

BAHRAIN IN FOCUS



■ Fishermen at yesterday's rally at Samaheej jetty

Fishermen stage protest

MORE than 200 Bahraini fishermen staged a demonstration at Samaheej Jetty, known as Ras Rayah, yesterday.

The protest is the second in a wave of demonstrations taking place this week to pressure the government into meeting their demands, which fishermen claim, have been delayed too long.

The Bahraini fishermen want full exemption from the Labour Market Regulatory Authority's (LMRA) BD10-a-month levy per expatriate worker, because they claim they can only find foreign crewmen.

They were given a three-month exemption from the levy, which ran out on June 4.

The fishermen also want financial compensation for loss of earnings in an industry, they say, has been decimated by land reclamation and declining catches.

Fishermen's Protection Society secretary-general Abdulameer Al Mughani told the *GDN* the society would organise more demonstrations next week.

"More demonstrations will be planned for the upcoming week," he said.

"Demonstrations will be staged in various areas of the country, especially where fishermen are located."

A third demonstration will be held in Hidd on Sunday at 4.30pm.

"We will stage demonstrations in Sitra, Hidd and other areas," said Mr Al Mughani.

Fishermen have been demanding compensation for low fish catches due to land reclamation and sand dredging.

They have threatened to go on strike a second time if the government does not meet their demands.



■ A reception was hosted last night by US Ambassador Adam Ereli to celebrate the launch of the newly-established Bahraini-American Cultural Exchange Society (BACES). Officially registered in May, BACES aims to promote cultural exchange programmes, enhance mutual understanding and strengthen Bahrain-US bilateral ties. Bahrainis who are alumni of US government-funded cultural, educational and professional exchange programmes were also honoured. Above, Mr Ereli, back row, left, and BACES chairman Dr Yousef Mashal, back row, right, with other officials.

Spotlight on depression



■ Dr Al Maadawi, standing sixth from right, and Mr Al Balooshi, standing fifth from left, with Rotarians and guests

DEPRESSION was the subject under discussion at the Rotary Club of Adliya's weekly meeting held at the Marina Club in Manama.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates by 2020 depression will be the second ranked cause of disability and premature death worldwide.

Depression affects 25 per cent of women and 10pc to 15pc of men, said guest speaker consultant psychiatrist Dr Tariq Al Maadawi.

He said 20pc of people with depression will commit suicide.

Dr Al Maadawi said there were 48 types of depression, but the most common was categorised as having depressed mood, loss of interest and enjoyment, reduced energy and concentration, loss of appetite and disturbed sleep.

Symptoms that went on longer than two weeks were diagnosed as depression.

Dr Al Maadawi said the condition can be genetic, social (such as acute stress) or from brain function and neurotransmitter disturbance.

It can be treated using drugs, psychological therapy and in severe conditions using Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Dr Al Maadawi has served as the director of the WHO training programme for the integration of mental health in primary care for physicians and nurses and currently works at his private clinic at Budaiya Medical Centre.

The meeting was chaired by club president Hassan Al Balooshi and attended by Rotarians and guests.

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