

Report on reclamation works expected soon

Study investigates corruption allegations, damage to marine environment

Alexander M. Arrackal

A final report being compiled by the legislative committee tasked with investigating the dredging and reclamation practices being carried out in Bahrain is expected to be completed soon, and is to be handed over to the Lower House of Parliament shortly, a member of the committee revealed yesterday.

"It's an exhaustive report and is

expected to be presented to the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Khalifa Ahmed Al Dhahrani in two weeks time," stated Nasser Al Fadhala, Member of the Lower House.

The speaker is expected to go through the report and then present it to legislators in the Lower House when Parliament reconvenes this month, the MP stated.

"Our findings are expected to draw much attention and become a topic of

much debate when the House reconvenes," Al Fadhala added.

This committee was formed to investigate allegations of corruption in land deals related to dredging and the violation of environment laws by companies carrying out such practices.

Fishermen of the Kingdom have been protesting dwindling fishing grounds and declining fish resources warning that reclamations are being carried out without due consideration

of the effects on the Kingdom's marine environment.

Fishermen are claiming that most fish breeding grounds surrounding the island are being encroached on resulting in a severe threat to fishermen's livelihoods and the industry in general.

Members of the Muharraq and Central Municipal Councils have also drawn attention to the harmful effects of such practices and protested against reclamation works in Sitra and Arad.

Bahraini blogger, NGO tackle breast cancer stigma

Women embarrassed to check for lumps, seek medical attention, say doctors

Sandeep Singh Grewal

Harley Davidson bikes being rode along Bahrain roads adorned with pink flags, a series of golf tournaments and the screening of a number of short documentaries are but some of the initiatives being taken to increase awareness about breast cancer in the Kingdom.

These events are being organised by Think Pink Bahrain, a non-profit organisation that is being given a helping hand by Bahraini blogger Mahmood Al Yousif who is supporting the central message of this year's campaign - iCheck.

"I support this campaign which aims to change the perception of people who think that self-examination is inappropriate. Cancer in our local community is considered a curse. It is ingrained in our society that it is a vicious disease. This needs to change," Al Yousif explained to



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Julie Sprakel and Mahmood Al Yousif display the iCheck logo at the launch of the 2009 Think Pink Bahrain campaign.

Bahrain Tribune yesterday.

The Bahraini blogger stated that his mission is to eliminate this stigma and encourage women to examine their breasts for any lumps and seek medical attention if necessary.

His company, Gulf Broadcast, has partnered with

Think Pink Bahrain on this worthy cause and will be launching an awareness drive starting from next month.

As part of the plan, Al Yousif's company will shoot short documentaries with multi-lingual voiceovers in Arabic, English, Hindi,

Tagalog and Urdu urging women to check for signs of breast cancer in order to detect it early on. In addition to this, the Bahraini blogger stated that they are also planning a golf tournament next month and a Harley Davidson event that will see bikes being driven through main areas in the country carrying pink flags and pink caps worn by riders.

"The documentaries will be shown during an annual gala dinner held to raise funds for the NGO. This is my personal decision to support the Think Pink team here and create an environment where people suffering from cancer receive medical attention rather than being looked down upon or turned away. No religion instructs women not to look after themselves and we in Bahrain have the talent and knowledge to create awareness about breast cancer and save lives," Al Yousif explained.

Think Pink Bahrain was

founded by Julie Sprakel in 2004, and provides support to the Bahrain Cancer Society (BCS). The money raised is directed through the society to help Bahraini breast cancer victims. The NGO is dedicated to increasing awareness of breast cancer issues, especially early detection.

In the early 1990s, mortality from breast cancer represented approximately 6 per cent of deaths from all types of neoplasm in Bahrain. This figure dropped after health authorities introduced National Screening for women for this disease. The screening is conducted in selected health centres and the BCS offers required devices and experts to conduct mammograms.

But doctors often complain that breast cancer patients in Bahrain visit the physician too late in the progression of the disease which makes the healing process difficult and recovery less likely. Health

Crime Beat

Nada Al Abbas

Bahraini jailed for theft of gold bracelets

The Lower Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a Bahraini man to three months in prison after he was found guilty of stealing gold jewellery.

The man was charged by the public prosecutor of stealing valuables from a jewellery shop after taking advantage of an employee's trust. He managed to steal four gold bracelets valued at BD400 before fleeing the scene. The man then proceeded to resell the items to a Pakistani for BD217.

Bahraini imprisoned for stealing from clinic

The Lower Criminal Court yesterday jailed a Bahraini man for six months for having stolen a computer from a physician's clinic.

The man was arrested after a doctor filed a police report stating that his clinic in Bilad Al Qadeem had been burgled and a computer was missing.

Court adjourns case against BYSHR head

The Lower Criminal Court yesterday adjourned a case against the President of the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights Mohammed Al Muskaty who is being charged with violating the Kingdom's Societies Law by working at a society that was not officially licensed by the authorities. The case has been adjourned to November 16.

The society's head has been charged with working at the society before its licence was published in the official Gazette.

Al Muskaty has referred to the charges against him as violating "the civil and political rights" guaranteed by the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Bahrain is a signatory.

experts in the region have noted on several occasions that Arab women fail to seek medical advice over breast lumps because of a widespread cultural fear of cancer and their reluctance to reveal intimate medical problems to male relatives.

According to a study by Dr. Abdulrahman Fakhro, BCS President and Surgical Consultant, there are an estimated 40 new cases of breast cancer and approximately 12-

15 deaths resulting from the disease every year. In 51.3 per cent of cancer cases, the tumours measure 2-5 cm in size, while about 70 per cent of the patients had a tumour larger than 2 cm when first seen by the physician.

Worldwide, breast cancer is the second most common type of cancer after lung cancer and the fifth most common cause of death from this disease. Survival rates are equal amongst both sexes.



Gulf Air inaugurates new Najaf route

Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, yesterday commenced a brand new four-time weekly service to Najaf in Iraq with the arrival of its maiden flight into the Holy City. This new route now raises the number of cities Gulf Air flies to in Iraq to two and the airline's total route network to 44 destinations in 29 countries.

The packed Gulf Air flight, operated by an Airbus 320 aircraft, carried a delegation of senior officials

from Gulf Air as well as government, business, religious, diplomatic and media representatives and a number of guests.

There were also several Gulf Air customers on board who were excited about the opportunity to visit such a historic city which has great religious significance in the Muslim world and also lies less than 30 kilometres from the ancient city of Babylon, with close proximity to other important holy cities including Kufa and Kerbala.

In a speech given prior to the departure of the inaugural flight, Gulf Air Chief Executive Samer Majali stated: "As we continue on our journey as the leading GCC carrier into Iraq, I am very proud to be on this flight to Najaf today. We have identified Iraq as a niche destination to which, building on our previous experience and knowledge of operating to the country, we can provide a trusted and important link to our customers and be their first choice when flying to the country based on excellent connectivity, value for money, and friendly service."

"A large number of pilgrims visit the sacred shrine of Imam Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammad, in Najaf and other holy sites nearby each year. As Iraq continues to rebuild and prosper we envisage that Najaf will become a centre of religious and cultural tourism. The potential is enormous and as such we plan to increase the service from four times per week to daily as part of our 2009/2010 winter schedule from October 26, by which time we will have received two of the 15 brand new A320 aircraft we have on order."

Gulf Air has planned its schedule to Najaf to complement its extensive Middle East network as well as to provide excellent connections for key destinations on its route network in Asia and Europe.

The carrier's four times weekly service will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays departing Bahrain at 11:20 and arriving in Najaf at 12:55, with the return flight departing at 14:10 and arriving in Bahrain at 15:40. After October 25, this will be extended to a daily service.

BRC marks launch with regional motorbike tour

Bonny Mascarenhas

The Bahrain Riders Club (BRC), which consist of a group of over 250 motorbike enthusiasts, yesterday officially launched their association at an event held at the National Stadium in Isa Town.

At a press conference attended by BRC President Shaikh Hamad bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, the club also announced their first event consisting of a motorcycle tour of countries in the region including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

This feat will be undertaken by a 19-member team representing Bahrain, which will depart on October 30 and travel over 3,000 kms promoting the Kingdom and their sponsors in foreign lands, Ali Fairooz, a spokesperson for BRC stated yesterday.

Membership to the newly-inaugurated club is open to people of all nationalities. "They only need to have a valid Bahraini motorbike licence and a motor bike," Samer Al Arayedh, told the *Bahrain Tribune*. Some of BRC's first activities are to also include promotions for sporting events and raising funds for charity, in addition to tours within the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Middle East and even Europe.

Their first tour at the end of this month consists of 19 riders with their bikes and a Toyota FJ Cruiser. "The vehicle will have a trailer attached which will be used in case of emergencies, such as a bike breaking down or anything else that may arise. It will also store our gear and medical kit," Al Arayedh said. The bikes include a

selection of various motor bike brands, namely Harley Davidson, Honda, Suzuki and Kawasaki. The bikes have been emblazoned with sponsors' logos.

Among the riders is 46-year-old father of four, Abdulrahman Janahi, an employee at ALBA. "It will be a long journey and we are mentally prepared. I think the hardest will be the first leg of the journey which will start from Garrayat in Saudi Arabia," he told the *Tribune*, adding that despite this he is very much looking forward to the trip.

The team will be travelling by bus to Garrayat from where they will then depart on the rest of their travels on their bikes. "It will be hard to ride after sitting for a long period," he explained. From Saudi Arabia the group will proceed to and cross the border of Jordan and continue to Syria. Their last destination will be Lebanon before they turn and head back to the Kingdom. While in Lebanon they will represent the Kingdom at a biking gathering which is expected to be attended by around 500-700 bikers from the Middle East and Europe.

The riders will also rest and spend a night in tents at Amman during their travels, Arayedh said.



Fairooz added that the club plans to continue to organise several more events and anyone interested in becoming a member can visit their website which is to be online within a week. "Information regarding our club and membership forms will be available online at the site www.bahrainrider.com," he added.

Members also thanked the General Organisation for Sports and Youth, which helped them facilitate the paperwork for the club and their travels.



COMMON INTERESTS: Members of the Bahrain Riders Club at the official launch of the association.

Good News
Business Lunch From

Health
Watchers

Enjoy Work
and Food

The Center
Get health food
back into
your life

Watch
your
Weight

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