



جمعية حماية العمال الوافدين
Migrant Workers Protection Society
(MWPS)

MIGRANT VOICE

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

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MISSION STATEMENT

**TO CREATE A COMMUNITY
WHERE EXPATRIATE
RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED
AND TO RAISE AWARENESS
OF THESE RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES**

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When labor migration is properly managed, it is a conduit for skills and wages to flow where they are most needed. It can, and must, be a triple-win, benefiting migrants and their families, their home country, and their destination.

GUY RIDER



FROM THE CHAIRPERSON...

We are almost coming close to the conclusion of the blessed month of Ramadan, and I personally take it as a time for introspection and gratitude. Throughout these sacred weeks, I have seen migrants in Bahrain joining hands with the local communities in observing fasting, prayer, and acts of charity, embodying the true spirit of unity and compassion. Regardless of nationality or background, they came together to share in the blessings of this holy month. As we reflect on our journey through Ramadan, let us not forget the lessons learned and the experiences shared. It is a time to express gratitude for the abundance of blessings bestowed upon us, from the sustenance of iftar meals to the spiritual enlightenment gained through fasting and prayer. Moreover, as we prepare to bid farewell to Ramadan, let us carry forward its teachings of empathy, generosity, and tolerance. Let us continue to uphold the values of compassion and inclusivity, both within our communities and beyond. Yes, let us remember that the spirit of Ramadan extends far beyond its days. May the unity and goodwill nurtured during this time endure, enriching our lives and guiding us towards a future of peace, understanding, and harmony. Ramadan Mubarak to all and may the blessings of this sacred month continue to illuminate our path.

With warm regards,

MONA ALMOAYYED

CHAIRPERSON

MIGRANT WORKERS PROTECTION SOCIETY

BULLETIN

BLUE-COLLAR MIGRATION TRENDS : A STUDY

A new report reveals a 50 per cent surge in blue-collar worker migration from India to the GCC in the first seven months of 2023, attributed to economic prospects, higher wages, and evolving migration trends.

Conducted by Huntr, a UAE-based marketplace connecting workers with enterprises, the study examines migration patterns, demographic insights, policy shifts, and job role forecasts for 2024, with a sample size of 100,000 workers.

Key findings include a significant influx of Indian labourers to Dubai,
...contd on Pg 03

SPOTLIGHT

EDITORIAL

MEET THE TEAM

Get to know the exceptional individuals behind the MWPS scenes in this segment.



#teammwps

A PILLAR OF LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

MADHAVAN KALLATH
GENERAL SECRETARY

A seasoned lawyer hailing from India, Madhavan Kallath, the general secretary of MWPS, has called Bahrain home for the past three decades. His journey reflects resilience, expertise, and a deep commitment to serving others. Leading a consultancy firm, Mr. Kallath specialises in guiding businesses through registration and compliance, while also investing his legal prowess in the welfare of migrant workers.

As a social commitment, he keeps investing his legal prowess in the welfare of migrant workers, making him the perfect fit for the office he assumes at the MWPS.

As head of the legal cell at the Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF), he supports migrants facing employment challenges. Hosting a weekly radio show for over a decade, Mr Kallath used to offer invaluable legal insights on Bahrain's FM 104.2.

His pro bono work spans more than 23 years, exemplifying his unwavering commitment to empowering the migrant community.

Beyond the legal sphere, he co-founded the Bahrain India Society (BIS). He also conducted several workshops on Bahraini legislations.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to become ensnared by the pitfalls that await us, especially when it comes to financial matters. Recently, I found myself entangled in such a predicament - a victim of scammers who mercilessly stripped away a substantial sum of money. The ordeal left me feeling distraught, with my bank account frozen and transactions grinding to a halt. But as I reflect on this experience, I can't help but ponder the notion of a "substantial sum" of money - what truly defines it?

Is it BD10, BD100, or perhaps even BD1,000? As I visited the CID office to register my complaint, I was struck by the sight of fellow victims - a diverse mix of Bahrainis and expatriates, each grappling with their own losses. Some appeared well-dressed and affluent, while others seemed more ordinary in appearance. (As human beings, we're prone to making snap judgments based on outward appearances.)

Amidst the sea of faces, one individual stood out to me - a young migrant worker clad in casual attire. His anguish was intense as he recounted how his hard-earned money had been swindled away while attempting to recharge his phone through a link. With each tear that welled up in his eyes, my heart sank a little deeper. And then, the revelation hit me like a ton of bricks - the staggering amount he had lost was BD38!

In that moment, I was overcome with a profound sense of empathy and humility. Who am I to define what constitutes a "substantial sum" of money? Is it the amount itself that matters, or rather the impact it has on an individual's livelihood and well-being? For this young migrant worker, BD38 represented not just a monetary loss, but the culmination of his hard work and sacrifice.

As members of a migrant community, we are no strangers to the struggles of stretching our earnings to support our loved ones back home. Each dinar lost is a stark reminder of the hurdles we face in our quest to provide for our families and secure a better future. And so, as we steer the complexities of life in Bahrain, let us never lose sight of the resilience and determination that define us - for it is through our collective strength that we find solace and support in the face of adversity.

Happy reading!

RAJI UNNIKRISSHAN

EDITOR - MIGRANT VOICE



OUTREACH

As champions for migrant workers' rights in Bahrain, MWPS is committed to tackling a broad spectrum of challenges and offering essential support to those in vulnerable situations. Ranging from legal aid to counseling services, our mission is to guarantee that each migrant worker receives the necessary assistance and protection they rightfully deserve. Below, we present some cases attended to by MWPS during the month of March.

CASE 01

MWPS recently extended a helping hand to two families grappling with the loss of their loved ones. Ration supplies were distributed to the families, as MWPS aimed at alleviating their immediate hardships. In the first case, tragedy struck as a 51-year-old husband succumbed to an acute viral illness, leaving behind his wife and their 10-year-old daughter. MWPS stepped in to offer much-needed support during this challenging time. Similarly, in the second case, a husband battled a prolonged illness before passing away, leaving behind his wife and two teenage sons.

CASE 02

An Indian who was shattered by deceit and misfortune was extended a helping hand by the MWPS. Arriving in Bahrain on a visit visa in October 2023, the man was promised a job with a work permit by an agent who unfortunately absconded with his hard-earned INR1,20,000 (BD542). Left stranded and destitute, he struggled for five months to secure employment or even meet his basic needs. Tragically, his situation worsened when his visa expired on January 2, stripping him of his legal status in Bahrain. Struggling to survive, he suffered a fall on the road due to dizziness induced by hunger, resulting in a bone fracture in his left hand that required surgery at Salmaniya Medical Complex. Amidst his ordeal, MWPS stepped in to provide him with dry rations for temporary relief and assisted him in completing the necessary formalities. With MWPS's support, he was able to return to India in early March, marking the end of his harrowing journey in Bahrain.

CASE 03

In another unfortunate case, yet another Indian national, found himself in dire straits after arriving in Bahrain on a visit visa obtained through an unscrupulous agent. Promised a Mason job with a work permit, he soon realised he had fallen victim to deception when the agent vanished with his hard-earned money totaling INR200,000 (BD902) along with 45 days' worth of promised salary. Struggling to make ends meet, he endured five months of hardship, unable to secure employment or even meet his basic needs. Compounding his troubles, his visa expired on December 4 last year, forcing him to resort to sporadic, unpaid work as a daily wage labourer. Recognising the man's plight, MWPS provided him with a dry ration package for temporary relief, and subsequently, MWPS extended further assistance by guiding him through the necessary formalities, enabling him to return home.

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supplementing the existing 2.1 million in the UAE. Kerala, a traditional contributor, witnessed a drastic 90pc decline in migration over the past decade, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar emerged as primary contributors.

The top five states sending labourers include UP, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu, with preferred destinations being KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman, signifying a transformative shift in migration dynamics.

Demographic analysis reveals a concentration of migrants aged 20-40, reflecting individuals in their prime working years. While historically male-dominated, there is a noticeable rise in female migrants, particularly in sectors like hospitality. Educational backgrounds range from minimal formal schooling to vocational training, tailored to specific job roles. Primarily hailing from lower-income backgrounds, these migrants seek improved financial conditions in Dubai's thriving job market. This diverse blend of age, gender, qualifications, and economic status defines the blue-collar workforce shaping Dubai's labour landscape.

GALLERY

We extend our sincere thanks to our generous donors as we invite you to explore our gallery - each image depicts the impactful actions of the MWPS, showcasing the donations received and distributed by our organisation. From essential supplies to acts of kindness, these images reflect support, care, and compassion.



The British Club's Llongsteppers Cycling Section hosted a successful "Night at the Races" event, raising BD500 for the Migrant Workers Protection Society. Thanks to the generous contributions of club members, these funds will assist migrant workers in need.



One of the members of MWPS sponsored 100 dry ration packages for the labourer camp in the Ma'aameer area, providing much-needed support to those whose salaries had been delayed for six months.



YK Almoayyed generously contributed Ramadan gift vouchers, which were distributed to a labour camp in Um Al Hassam, as well as to deserving individuals, including domestic workers and unemployed persons.



In a collaborative effort, The British School's Charity Committee, along with the Parent Community Ambassadors, Y.K. Almoayyed Transport, and MWPS, extended support to jobless expatriates from Haiti and other African nationalities, as well as to numerous Asian migrant workers, by distributing Ramadhan Charity Boxes.



A generous donation of 100 dry ration packages was received from the Sathya Sai Seva Trust and subsequently distributed to the labor camp in the Askar area, offering vital assistance to workers who had been awaiting their salaries for several months.

