



■ The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) honoured the winners of a Ramadan competition. Awareness and Marketing Directorate assistant director Lulwa Sami Ebrahim presented the awards to Mona Al Alawi, Saber Al Shehabi, Shaikha Ahmed Al Jazzaf, Hasan Janahi, Khadija Al Awadhi, Amal Al Majed, Ameera Yaseen, Ali Ebrahim, Ali Yusuf, Juma Othman Juma, Rabab Sarhan, Sayed Hashem, Rabab Sarhan, Balqes Isa and Mohamed Yusuf. Above, Ms Ebrahim, third from right, with some of the winners.

Charity funds 'used for anti-Islam film'

By NOOR ZAHRA

A MAN, who allegedly collected money for an illicit group by exploiting religious processions, funded a film that defames the Prophet's companions, a court heard.

A detective told prosecutors that the 33-year-old Bahraini security guard helped fund the film, *Youm Al Azab (Day of Suffering)*, which insulted the Prophet's companions and his wives.

The defendant had collected BD8,000 from people who thought they were

donating to charitable organisations in Bahrain.

He sent the money to owners of two UK-based television channels that promoted extremist propaganda.

The accused appeared before a remand judge yesterday where he denied collecting funds without a licence and defaming the Sunni sect.

However, he earlier told prosecutors

that he worked for the channels and was recruited by Kuwaiti clergyman Shaikh Yasser Al Habib, who gained asylum in the UK after being sentenced to 10 years' jail in absentia in Kuwait.

He also told prosecutors that he helped fund the TV channels after he joined one of them in 2008.

"Investigations, and information provided by confidential sources, proved that he (the defendant) was providing funds to two UK television channels that

promoted extremist propaganda," the detective said in his statement to prosecutors.

"The two channels belonged to Shi'ite cleric Yassir Al Habib who was making a film defaming several of the Prophet's companions and wives.

"A search and arrest warrant was issued by the Public Prosecution and I searched his home and found two books belonging to Yassir Al Habib, besides receipts for the money and two stamps belonging to the TV channels.

"The defendant confessed to sending the TV channels BD8,000 which he collected from charity donation boxes.

"He took BD1,000 and BD30 monthly for his part in the scam."

The defendant will appear before another remand judge on July 30 pending investigations.

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■ Bahrain Polytechnic acting chief executive Mohammed Al Aseeri honoured information and communications technology and web media school head Trevor Prendergast who is leaving after a seven-year tenure. Mr Prendergast was instrumental in setting up the ICT Innovation Centre in 2013 besides creating and developing a number of computer labs. Above, Mr Prendergast, third from right, Dr Al Aseeri, second from right, and other officials at the farewell ceremony.

Medical training centre planned

A CLINICAL simulation learning centre is to be set up early next year at the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) in Bahrain. President Dr Khalid bin Abdulrahman Al Ohali yesterday received director of the simulation centre at King Saud University, Riyadh, Dr Sami Al Ansar and Ian Pollard, technical official at Dubai College of Medicine simulation centre and discussed the project. The meeting was also attended by AGU vice-

president Dr Khalid Said Tabara.

196,198 visitors

A TOTAL of 196,198 people visited Bahrain between June 23 and last Wednesday. Of those 164,982 arrived from Saudi Arabia and GCC countries via King Fahad Causeway, 30,875 landed at Bahrain International Airport and 341 docked at ports.

Blood donation drive

WORKS, Municipalities and Urban Planning Affairs Ministry held its annual blood donation campaign. The event was co-ordinated with the Central Blood Bank, which falls under the authority of the Health Ministry. The culture and activities committee, chaired by Under-Secretary Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Khayyat, organised the campaign.

Activist files plea against prison term

By NOOR ZAHRA

AN opposition activist jailed for five years for criticising Bahrain's participation in military action in Yemen will have to wait three months to find if his appeal is successful.

National Democratic Assembly (Al Wahdawi) secretary-general Fadhel Abbas was sentenced to five years behind bars by the High Criminal Court in June last year after being found guilty of spreading rumours and propaganda.

The 44-year-old was also convicted of questioning Bahrain's political stance on war and defaming other countries taking part in the Saudi-led air strikes against Houthi rebels as part of Operation Decisive Storm.

He described the joint operation in Yemen as an "invasion" and an "act of aggression" on social media networks on March 26 last year, and was arrested the following day. He admitted, during questioning by prosecutors, to publishing statements regarding the "war in Yemen", but claimed he did not mean to offend anyone.

However, he then lodged an appeal at the Supreme Criminal Appeals Court against his conviction, which adjourned his case until October 26 for a verdict.

Vegetable seller jailed for theft

By NOOR ZAHRA

A VEGETABLE seller and his friend have been jailed for three years each for theft and using a stolen credit card to withdraw money from a bank.

His victim, a 39-year-old Indian, informed police about his missing wallet after he had bought vegetables from the 33-year-old Bangladeshi vendor in Manama on January 13 this year.

He only realised that his wallet, which contained his credit card, was missing after he got on a bus. He filed a complaint against the vegetable seller who was arrested after a surveillance camera footage showed him and another fellow national, aged 33, withdrawing BD210 using the credit card.

The vegetable seller denied the charges and claimed that he was accompanying his friend who was withdrawing money from an ATM in Manama. However, the High Criminal Court sentenced both to three years behind bars.

They will be deported after completing their sentences.

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