

HM King 'unwavering support' for youth and sports highlighted



Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has affirmed His Majesty's unwavering support for the youth and sports movement in the kingdom, noting that the outstanding sports achievements are the outcome of the royal care. This came as HH Shaikh Nasser, on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad, yesterday honoured a number of top-achieving athletes. Present in the occasion were the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. HH Shaikh Nasser presented medals to the athletes for their achievements which contributed to raising the kingdom's flags at various sports gatherings. The honoured athletes extended heartfelt thanks, appreciation and gratitude to HM the King for granting them medals, HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid for their great support. (Full report on Page 12)

HRH Prince Salman issues edict on RERA
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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (68) of 2021, designating the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, as the Minister responsible for the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) before the Legislative Authority.

The minister and the relevant authorities, each in their own capacity, shall implement the provisions of this edict, which takes immediate effect, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Bahrain-India health cooperation in full swing

- Exchange visits by doctors and consultants pushed
- Sharing experiences in terms of training and research
- Existing cooperation against COVID-19 benefits both countries



Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla and Ambassador Srivastava hold discussion

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The meeting also focused on ways to develop bilateral cooperation regarding overseas treatment, taking advantage of the distinguished medical and treatment services and capabilities in India, and in coordination with all health entities in the Kingdom.

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Bahrain and India are committed to bolstering growing bilateral cooperation, especially in the health field.

Supreme Council for Health President, Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava in the pres-

ence of SCH Secretary General Ibrahim Ali Al Nawakhda. Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla stressed the depth of the distinguished cooperation between Bahrain and India, praising the steady progress of the friendly bilateral relations at all levels, and affirming Bahrain's keenness to bolster its cooperation with India, especially in the health field.

Ambassador Srivastava also hailed the distinguished level of the friendly Bahraini-Indian relations. He also praised the key role played by SCH to develop the healthcare sector in Bahrain, confront the pandemic and provide health coverage for all, affirming India's readiness to enhance its health cooperation with the kingdom.

Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla briefed Ambassador Srivastava about the role of the SCH in developing and following up on the implementation of the national health plans, particularly the National Health Insurance Programme, as well as in enhancing the healthcare sector in the kingdom. The SCH discussed with the envoy the prospects for health cooperation between the two countries, especially regarding the organisation of visits by doctors and consultants, exchanging experiences in terms of training and research, benefiting from India's experi-

ence in the health sector, particularly medical subspecialties, and attracting Indian investments in health sector projects, especially in pharmaceutical factories, and the continuation of the existing cooperation in confronting the coronavirus pandemic for the benefit of both countries. The meeting also focused on ways to develop bilateral cooperation regarding overseas treatment, taking advantage of the distinguished medical and treatment services and capabilities in India, and in coordination with all health entities in the Kingdom.

560 citizens employed and 347 trained
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A total of 560 Bahrain job-seekers holding various qualifications had been employed in 342 private companies and institutions on December 19-25. The Labour and Social Development Ministry also revealed that 347 had benefited from various training programmes during the same period.

The ministry indicated that 25,702 national job-seekers have been employed so far in 6,702 institutions, out of the 25,000 targeted in the second edition of the National Employment Program in 2021 and the number of those who have received training has reached 12,488 to date, exceeding the 10,000 target for this year.

Seven urgent infrastructure projects are in the pipeline

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Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Eng. Essam Khalaf, has announced a plan to implement seven urgent projects for roads and bridges in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

They will be financed through the Gulf support provided to the

Kingdom. These projects are the Busaiten Bridge Project, the third phase of the project to develop the street leading to Bahrain International Airport, which is represented in the development of Al Saqr Intersection; the Sports City Outlets Development Project; the expansion of Khaleej Street to four lanes

in each direction with the development of intersections on it; in addition to the Janabiya Street Expansion Project; and the Budaiya Street Expansion Project. The minister made the announcement following a parliamentary question by Shura Council member Fouad Hajji about the strategic structural plan for the Kingdom.



Relief for stranded expatriate woman

Staff Reporter

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A 48-year-old expatriate woman, who has been stranded in the Kingdom for the past 16 years, is all set to fly home - thanks to the efforts of three expat social workers.

Indian national Uma Marimuthu came to the Kingdom in 2006 with great hopes of working as a housemaid and supporting her children and relatives back home. But, those hopes did not take off as she failed to find consistent income.

According to social workers, the manpower agency, which brought Uma to the Kingdom, did not obtain her the residency permit.

"They would make her work for different employers and most often, without payment."

Eventually, Uma broke off ties with the manpower agency and began working as a housemaid. Her stay in the Kingdom



Uma ... on way home

was not legalised as the manpower agency did not release her passport and other legal documents.

Two years ago, after suffering from diabetic retinopathy, she started losing her eyesight.

Sudheer Thirunilath, World NRI Council Humanitarian Director for the Middle East, told The Daily Tribune that Uma was partially blind when he met her a few months ago.

"We took her to an eye hospital, where she is receiving treatment. Her expenses are now being taken care of by some good minded people," Sudheer said. A group of social workers led

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by Sudheer, Mr Senthil of Annai Thamiz Mantram and Azhkar Poozhithala of Hope Bahrain came to her rescue. They took up their case with the Indian Embassy, which issued her an outpass.

Uma hails from Thanjavoor district in the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu. She has three children and six sisters, all dependent on her.

Four restaurants shut down for violating COVID-19 protocols



The Health Ministry has announced the closure of four restaurants in the capital for violating the precautionary measures against the coronavirus (COVID-19). This came following inspection visits carried out by Health Ministry personnel in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA). It was part of the intensification of inspection visits, which aims to ensure that the facilities adhere to the health requirements and procedures listed within the Yellow Alert Level. More than 128 restaurants and cafes were visited, and 22 of them were found to have violated health and safety protocols. Necessary measures were also taken to refer 11 men's salons and two women's salons to the legal authorities for various violations.

Zayed

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Around 4,598 Bahrainis have been employed in the government from June 2019 to November 14, 2021, and more than 1,815 foreign contracts terminated during this two-and-a-half-year period.

This was confirmed by head of the Civil Service Bureau, Ahmed Zayed, during his intervention in the Shura Council yesterday.

He stressed that the employment of 25,000 Bahrainis in 6,300 different institutions, and the training of 12,100 citizens confirm the Kingdom's efforts to empower the local workforce.

Currently, there are 7,200 foreign workers in the government, including 3,800 in the education sector, for several reasons, the most prominent of which is the lack of qualified Bahrainis to fill these jobs.

4,598 Bahrainis land jobs in government since pandemic outbreak

