

Suicide bid woman recovering...

AN Indonesian woman who tried to commit suicide shortly after arriving in Bahrain is making a slow recovery in hospital.

Domestic worker Zoou Huria, 28, was admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) on Thursday after jumping from a second floor apartment in A'ali.

She is believed to have suffered injuries to her neck, legs and face.

Indonesian Embassy consular section head Mohammed Rifqi told the *GDN* she had regained consciousness,

By FRANCES LEATE

but was still in a serious condition.

"Doctors have said that she will become stable after a few weeks of medication," he said.

"Her sponsor, who was out of Bahrain when the incident occurred, said he did not know what forced her to take this drastic step. No more information can be gathered until she starts speaking."

After recovering in hospital it is thought Ms Huria will be cared for at

a shelter operated by the Indonesian Embassy.

The *GDN* has reported 25 suicides and attempted suicides in Bahrain since the beginning of the year, most of them low-paid workers from either India or Pakistan.

However, Migrant Workers' Protection Society (MWPS) chairwoman Marietta Dias said it was impossible to know the exact figure because many incidents were not made public.

At least three other expat women had



■ FLASHBACK: Ms Huria is recovering in hospital after falling from a second floor apartment

been admitted to hospital in the last two months after attempting suicide.

Ms Dias said she visited one Indian woman who attempted suicide and found two others in the same hospital ward, both from Indonesia.

"It is a very sad situation and it is something that needs

to be looked at in the country of departure, as much as it needs to be dealt with here," she said.

"Many of these workers are unprepared and don't know what to expect when they come to Bahrain.

"By the time they try to take their own life, it is too late for us to offer them the help they need.

"It is a very complex subject and it also shouldn't be assumed that these women are doing this just because of their working conditions, as other factors may also come into play.

"Whatever be the reasons for these incidents, it is a very sad phenomenon and something that is happening a lot in Bahrain."

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■ Ms Dias

Eid bonanza for businesses

■ Hundreds of families flocked to Adhari Park during Eid Al Adha



By GREG FOUNTAIN

BUSINESS was booming across Bahrain during the Eid Al Adha weekend with hundreds of thousands of visitors flocking to the country, according to a top tourism official.

Between October 10 and 16 almost 280,000 people entered the country, according to official statistics from the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence.

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) tourism committee chairman Nabeel Kanoo told the *GDN* that such an influx, which was "much better than last year," was a vote of confidence in the nation's safety and security.

"Where there's security, it's good for tourism," he said.

"Some hotels were running at 100 per cent capacity, restaurants were full,

the malls were full – these are all very positive indications that Bahrain is back, and surrounding countries, our neighbours, feel that Bahrain is secure again."

Four Star Hotel Committee chairman and Al Safir Hotel managing director Hameed Al Halwachi confirmed that many of the more than 40 four-star hotels operated above 90pc capacity over the holiday week.

"I can say that we have generated one of the best revenues," he said.

"At my hotel over the second, third and fourth day of Eid we were at 100pc occupancy.

"And we noticed this year a very good average room rate, from BD60 to some of the hotels charging BD100.

It's a good sign."

However, Mr Al Halwachi criticised the lack of tourist attractions across the nation as a whole.

"I always say Bahrain is lucky because we are getting business from our neighbours and there are no activities here," he said.

"There's Bahrain City Centre and the Lost Paradise of Dilmun, but where else can people go in this country?"

"We have very good heritage and very good museums, but there's no plan.

"There is no hotel (that I know of) with a plan like transportation or tour



guides. You have to show them the heritage, show them the culture."

Culture Ministry media adviser Elie Flouty told the *GDN* that no special events had been planned over the Eid holiday as the ministry was focusing its efforts on this week's Bahrain International Music Festival.

Top prizes in hotel offer

THE Kempinski Grand & Ixir Hotel is inviting people to take a journey through the company's history on its Facebook page and win some top prizes.

Sealed promotional codes are hidden on the company's timeline and clues are posted daily.

People will learn instantly if they have won and those entering every promotional code will be eligible for the grand prize – a three-night stay in a suite at Palais Hansen Kempinski Vienna, including full board and two roundtrip economy airline tickets from anywhere Lufthansa flies within Europe.

The promotion runs until November 8. For more details visit www.kempinski.com.