

FISH BUSINESS REELING AS SHAMAL WINDS HIT COASTS

Seafood markets suffer from fish shortage, price hikes

DT News Network
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The Kingdom is facing shortage of fish due to Al Barreh winds, which ripped through Bahrain a few days ago.

The Al Barreh winds, locally known as Shamal winds, had hit the Kingdom on June 7, badly hurting the seafood business here.

The Meteorological Department of Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication had earlier warned that moderate to occasionally strong winds would affect the Kingdom.

Farooq, a fish seller at Riffa fish market told *DT News* that fishermen were not been able to catch enough fish due to Al Barreh winds, which comes to the Kingdom on regular intervals.

"We are not getting enough fish from fishermen. Hence, the prices of seafood have gone up by 50 per cent," he said.

The customers at the

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market also complained about lack of availability of enough variety of fish.

"I am paying more for fish since a few days. Still, I am not getting the fish of my choice," said one of the customers.

On the other hand, mutton and beef section witnessed heavy rush, owing to the shortage of fish. Though there were enough supply of mutton and beef, the stock got over early, said a meat seller at the Riffa market.

According to weather experts, the reason for the Shamal winds is a seasonal low pressure that forms over



A fish seller at Riffa market. (file photo)

central and southern parts of Pakistan and extend to the Arabian Gulf, usually during the second week of June, until mid July.

The area is affected mainly because of the lack of mountains in the eastern

parts of the Arab peninsula.

Last year, Al Barreh winds lashed the Kingdom on June 4, reducing the visibility to less

than 400 meters sometimes, affecting the movement of land, marine, and air transportation in Bahrain.

Game Jam attracts talents who craft the virtual world

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For the second year in a row, Bahrain Polytechnic has organized the GCC Game Jam event at its campus in the second half of May.

The event was aimed at highlighting new talents and publicizing projects in the field of gaming. The event was strategically supported and funded by the eGovernment Authority (eGA) of Bahrain and a large number of major institutions, especially Bahrain

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Game Developers.
Dr. Mohamed Al Aseeri, the



The participants of Game Jam with its organisers

Acting CEO of the Polytechnic, thanked eGovernment Authority for their continued support for the GCC Game Jam event, as well as other supporting parties including Bahrain Game Developers, 2connect, Infniteware, Mastertronic, Advanti, BreadTalk, Awal Press, Ramee

Grand Hotel & Spa, Game Overviews, and Unity.

As many as 14 teams participated in the tournament (three from Saudi Arabia), and each team was asked to develop a game in less than 3 days (50 hours nonstop). The theme of the game competition was 'Hope' and was only

revealed at the beginning of the competition, to ensure that all games were developed during the event timing. A panel of judges that was formed with local and international game development and academic experts performed evaluation.

Vice-Chief Executive Officer of the eGovernment Authority,

Dr. Zakaria Ahmed Al Khaja thanked the Polytechnic in its role in raising the level of students in the field of Information Technology, at an academic and professional level.

The Game Jam is a global level event that attracts 17000 participants annually from

various countries between university students and designers. This year saw the contest break a record on the number of participants to 28837 in 78 countries, producing 5438 games.

For more information about the GCC Game Jam, visit www.gccgamejam.org.