

‘Water: Regenerating Life’ theme of BIGS 2020

Manama

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the continued support of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King, President of the Consultative Council of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), Bahrain International Garden Show (BIGS) will be officially inaugurated on March 3 at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC) and will be open to the public on March 4-7.

“The show is a unique event as it combines being a commercial exhibition that contributes to creating important opportunities

for participating organisations to expand their activities locally, regionally and internationally, with the education and knowledge it spreads as it offers chances to exchange experiences and opinions, introduces the latest innovations and provides awareness on the best ways and methods to care for gardens and green areas and to protect the environment,” NIAD Secretary General Shaikha Maram bint Isa Al Khalifa said at a media conference.

Throughout the previous editions, the show managed to create an important bridge for communication and to enhance fruitful co-operation between participating regional and international companies, as well as local participants, which paved the



Shaikha Maram speaks at the Press conference yesterday.

way for companies to enter the region’s markets and strengthen their positions and shares within them, Shaikha Maram added.

“Every year the exhibition focuses on a different theme that represents a pressing issue facing

the agricultural sector in order to work on improving systems and methods, and find solutions and alternatives that contribute to the sustainability of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom,” she said.

“This year the show is held under the theme ‘Water: Regenerating Life’ and will focus on the importance of water and how to preserve it to guarantee its sustainability as it is the source of life on earth. It is expected that the rate of water consumption will continue to increase by up to 20 to 30 per cent by the year 2050, which will exacerbate the problem if proper solutions are not implemented from now and if the culture of correct practices in using water resources is not spread.”

The theme stand will highlight several water-related topics including some statistics on water consumption in Bahrain, the importance of working to achieve water security which is

closely related to food security, and the role individuals play in conserving water in homes and domestic gardens.

This year, more than 200 exhibitors will showcase their designs, products, technologies and innovations over a 7,000 sqm space.

The participants this year come from 27 countries including Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Russia, Netherlands, Greece, USA, Japan, Poland, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Central African Republic, and Kyrgyzstan as well as several agricultural companies from regional and Arabic countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Morocco, Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt.

‘No damage’ to crops after locusts invasion

No farms destroyed; experts still monitoring the situation

● Many people here have been catching locusts to eat it, considering it a delicacy.

● Locusts are vulnerable when they are just eggs in the ground but they are hard to spot.

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No damage was done to the crops here after locusts invaded the country last week.

The locusts that has been described as dangerous to crops did not destroy any farms in the Kingdom, said sources.

Strong winds from Saudi Arabia had caused swarms of locusts to invade Bahrain on Thursday.

Citizens and residents were astonished to see scores of locusts descending from the sky. Many videos of the locust swarms had gone viral on social media.

According to Prevention Web, a knowledge base about disaster



Swarms of locusts at Karbabad Beach. There was a fear in the Kingdom over possible destruction to crops.

management, a single desert locust swarm the size of Brussels could consume Belgium’s entire food supply in a single day.

However farmers said, al-

though they were fearful, crops were not harmed by the locusts.

Authorities sprung into action with Ministry of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning

sending teams to deal with the situation before it gets out of hand.

The spread, the ministry source said, can be contained by employing various measures including spraying of insecticides. According to ministry sources, no farms in Bahrain were damaged.

The ministry stated that experts in the field are monitoring the situation and that a continuous communication is ongoing with the Saudi Arabian authorities.

Reportedly, winds have transported locusts from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain, Yemen and Oman. The ministry also stated that there is no need to panic.

Reportedly, many people here have been catching locusts to eat it, considering it a delicacy.

Experts say they are a source of protein, but there are also warnings against eating locusts due to risk of diseases.

Locusts are vulnerable when they are just eggs in the ground but they are hard to spot. When they hatch into masses of what are called hoppers, they can be dealt with easily. The problem

is that such colonies are often in remote areas where there is very little incentive for the host country to deal with them. Soon, they will move on and become someone else’s problem.

After hatching, the hopper still cannot fly and remains an essentially solitary creature. It becomes gregarious only after it has fledged, taking to the skies en masse and riding the easterly winds to fresh pastures, just as it has since ancient times.

Swarms can vary in size from 1 square kilometer, consisting of about 40 million locusts, to several hundred square kilometers. With each locust consuming roughly its own weight – 2 grams – in fresh food per day, a modest 1-square-kilometer swarm will eat as much in a single day as about six elephants, 20 camels or 35,000 people.

A swarm can cover up to 130 kilometers in a day and stay in the air for many days at a time, so the Red Sea – which is barely 300km across at its widest point – presents no barrier. In 1988, one swarm took only 10 days to migrate 5,000km across the Atlantic.

Proposed abortion law rejected

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A proposed law that would have made abortion legal under certain circumstances was rejected yesterday.

The proposal, which aimed to permit abortion in case the foetus was found to have severe physical or mental deformities was rejected by the Shura Council yesterday.

The proposal had also aimed to permit abortion in case that continued pregnancy puts mothers health at risk.

The rejection came at the Shura council after comments from the Minister of Health.

The proposal was aimed to modify the proposed amendment to Article 19 of the 1989 Human Medicine and Dentistry Law.

Shura’s services committee had backed the proposal but after today’s discussions and intervention of the Health Minister, the idea was dropped.

The proposed law would have allowed abortions in these circumstances only if pregnancy was under three months and had consent of both parents.

Meanwhile, a Sharia ruling from the Supreme Islamic Council had previously banned abortions except in the case of life threatening risk to the mother.

Nurse attacker charged with ‘attempted robbery’

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An Asian man, who was arrested for brutally attacking a nurse in Salmaniya area in the Capital, confessed that he was attempting to rob her, as mentioned in his statement during the probe launched by the Public Prosecution.

The 29-year-old is now facing the charges of attempted robbery, while investigation in the case continue, a statement issued on Saturday by Capital Governorate Prosecution Chief Prosecution Mohammed Salah confirmed.

“After receiving a report from the General Directorate of Crimi-

nal Investigation and Forensic Science about an Asian man who assaulted a nurse on the public road and attempted to rob her, the Public Prosecution began investigating the report.

“The accused was arrested, interrogated and confronted with the findings of the investigations and the footage circulating on social media sites,” Mr Salah said.

According to the Chief Prosecutor, the suspect confessed to the accusations raised against him and he informed the interrogators that he was trying to steal the 33-year-old victim’s bag, adding that his attempt went in vain after she resisted



CCTV footage showing the accused a second before he began attacking the nurse.

and cried out to passersby for help.

As reported on Tribune last week, the incident took place on Tuesday night while the victim, an Asian nurse working at Salmaniya Medical Complex, was walking home after finishing her shift at the hospital.

Footage of a security camera installed in a shop located near the crime scene showed how the suspect stalked the woman as she walked, then suddenly attacking her from the back and bringing her to the floor, where he continued punching her before running away from the spot.

The footage went viral on social media networks, raising na-

tionwide condemnation of the “cowardly” act and demands to bring the man to justice.

A statement issued by the Interior Ministry on Thursday mentioned that co-operation between the Capital Police Directorate and the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science in the Ministry resulted in the identification and arrest of the suspect.

Mr Salah added in his statement on Saturday that the Public Prosecution is continuing its procedures in order to refer the case to the concerned criminal court.

No further information was available.