

Bahrain celebrates 30 years of diplomatic ties with China

Special events mark the diplomatic milestone; Foreign Minister expresses hope to further boost ties

● The Chinese ambassador paid tribute to HRH the Premier for his keenness on supporting and developing joint co-operation.

● The Minister of Foreign Affairs hailed the bilateral relations that are based on strong foundations and mutual trust and respect.

Beijing | Manama



A special event to celebrate the diplomatic milestone was held at the Kingdom's Embassy in Beijing.



Mr An Wa'er with Shaikh Salman, Shaikh Khalid and Shaikh Hisham at the event.

The Embassy of the Kingdom to the People's Republic of China celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom in Beijing, Dr Anwar Yusuf Abdulla Alabdulla delivered a speech during the event in which he affirmed deep-rooted relations between the two countries, which have been constantly developing through the past 30 years.

He also affirmed the Kingdom's keenness to bolster these relations at all levels for the common interest of the two countries and peoples.

The celebration was also attended by a number of officials, businessmen, and diplomats, including the Vice Chairperson of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa deputised his ad-

visor Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa to attend a ceremony marking the diplomatic milestone.

Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain Mr An Wa'er hosted the ceremony at the Diplomat Hotel, in the presence of ministers, senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps and guests.

Shaikh Salman hailed steadily-growing bilateral relations which are based on friendship and mutual respect, stressing Bahrain's keenness on strengthening co-operation with China to serve shared interests and meet the aspirations of the two friendly countries and peoples.

"The celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations reflects deep-rooted relations binding the two friendly countries and peoples", he said, stressed mutual keenness on enhancing joint co-operation to the highest levels.

The Chinese ambassador paid tribute to HRH the Premier for his keenness on supporting and developing joint co-operation,

thanking HH Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa for gracing the ceremony on behalf of HRH the Premier.

He reiterated his country's keenness on enhancing joint co-operation with the Kingdom of Bahrain, expressing delight at celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries.

Speaking at the event, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, affirmed the deep historical relations of friendship between the Kingdom and the People's Republic of China.

He ascribed the strength of Bahrain-China ties to the special care accorded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khali-

fa, HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs hailed the bilateral relations that are based on strong foundations and mutual trust and respect and having all factors for more pro-

gress and prosperity.

The minister expressed his pride in the development of the bilateral relations between the two countries, stressing Bahrain's keenness to further boost the bilateral relations and enhance co-operation for the benefit of both countries and peoples.

He pointed out the continuous coordination and communication between the two countries' officials on various issues and in international forums to serve their common interests and achieve further progress and development for their peoples, as well as to reinforce security and peace in the region and across the globe.

The Chinese Ambassador expressed his thanks and appreciation of the Foreign Affairs Minister's participation in the celebration, saying that it embodies pride in the development and progress of bilateral relations in light of the constant mutual interest in boosting these relations at all levels, wishing the Bahrain further progress and prosperity.



Many cultural programmes were held marking the occasion.

Stranded expat 'leading roofless life'

● Sulaiman's family includes his wife and three children.

TDT | Manama
Rajeevan Purvankara

A stranded expat in the Kingdom is devoid of basic necessities of life including a roof to sleep under.

Indian national Sulaiman Kunju, has been living on the terrace of a building in Manama for the last four months, battling the last winter.

Speaking to Tribune, Sulaiman said that he came to the Kingdom 10 years ago after paying BD1,000 for the visa.

"Initially, I was employed for a salary of BD140 a month in the construction sector. It took me nearly two years to settle my debts incurred to obtain the visa back home.

"After two years, I had no money to renew my visa and since then I have been an illegal resident in the Kingdom."

As of now, a CPR card is the only form of legal identification he possesses, having lost whereabouts of his passport upon the death



Mr Sulaiman on the terrace of the building in Manama.

“After two years, I had no money to renew my visa and since then I have been an illegal resident in the Kingdom.”

SULAIMAN

of his sponsor.

"I do some odd jobs to make a living. I want to go home soon."

Sulaiman's family includes his wife and three children. He hails from the Indian state of Kerala.

Those interested to help Sulaiman can give a ring on 36739482.

Five jailed for sheltering fugitives

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The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced five defendants to one year behind bars each for sheltering two wanted fugitives, while a sixth suspect was freed due to lack of proof.

The third defendant was the one who planned to provide the two wanted men with shelter after he received a call from one of them, according to prosecutors.

"The defendants were staying in a farm and they were afraid that cops would nab them."

He assigned the other defendants to help him in the operation, tasking the second defendant to prepare a place to accommodate them, while the first defendant was asked to provide a temporary haven for them in his family house.

The sixth defendant's duty was to monitor the area and inform them whenever police officers arrive while they were transporting the fugitives from the farm to their new shelter.

The operation was a success

“The defendants were staying in a farm and they were afraid that cops would nab them.”

PROSECUTORS

and they remained in the first defendant's house for three days before police officers received a tip-off.

"We transferred them at around 1:30 am in the night to their new home. They stayed there for three days. On the fourth day, I discovered that my friends were arrested. I returned to our house immediately and asked the fugitives to leave.

"However, I would as well fall into the police net soon," the first defendant told prosecutors.

On the acquittal of the sixth defendant, the court ruling said that he wasn't aware of the reason behind the task entrusted on him.

"He committed the act because he was told to do it without being offered any further explanation."