

‘I want to go home alive, not in coffin’



A group of generous individuals is taking care of Nalarajan at their place of stay.

Stranded Indian national Nalarajan, 80, seeking help to fly home

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

An 80-year-old expatriate stranded in the Kingdom after being allegedly trapped in court cases by loan sharks is pleading with social workers and community mem-



Mr Sulaiman with his mother after rejoining with family.

bers to help him fly back home. Nalarajan, who hails from the Indian state of Kerala, was once a thriving businessman in the Kingdom. He owned a bakery in West Eker, which had a flourishing business.

“About a decade ago, I suffered losses in my business and had to

borrow money from some people here to overcome those losses. They charged heavy interest on me, which eventually I failed to pay off,” the octogenarian, who suffers from various age-related health issues, told Tribune. Sources said Nalarajan owes nearly BD40,000 to different lenders. “I lost nearly BD200,000 in my business. Now I am surviving on BD30 grant provided to me by the Indian Embassy.

As of now, a group of generous individuals is taking care of Nalarajan at their place of stay. “I have only one dream now, to go home alive. I am really worried about breathing my last here without seeing my wife and children.” A few months ago, Nalarajan suffered a stroke and underwent treatment at Salmaniya Medical Complex. He also suffers from diabetes, hypertension



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NALARAJAN

and impaired vision. Last week, Tribune published a report on Sulaiman Kunju, a stranded expatriate, who was living on the terrace of a building in Manama for the last four months. Sulaiman flew home after Bahrain Immigration authorities, Indian Embassy and social workers stepped in and offered adequate help following the publishing of the report.

A medical certificate issued at SMC regarding Nalarajan's health status.

Young artists paint ‘journey to peace’

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Young artists from across the world poured in their support to those who face hardships caused by civil wars and other conflicts as they donated their artworks to be showcased at an exhibition held in the Kingdom. ‘Youth in Art for Peace’ exhibition organised by the International Peace Institute (IPI), MENA, along with Saudi artist Wedad Al Bakr, displayed artworks of students from Bahrain as well as Saudi Arabia, Palestine, India, Ireland, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Through her acrylic painting ‘Ummah’, Majd Sattam Algosaiabi of Ibn Khuldoon School aims to set a discussion on the community's role in fostering inclusivity, tolerance and understanding.

She told Tribune that she wants to convey the message that no one is superior to other and all are equal in this world, irrespective of race, gender or nationality. Trauma suffered by children living in war and conflict zones was highlighted by Hamza Rahma of the same school through her painting ‘Pure Youth’. While Ibn Khuldoon School student Juman Al Ghalayini depicted “unachieved peace across the world” through her work ‘Salam’, Ahmed Dadabhai of Riffa Views International School, highlighted Islamic symbols showing the religion as a force of calmness and light.



Ahmed Dadabhai's work ‘Crescent’.



Hana Aysha Noor with her artwork ‘Tribute to Nelson Mandela’.

Speaking to Tribune, IPI director Nejib Friji, said: “The exhibition highlighted the efforts of youth in the development of sustainable peace, as well as celebrate the talent and creativity of local artists.” Artist Wedad Al Bakr said the diversity of youth, who took part in the exhibition serves a testimony to the unifying power of art. “I urge young artists to build bridges and cultural connections in advocating for peace.”

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