

Bahrain vows to support Yemen

BAHRAIN yesterday pledged support for Yemen's efforts to maintain security, stability and unity.

This came as Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa met his Yemeni counterpart Jamal Abdullah Al Sallal, on the sidelines of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Shaikh Khalid conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman

bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

The Foreign Minister commended brotherly relations between the two countries and their peoples, noting that the security and stability of Yemen are vital to the security of the whole region.

He said Bahrain would continue to assume its duty towards Yemen to combat terrorism, establish security, complete the political process and achieve



■ Shaikh Khalid meets Mr Al Sallal and Mr Baird in New York

the aspirations of the people.

Mr Al Sallal conveyed the Yemeni President's greetings to Bahrain's leaders.

The meeting also discussed

the latest developments in Yemen and issues of common interest.

Shaikh Khalid separately met his Canadian counterpart



John Baird. He hailed strong relations between Bahrain and Canada and stressed the importance of further bolstering ties, expanding trade co-operation

and boosting investments.

They discussed key issues of mutual interest as well as the agenda of the General Assembly's 69th session.

Fisherman 'died in collision at sea'

CREW members of a Bahrain dhow reportedly turned off their navigation lights at sea, causing the Qatari coastguard to crash into them and kill their captain, it has emerged.

Indian captain Karthikeyan Thangarasu died from injuries he suffered when both vessels collided in Qatari territorial waters last Saturday.

The 40-year-old was expected to return the following day from a fishing trip with his three colleagues – Rasu Rakkappan, 26, Iyyappan Andavar, 23, and Samayamuthu Malaikannan, 34 – who have since been arrested after their boat was seized by Qatari authorities.

A report in the *Times of India* newspaper, quoting Tamil Nadu Fishermen Association Ramanthapuram district secretary M Karunamoorthi, claimed Mr Thangarasu was shot dead by a member of Qatar's Coastguard.

However, Indian Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar yesterday dismissed the allegations and said investigations revealed the

By SANDEEP SINGH GREWAL

Indian crew had actually turned off all the lights on their vessel when the incident happened.

"There are varying accounts of the incidents with reports of the captain being shot, but what we know is that the boat with the Indian crew switched off all lights as they were resting," he said.

"Because it was dark there was a collision between the Qatari coastguard boat and the vessel in which the four Indians were sailing."

Dr Kumar, who was speaking during the Indian Embassy's monthly open house, said their counterparts in Qatar have been granted consular access for the three men in detention.

He said officials in Bahrain were working with their Qatari counterparts to release the men and repatriate Mr Thangarasu's body to Tamil Nadu.

"There is no demarcation of border on the high seas and fishermen want to have a good catch," he added.



■ Dr Kumar and other officials at the Indian Embassy open house in Adliya

"I would like to thank the Bahrain coastguard for keep-

ing us posted on this issue and local authorities have promised

us to follow the case with Qatar through their channels."



■ Mr Thangarasu

Mr Thangarasu is survived by his wife K Ezhuvakkal, 28, daughter Karishma, eight, and two sons, three-year-old Thirumurugan and 18-month-old Balamurugan.

Meanwhile, Dr Kumar said that the embassy in Adliya helped 14 Indians, who faced problems in getting visas to Saudi Arabia to perform Haj.

They were issued Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) to replace the old documents they had, which was the reason behind the visa problems.

Dr Kumar also revealed that Indian investors will soon be able to apply for electronic visas for a one-month stay in Bahrain.

Campaign

The diplomat also spoke about the ambitious campaign launched on Thursday by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attract potential investors from around the world.

The initiative, Make in India, plans to cut red tape, develop infrastructure and make it easier for companies to do business.

"We would like to see Bahraini and Indian investors to open up for business in India and detailed information with sectors to invest is available at www.makeinindia.com," added Dr Kumar.

Bilateral trade between Bahrain and India is worth about \$2 billion dollars.

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■ The management team at Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company (Garmco) organised a career development programme at the Mercure Grand Hotel in Seef. More than 25 managers from different departments attended the event, which was held with support from SteppingStone Global and Tamkeen. Above, Garmco managers and officials at the event.