

Two distressed Filipinos repatriated

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The Philippine Embassy, under its Repatriation Program for 2023, has facilitated the repatriation of two distressed Filipinos to the Philippines.

The repatriates are a 67-year-old undocumented female worker from Bulacan, Philippines, who had been in Bahrain for 38 years before she was repatriated on 22 February 2023, and a 56-year-old male medical patient from Zamboanga City who had been in Bahrain for 31 years before his repatriation on 23 February.

The latter was accompanied by two medical escorts on board the flight, as arranged by the Embassy.

The Embassy also arranged all the documents and clearances of the repatriates, and shouldered the costs of their airfare, immigration penalties, and other repatriation expenses through the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Fund of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The Embassy has coordinated with the DFA and other relevant Philippine government agencies.

Five-star hotel occupancy is high for F1 Bahrain GP

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

For years the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix has lured tens of thousands of motorsport fans to the Kingdom, and boosted the occupancy in many five-star hotels, according to hoteliers.

Hotels usually run at 100 per cent occupancy during grand prix week, with a useful synergy having developed with Gulf Air, national carriers and title sponsor of the Bahrain race, with a significant number of the guests arrive through Bahrain International Airport.

Charbel Hanna, General Manager of Crowne Plaza Bahrain, told The Daily Tribune that F1 has put Bahrain on the international sporting map, and the Kingdom is now a leading destination as the home of the motorsports in the Middle East.

Bahrain has also showcased to the world that it is one of the most reputed countries to host many other sporting and motor-



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- CHARBEL HANNA, GENERAL MANAGER OF CROWNE PLAZA BAHRAIN



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- NICOLAS GARDIER, GENERAL MANAGER OF DOWNTOWN ROTANA

the substantial losses over the last two years due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns.

“We regard the Bahrain Grand Prix as not only the opportunity to welcome the arrival of tourists, but also our chance to showcase our signature hospitality and give them a memorable experience.

“Hence, it not only brings a positive economic impact but also the opportunity to increase our guest loyalty to our hotel.”

In addition to the extravagant events hosted by Bahrain International Circuit, Mr. Hanna added: “We have also put together some exciting and memorable experiences in our outlets for our guests, such as our Theme Nights in our all-day dining, and an after party in our Harvester Lounge.”

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Nicolas Gardier, General Manager of Downtown Rotana, said: “The hotel has been very busy from pre-season testing until the race day. We had good occupancy with the Formula 1 teams and also with the fans

coming to enjoy the show.

“The race has brought tourists from different parts of the world and hotels have majorly benefited from the influx of F1 teams, media, FIA etc.

“The impact is major as the occupancy of the market was high for almost three weeks. We can see that all hotels have taken advantage of that.”

Mr. Gardier added: “To accommodate the new wave of guests visiting the city, we are currently running different activities in the hotel that cut across all areas. In our dining outlets, we have introduced new offers such as Seafood Night and themed daily lunches at Flavours on 2 sets to satisfy all cravings.

“To those staying with us, we have personalised F1 amenities in all rooms. Art lovers were also not left out as the hotel is supporting local artists by displaying their art at the hotel lobby throughout this F1 season, where anyone can take home a piece of the local Bahrain culture.”

Is the world ready for ‘war of influence’?

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

University of Paris Cite Political Science Professor Frederic Charillon has explained the meaning of influence to the world and the shift it has seen from the use of hard power to soft power and influence in the modern era.

The discussion was held yesterday at the International Peace Institute, Middle East, and North Africa.

In his opening remarks, Prof Charillon questioned the true meaning of influence and speculated if the world is ready for the “war of influence”.

He discussed the ways in which the most powerful countries throughout the world use influence to achieve an objective, such as “using incentive, conviction, and money.”

The professor also spoke how countries previously gained influence throughout the world, which would be through the use of force.

He, however, said: “Influence does not coincide with the use of force. In fact, influence is the social or financial capital and



From left, Professor Charillon, Nejb Frijj and the French Ambassador



Professor Charillon

“Influence is the art of not using force ... Influence is an interaction between someone who is influenced and someone who is influential.”

- PROFESSOR FREDERIC CHARILLON, UNIVERSITY OF PARIS CITE POLITICAL SCIENCE

they did to do so, instead of implementing the use of influence to gain its objective, which has been very successful on a global level.”

He highlighted the strength of influence in today’s modern era saying, “We have seen a change in how the world operates with each other. The key strategy in international relations is the strategy of influence, despite what the world is witnessing regarding the war in Ukraine. Again, influence does not equate to hard power.”

Underlining the key objective and strategy of influence he voiced that, the solution is not to showcase yourself as a country with predominant amounts of power and influence to others, however, the key strategy of influence is to encourage those in democracies to adapt to the country’s models, or to instill doubt amongst a society to achieve objectives.

“There are various types of approaches when it comes to influence, but what we have to keep in mind is today, the war of influence has already begun, containing different causes and objectives.”

Dream to become fashion model turns into ‘nightmare’

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The High Criminal Court began the trial of two defendants accused of trafficking a 19-year-old girl after promising her work as a fashion model.

The court postponed the next session to March 5, 2023, for the defence plea.

An embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain received a report stating that the victim was detained in an apartment furnished by the second defendant.

Police freed the victim and arrested the second defendant.

It was revealed that the victim had been lured with a false job opportunity as a model but was coerced into prostitution by the two defendants who earned profits from her work.

The victim had seen an advertisement for a modelling

job online and intended to move for the job.

The first defendant accompanied her travel to the intended country but redirected her to the Kingdom of Bahrain, where she claimed the job would take place.

The second defendant received the victim at the Bahrain International Airport and moved her to an apartment, after which she was informed that she would be prostituted. The victim was transferred between apartments and offered to clients seeking intercourse.

The second defendant admitted receiving direct orders from the first defendant whom she owed \$2,500 in exchange for her freedom. She was threatened that if she refused to work she would be implicated in drug cases. One day, however, she was able to contact her country’s embassy.

Joint inspection campaigns



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and the Ministry of Interior continue joint efforts to intensify inspection campaigns against illegal practices in the labour market, in order to preserve a competitive, fair and stable labour market. LMRA conducted three joint inspection campaigns, the first was in the Muharraq Governorate in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) and the Governorate’s respective Police Directorate. The other campaigns were undertaken in the Muharraq and Southern Governorates in coordination with the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence of the Ministry of Interior.



The most powerful countries use influence to achieve an objective, such as “using incentive, conviction, and money.”

trusted networks a country uses to assert its power and influence.”

Elaborating, he stated that influence is not about the national branding of a country, but about retaining the vote. “Influence is the art of not using force,” he said.

He also said that a country gaining influence, requires an immense amount of money to its achieve global power. “Influence is an interaction between someone who is influenced and someone who is influential.”

He stated the US is an example as it has spent mass amounts of money on information, and to

gather information, which is a prime example on how the US uses information in regards to power and influence across the world.

“Europe has experienced a wake-up call of influence, and many people in Europe have suddenly realised that external influences were at work in the European Union such as the Chinese and the Russian influence,” he said.

Pertaining to Russia, he discussed his personal opinion of the invasion in Ukraine pertaining to influence and power. “I was surprised that Russia invaded Ukraine and used the force