



Forty-four grooms tied the knot last night at Sitra Club football grounds. The event was organised by Sitra Charity Fund as part of its charitable work towards the community. Above, grooms being congratulated. Right, some of the grooms at the event.

Swedish band to rock Bahrain



Mr Melius, back row, third from left, Swedish consular agent and GAC managing director Captain Peter Gronberg, back row, fourth from left, with band members and GAC staff at the Bahrain International Airport

SPIRITUS Mundi, a nine-member Swedish band, will perform at the Bahrain National Museum at 7pm on Monday.

The band arrived in Bahrain yesterday at the invitation of the Swedish Consulate as part of a visit which aims to enhance cultural awareness between Sweden and Bahrain.

The show is sponsored by Gulf Agency Company (GAC), Gulf Air and Gulf Hotel.

By OLIVIA MIDDLETON

The tour aims to bridge the gap between the East and West and spread further understanding between different people through music, band founder Henrik Melius told a Press conference held at Swedish Consulate in Mina Salman yesterday.

He said the tour took nine months to organise and co-ordinate and that the band plays a fusion of Western and Arab music.

Mr Melius, who has trav-

elled to the GCC countries in the past, said the band is also filming a documentary which will follow it around on its tour of the Middle East, which will continue after Bahrain in Jordan and Oman.

"By filming the documentary of the tour, we hope that we can show the Western world the misconceptions brought forward by the media about the Middle East," he said.

Mr Melius said the rest of the band have not visited Bahrain before and did not know anything about the kingdom.

"The documentary will thus record

genuine western responses to the Middle East as they have not been here before," he said.

By using music as a tool, Mr Melius said musicians are able to communicate and reach people on a familiar level.

"The longevity of these effects will create a more secure relationship between Sweden and Bahrain," he said.

While in Bahrain, the band will visit different places to collect more information and images for the documentary, which is expected to take two months to complete.

The band leaves Bahrain on Tuesday.

LOCAL NEWSBITES

Labour issues to be discussed

LABOUR and Social Affairs Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi left yesterday for Damascus to head Bahrain's delegation to the Arab labour ministers' meeting to be held from February 14 to 21. He was seen off by Ministry Under-Secretary Shaikh Abdul Rahman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and other officials.

Society members met

INFORMATION Ministry Under-Secretary Mahmood Al Mahmood yesterday met members of Al Hussainia Studio Society headed by Abdulnabi Ali Al Hamar, who briefed him on the goals of the society which is currently being formed.

Sermons schedule

MOSQUES around Bahrain are offering Friday sermons in different languages today.

Following is a schedule for the sermons, provided by the Islamic Affairs Ministry:

Urdu: Abu Bakr Al Sadeeq Mosque and Al Fateh Mosque in Manama, Shaikh Isa bin Ali in Muharraq and Salmabad Mosque.

Malayalam: Al Farouk Mosque and Abu Bakr Al Sadeeq Mosque in Manama, Adliya Mosque, Othman bin Affan Mosque in Muharraq and Suq Mosque in East Riffa.

Bengali: Al Farouk Mosque in Manama and Saar Mosque in Saar.

Tamil: Al Farouk Mosque in Manama.

English: Al Farouk Mosque and Abu Bakr Al Sadeeq Mosque in Manama.

Sinhalese: Abu Bakr Al Sadeeq Mosque in Manama. The translations will be made following the lunch-time prayers.

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KRUMZ BISTRO



Royal Garden Restaurant, exclusively for Mexican and Indian food, opened in Juffair last night. It was officially opened by Bahrain's former ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa. More than 100 people attended the opening ceremony. Above, Shaikh Khalid, fourth from left, with the guests at the event.