

Saudi services to pilgrims lauded

Minister raps Qatari authorities for attempting to politicise Hajj pilgrimage

● The minister lauded the great service provided by Saudi Arabia to enable pilgrims to perform their rituals easily and comfortably, wishing the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques a successful Hajj season.

Manama

Information Affairs Minister and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), Ali Al Romaihi, has asserted that the “tremendous efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to ensure the success of the Hajj season every year is an extraordinary success story of which both the Arab and Muslim nations are proud.”

“The world pays homage to Saudi Arabia and admires its great Haj achievements, as well as accurate planning and implementation,” he also said in a statement to the “Al Sharq Al Awsat” newspaper.

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MR AL ROMAHI

The minister lauded the great service provided by Saudi Arabia to enable pilgrims to perform their rituals easily and comfortably, wishing the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques a successful Hajj season.

Commenting on the Qatari authorities' prevention of the Qatari people from performing Hajj, Al Romaihi stressed that the “Qatari regime is more keen on its sports teams' participation in sporting events in Saudi Arabia, than on its people's performance of the fifth pillar of Islam Hajj”.

Mr Al Romaihi pointed out that “the Qatari regime has been committed to participating in a number of sports events in Jeddah, Abu Dhabi and Manama, and has used non-Qatari aircraft to transport its sports teams there, but prevents its people from performing the holy pilgrimage, using Qatar Airways as a mere pretext to carry on its deplorable attempts to politicise Hajj”.

The minister emphasised that such “a flagrant step is no longer accepted by the brotherly Qatari people, whose citizens are proud of Islam, their Arab identity and their close relations with sisterly Saudi Arabia”.

bia's special care for the holy sites, as well as keenness to harness all its official capabilities and human potentials to remove all obstacles and difficulties the Hajj or Umrah pilgrims may face.

Shaikh Mohammed tweets support for flood victims



HH Sheikh Mohammed
@HHShkMohd

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UAE and the Indian community will unite to offer relief to those affected. We have formed a committee to start immediately. We urge everyone to contribute generously towards this initiative.



2:11 PM - 17 Aug 2018

Dubai

Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday highlighted the need to support the flood-hit victims in the Indian state of Kerala.

In his tweet, he highlighted the contributions by Keralites to the country and the need to help the state recover from the catastrophe.

Earlier, the UAE leadership sent cables of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

UAE President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan extended his sympathy to President Kovind and to the families of the victims and wished the injured speedy recovery, state news agency WAM reported.

Kerala's government has described the crisis - among the worst in decades - as “extremely grave” as it launched rescue operations to help thousands who remain trapped by floodwaters.

Kerala, famed for its pristine palm-lined beaches and tea plantations, is battered by the monsoon every year but this year's damage has been the worst in decades.

Saudi issues 1,720,680 Hajj visas

Riyadh

The Saudi diplomatic missions have completed the issuances of visas to pilgrims from different nationalities to perform the Hajj rituals this year.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it has issued more than 1.7 million visas

for this year's Hajj through its diplomatic missions, including temporary missions in countries where Saudi does not have any diplomatic missions or permanent consult.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Undersecretary for Consular Affairs Tamim Al Dosary, at the ministry said that a total 1,720,680 visas have been issued for this year's Hajj season.

Rare honour for BNA

Muscat

Bahrain News Agency (BNA) has won the best Arab news agency award during the 10th edition of the Arab Tourism Media Awards 2018, held in Oman recently.

The award-distribution ceremony was organised by the Arab Centre for Tourism Media (ACTM), under the patronage of Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Rowas, adviser to His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs, with the participation of more than 55 journalists and media professionals specialised in the field of tourism

from all over the Arab world.

An Arab Tourism Media Conference, including many plenary sessions, was held on the sidelines of the ceremony.

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO)'s Director-General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman al Twajiri, former Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organisation, Dr Taleb al Rifai, and Chairperson of Petra National Trust and Unesco Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural Heritage, Princess Diana Firas, attended the conference as guests of honour.

Revamp work at 25 public schools on track

Manama

Twenty-five government schools across Bahrain are undergoing maintenance works to be ready for the new school year 2018-2019.

The Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry is carrying out the plan which was agreed with the Ministry of Education under the 2018 school maintenance programme.

“The maintenance work aims to ensure the safety of the

1.8
million Bahraini dinar has been allocated to conduct comprehensive maintenance work at public schools in the Kingdom.

school buildings, and lengthen their life span and improve the internal environment,” said

maintenance director Huda Mirza.

She revealed that BD1.8 million were allocated to conduct the comprehensive maintenance programme, which covered this year twenty-five schools across Bahrain.

She announced the revamped schools would be handed over to the Ministry of Education before the beginning of the new school year 2018-2019, adding that maintenance work started on the 5th of August.

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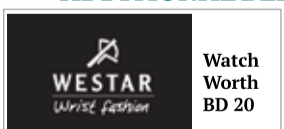
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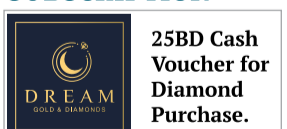
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