

Report on enhancing Bahrainisation rate discussed

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The Council of Representatives yesterday discussed a report submitted by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee on enhancing the rate of Bahrainisation to the level of 95% in government-owned companies and firms in which the government retains more than 50% of its capital.

It came as the council held its fourth remote session, as part of the third session of the 5th legislative term.

Chaired by Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, the virtual session discussed a number of reports submitted by the Financial and Economic Affairs, Services Committee, Public Amenities and Environment, Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

Council of Representatives secretary-general Chanceller Rashid Mohammed Bounejma said the session had discussed a report submitted by the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, regarding a parliamentary proposal banning foreigners from holding the position of human resources director in government departments, government-owned companies.

Boosting healthcare trade investment

India, Bahrain discuss opportunities in pharmaceuticals and alternative medicine sector

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A webinar on enhancing opportunities in pharmaceuticals and alternative medicine sector between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain was held yesterday.

It was organised by the Embassy of India and Pharmexcil in partnership with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava was the chief guest of the event which was attended by Pharmexcil chairman Dr Dinesh Dua, BCCI Health Committee head Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal, NHRA's Nawal Shaboon, Pharmexcil director Lakshmi Prasanna, BCCI Health Committee member Dr Noor Janahi, Gulf Pharmacy chairman Dr Khalid Al Awadhi, and over 120 companies from both countries in the pharmaceutical, ayurvedic and homoeopathic sectors.

The panellists shared their views on various aspects of Indian pharmaceutical industry, strong healthcare sector in Bahrain, regulatory procedures and ways to enhance bilateral trade and investment in healthcare sector.

Ambassador Srivastava, in his keynote address, highlighted the historically close relations between India and Bahrain which



Indian ambassador

have recently expanded and diversified.

He highlighted the huge potential of bilateral trade investment in the health services sector including pharmaceuticals, ayurveda and homoeopathy, medical devices and instruments.

The Ambassador wished the meetings all success and expressed hope that these will lead to concrete business proposals between companies of the two countries.

Dr Dua spoke about India being the 'Pharmacy of the World' and its network of pharmaceutical brands creating cost effective and quality generic medicines which have been a panacea for the world.

He emphasised that India went a step ahead during COVID-19 and supplied Hydrox-



India's growing pharmaceutical industry

ychloroquine and other related drugs to many countries around the globe.

Dr Al Dallal stressed the long standing relations between the two friendly countries and India being a valuable trading and development partner for Bahrain.

Dr Janahi made a presentation on the market of pharmaceuticals and alternative medicine in Bahrain, stressing on favourable regulatory environment, taxation system and its location as gateway to GCC countries, making the Kingdom the perfect location for such investments.

Prasanna gave a presentation on the strengths of Indian pharmaceuticals and the opportunities ahead for India

and world at large, especially related to the huge size of market for generic medicine in Bahrain and India's huge capacity and expertise in it.

Shaboon spoke at length about Bahrain's regulatory procedure and requirement for framework for foreign companies and investors in this sector.

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The number of participants in the event with 50 companies coming from India and 30 companies from Bahrain.



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Hit-and-run driver remanded

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A 21-year-old man, who is accused of being involved in a hit-and-run accident last week that left four persons dead and three others severely injured, has been remanded by the Public Prosecution pending further investigations.

Traffic Prosecution Chief Mohammed Al Dhahrani said that the prosecution interrogated the suspect and explained to him the charges he is facing.

Al Dhahrani said that the Public Prosecution received a report on a traffic accident that took place on Wali Al Ahad Road in the Northern Governorate.

"The details of the accident indicate that the accused was driving his vehicle in a way that exposes his life and the lives of others to danger, and he was bypassing the vehicles in a wrong way, as he overtook the victim's vehicle from the left lane to the right lane," Al



Traffic Prosecution Chief Al Dhahrani

Dhahrani explained.

"The victim attempted to avoid collision and he turned to the right of the street on the unpaved road, which led to his loss of control of the vehicle and his deviation to the left strongly.

"The uncontrolled vehicle moved onto the middle pavement and then onto the opposite direction of the road, where another vehicle collided with the victim's car, led to its overturning and jamming the passengers inside the wrecked

car. This resulted in the death of four people on the site."

According to Al Dhahrani, three other people sustained severe injuries and were rushed to the hospital, while the suspect didn't stop and escaped the scene. However, he was later identified and arrested, as confirmed by the General Directorate of Traffic last Thursday.

Al Dhahrani added that the necessary procedures are being taken to refer the case to the concerned court.



The victim's wrecked car

US Embassy charge d'affaires Nardi visits ASB



US Embassy charge d'affaires being toured on the school's facilities

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As part of Discover America Week 2020, US Embassy charge d'affaires Margaret Nardi visited the American School of Bahrain (ASB) and was welcomed by the school's founding director, Dave McMaster, who took her on a tour of the new school building and its state-of-the-art-facilities.

"At the US Embassy, we support American style education on the island for K-12, along with continued education at universities in the United States. I look forward to supporting your school as part of that process," said the American charge d'affaires.

ASB Principal McMaster remarked: "We were honoured to host Chargé d'Affaires Margaret Nardi at American School of Bahrain. Staff and students were excited to be part of Discover America Week 2020 and it was a pleasure to show Chargé Nardi our campus and have her experience the incredible sense of warmth at the school.

"We look forward to future opportunities involving the American and international community of Bahrain and the leadership and experience of the US Embassy."

During the visit, Nardi congratulated ASB on the inauguration of the school's first academic year.

Mosques reopening postponed by a week

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The re-opening of mosques for the Dhuhr (Noon) prayers has been postponed by one week.

Initially scheduled for 1 November, the re-opening will take place on 8 November to ensure the comple-

tion of the sanitisation process and the preparation of mosques to accommodate worshippers twice a day for the Fajr (Dawn) and Dhuhr prayers, in accordance with the health instructions, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has said.

RCSI Bahrain head congratulates Professor Jassim

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Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain president Professor Sameer Ootom has congratulated Professor Ghufuran Jassim for being one of the winners of the first edition of the "Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Doctor" under the category of "Innovation and Creative Award in Therapeutic, Clinical and Medical Research Award."

In attendance were Vice President for Academic Affairs and Head of School of Medicine of RCSI Bahrain Professor Alfred Nicholson, and RCSI Bahrain's Chief Operating Officer Stephen Harrison-Mirfield.

Professor Ootom commented on Professor Jassim's achievement: "My sincere congratulations to Professor Ghufuran Jassim for being among the first recipients of the "Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Doctor." Having published 35 research papers in international peer-reviewed journals over the years, this award is a testimony to the significance of Professor Ghufuran's contribution to medical scientific research in Bahrain.

"RCSI Bahrain is committed to advancing healthcare through innovative research and we look forward to Professor Ghufuran's future research projects and valuable contribution to enhancing human health."