

BD20,000 fine planned for firms 'not prioritising hiring of citizens'

Lawmakers upset over 'majority of jobs going to expatriates'

● The lawmakers stated that majority of the jobs in the private sector are going to expatriates, while Bahrainis are struggling to get jobs.

● The government had, a few months ago, announced a major initiative to increase the hiring of new Bahraini graduates.

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Mohammed Zafran

Fines, as high as BD20,000, would be imposed on companies that are not giving priority to Bahrainis during recruitment, if MPs get their proposal passed.

The proposal has been made by MP Ghazi Al Rahma alongside four other fellow lawmakers including Mohammed Al Abbasi, Ali Ishaqi, Ahmed Al Amer and Yousef Al Thawadi.

They aim to amend the labour law to add an article that states that all employer needs to give Bahrainis priority in the event of a job opening and failing to do so would result in fines.



Mr Al Rahma

The MPs stated that a fine of a minimum of BD5,000 and a maximum of BD20,000 must be imposed on violating companies.

They added that renewal of work permits of violating com-

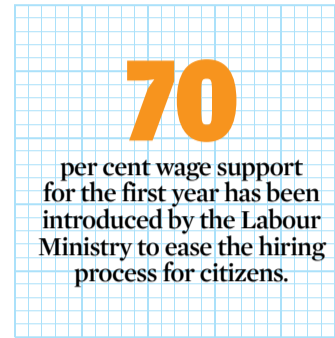
panies should also come under scrutiny.

The lawmakers stated that majority of the jobs in the private sector are going to expatriates, while Bahrainis are struggling to get jobs.

According to them, the existing initiatives to reduce unemployment among Bahrainis is not enough.

The government had, a few months ago, announced a major initiative to increase the hiring of new Bahraini graduates.

As per the initiative, if a business decides to hire Bahraini graduates registered with the Ministry of Labour, a number of benefits will be provided to ease the hiring process, including free



professional training, as well as wage support for the candidates up to 70 per cent for the first year, 50pc for the second year, and 30pc for the third year.

The ministry would also provide administrative services, which include the candidate

search and selection process and interview proceedings.

The ministry had stated that an e-system had been established to exchange information between the the ministry and LMRA.

The National Employment Programme launched in the Kingdom in February includes an awareness campaign to encourage citizens to register with the programme, amending the unemployment insurance draft law (78/2006) in order to increase compensation fees, increasing fees associated with the Parallel Bahrainisation System and the Flexible Work Permit and Redesigning Tamkeen's Training and Wage Support Programme.

Brave to return to the UK

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Mohammed Zafran

Brave Combat Federation will return to the United Kingdom next month with an event in London, organisers announced.

Titled "Brave 24: London," the upcoming event at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will be the second time Brave CF is visiting the UK.

Last year the promotion had organised an event titled "Brave 13: Europe Evolution" at The SSE Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland, which was its first event in Europe.

"BRAVE 24 will be an invite-only event, made to connect the sport of mixed martial arts to the highest level of influencers across all walks of life, including social media, business, sports, and other ventures.

"The show is set to be a luxurious experience to all



Brave is looking to connect the biggest influencers to the best fighters in the world.

MR SHAHID

involved, as BRAVE looks to introduce MMA to a wider audience, and provide them with the unique opportunity of watching the best fighters in the world live, as well as several other attractions," organisers said.

"The fight card will be an-

nounced in the coming days, along with further details of the once-in-a-lifetime show, which promises to turn mixed martial arts upside down," organisers added.

Brave CF President Mohammed Shahid said that the promotion is aiming for more traction in Europe.

"The whole MMA community expects Brave to take up the responsibility on our shoulders to develop the sport in every place and every different continent, and that is why we are going to Europe.

"Brave is looking to connect the biggest influencers to the best fighters in the world. This is about taking MMA to the next level to expose the best and fastest-growing sport in the world to the wider audience.

"We want to make sure the sport grows. This is the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and that's what we want to do."

Domestic workers 'no longer face troubles in the Kingdom'

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

The implementation of insurance scheme for domestic workers is a positive step towards securing them as well as their rights, said Majeed Maarij, secretary to the board of directors at Bahrain Recruiters Society yesterday.

Mr Majeed's comments come in light of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) launching a new permit system to domestic workers a few months ago.

The system is aimed at the welfare of both the workers and their employers.

"Domestic workers now face no more troubles in the Kingdom, especially after the implementation of tripartite agreement and insurance for them.

The LMRA adopted the Tripartite Domestic Contract in March



We are monitoring the tripartite agreement and if needed, we are willing to propose amendments for the welfare of all the parties involved.

MR MAJEED

this year, which regulates the relationship between the Employment Office, the employer (the household) and the domestic

worker (domestic expatriate employees and their equivalents), and all recruitment offices are obliged to apply it.

"We are monitoring the tripartite agreement and if needed, we are willing to propose amendments for the welfare of all the parties involved."

He said the Kingdom's government and the Labour Ministry are in their best efforts to ensure the rights of each and every worker are protected.

"The Kingdom is a signatory to almost all global conventions that ensure the rights of workers. Like any advanced country in the world, no-one including domestic workers need not now worry about their rights being violated."

He added that nearly 60 per cent of domestic workers in the Kingdom are from the Philippines, followed by Indonesia (20pc), African states (15pc) and India (5pc).

MoE keen on incorporating 'citizen lessons' in curriculum

Manama

The Education Ministry has asserted that it has attached great interest in consolidating the values of citizenship among students through school curriculum and other activities, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The ministry added that the implementation of the Citizenship and Human Rights Enhancing Schools Project, aiming to transform schools into environments to strengthen the values of citizenship, loyalty, national unity, co-existence, tolerance and human rights, has yielded outstanding results, and earned the Kingdom interna-

tional acclaim.

The ministry pointed out that the proposal submitted by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, to develop the current citizenship course aims to consolidate the ongoing national efforts and achieve the common goals of promoting

the values of good citizenship among students.

The proposal is part of the efforts being exerted to strengthen the national fundamentals among students according to the best educational practices, in line with the initiatives of the National Project to Develop Education and Training, the ministry said.

The initiative aims at promoting the values of openness, accepting each other, respect for human rights, cultural pluralism and co-existence, out of the belief that the culture of peace and rejection of violence and extremism are essential principles that should be instilled in the minds of youngsters through school curricula and activities.

The proposal is part of the efforts being exerted to strengthen the national fundamentals among students.

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