

Women's role in business, society hailed

● Bahrain start-ups, many run by women, have raised more than \$63 million funding from 2016 to 2019

● Bahrain has rolled out unprecedented initiatives to support women during pandemic

● Women to contribute \$43 billion of global consumer spending in 2020: international report



A screenshot of the forum taking place

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Start-ups in Bahrain, many of which are run by women, have raised more than \$63 million in funding from 2016 to 2019, Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) Start-Ups head Pakiza Abdulrahman said.

She was speaking during an online international forum entitled "The role of women and civil society during the COVID-19 pandemic...future achievements and opportunities", organised by the Bahraini Businesswomen's Society and held in collaboration with international and local partners

from over 20 countries. The region has also seen a surge in investments in recent years, and those achievements were represented in the completion of 564 deals and investments in 2019, totaling some \$643 million, up from 294 deals in 2015, and 242 tech investors in 2018, up from 65 in 2012, with a compound annual growth rate of 25 per cent.

Pakiza confirmed that start-up funding is available in Bahrain at every stage, including government funding and grants, such as affordable financing and subsidiaries from the Tamkeen labour fund and from angel in-

vestments. The opportunities Bahrain offers to women entrepreneurs and small companies before and during the pandemic are plenty, she noted. "The Kingdom is one of the easiest places in the world to set up a company," she said. "It provides opportunities that make it a smooth and easy experience thanks to a supportive government."

In addition, all necessary processes and services from commercial registration to public and private notaries are available online.

She added that supporting start-ups and scale-ups is an

integral part of the national economic vision of Bahrain, as the public and private sectors unite in their vision towards empowering start-ups and creating a supportive environment that is keen on and deploying emerging technologies.

Women's roles during pandemic

Shura Council member and society member Dr Ibtisam Al Dalal confirmed that Bahrain has succeeded in developing and implementing an integrated strategy to fight the coronavirus.

In line with the direction of

Supreme Council for Women (SCW) president Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the SCW has directed all its attention

and expertise to support the work being done by Team Bahrain in service of Bahraini women and their families, to ensure the highest levels of personal and professional stability. Two key SCW initiatives have so far served over 6,000 women-supported families in less than 50 days, Dr Al Dalal said. For her part, society member Dr Hanan Madan commented: "Women in Bahrain are playing a prominent role in breaking the chain of the spread of coronavirus."

"Women are very prominent in the healthcare sector in Bahrain; 65 per cent of the total doctors in Bahrain are women, and as for nurses, those heroes constitute a massive 90 per cent of our caregivers." The forum was attended by SCW representatives, heads of societies and organisations, and representatives of a number of international organisations with whom the society signed memoranda of understanding from India, Russia, China, Egypt, and Jordan.

New Health Ministry advisory



The Health Ministry released yesterday a new advisory on the importance of wearing face mask at all times particularly when in public places to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The wearing of face masks in public places and shops has been mandatory since April. The only exceptions are while exercising or travelling inside vehicles. Face mask violators face a fine of BD20.

Precautionary measures pushed to curb virus

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Around 26,234 violations of not wearing face masks in public places and shops have been registered since the enforcement of the order, the Public Security revealed yesterday. As part of precautionary measures to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the various concerned departments have also organised 3,041 awareness campaigns and carried 5,985 steps to promote social distancing.

In view of this, Public Security deputy chief Major-General Abdullah Al Zayed stressed the importance of adhering to the precautionary measures against coronavirus as part of social responsibility.

He highlighted continuation of the Police Directorates in enhancing awareness of citizens and residents of the importance to follow precautionary

measures against coronavirus, including wearing face masks and social distancing in public places and shops.

social distancing and 6,137 violations of not wearing masks in public places. It carried 631 awareness campaigns.

The Capital Governorate Police Directorate took 379 steps to protect social distancing in the district, along with reporting 4,489 mask-related violations. It also held 800 awareness campaigns.

Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate registered 1302 social distancing violations and 6,698 mask-related violations. The department also organised 1,209 awareness campaigns.

The Southern Governorate reported 2,380 social distancing violations and 3,619 mask-related violations. The department also held 401 awareness campaigns and disinfection operations.

Speaker discusses key issues with Lord Robertson



Speaker holds remote meeting with Lord Robertson

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Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal stressed that the civilisational approach adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain in promoting peace, tolerance and co-existence, under the leadership of HM the King, stems from a deep-rooted national heritage.

She was speaking as she met remotely yesterday with member of the British House of Lords George Robertson.

The Speaker discussed with him issues of common concern,

lauding solid strategic relations between Bahrain and the UK. She also praised growing co-operation between the two friendly countries to serve common interests.

She underscored keenness on bolstering parliamentary co-operation with the House of Commons and the House of Lords and coordinating stances in international gatherings.

Lord George Robertson praised strong bilateral relations and growing cooperation in various fields. He also lauded comprehensive development in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Important role of media highlighted



Speaker Zainal with Al Arab

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Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal received in her office yesterday mediaman Mohammed Al Arab as she lauded his remarkable role in supporting national, Gulf and Arab issues.

She also emphasised the need to boost the role of the media in supporting national fundamentals and highlighting the civilisational image and pioneering achievements brought about by the Kingdom of Bahrain under the leader-

ship of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Speaker affirmed that the responsible national media is considered an essential partner in backing the national efforts in Bahrain and abroad thanks to credibility, professionalism and objectivity.

For his part, Al Arab expressed appreciation of the support accorded by the Speaker to journalism and media work in Bahrain. He also praised the efforts of the Representatives Council in upgrading legislation related to the press and media sector.

First aid courses to tackle COVID-19

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Essential information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is now part of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) First Aid courses that are provided annually to hundreds of Bahrainis and residents.

In particular, the courses will discuss ways on how to tackle the deadly respiratory illness and how to respond to infected cases, and most importantly, the necessary precautionary measures to be adopted by individuals.

Kadhem Al Qallaf, head of the



The society's first aid committee

society's first aid committee, said that first aid now is tinged with caution due to the spread of the coronavirus for people

infected with the virus and for paramedics who must exercise utmost caution during their interaction with the people who are being treated. Al Qallaf said, on the occasion of the International Day of First Aid, the first aid courses provided by the society include training on handling cases of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, asphyxia and drowning, heart attack, respiratory crisis, bleeding, wounds, and burns, fainting, fractures, shock and choking.

New topics were included to raise awareness of ways of COVID-19 infection spreading and how to tackle them based on the most recent scientific references and recommendations of WHO, he added.