

Bahrain, India bilateral trade, investment soar

● **Bilateral trade between Bahrain and India is estimated to have jumped 40 per cent**

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Mohammed Zafran

Investment and trade between India and Bahrain have sky-rocketed in the past few years, a top Indian embassy official has said.

According to the outgoing Second Secretary (Commerce) Om Prakash, the bilateral trade between Bahrain and India is estimated to have jumped 40 per cent in about a year.

Om Prakash has been reassigned by the Indian government to the Embassy Cairo, Egypt and is set to leave Bahrain today.

On the substantial jump witnessed in Bahrain-India bilateral trade, Om Prakash said, "Such dramatic increases are also evident in bilateral investments, which is encouraging."

Thanks to constant support from all sides, "Trade between India and Bahrain is increasing constantly and substantially,"



During my four years of tenure here, I have had the privileged to enjoy immense support from the embassy, the Bahraini government, and individuals as well. I would like to thank Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha for his sincere efforts

OM PRAKASH
INDIAN EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY (COMMERCE)

Om Prakash told Tribune.

In the period from April 2018 to February 2019, the increase in bilateral trade between India and Bahrain was 40pc. The increase, according to Om Prakash, in the year-ago period was 35pc. "The year before that had also recorded a significant increase," he said adding: The current increase was mainly due to an increase in the trade of

engineering items."

"Four years ago this was not the case," Om Prakash said. "Such items were not traded much."

Since March 2015, the flow of investment from Bahrain to India has more than tripled, while that from India to Bahrain has zoomed to around 1.7 billion US dollars.

"As per the Ministry of In-



Indian Embassy, Bahrain

dustry, Commerce and Tourism, India is one of the top investors in Bahrain," he said adding: "Indians comprise of the largest number of foreign investors in the country."

The outgoing Second Secretary also pointed out that in recent years participation in busi-

ness meets by both sides has "improved substantially."

When asked about his experience in Bahrain, Om Prakash said, "During my four years of tenure here, I have had the privileged to enjoy immense support from the embassy, the Bahraini government, and individuals as

well." "I would like to thank Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha for his sincere efforts.

"All credit for the improvements goes to him.

"He has made sure to give his full support to every single person at the embassy as well as to the public," Om Prakash said.

Court upholds twin brothers' prison terms

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The Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the sentences awarded to Bahraini twin brothers for peddling Hashish.

The brothers were each given jail terms of 15 years and a fine of BD5,000.

The suspects were nabbed by the police following a tip-off.

Police also secured a search warrant from the public prosecution, as several previous attempts to catch the suspects went awry as the undercover agents failed to convince the duo to sell them drugs.

"When we arrived, one of the twins (the second defendant) tried to flee after serious resistance.

"He had a piece of hashish with him.

"Three pieces of hashish each weighing three kilograms were found from his car," One of the police officers who took part in the raid told prosecutors.

Police officers also retrieved BD14,980 in cash from the suspect's room.

When we asked about the hashish, he said, "My brother stored them in my car."

Regarding the money found from his room, he said, "I didn't know it was there," the police officer told the court.

Investigators later found the suspect as having another apartment, in which his wife was staying.

More than BD41,000 in cash was found from there during a search operation.

The suspects claimed the money was from their prawn business.

Death sentence upheld for cop killer

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The Court of Cassation yesterday upheld a capital conviction issued for a cop-killer.

The Court dismissed the man's appeal, which was also his second and final allowed against the verdict, as he exhausted another previously. The High Court of Appeals rejected his first appeal.

The man was found guilty of killing an on-duty policeman in Diraz on 18 June 2017 using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

The accused was among a group of four who targeted a police patrol vehicle stationed at the entrance of the village.

Policeman, Abdulsamad Abdulla, was killed in the explosion, which also left two others with life-threatening injuries.

Three partners of the death row convict were sentenced to life-in-prison by the High Criminal Court.

Suspects were fined BD1,000 each. The Court also ordered them to pay BD2,301 for damaging police vehicle.



The attack caused the death of on-duty policeman Abdulsamad Abdulla

The Court also stripped their Bahraini citizenships.

The suspects were nabbed a month after the blast.

Investigators found that the accused were functioning under the direction of the wanted individual currently a refugee in Iran.

The masterminds in Iran were also convicted of several terror-related crimes in the Kingdom.



A picture of the police patrol vehicle which was targeted by the defendants

World Quiz Championship

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The International Quizzing Association (IQA) is introducing the World Quiz Championship (WQC) 2019 for the first time in Bahrain.

The event will be held in association with Q Factory, Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) and S.T.E.P. Academy.

WQC 2019 will be conducted at the VKL Auditorium, Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) on 1 June 2019 from 1.30 pm to 6.00 pm.

The last date of registration is 28th May and for registration contact +97336939596. Registration fee is BD3.

There is no age or qualification bounds set to take part in any of the events.

The same set of questions will be given to the participants across all the venues in the world.

In Kerala, World Quiz Championship is conducted under the guidance of district collectors.

The participants get a chance to directly represent the country in an official World Championship, by completing the test.

"It is truly a matter of our pride to represent Bahrain on this world map of World Quiz Championships," said Aneesh Nirmalan, Proctor of World Quiz Championship 2019.

Sevi Mathunni, President of KCA, said that it's a pride moment to host this event along with the KCA's 50th-anniversary celebrations.



KCA, in association with International Quizzing Association, Q Factory and STEP, will hold a World Quiz Championship on 1st June 2019 from 1.30pm to 6 pm at KCA VKL Auditorium. Sevi Mathunni, President KCA, Abraham John, Varghese Karakkal, Varghese Joseph, General Secretary-KCA, and Aneesh Nirmalan, IQA and Step Academy were present at the press meet