

Embassies training individuals to take part in elections: MPs

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Some foreign embassies in the Kingdom are supporting and training individuals who seek to enter the electoral race in 2018, several MPs told the House of Representatives yesterday.

In their regular meeting held at the House of Representatives in Gudaibiya, the parliamentarians strongly criticised foreign embassies for training parliamentary candidates as the elections are fast approaching.

The MPs also demanded Foreign Affairs Ministry to intervene and prohibit diplomatic corps from directly contacting citizens.

"Some foreign embassies are communicating with citizens, who seek to contest in the



The House of Representatives in session yesterday

2018 parliamentary elections, and sending them allegedly to attend training courses abroad. These courses' objectives are unknown. We consider this as clear interference in the internal affairs of the

Kingdom which will affect the parliamentary elections that are usually organised in accordance with international norms and standards," the MPs said in a joint statement issued after the meeting.

The MPs also hinted at training institutions in the Kingdom, such as the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, affirming "Bahrainis don't need political training from abroad".

"The House of Representatives declares its condemnation, and rejection of such calls, which constitute blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom and are contrary to the duties of diplomatic missions and foreign embassies in any country and constitute a departure from the rules established by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," the statement read.

The Council, while condemning these actions, called upon the Foreign Affairs Ministry to play its role and take decisive measures against embassies that carry out such acts. The council also called on authorities concerned to not accept any candidate for the upcoming elections in case they participated in such courses.

Expatriate injured in car mishap

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Manama

An Asian expatriate sustained serious injuries after he was hit by a speeding car while crossing the road at the King Faisal Highway.

The injured is Mojahid Iqbal, 43, a Pakistani expatriate. The car was driven by a Bahraini man. The officials arrived immediately at the crime scene and the expatriate was rushed to the Salmaniya Medical Complex as he sustained serious injuries.

One of the sources at the Ministry of Interior confirmed the car accident on the highway. The authorities are taking necessary steps and the case will be further investigated by the public prosecution, sources at the Ministry of Interior said.

Cops to turn counsellors to tackle illegal workers

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Muharrag police have come up with a novel approach to tackle illegal 'free visa' workers in the governorate through counselling and guiding.

Discussions are underway with the authorities in Muharrag to implement new measures to tackle the illegal workers in a more humane way.

Muharrag Governorate Police Director General Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said that an approach focused on 'counselling and guiding' will help many of those workers who end up in illegal status after being tricked by agents.

"The intention is not to nab and hand them over to the authorities concerned to be deported. We are

looking at bringing them in and correcting them. This is because we believe that such people who have no work will, sooner or later, graduate to becoming criminals," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We do not know what they are doing and how and where they are living. We just find them loitering around, doing odd jobs and somehow making ends meet," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We would want to know what they are up to, guide and counsel them, get in touch with their sponsors and employers and try and correct their status," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said, adding that in their opinion, nabbing and deporting illegal free visa workers is the last possible step the authorities can do.

In most cases, such workers

have been tricked into coming to Bahrain and are victims, Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"They have sold their land, jewellery, houses and other property to pay agents to come here and work and when they find that they have no job, they are bound to take to crime sooner or later since they have to repay the loans they have taken from banks in the Kingdom or send money home to their families," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

"We are looking to stop crimes from happening. If such people are allowed to remain as they are, they would be a danger to society sooner or later. This would lead to an unsafe and unhealthy environment in our society," Brigadier Fawaz Al Hassan said.

Asian cleaner attacked in Diraz

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Manama

An Asian cleaner was brutally attacked the other day in Diraz. Reports confirmed that the man was assaulted by a group of masked men who asked him not to come and clean their neighbourhood again.

Northern Area Municipality

General Director Yousif Al Ghatam condemned the assault in a statement issued yesterday.

"The attack on a cleaner while performing his duties in Diraz on April 23 by a group of masked men who threatened him not to clean the area is unacceptable," Al Ghatam stressed.

He explained in his statement that the victim was attacked by four masked men

who beat him and injured him.

"Will any sane person object to cleaning their area. They must be a group of troublemakers who intend to create chaos in the area," said the official on threatening the cleaner.

Al Ghatam described the incident as "hideous" and stressed that the community should fight such unruly behaviours.

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