

‘No hopes at all’ in life and death

Social workers in Kingdom in tough spot over illegal residents’ deaths

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Many social workers in the Kingdom are finding themselves at sea after the deaths of illegal residents, whose semi-identities aren’t enough to fly the body home or inform the relatives or friends.

They say, over the past few years, funerals for a large number of illegal residents have been held in the Kingdom, owing to struggles to trace their permanent addresses back in their home countries or immediate survivors or relatives.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a social worker said an illegal resident’s life in the Kingdom is nothing short of a mystery. “There are many illegal residents, who have been living in the Kingdom for many decades. And the toughest aspect of their lives is the fact that no-one knows their permanent address or close relatives in their home countries.

“They generally don’t have passports with them nor do they have a permanent place to stay or long-time friends. We only get to know them once they are seriously ill or upon death. And our job would become really difficult in the absence of these basic identities that constitute a human being in the modern society.”

The last such incident was the death of Indian national Suresh Rajamanickam, who has been an illegal resident in the Kingdom since 2014.

Sources said a group of acquaintances took Suresh to Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC)



A file picture shows Suresh on his hospital bed at SMC

55,000

The number of illegal foreign workers residing in the Kingdom.

hospital sometime back after he seriously fell ill.

Upon his death at SMC, the social workers contacted his acquaintances to obtain the permanent address to fly back the body home.

“However, none of them knew it,” sources said.

Suresh Kaladi, who is the Secretary of Rajini Fans Association (Association of fans of Indian film actor Rajinikanth) in the Kingdom, said they had to use their network across the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, to discover the permanent address of the deceased as well as contact his mother and relatives.

“We are planning to perform the final rites of the deceased person in the Kingdom and have already received the consent of his mother Rasathi in this regard. The Indian Embassy has been actively supporting us to ensure that all legalities are met in both countries,” he told The Daily Tribune.

“Our team members Mr Ramesh Mayavarathan and Mr Muruganantham is coordinat-

ing with the family in India and supporting them all financially,” he added.

According to official estimates, there are around 55,000 illegal foreign workers residing in the Kingdom and the number has been declining sharply since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority has always been exerting its best efforts to legalise the stay of all illegal residents in the Kingdom. And it was in this regard the authority introduced Flexi Permits.

Flexi Permits are permits that allow foreign workers to live freely in the Kingdom and work in any non-specialised occupation without a sponsor for a renewable period of one or two years.



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- SOCIAL WORKER

Labour camp fire in Sitra



The civil defence has extinguished a fire in a labour accommodation in Sitra that caused no injuries. The fire was put out through nine vehicles and 30 personnel after controlling the flames and carrying out the cooling operations. An investigation was launched to know the reason behind the fire.

Filipino golf event a big success



Charge d' Affaires Anne Jalando-on Louis with the winners
TDT | Manama

The Embassy of the Philippines, in cooperation with Filipino community organisations Pinoy Golfers sa Bahrain (PGB) and Good Cause Bahrain, organised the “Palo para sa Kalayaan” Golf Tournament on 17 June at the Royal Golf Club Bahrain.

The event was part of the Embassy’s commemorative activities for the 124th Philippine Independence.

Charge d’ Affaires, a.i., Anne Jalando-on Louis led the ceremonial tee-off at Hole 1 of the Wee Monty Course of the Royal Golf Club.

A total of 34 golfers participated in the tournament, including Malaysian Ambassador Shazryll Zahiran, Indonesian Ambassador Ardi Hermawan, Mr Adel Al Fayyadh of the Bahrain Golf Association, members of the Filipino Community, players from the US, UK, Myanmar, India and Canada, and several Embassy officials.



The event was part of the Embassy’s commemorative activities for the 124th Philippine Independence.

In her message at the awarding ceremony for the tournament, Louis congratulated the golfers and conveyed the Embassy’s appreciation to its partners for their support.

She also took the opportunity to feature the Philippines as a golfing destination and encouraged the participants to have their next round of golf in the Philippines.

A short video presentation featuring golf tourism in the Philippines was also shown at the event.

World theatrical premiere for Bollywood movie shot in Bahrain

● **Khel Kood Aur Bhoot a 130-minute Hindi film with English and Arabic subtitles**

Staff Reporter
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Moviegoers are in for a treat as the first Bollywood film that was considerably shot in Bahrain is set to release here next month with a world theatrical premiere in the Kingdom.

Khel Kood Aur Bhoot (Fun, Frolic, and Ghost) is the brainchild of Bahraini award-winning journalist turned film-maker and actor Adnan Malik.

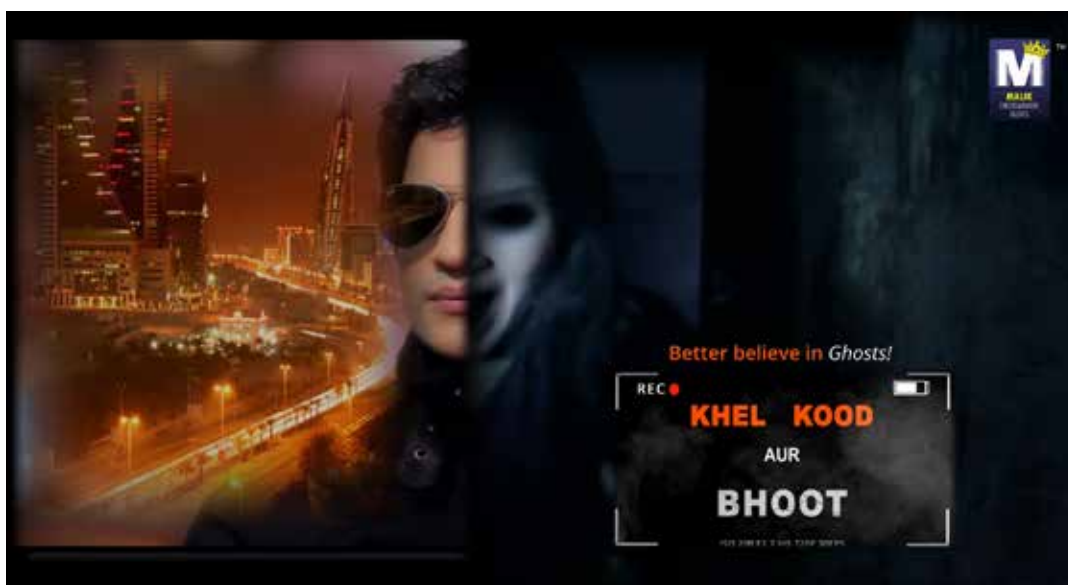
The 130-minute Hindi film with English and Arabic subtitles will be premiering exclusively at the Cinépolis, Atrium Mall and will be mostly invite-only. However, it will subsequently be released in theatres across Bahrain following the red-carpet event.

“Cinépolis is an exotic global theater chain and this is really a great deal for me as an independent filmmaker and I’m extremely grateful to God for this,” said an ecstatic Malik from Mumbai explaining that the cinema operator, which is one of the fourth largest cinema chains in the world, “immediately saw the merits of releasing this independently produced movie.”

“We are making history here as the first Bollywood film to release in theatres after releasing online. This has never happened before in Hindi cinema.” Normally, Bollywood movies release in theatres and then go to the OTT platform and subsequently to satellite channels, explained Malik.

The comedy-horror, which is inspired by true events, made an online debut on India’s largest OTT platform on May 13 this year.

“Independent films often fall under the radar, are bypassed or overlooked in favor of popular movie titles with a well-



Khel Kood Aur Bhoot

known star cast so this is truly a historic moment for the movie and our kingdom,” said Malik, adding that he is also “extremely grateful” to the Ministry of Information for their support in censoring the movie and the

Dubai-based digital content distributors Scrabble, Qubewire for delivering the content and Phars Film Co. for the go-ahead for censor screening.

“This is the first Bollywood movie shot in Bahrain so I had

to somehow bring the movie here,” said Malik adding that he was overwhelmed with requests from family, friends, and many acquaintances from Bahrain and the region after they watched his gripping teaser online and

the news broke about the film’s release in our newspaper.

The movie already has rave reviews and scores on popular, reliable, and authoritative movie content sites like IMBD and a 100 per cent score on the extremely popular Indian movies’ site Bollywood Hungama.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Alejandro Aguilera, CEO of Cinépolis Cinemas Gulf Region, said: “We are very excited to collaborate in the release and premiere of Khel Kood Aur Bhoot at Cinépolis Cinemas in Bahrain.

“Cinépolis is constantly looking for new content to bring audiences the best experiences and to continue to enjoy the thrill of watching a movie on the big screen.”

The movie cast includes Malik, Poonam Mohapatra, Vijayaa Shanker, Deepika Khanna, Shahrukh Buhariwala, Nicolaina D’Souza, and Pranav Verma. For details, follow @malikentmovies on Instagram. The curtain-raiser and trailers are available on MEM’s YouTube channel.