

# 'Our best days are ahead of us'

Majority of Bahraini youth express optimism about future despite challenges

● Arab Youth Survey also shows they think their 'voice' matters to leadership

TDT | Manama

Nearly three-quarters of the Bahraini youth, around 74%, are optimistic about the future despite challenges of our times, including the pandemic, saying "our best days are ahead of us."

Likewise, a majority of them, at 70%, believe their voice matters to their leadership, an increase of 10 percentage points over 2020.

These are some of the top findings of the 13th Annual ASDA' A BCW Arab Youth Survey, released yesterday by ASDA' A



Bahrain is preparing the youth for a better future (Image for representation only)

BCW, the leading public relations consultancy in MENA, which also revealed the astonishing resilience and hopefulness of young Arab men and women across the region.

Now in its 13th year, the largest study of MENA's largest demographic, its 200 million plus

youth, polled 3,400 Arab citizens aged between 18 and 24 in 50 cities and territories in 17 countries from June 6-30, 2021.

## Optimism for a better life

The pandemic cost MENA economies an estimated \$227 billion last year, pushing some countries to the brink of bankruptcy.

However, when asked whether they believed their best days were either ahead of them or behind them, an astonishing 60 per cent of young Arabs, expressed optimism in the future – the highest level of positivity in five years.

The survey report, themed "Hope for the Future," based on the findings, further highlight the optimism of young Arabs with nearly half (48%) also saying they 'will lead a better life than their parents,' the highest percentage in three years.



Nearly three-quarters (72%) of young Arabs – similar to the positive sentiment among Bahraini youth – said their voice matters to their country's leadership.

In addition, half of respondents said their country's economy was heading in the right direction and most expected a full economic recovery by 2022.

## Increased trust in government

Today, more young Arabs trust their government to address their priorities, according to the survey.

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of young Arabs – similar to the positive sentiment among Bahraini youth – said their voice matters to their country's leadership.

Even in North Africa and the Levant region, which witnessed significant social unrest in recent years, many young Arabs now believe their opinions matter to their governments.

# From AMA International School to Britus International School



The campus

TDT | Manama

AMA International School yesterday announced that it has rebranded to Britus International School after receiving the necessary approvals from the Ministry of Education.

The school is part of the portfolio of Britus Education, the education investment platform managed by GFH Financial Group.

The move supports Britus' strategy to continue the transformation of its education assets across its existing portfolio as well as plans to grow the Britus brand, which operates more than eight private schools in the region including Al-Olaya in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al-Murabaa, Al-Rowda, Al-Fayhaa and Al-Takhasosi, AMA in the Kingdom of Bahrain, The Sheffield Private School in Dubai, and British International School in Tunis.

In line with Britus' ongoing commitment to building a world-class portfolio of education assets across the GCC region, it is undertaking comprehensive actions to enhance and upgrade education systems and to make quality education affordable to all segments of the community with an emphasis on K-12 learning and also special needs education.

Commenting Fatema Kamal, Acting CEO of Britus Education, said: "We're delighted to announce our new brand in the Kingdom of Bahrain. AMA has always been one of our



Britus Education Acting CEO Fatema Kamal

most important acquisitions and we have and continue to invest in its enhancement and the embedding of our ethos and culture into the School.

"This is also another important milestone marking the further expansion of the Britus brand in the region. With the rebranding behind us, we are now working on further key enhancements by embracing digital transformation of the School's academic programmes, curriculums, processes and human resources to ensure our students have access to the best resources, facilities and learning tools available in the market today."

Britus Education has a portfolio of K-12 schools located across the MENA region.

Its strategy focuses on identifying and investing in high-quality schools that are capable of being further improved, have strong existing student capacity with room for additional growth and fee structures that are affordable to the fast-expanding mid-market.

## Al Derazi briefs US Congress on NIHR role

TDT | Manama

National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) President Ali Ahmed Al Derazi received a delegation of US Congress.

Al Derazi briefed them on NIHR's role in spreading, promoting and protecting human rights, and their role during the pandemic through its follow-up to the precautionary

measures taken by the Kingdom in prisons and rehabilitation centres.

He explained that the practice of religious rites in Bahrain comes within the framework of ensuring public and personal freedoms and equality for all without discrimination based on race, language, religion or gender.

The delegation exchanged topics of common interest.

## Asian drug peddler loses appeal

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the sentence issued against an Asian man convicted of promoting drugs.

The defendant was sentenced to five years in prison for peddling illicit pills in addition to a BD3,000 fine.

Two defendants, also Asian male, were involved in the same case, but they were sentenced to six months in prison

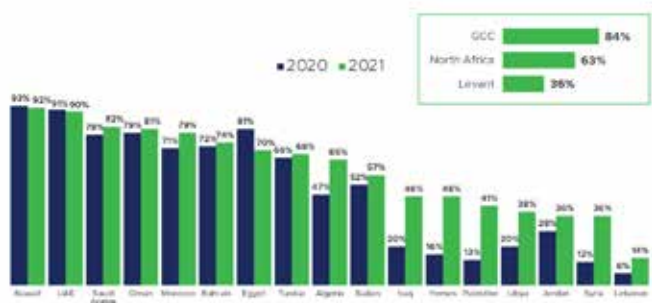
each only after they were held guilty of consumption. Both of them didn't appeal the initial sentences.

According to court files, the first defendant was selling drugs to the other two Asian men who were buying for consumption purposes.

However, they were contacted by an undercover agent, who offered them BD180 to buy the narcotics from them. A sting operation was carried out.

## GCC youth remain overwhelmingly optimistic, while there has been a spike in optimism among youth in the Levant and North Africa

Which of the following do you agree with?  
(Showing % saying 'Our best days are ahead of us')



## RCSI Bahrain welcomes new students for academic year 2021-22

TDT | Manama

Marking the start of academic year 2021-22, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) welcomed the new cohort of students during orientation.

More than 390 students divided into small groups were welcomed on campus over a period of three weeks to be familiarised with the resources and assistance available, as well as the latest health and safety regulations on campus.

Led by the Student Services, Events and Sports and Recreation Department, the orientation of the new cohort was an opportunity for all new students to take an induction tour, participate in ice-breaker activities, receive their registration pack and finalise their registration process, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Higher Education Council in Bahrain.

RCSI Bahrain's community



New students are taken to an induction tour

23 nationalities, with Bahraini students making up circa 50% of the new intake, 30% of the students are from the Middle East, 10% from North America, and 10% from Asia and Europe.

Following the orientation week, students commenced their digitally-engaged learning period followed by physically-distanced blended learning, during which they had several opportunities to get to know their fellow students through online academic and non-academic activities.

Students are able to attend campus in small groups called 'Learning Communities', which provides them with a personalised learning experience.

RCSI Bahrain has planned the delivery of the academic programme in line with international guidelines, the guidelines set out by the National Taskforce Committee and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



"As we welcome new and returning students for Academic Year 2021-22, maintaining their health and safety as well as their successful engagement in their programme of study, continues to be our priority at RCSI Bahrain."

- PROFESSOR SAMEER OTOOM, RCSI BAHRAIN PRESIDENT

blends a variety of characters and cultures from around the globe.

With 48 distinct nationalities across all the programmes, this year's new cohort consists of

## SCW Secretary General receives Higher Education Council Secretary General

Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Secretary General Hala Al Ansari received yesterday Higher Education Council Secretary General Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa. They discussed boosting cooperation to promote the advancement of Bahraini women in the higher education field. They also reviewed creating an equal opportunity committee in the Higher Education Council.

