

CAPTAINS CORNER

Bahraini sportswomen need to be encouraged



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Now that the weather is getting noticeably cooler, we are seeing more and more people out walking in the walking paths that have been thoughtfully incorporated into our urban spaces by planners. The months of October to March are decidedly better to incorporate new exercise resolutions since the hot summer is waning at this time.

While I am happy to see people of all ages exercise, it is particularly good to note that women are now taking their health seriously. Once a taboo topic, outdoor exercise and organised physical activity classes for women have become quite accepted for women in Bahrain.

Indeed, the Kingdom has a history of getting involved in women's athletic activities and has regularly fielded women's teams in local, regional and international competitions, performing to varying degrees of success.

The women's national football team, formed in 2003, was the first national women's football squad in the Gulf region and in 2004, Bahrain participated in a football tournament in Amman and in 2005 took part in the West Asian Championship, also in the Jordanian capital. In field track, Bahrain produced champion Ruqayya Al Ghasra who became in 2004 the first athlete to take part in an Olympics wearing a hijab.

Women have brought back medals and glory to Bahrain from the Olympics and the Paralympics - Bahraini amputee and para-athlete, Shaikha Al Shaiba, who is a regular participant in the half-Ironman triathlons is a shining example.

While we are lucky in Bahrain that the sports community has created an atmosphere conducive to women athletes participating whole-heartedly in the national sports scene, it is essential for us to push the envelope a bit more - for example, Bahraini corporate sponsorships for women's sports training and participation in international tournaments, better media coverage of women's victories and their trouble spots so that those who can make a difference will know and help, sports programmes for women and scholarships to tap talent at a young age and give economic support - all of these will undoubtedly give a boost to Bahraini women's sports.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

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US keen to boost ties with Bahrain: top embassy official tells minister

TDT | Manama

A top US Embassy official yesterday stressed the keenness of the United States to enhance its ties with the Kingdom at all levels.

This came as Charge d'Affaires Margaret Nardi met Labour and Social Development Minister, and Board of Directors Chairman of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan.

Nardi told the minister that the US is keen to enhance its "constructive and fruitful cooperation with the kingdom at all levels, in a way that would serve the interests of the two friendly countries and their peoples."



Humaidan in talks with Margaret Nardi, the US Embassy Charge d'Affaires

The meeting also reviewed the initiatives launched by the Kingdom to ensure the rights of the workers.

On this note, the minister highlighted the Wage Protection Sys-

tem and its role in ensuring the wage payment on time and as agreed.

Humaidan also shed light on the Kingdom's efforts to combat discrimination through Labour

law in the private sector.

They also discussed the results of the second edition of the National Employment Programme and the efforts exerted by the ministry to provide decent job opportunities to the citizens, incentives for employers that include wage support, training and rehabilitation programmes. Discussions also focused on the roles played by the Labour Ministry LMRA for combating trafficking in persons.

Regarding social protection, Humaidan said the ministry is keen to support vulnerable segments and launch new initiatives for implementing the Restorative Justice Law for Children.

Top US congress officials welcome Bahrain's Labour market reforms

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Bahrain's efforts to develop the labour market and adopt international standards in protecting and preserving the rights of labour parties received the praise of US Congress staff visiting Bahrain.

The delegation affirmed that they had noticed an integrated institutional work by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and its partners, citing tireless efforts to review and develop procedures to enhance the work environment and ensure justice and fairness.

The delegation highlighted the Kingdom's pioneering efforts in combating trafficking in persons, including the annual report of



US Congress staff visiting Bahrain during a meeting at LMRA

the US Department of State for combating people trafficking, in which Bahrain maintained its tier-1 status for the fourth year in a row.

The comments came as the delegation of US Congress staff

visited the LMRA in the presence of Deputy CEO for Resources and Services, Ashraf Hafeth Emam, Director of Grievances and Protection, Shereen Khalil Al-Saati, and representatives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

LMRA officials reviewed the measures implemented by the Authority to address the direct and indirect effects of the novel Coronavirus pandemic on the labour market.

The meeting highlighted the key projects and initiatives launched by LMRA to protect workers' rights, including the Wage Protection System launched in May 2021. The system enables the Labour Market Regulatory Authority to know the extent of the commitment of private sector enterprises to paying wages as agreed and on time.

LMRA officials said the system would contribute to reducing wage-related labour issues and speeding up their settlement.

Bahraini students participate in Arab Parliament

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Students from Bahrain yesterday took part in the Arab parliament session held at the headquarters of the League of Arab states in Egypt.

Ritaj Ibrahim Al Abbasi, the President of the Arab Parliament for Child, Turki Thawadi, the Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Arab Parliament for Children, were part of the Bahraini delegation.

Abbasi expressed her happiness for participating in the Arab forum and appreciated the encouragement of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for her and her fellow students.

Abbasi said the Arab Parlia-



ments provided its members with a unique mix of activities and events accompanied by targeted training, which helped achieve

its objectives.

The members of the Arab Parliament received a shield from the President of the Arab Parliament,

Adel Abdulrahman Al-Asoumi.

Ritaj Ibrahim Al Abbasi presented a souvenir to the President of the Arab Parliament.

ASU rises to 22nd rank in QS Arab Universities ranking

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The Applied Science University in Bahrain has improved its ranking on the QS Arab Region University Rankings to reach 22nd position in the 2022 listing and first in Bahrain.

ASU is also the only university to enter this ranking for the fourth consecutive year from Bahrain.

In the QS World University Rankings, ASU is ranked 591 to 600 with a 4-star rating. ASU is also among the 150 emerging universities.

Following ASU on the QS ranking is the University of Bahrain on the 33rd spot and Ahlia University



ASU officials during a ceremony organised by the QS World University Rankings

on 39th rank. UoB is ranked #801-1000 in QS Global World Rankings 2022. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Oxford and Stanford University hold the

first, second and third ranks, respectively, on the ranking.

Established in 2004, ASU is one of the first private universities in Bahrain and is in the Central

Governorate.

The Applied Science University offers 18 (undergraduate and postgraduate) programmes, with more than 5,000 alumni and staff from over 22 countries. It offers two international Engineering programmes from a well-respected university in the United Kingdom - London South Bank University. Prof. Wahib Al-Khaja, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said the ranking confirms the top position ASU possess at the local, Arab and international levels. According to QS, on average, more than 70% of graduates of ASU find a job within six months of graduation.