

CSR Initiative

Seef Properties donated BD15,000 to Shaikh Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust Fund. The Vice Chairman and CSR Committee Chairman of Seef Properties, Dr Mustafa Al Sayed, handed over the donation to the representatives of the Charity, Mona Al Balooshi and Wedad Al Mosawi in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer of Seef Properties, Ahmed Yusuf. The donation comes in line with Seef Properties' continuous efforts to contribute towards community causes that leave a lasting and positive imprint on the society at large.

Minister meets top UN official

Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa held a meeting in New York with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in charge of International Migration Louise Arbour. The meeting was attended by the Bahrain Labour Market Regulatory Authority's (LMRA) Chief Executive Officer, Head of the National Committee Against Human Trafficking, Ausamah Al Absi. It was on the sidelines of Bahrain's ongoing preparations to attend the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development.

40,000 non-Muslims visited Grand Mosque last year

Spreading messages of peace, love and peaceful coexistence our main aim, Mosque official say

TDT|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Al Fateh Grand Mosque received 40,000 non-Muslim visitors from 120 countries in the past year, it was revealed.

The number of visitors is increasing year-by-year, Ahmed Al Fateh Islamic Centre coordinator Farahat Al Kindy told Tribune.

He said that the the number of visitors have increased dramatically since 1999, when only 2,000 visitors were welcomed.

"The increase was gradual, in 1999 we only had 2,000 visitors but as more crew ships began coming to Bahrain and as the US Navy presence got larger, we started to have a lot more visitors.

"It has gradually increased year-by-year. Last year's 40,000 visitors were one of the highest we have ever recorded.

"In 2016, we have had 35,000 visitors. We are happy to have a high number of visitors every year."

"The tourism agents contribute a great deal to increasing the number of visitors. They coordinate with us and



The Grand Mosque hosts Eid Open House every year.

direct the tourists here.

"The tourism authority is the one that is advising the agencies to bring more tourists here.

"We actually do not do much advertising to gain more visitors. In spite of this, the number of visitors have been increasing."



The visitor section has trained more than 100 volunteers to assist in handling the visitors especially during the peak season.

MR AL KINDY

Volunteers

The mosque only has a few full-time staff and so nearly 100 people have volunteered to give the visitors a tour of the mosque.

"It is impossible for the official staff to give tours to all visitors by ourselves so

we rely heavily on volunteers. Recently we hosted a reception for our volunteers to acknowledge and appreciate their contribution to our activities and programmes. We have more than 100 volunteers who regularly assist in major events such as the Eid Open Houses event and the Cruise ship tourist programmes."

"Most of the volunteers come from different backgrounds and speak several languages. The main languages spoken are English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Urdu, Sinhalese, Tamil and Malayalam," he said.

"The Ahmed Al Fateh Centre visitor's section is dedicated to spreading the message of peace, love and peaceful co-existence between all peoples and welcomes all non-Muslim expatriates and tourists who wish to visit this great architectural marvel.

"Currently there are only six staff employed in the section. In order to handle the increasing number of visitors, the visitor section has trained more than 100 volunteers to assist in handling the visitors especially during the peak season from November until May each year and on special occasions."

Blaze-hit workers get timely help from social workers

TDT|Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Social workers yesterday provided aid to distressed labourers who lost everything in a blaze that destroyed their accommodation facility.

A blaze that was extinguished by the Civil Defence at a Labour camp in Salmabad on July 14 had left labourers stranded with all of their supplies lost.

They received an emergency package yesterday from the social workers of Migrant Protection Workers Society.

A social worker, Khatib Zuhair Ahmed, Head of Labour Safety and Welfare Commit-



A society worker offers help to labourers.

tee of the Migrant Protection Workers Society, told Tribune, "The society distributed

emergency packages, basic toiletries as well as clothes to approximately 35 labour-

ers as most of them, had lost their money, clothes and all their belongings in the fire. As soon as these labourers settle down the society will provide them with beds and mattresses."

"Moreover if our budget permits we would provide the labourers with air conditioner and refrigerators. In summer a lot of fire occurs due to an electric short circuit and overload wherein safety awareness is the need of the hour among the labourers with which situations like these can be prevented."

"If anyone wishes to help these labourers they can approach the society directly," Khatib Zuhair Ahmed added.

Man sets carpentry on fire over unpaid salaries

TDT|Manama
Ali Tarif

An Arab carpenter showed his anger by setting the carpentry on fire after he was allegedly not paid his salaries.

The 53-year-old was entitled to receive BD273 from his employer, but he caused more than BD300,000 worth of damage by burning the property which is located in Sitra, according to court files.

"I came to Bahrain in 2017, but due to difficult working conditions and late salaries, I filed a case against my employer at the Ministry of Labour. My complaint was solved, but my employer stopped paying my salary from January 2018 until April," the accused said.

"I filed another complaint

and the Labour Court again ordered my employer to settle my dues," he added.

According to the court documents, the Labour Court ordered in his favour, and his employer gave him a cheque for BD273.

"The cheque bounced because there wasn't sufficient balance in the account. After a few days, I received a call from my employer who mocked me over the bounced cheque. At that point, I decided to take revenge," the 53-year-old man said.

He lived up to his pledge by torching the carpentry before he surrendered to police.

The defendant will be tried before the High Criminal Court on grounds of arson.

He will stand before the court on September 9, 2018.