out into her death.

She died just over two weeks after a routine procedure to treat an ovarian cyst went horribly wrong.

Fatima never regained consciousness after an oxygen tube was inserted down her oesophagus instead of her trachea during laparoscopic surgery, according to a senior doctor on duty at the time.

By SANDEEP SINGH GREWAL

As a result, her brain was deprived of oxygen and she suffered cardiorespiratory arrest, a Health Ministry medical report stated.

It said a trainee anaesthetist was responsible for wrong insertion of the tube.

Fatima died on the same day that she was supposed to join her classmates on their first day back at school.

She had apparently been looking forward to getting back to lessons at Al Khaleej Al Arabi Intermediate School for Girls, in Riffa, following the summer holiday.

"Fatima used to get good grades and was friendly with everyone," said her aunt, who asked not to be named.

She added Fatima's family was still struggling to come to terms with their loss.

"Her new schoolbag, books and shoes were all ready as Fatima was happy to get good grades and move to grade eight," she said.

"It was a big day for all of us,

like any Bahraini family, but she could not make it and died on the same day that schools reopened.

"Now it's a nightmare for the family, but we will not give up our fight to ensure that all medical staff behind this blunder will be punished."

Fatima was buried on Sunday at Riffa cemetery and is survived by her parents and five siblings: two brothers aged 15 and eight and three sisters aged 20, 18 and one.

"We do not want more Fatimas to die in Bahrain and demand justice from authorities," added her aunt.

She said the family was coordinating with independent activist Salman Nasser, who has formed the Fatima Defence Committee to follow the case.

Mr Nasser told the *GDN* yesterday that lawyers and legal experts were being asked to contact the family so as to file a case against the Health Ministry.

"This is really unfortunate that we lost this little girl because of medical negli-

gence."

"We would like to invite all interested lawyers to contact us to file a lawsuit against the Ministry."

Meanwhile, National Unity Assembly vice-president Dr Naji Al Arabi demanded the resignation of Health Minister Sadiq Al Shehabi.

"The Health Minister should

have arranged a Press conference to come out and speak about the case to inform the public, which did not happen," he said.

"We demand the minister to resign from the post immediately."

Both the Ministry and the National Health Regulatory Authority have launched their own investigations in Fatima's case and are expected to make their findings public.

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■ Ms Al Oraibi, third left, and Ms Ansari, fifth left, with company officials and representatives from Bahrain Polytechnic

Summer interns honoured

TWO ambitious interns were treated to an awards ceremony in recognition of their hard work over the summer.

Henna Ansari and Zahra Al Oraibi, from

Bahrain Polytechnic, took part in a six week internship at Servcorp.

The ceremony was held at the company's headquarters at the Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Invitation to

the Extraordinary General Assembly

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain B.S.C. ("Al Salam") cordially invites the shareholders to attend the **Extraordinary General Assembly** meeting ("EGM") to be held on Thursday 26 September 2013 at 10 am ("First Meeting") in Al Murjan Ballroom 1, Movenpick Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain. If the required quorum is not present, a second meeting will be announced at a later date.

H.H. Shaikha Hessa Bint Khalifa Al Khalifa
Chairperson

Approving the following points:

1. To consider and approve an increase to the authorized share capital of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain from 2,000,000,000 shares of nominal value BD 0.100 each to 2,500,000,000 shares of nominal value BD 0.100 each and authorize Board of directors to issue up to 1,000,000,000 shares at the price of BD 0.100 per share.
2. To consider the Board of Directors' proposal for Al Salam to acquire all of the issued and fully paid up ordinary shares of BMI Bank B.S.C (c) ("BMI"), consisting of 58,533,357 ordinary shares of nominal value Bahraini Dinars ("BD") 1,000 each, through a share exchange, by offering to issue 643,866,927 new fully paid up ordinary shares of Al Salam translating to 11.0 shares of Al Salam for every 1 ordinary share of BMI, subject to obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals (the "Transaction").
3. To consider and approve, for the purpose of acquiring BMI shares under the terms as set out above:
 - a) the waiver of pre-emption rights of Al Salam's shareholders over the issue of new ordinary shares that will be issued to the BMI's shareholders as part of the Transaction;
 - b) the issue of new fully paid up ordinary shares of Al Salam, (up to a maximum of 643,866,927 shares (the "New Shares"), to BMI's shareholders as part of the Transaction;
 - c) to approve appointment to the Board three directors to be nominated by the BMI shareholders subject to approval by the Central Bank of Bahrain;
 - d) the authorization of the Board of Directors to decide on other terms and conditions related to this Transaction; and
 - e) the authorization of the Board of Directors to apply for the listing of the New Shares issued in the Bahrain Bourse and in the Dubai Financial Market;
4. To authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designees to take all necessary actions to implement the above, including but not limited to, representing Al Salam in the final discussions with BMI and its shareholders, the Central Bank of Bahrain, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Bahrain Bourse, Dubai Financial Market or to any other parties and to execute any documents and amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Al Salam, on behalf of the shareholders, before the Notary Public of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Notes:

1. Shareholders whose names are registered in the share register of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain on the date of the Meeting are entitled to attend in person, or appoint a Proxy to attend, the meeting and vote on behalf of such shareholder provided (a) such Proxy is not a director or employee of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (unless the Proxy is a first degree relative of that shareholder) and (b) such Proxy, if representing more than one shareholder, does not hold proxies totaling in excess of 5% of the issued share capital of Al Salam Bank-Bahrain. The appointed Proxy need not be a shareholder of Al Salam and should be appointed in writing. The written appointment must be submitted prior to the Submission Deadline.
2. In the case of an institutional shareholder, the representative attending the meeting must submit an appointment of representative duly appointing the relevant person as the respective shareholders representative. The appointment must be in writing, issued by an authorized person of the institution, sealed under the company's stamp and provided prior to the Submission Deadline.
3. For submission of Proxy or representative authorization documents ("Appointment Documents"), the "Submission Deadline" shall mean receipt of the relevant documents by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain Share Registrar, Fakhro Karvy Computershare, Zamil Tower, Office No. 74, 7th Floor, P.O. Box 514, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, no later than 24 hours before meeting time on Thursday 26 September 2013. Appointment Documents may be provided by hand delivery, post, or facsimile transmission (Fax no.: 00973-17212055) provided same are received prior to the Submission Deadline. Appointment Documents received after the Submission Deadline will not be accepted by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain, and any purported appointment shall be invalid for the purposes of the meeting.

For more information visit: www.alsalambahrain.com
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