

**Strong Saudi ties**

BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received a military delegation from the Saudi Armed Forces. The Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant-General Dhiyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi attended the meeting. The Commander-in-Chief praised the strong brotherly relationship between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

**Kuwaiti relations hailed**

Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa affirmed Bahrain's deep-rooted strong ties with Kuwait as a model to be emulated by countries. These relations have been strengthened by the combination of common denominators between the two brotherly countries and peoples and mutually-shared desire between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Kuwait Amir His Highness Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah to develop them in various fields, he said. This came on Sunday as Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the recently-appointed Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday.

# Employees accused of embezzling BD1.5 million, acquitted by court

Accused trio includes general manager, project manager and quantity surveyor

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has acquitted three Asian employees, aged 53, 35 and 49, accused of embezzlement after the expert assigned to audit the accounts of the company didn't take the initiative to verify the facts with the defendants.

The three defendants were earlier convicted and handed down sentences ranging between three years and five years behind bars, but their appeals proved successful.

The trio include the general manager, the project manager and a quantity surveyor.

This came after their lawyer

Islam Ghunaim argued that the expert who was assigned by the company to audit its accounts was tasked without informing the defendants and he didn't meet them throughout the whole process, which is against the local laws.

He pointed out that as a result of this the report must be deemed illegal and couldn't be counted as an evidence for judging.

"The defendants have the right to assign an expert too. But the Public Prosecution didn't hire any and the company was the one who did and covered his expenses.

"He didn't even meet my clients

**“He didn't even meet my clients or heard their defence. Therefore, his report is invalid and cannot be regarded as proof.”**

MR GHUNAIM

or heard their defence. Therefore, his report is invalid and cannot be regarded as proof," he added.

The company's lawyer, Maha Jaber, said previously that the general manager was serving in the company for 21 years and he collaborated with his co-defendants in pocketing money

generated from selling movable properties owned by the company but they didn't record them in its accounts.

"They have been doing this for three years, and the company discovered their misconduct recently. An auditing process was performed via an external auditing firm, in which it was discovered that the general manager transferred BD1.5 million to his country in the past three years, although his total earnings since his recruitment don't exceed half million Bahraini dinars," she added.

Explaining how the suspects

manipulated the company's accounts, she said: "The defendants used to deposit the money earned through selling the movable properties into their accounts.

"And then showed in the records that they used it to carry out other activities for the company in collaboration with another company, which was operating in waste collection.

"The quantity surveyor was forging the reports submitted to the company about the sites in which it was working in return of bribes provided by the general manager and the project manager."

## Woman fined for denying ex-hubby see daughter

TDT | Manama

The Lower Civil Court has fined a Bahraini woman BD1,000 for denying her ex-husband from seeing their girl, although he has a court ruling allowing him to meet her once every week.

The Sharia Court had earlier issued an order for the woman to enable her ex-husband see their girl for three hours at one of the social centres.

However, the woman failed to implement the court ruling, causing moral damage to the plaintiff owing to the fact that she was the only child he has.

During the course of this trial, the woman filed a case requesting to define the timings of the

## Kerala expats in the Kingdom to receive free legal aid

TDT | Manama

Residents of Bahrain from the Indian state of Kerala will now receive free legal aid, it was announced.

This follows the launching of 'Pravasi Legal Aid Cell' for non-resident Keralites to avail free legal advice.

The programme is the brainchild of Norka Roots and is made available to expatriates from Kerala all across the world.

Norka Roots aims to help all non-resident Keralites by providing support with regard

to legal matters.

"Norka Roots has officially launched the 'Pravasi Legal Aid Cell' in the state. Formed to assist expatriate Keralites, the cell will provide free legal aid to non-resident Keralites (NRKs) in various countries," Indian newspaper The New Indian Express reported.

"According to officials, Norka Roots has appointed legal consultants in Kuwait and Oman in its first phase and the facility would soon be expanded to other countries," the report stated.

The project envisages provid-

**“The project envisages providing legal aid to expatriate Malayalees serving jail term in the GCC countries.”**

REPORT

ing legal aid to expatriate Malayalees serving jail term in the GCC countries.

Employment issues, filing cases, compensation, mercy petitions are some of the areas in which the cell will provide assis-

tance, including translator services, to expatriate Malayalees.

"The cell would also hold legal awareness programmes in association with various Malayali associations.

"According to Norka authorities, absence of a proper legal aid has often sent many hapless employees to jails in these foreign countries.

"Through this project, a person in distress or his immediate relatives or friends who hold valid documents, can approach the cell for legal aid," the report stated.

"The application for the legal aid should be addressed to 'Chief Executive Officer, Norka Roots, Third Floor, Norka Center, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014'.

The application can also be sent via mail to [coceo@norkaroots.net](mailto:coceo@norkaroots.net) and [ceonorkaroots@gmail.com](mailto:ceonorkaroots@gmail.com). The application is available on its website [www.norkaroots.org](http://www.norkaroots.org).

For more details contact 0091 880 2012 345 or toll free number 1800 425 3939. "A missed call facility is available for callers from abroad," the report added.

**“The woman failed to implement the court ruling, causing moral damage to the plaintiff owing to the fact that she was the only child he has.”**

COURT

meetings between the father and his child under the pretext that the girl was suffering from health issues.

Nevertheless, the court deemed her excuse invalid, pointing out in its ruling that she had violated the law.

"The Sharia Court had earlier issued a ruling enabling the man to see his child once every week for three hours. This court judgement is enforceable and cannot be dodged.

"Ignoring it caused moral damage to the plaintiff as he has full right to see his girl who he always longs to meet due to their relationship," the Lower Civil Court said in its ruling.

"Therefore, the court ruled to compel the woman to allow her ex-husband to meet their child and to pay him BD1,000 in compensation for the moral damage she caused to him," the court added.

**Sports envoys visit AUBH**

In collaboration with the US Embassy, two US sports envoys visited the American University of Bahrain (AUBH) to meet with the university students and hold a discussion on "Fitness Alongside Studies". The sports envoys were soccer coaches Zola Solamente, an American former soccer player who played as a defender, making nine appearances for the United States women's national team; and Anthony Sanneh, a retired American soccer player, who last played for the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer and also played in the World Cup. The envoys were welcomed on AUBH's state-of-the-art campus in Riffa by Dr Susan E Saxton, the Founding President of the University.