

Best Bahrain Voluntary Work Award jury formed

Manama

The High Organising Committee of the seventh edition of the HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa's Award for Voluntary Work, led by the Good Word Society board chairman, Hassan Bu Hazza'a, has announced the formation of the jury of the Best Bahraini Voluntary Work Project Award.

According to the Best Bahraini Voluntary Work Project Award Committee Chairman, Yaqoob Bu Hazza, the panel comprises Dr. Faleh Al-Ruwaili, Dr. Hala Sulaibeekh and Ahmed Ahmadi. He highlighted the committee's keenness on selecting high-profile jury members with expertise in and contributions to voluntary work in Bahrain. He asserted that the Best Bahraini Voluntary Work Project Award, which is a subsidiary

of the Arab edition of the HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa's Award for Voluntary Work, is held for the third year in a row under the patronage of HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa. The award aims to encourage voluntary work at the level of individuals and associations, and promote creative ideas.

He noted that nomination for the Best Voluntary Work Project Award will be open until July 31, calling on Bahraini youth to participate massively and showcase their creative projects. The HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Voluntary Work is granted to the best three voluntary work projects in Bahrain, with the first winning US\$ 4000, the second US\$ 3000 and the third US\$ 2000. The winners will be honoured on the sidelines of the HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa's Award for Voluntary Work.

Visit to shrine irks residents of Askar

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Manama

A visit by a state official to an abandoned island, which is claimed to have the grave of a religious figure, is feared to stir "sectarian strife" in the Kingdom. This comes as a video emerged on YouTube on Wednesday showing Jaffaria Waqf Directorate (JWD) of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry Chairman Sheikh Abdulmohsen Al Asfoor visiting a shrine on an island near Askar on the southeast coasts of the island.

The four-minute long video



Shaikh Al Asfoor

showed Shaikh Al Asfoor along with a delegation travelling to the island on a boat and inspecting the shrine. The video gained more than 11,000 views in less than two days.

As the authenticity of the information stating that religious figure Ibrahim Al Ashtar is buried on the island, the area's representative Theyab Al Nuaimi criticised the visit and demanded



Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa to interfere and "stop this policy of infringement and placing hands on the territory of the state with illegal arguments".

Al Nuaimi said in a press statement that he had worked to prevent rebuilding the shrine on the island when he was a member of Southern Area Municipal Council before

he became an MP more than four years ago.

"What JWD has done is unacceptable and would stir sectarian strife between the people of Bahrain. Having media coverage of the visit is also illegal, as the spot is located near security facilities," Al Nuaimi said, adding that the residents of Askar are unhappy with the visit and that he will raise the matter in the House.

Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



HEAT IS ON

All of us are witnessing extreme heat and temperature during these days. There is no respite against the scorching heat and above average soaring temperature affecting the entire civic life and activities especially in the day time with bright sunlight. The month of July is again shedding a lot of heat and high temperature. As per the Meteorological Directorate, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication, July 2016 was the warmest month ever recorded in the Kingdom since 1902. It seems that weather is beating the previous year records.

The mean temperature of July 2016 was 36.0 C, which was 2.1 C above the long-term normal and was the same as in July 2012. The mean maximum temperature of the month was 39.8 C. This goes on record as the eight highest mean maximum temperatures for July since 1946. This is the same temperature as in July 1987, 1990 and 2007 but was exceeded by July 2002 which was 41.4 C, July 2000 was 41.3 C, July 2004 was 40.8 C, July 1996, 2008 and 2012 was 40.5 C, July 2015 was 40.2 C, July 2010 was 40.1 C and July 1998, 2001 and 2006 was 40.0 C.

The highest temperature recorded in the month was 43.4 C set on the 20th July 2016 at Bahrain International Airport and was recorded 47.4 C on the 15th July 2016 at Sitra Island. During the month Bahrain had 14 days with maximum temperature which exceeded 40C.

In the coming months, we'll know if temperatures in 2017 will overtake the previous year record in 2016, 2015 and 2014 as the hottest year on record since 1880. The alarming fact is that the 10 warmest years in recorded history have all occurred since 2000, with the exception of just one 1998. The previous hottest year before 2014 was 2010, followed by 2005, and 1998.

While scientists and climatologist are struggling to find the causes of such a historic

rise in temperature, two main factors are contributing to the phenomenon, a long-term warming trend across the globe and the formation of El Nino in the equatorial Pacific region. The current iteration of El Nino has already been confirmed as one of the strongest on record,

and it's predicted to continue. The researchers state that this warming has been driven by an increase in carbon dioxide and other human-caused emissions that continue to accumulate in Earth's atmosphere.

The Government of Bahrain has taken due cognizance of the situation and has banned any outside construction and development work from 12 till 4 pm giving respite to low wage construction workers who have otherwise to work in this scorching heat. The high temperatures also greatly impact on our life style, work, outdoor movement, transportation, recreation and have adverse public health impacts. It also contribute in more power, energy, cooling and water utilization affecting the existing resources.

Let us join voices, hands, hearts, talents and our creative abilities to prevent the looming catastrophe from rising temperature and climate change impacts and avoid high temperature impacts. Let us be aware and start making a few small changes to reduce greenhouse gases and cope up with the high temperatures by:

- Changing light bulbs with energy efficient LED lighting
- Buying energy efficient appliances and replacing old electronics and machines.
- Smartly practicing cooling system by regularly cleaning and changing air filters and programming the thermostat setting.
- Avoiding sunlight especially in peak day time hours, resting in shade and drinking liquids to hydrate ourselves and our dependents.
- Wearing clothes and attires suitable to the weather conditions, using masks and glasses and avoiding direct sunlight for long duration.

* **Head of Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Kingdom of Bahrain**
(Email: rahmed@sce.gov.bh)

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

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