



Mr Kadhim speaking at the meeting.

Graduating into uncertain future

Students suffer as their Chinese degrees don't have official validity in the Kingdom

● The graduates and students explained to the attendees the efforts they had put in during their six-year studying period in China.

● The matter has been discussed in the Parliament few months ago after MP Kadhim submitted an urgent proposal.

Manama|TDI
Muhannad Mansour

The dilemma of the Bahraini students who graduated from Chinese universities and couldn't equalise their certificates here was extensively discussed during a special meeting held in Budaiya yesterday.

The meeting was held at the office of MP Jalal Kadhim in the presence of the students, parents and representatives of the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom.

Information related to the students, who have been apparently unemployed since they graduated from Chinese universities two years ago, were highlighted in the discussion.

The majority of the students either graduated from, studying at or discontinued their education from Chinese medical universities.

Apparently, some of them were sent on state-borne scholarships, but their degrees weren't ratified by Education Ministry when they returned here after graduation.

The matter has been dis-

cussed in the Parliament few months ago, as the same MP, Mr Kadhim, submitted an urgent proposal to give parity to the degrees of around 100 Bahraini students. However, the House voted against the proposal, raising eyebrows among the supporters of the proposal and the students.

In yesterday's meeting, Mr Kadhim lashed out on both Education and Health Ministries for not attending the meeting, despite inviting them to meet the students and their parents.

According to the MP, 27 Bahraini students have graduated from different Chinese colleges of medicine and nine of them graduated with honours degree, while 73 students are still stud-



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MR KADHIM

ying there, fearing a mysterious future for their employment.

Mr Kadhim claimed that all of the students were sent on the expense of the State, with a total cost of BD240,000. At the same time, he expressed his surprise from the ministry's decision to not ratify the students' degrees after spending such huge amounts on their education in well-known universities.

"The Chinese Embassy's Representatives explained to the students that the embassy has communicated with Education Ministry and provided it with the required documents to ratify the students' degrees nine months ago, but didn't receive any reply," Mr Kadhim stated.

He also said, "Some of the

graduates passed a one-year training programme supervised by Health Ministry here, but they remain jobless as their degrees weren't equalised by Education Ministry. Some were even licensed to practice medicine by the health authorities in Saudi Arabia."

The MP added, "China is an advanced country in all fields and offers annual scholarships to the Kingdom in support of Bahraini students. Chinese universities are accredited by Health Ministry here, as well as international organisations and health authorities in fellow GCC and Arab countries."

The graduates and students explained to the attendees the efforts they had put in during

240,000

Bahraini dinars is the amount spent by the State until now for Bahraini students' education in China

their six-year studying period in China. They demanded an immediate solution to their issue, stating that it has been eight years since they were sent on scholarships to China, but they can't be employed here without ratifying their degrees with the ministry.



Chinese Embassy officials speaking to students.

World Heritage Committee meeting to convene today

● The meeting will continue until July 4 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's UNESCO Village which was built particularly for the event.

Manama

The 42nd meeting of the World Heritage Committee will convene today under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain National Museum will host the opening ceremony of the session. Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural



The meeting will put spotlight on heritage sites

Organisation (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay will attend the celebration alongside diplomatic and media personalities, specialists and representatives of many countries from around the world.

The meeting will continue until July 4 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel's UNESCO Village which was built particularly for the event.

The meeting will feature many activ-

ities and discussion sessions that will spotlight heritage sites to be registered on the World Heritage List and other issues.

Participants, including more than 2000 experts and 140 media persons from across the world will have a chance to visit the kingdom's historical landmarks and museums which reflect Bahrain's rich history and civilisation.