

Three captive dolphins swim free to wild after being confined to a resort pool

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TDT | Manama

Three dolphins rescued by authorities from a resort in the Kingdom safely, swam to the wild, sometimes jumping over choppy waves, giving an incredibly emotional experience to officials who worked to secure their freedom.

The dolphins, two females and a young male, caught illegally and sold for entertainment purposes, were rescued by Coast Guard Officials from the resort following a court order.

The animals were in a tiny pool of the resort, confined for the amusement of tourists who would pay to swim and play with them.

As per a judicial ruling, also the first such instance in Kingdom, authorities carted the dolphins to the open sea and released them back to their natural habitat after nursing them back to health.

The Execution Prosecution head Mohammed Al Musallam said the dolphins gained their freedom thanks to joint efforts



between the concerned state agencies and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAOW).

Incidents leading to the extraordinary rescue started with the Coast Guard officials monitoring the handover of a dolphin to the resort.

However, during another on-site visit, officials found that the facility had three dolphins instead of one.

This incident led Coast Guard officials to approach the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) in Bahrain, which con-

firmed detecting no dolphins at the facility six months back during their visit.

The Council also confirmed granting no permits to the facility to import dolphins in the past six months.

The findings led the Public

Prosecution to arrest the suspects and seize the vehicles used for transporting the animals inland and the boat used for capturing them.

"The fishing boat was anchored on the beach behind the resort and had no function-

al identification device," Coast Guard officials said.

Announcing the order, Al Musallam said the Kingdom pays the utmost attention to the environment and wildlife, backed by advanced environmental and wildlife legislation and laws.



Dolphins are mammals known for their friendliness. There are over 40 species of dolphins, the most common being the Bottlenose dolphin. Dolphins have very large brains- their brain-to-body size ratio is second only to our own! They also exhibit sophisticated forms of communication, tool use, cooperative feeding methods, culture and social learning, and play.



Lord Stuart Polak

Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, received yesterday member of the British House of Lords, Lord Stuart Polak. Public Security Chief, Lieutenant-General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassn, and Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Cybersecurity, Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, were present. Lord Stuart Polak was briefed about the Interior Ministry's efforts to maintain national security, ensure public safety and consolidate cybersecurity by raising readiness and speed of monitoring and responding to cyber breaches. The two sides also discussed areas of bilateral cooperation and coordination, in addition to the latest regional security developments.

BDF opens 11th Constituent Judicial Session for Military Prosecution officers



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Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) launched the 11th Constituent Judicial Session for Military Prosecution officers. Human Resources Chief of Staff Assistant Major General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa was present.

Shaikh Ali commended BDF Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa's care and directives to facilitate the appropriate resources for the participants.

The course included practical and theoretical training in judicial police procedures and

the work of the military prosecution. It also included lectures on international humanitarian law and human rights, as well as field visits to judicial and legal agencies in Bahrain.

A documentary about BDF and the Military Judiciary and its specializations was screened on the occasion.

NIAD to plant 1,194 seedlings along 16 December Avenue

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The National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) announced it would plant 1,194 seedlings along 16 December Avenue in the Southern Governorate.

The project will be in partnership with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Supreme Council for the Environment.

This is the third initiative supported by SICO Bank, which initiated the idea of financing afforestation projects in cooperation with NIAD and the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, resulting in the 'Forever Green' campaign with the private sector. The planting site was inaugurated in the presence of NIAD Secretary-General, Shaikha Maram bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Direc-



Officials inaugurating the planting of seedlings

tor-General of the Southern Area Municipality, Asim bin Abdullatif, Municipal Council Chairman, Abdulla Abdullatif, Head of Corporate Communications at SICO Nadeen Oweis, and agricultural sector officials.

Specialists of the Southern Area Municipality helped select the plants, which were placed after ensuring enough space between them.

Officials said they made every effort to determine the appropriate species for the region.



Bahrain-Morocco Joint Higher Committee

Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani yesterday co-chaired the fifth session of the Bahrain-Morocco Joint Higher Committee. Earlier, upon his arrival, Bourita was welcomed by Dr Al Zayani, Bahrain's Ambassador to Morocco Khalid bin Salman Al-Musallam, Morocco's Ambassador to Bahrain Mustapha Benkhayti, and senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.