

GCC hails Bahrain's success in fighting human trafficking

Labour ministers applaud Kingdom's achievements in safeguarding workforce

● Kingdom supports efforts to improve Gulf labour markets

Muscat

The GCC countries labour ministers praised Bahrain's achievements in maintaining the lead role in US Department of State's 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report 2023, for the sixth year in a row. They noted the level of progress that the Kingdom has achieved in terms of protecting the workforce.

This came as Labour Minister Jamil bin Mohammed Humaidan headed the Bahraini delegation participating in the ninth meeting of the Committee of GCC Labour Ministers, held in Oman on September 19-20 with the participation of GCC countries labour ministers.

Humaidan stressed Bahrain's support for joint Gulf action and coordination efforts among member states to improve Gulf



Mr. Humaidan with the GCC Labour Ministers

“Bahrain supports joint Gulf action and coordination efforts among member states to improve Gulf labour markets and exchange successful experiences.”

- JAMIL BIN MOHAMMED HUMAIDAN, LABOUR MINISTER

labour markets and exchange successful experiences, especially with regard to plans for employing the national workforce and facilitating the transition of

Gulf manpower between Gulf labour markets in accordance with their common principles.

He noted the role of this meeting in activating and implement-

ing the decisions issued by the Supreme Council in the field of labour and studying the development of legislative tools in the GCC countries to keep pace with developments in labour fields.

Measures

The ministers discussed the measures taken by member states to facilitate the employment and movement of citizens of the GCC countries for the purpose of work and what they have

done towards equality with the citizen workforce, in addition to enhancing coordination between the GCC countries in international forums.

The meeting also discussed developments in labour markets, the effects of technological development, changes in work patterns, potential impacts on the workforce and developing recommendations to reduce job losses through continuous learning policies, training, and rehabilitation programmes.

C-SIPA to boost US-Bahrain investment

(Continuation from Page 1)
TDT | Manama

The Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) is expected to lead to increased investment between the US and Bahrain, as well as cooperation on emerging technologies.

“We expect that there will be greater interest in American companies investing in Bahrain and Bahraini companies investing in the United States in order to work on either cutting-edge kinds of projects, such as emerging technology, which is also part of this agreement, or in other ways that meet basic human needs,” US Ambassador to Bahrain Steven C. Bondy said.

The ambassador concluded by saying that the C-SIPA is a significant step forward in the US-Bahrain relationship.

“This is a big step, but it's just the first step,” he said. “And now we need to see what else we can do to work with one another.”

C-SIPA provides a framework for increased cooperation in three key ways: Security and defense, Economic relationship, and science, technology, and network security.

Prison services, programmes safeguard human rights for all



MP Dr. Maryam Al Dhaen speaks at the event

● Bahrain follows global standards and practises

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MP Dr. Maryam Al Dhaen emphasised that the Alternative Penal Code “Open Prison Program” is an important step to integrate the beneficiaries of convicts into society and enable them to correct their course, noting that this pioneering experience would properly reintegrate them into society and ensure that they do not reoffend.

The Ministry of Interior has taken care to adopt the best international standards in alternative punishments and open prisons.

On the sidelines of its participation in the second Arab conference of national human rights institutions and representatives of Arab ministries of the interior, a working paper on the prospects for cooperation in the protection and promotion of human rights between ministries of the interior and national human rights institutions in the Arab region, held from 19 to 20 September in Cairo, was enti-



pled best practices, challenges, and visions of cooperation.

She highly noted the efforts of the Ministry of the Interior, led by General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of the Interior, and its role in further developing the programme of alternative punishments and open prisons, as well as its plans and training and rehabilitation programmes that contribute to the participation of the beneficiaries of convicted persons in society as active participants. It noted that prison conditions in the Kingdom of Bahrain reflect ongoing official efforts to safeguard human rights.

It noted that the open prison programme was a flashpoint in the human rights march in Bahrain, thanks to the Royal Instructions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the determination of the

Government, under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to improve its application.

She emphasised that the Open Prisons Programme was one of the most effective programmes for strengthening social security and developing the human rights system. It commended the rehabilitation and training services and programmes provided to the beneficiaries of the Open Prisons Programme, as well as the modern facilities and equipment and advanced techniques used in the running of the programme and the procedures followed, which complemented the success of the alternative punishment project.

She pointed out that the approach adopted by the Government has helped to promote self-reliance, reduce crime rates, consider the maintenance of a balance in terms of services provided to inmates without any abuse in law enforcement and the administration of justice, while preserving the social fabric. It points out that consideration has been given to providing modern and equipped educational facilities, gyms and fully equipped exercising area.

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