

Frauds print fake visas, cheat expat jobseekers

Fake visas issued under Bahrain firm's name; probe urged

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● The group only realised the scam when one of the victims contacted a manager of Bahrain company.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Six friends fear that they may have lost their savings and passports after a fraudulent recruitment agent in India allegedly bamboozled the group. The victims, all Indian nationals, who thought they would be travelling together to the Kingdom after being placed in jobs are now in a fix after realising they were scammed. The group has been allegedly cheated by a fake recruitment agent in India. The copy of the visa obtained by Tribune had wrong information entered by



The fake visa issued by the fraud agent.

325
Bahraini dinars were allegedly charged for each visa by the fraudsters.

the so-called agent. The victims said that they gave the money to the agent as he was known to deal with visa related matters. A brother of one of the victims said that it was an acquaintance of his brother's friend who did the cheating. "My brother has been looking for an overseas job for quite a while. His friend informed him that he knows someone who is able to recruit people to companies in the Gulf. "My brother contacted this person and a job was prom-

ised for him. Subsequently, all other friends also contacted the person and were promised jobs in the Kingdom. "The agent demanded Rs 60,000 (BD325) per visa and four of them obliged, giving him the money he asked for. My brother and one of his friends are yet to pay, but have handed over their passports." The group only realised the scam when one of the victims contacted a manager of one of the companies, under whose name the visa was issued. "I was contacted by a person who said his brother had received a visa to join my company. I was surprised because our company did not have any recruitment from India in recent times," the manager told Tribune. "The victims then sent me the visa, which they received. The visa is obviously fake and photo-shopped. One of the obvious mistakes made by the agent is that they have printed a phone number in the name of CPR number," the manager said. The manager urged the authorities to carry out a probe into the scam, which could adversely affect the future of many expatriate jobseekers.

School chairman assures more student safety measures

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Safety measures at Indian School Bahrain (ISB) will be further strengthened after an alleged negligence by a teacher led to a boy being left behind in a school bus. The teacher will "face strong action" after her negligence led to a boy being left behind in a school bus, the school's chairman said. The boy was among the students, who were being transported in a minibus to the ISB's Isa Town campus, but he was left behind when everyone else got off the bus.



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MR NATARAJAN

ISB Chairman Prince Natarajan assured that the school administration will be taking adequate measures to ensure such incidents are not repeated. "What happened was very unfortunate. We will make sure that this kind of incidents are not repeated." "We have zero tolerance in this matter, this should not have happened. The school has a robust system but this was an unfortunate lapse that cannot be tolerated." "After our investigation into the matter, we will know the person who is responsible for this error. It is not acceptable and the staff in question will face a strong action," he said. "Now we are taking further measures to strengthen the checking of students when it comes to transportation. We will make sure that no such incidents happen again," he added.

BTEA in efforts to increase tourist numbers from UK

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The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is carrying out a campaign across the UK in efforts to attract more British tourists to the Kingdom. The authority made a promotional tour in the last few days with an aim to strengthen relations with travel and tourism agencies in the UK. It also aimed to bring awareness about Bahrain and what the Kingdom has to offer for travel enthusiasts. Yousef Al Khan, Director of Marketing and Tourism Promotion, said, "The tour aimed to strengthen relations with some of the top travel agencies in the UK and to promote Bahrain as a tourist destination. The tour pro-



BTEA officials with UK tour agents and officials.

vided us an opportunity to promote the Kingdom's new tourism projects." "We are working towards increasing the number of visitors to Bahrain from the UK and are dedicated to establish Bahrain as a prime tourist hotspot." Bahrain has been in a push to promote tourism to the country in recent years. Earlier this month, an aircraft was submerged under

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MR AL KHAN

Bahraini waters as part of the launch of the world's largest underwater theme park. The theme park is expected to be a massive boost for tourism to the Kingdom. Covering an area of over 100,000 sqm, the exceptional dive experience includes several structures in addition to a submerged Jumbo Jet as its centerpiece.

The structures will provide a safe haven for coral reef growth and a habitat for marine life. The project is implemented in accordance to strict environmental standards and international best industry practices in the field of environmental sustainability; with an overall aim to revive the Kingdom's marine ecosystem and preserve its local marine environment, the BTEA had earlier said.

New water reservoirs inaugurated in Seef

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Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) Chief Executive Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa yesterday inaugurated water reservoirs at the Seef Water Distribution Station. The reservoirs will serve to increase Bahrain's water reserves by 3.6 per cent, the EWA said in a statement issued. "These reservoirs are characterised by their unique engineering designs with aesthetic facades that make them blend into their surroundings. "Also, the outside walls of the reservoirs and its facade have been used to install solar panels

for the production of renewable energy." Shaikh Nawaf stressed the experiment will be expanded to cover all such reservoirs in other Bahrain areas as well. He said the project is part of a strategic plan of the EWA to preserve the aesthetic appearance of Bahrain and to produce renewable energy. He said the new engineering design has contributed to the provision of required storage of water in a harmonious fashion with neighbouring facilities and set up a renewable energy facility. Seef Water Distribution Station includes a five million-gal-



Shaikh Nawaf with other EWA officials after inaugurating the water reservoirs.

lon earth reservoir as well as a one million gallon overhead reservoir for the Seef Water Park project.

Shaikh Nawaf said that the project comes within the framework of the master plan set by the EWA to develop and expand

the water transport networks in Bahrain in light of the guidance and interests of the wise leadership led by His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his wise government led by His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister as well as the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. He said the plan includes the provision of electricity and water services and to meet the growing demand for these services in line with the development of urban, industrial and commercial areas while maintaining Bahrain's aesthetic character to provide better services for citizens and residents as well as to attract foreign investments.