

■ Mr Al Zayani, sixth from left, and Mr D'Cruz, fifth from left, pictured with NYIT campus dean Dr Suzanne White, third from left, and cast and crew of the film with cars loaned by Ahmed Zayani and Sons



'Zombie' film ready to roll

FILMING is about to start on a comedy-horror saga in which zombies take over Bahrain.

Dead Sands tells the story of a group of friends struggling to come to terms with a zombie invasion.

Details of the project were announced yesterday during a Press conference at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), in Adliya.

"The film follows a group of unique individuals who come together by chance in the wake of a zombie apocalypse in Bahrain," said writer and associate producer Ahmed Al Zayani.

"It's a horror-comedy movie, inspired by the horror films of the 80s and 90s.

By LAALA KASHEF ALGHATA

"One of the unique things about the movie is that we're trying to incorporate as much local talent as possible, from sketches to cast and crew."

The aim is to get the film in the cinemas towards the end of summer.

"We want to include in the film as much Bahraini landscape and culture as possible," added Mr Al Zayani.

"We'll be filming hopefully at Bab Al Bahrain and other places.

"We're very excited to have a genuinely Bahraini-inspired horror film."

The plan is to enter the feature-length film in movie festivals abroad.

"We definitely want to submit it for film festivals in the Middle East," added Mr Al Zayani.

"We're also looking at a couple of festivals in the US. We just want to put it out there."

The project is being supported by the Ahmed Zayani and Sons car dealership, which is supplying cars for the film.

"We're proud and honoured to be associated with NYIT for this project *Dead Sands*," said sales and marketing manager Godwin D'Cruz.

"We're happy to be associated with young Bahraini talent and we're there to support them through their endeavours.

"We're lending them cars for the

movie, which I'm sure the actors will enjoy using.

"We're sure it's going to be a big success and we aim to showcase the movie in Dubai."

Dead Sands is the fourth film produced, directed and filmed by FANTasy, a group of NYIT students and faculty members.

The film is also supported by Bahrain Cinema Company (Cineco).

For information and updates, visit the movie's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/DeadSandsFilms or follow @DeadSandsFilm on Twitter and Instagram.

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Car thief is jailed for 12 months

A MAN who stole a car from a shopping mall parking lot has been jailed for 12 months.

The Bahraini, aged in his 30s, was convicted of theft, using a vehicle without the owner's permission and damaging private property by the Lower Criminal Court yesterday.

"I was leaving Bahrain City Centre and looked where I parked my car, but it wasn't there," the 25-year-old Saudi victim told prosecutors.

"I thought I might have parked it somewhere else. But I looked around for hours and it wasn't there."

The defendant initially confessed to prosecutors, but later denied the charges in court.

"I parked in the parking lot of City Centre Mall and saw a key in a vehicle parked near my car, so I decided to take it for a ride," he said.

"I opened the car's door and drove off – leaving my car at the mall.

"On my way out, I handed the security guard at the parking lot a passport and papers that I found in his (the victim's) car and told him that I found them on the floor.

"I took the car and removed the wheels and sold them for BD20."

The defendant was arrested after he was identified using mall surveillance cameras.

He had been convicted of 33 similar incidents in the past.

210,100 visitors

A TOTAL of 210,100 people visited Bahrain from February 28 to last Wednesday with 171,157 crossing King Fahad Causeway and 36,538 arriving via Bahrain International Airport.



■ Minister of State for Electricity and Water Affairs Dr Abdulhussain Mirza met officials from the Internal Audit Group to review the Electricity and Water Authority's (EWA) internal audit programmes up to 2015. Representatives of the EWA's executive management were briefed on the importance of the role of internal auditor in highlighting gaps that lead to breaches, and helping avoid irregularities. Above, Dr Mirza with members of the delegation and officials during the meeting.