



■ Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Hassan Fakhro visited local markets yesterday to review the availability and prices of goods during Ramadan. It included visits to Al Osra Supermarket in Saar and GSF Supermarket in Hamala. Above, Dr Fakhro with officials during his visit to local markets.

Councillor refuses to withdraw case

By MOHAMMED AL A'ALI

A COUNCILLOR has refused to drop a lawsuit against a colleague, who allegedly threatened to attack him during a debate about the Buhair Valley.

Ali Al Mohannadi has filed a police complaint against Southern Municipal Council chairman Mohsin Al Bakri, which is being investigated by the Public Prosecution.

He got into a heated argument with Mr Al Bakri during a council session in May to discuss the clean-up operation at the valley, where tonnes of illegally dumped waste is being removed and transferred to a landfill in Askar.

It is claimed Mr Al Mohannadi, a former council chairman, started the verbal onslaught after accusing Mr Al Bakri of taking unilateral decisions by acting as a "one-man show".

However, Mr Al Mohannadi maintains he was the victim because he was threatened.

Senior government officials have unsuccessfully attempted to convince Mr Al Mohannadi to drop the case.

"There are people with good intentions, whether colleagues, friends or government officials, who want me to withdraw the case against the chairman, but I am not going to do so," he told the *GDN*.

"I have nothing against Mr Al Bakri as a person. All I want is my right because I was threatened in public.



■ Mr Al Mohannadi and Mr Al Bakri

"It is true our relations are not good whether before the May incident or after it, but I am dedicated to doing my duties either as services and public utilities committee chairman or as representative of my constituency West Riffa. No one can silence me as free-guaranteed and no one can rob it from us."

However, Mr Al Bakri said he was not focused on the charges filed against him. "I have given my statement to the police and have not been called since and really don't want to open this issue anymore, I have better things to do that

would best serve the public," he said.

"My problems with Mr Al Mohannadi will continue as he refuses to respect authority by undermining me. If summoned to the Public Prosecution I will certainly go for questioning, otherwise I am not really bothered."

The *GDN* reported yesterday that nearly 80 per cent of debris and rubble amassed from digging work in the Buhair Valley has already been cleared.

More than 100 trucks were mobilised to transport it to the landfill site, where it can be processed and stored safely.

Residents of the area have been complaining of unhygienic conditions and toxic gases for years after the waste was dug up to create foundations for a government housing complex.

Several fires broke out at the site as a result of the work, which led to it being halted until the waste is removed.

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Men accused of robbery are remanded

By NOOR ZAHRA

TWO drunk men have been remanded in custody for allegedly beating and robbing a man.

The Pakistani suspects, who pleaded not guilty to assault and theft, have been held for 45 days pending investigations.

One of them pretended to be a beggar, approached the Pakistani victim in a car and asked for BDI on May 26.

The other suspect, aged 23, stood behind the car to block the man from leaving the parking. He then opened the door, punched the driver and robbed him.

However, the victim managed to fight back and subdued his attackers because they were intoxicated, read case files.

The 23-year-old told prosecutors he did not remember the incident.

"I went to Gulf Cellar to buy some booze at midnight," he said.

"Another Pakistani man came next to me and I gave him beer and we chilled and drank in Manama.

"Next morning I realised I was at a police station and officers told me I robbed and beat up someone the night before.

"I told the police I don't remember anything, I really don't know what I have done the night before and have no idea how I came here.

"I might have done it, but I might have not.

"I was really wasted and can't recall what happened after drinking so much."

Police attack trial adjourned

PROSECUTION witnesses will be summoned in the case of three Bahrainis who fired shotgun pellets at policemen, severely injuring two.

One of the suspects, a 24-year-old, had confessed to helping his friends make homemade ammunition that were fired at a police patrol in Karzakan on February 15 – a day after the second anniversary of anti-government protests.

He said the rioters were divided into two groups; the first distracted the policemen while the other shot the pellets at the officers in an attempt to kill them.

The Bahraini and two co-defendants have been accused of attempted murder, rioting, possessing homemade ammunition and arson.

The High Criminal Court adjourned the trial until Wednesday.



■ An induction ceremony was held for BMI Bank's summer interns at the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel. A total of 32 Bahrainis who are continuing their education in different universities are undergoing a two-month training in different departments, including retail, wholesale, private banking, treasury, legal, operations and corporate. The academic institutions include Bahrain University, Bahrain Polytechnic, AMA International University and University of Manchester in the UK. Above, the students with bank officials.