

DT NEWS

DAILY TRIBUNE

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 Issue No. 6802

News of Bahrain

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Disabled father saves family from burning house

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A Bahraini family of three miraculously escaped a fire that devastated their house in the Capital Governorate yesterday.

The disabled father, who first discovered the fire by 10:30 pm, heroically saved the mother and daughter who were sleeping.

The father, Abdulhameed Ahmed, told *DT News* that he saw flashes coming from his daughter's room.

He found out that it was coming from the air-conditioning unit, which quickly caught fire. "My daughter was asleep at the time. I woke her up immediately, got outside the smoke-filled room and then assisted her mother to exit the house," he said.

Mr Abdulhameed then managed to get in his wheelchair and exit the one-story house before he alerted the Civil Defence.

Civil Defence reached quickly and extinguished the fire, with the assistance of a few neighbours.

Civil Defence fire fighters attributed the fire to an electric short-circuit in the air-conditioning unit, as confirmed by Interior Ministry.

At least 80% of the furniture was destroyed in the fire.

Bahrain safe from H1N1

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The recent reports revolving around "the widespread swine flu in Bahrain" have been the main concern for citizens and residents alike in the country, despite official statements confirming that "the disease is under control and that it poses no threat to the public."

News posted on local social media accounts yesterday, claiming that "first death due to H1N1 in Bahrain has been confirmed", apparently made people flock to health centres in order to get vaccinated against the disease, as many pictures taken there showed.

Noting that the social media networks have a big role in spreading fears among the public, the state moved in quickly to curb the spread of false news on online platforms by intensifying cooperation between

BDF denies rumours

BDF Military Hospital yesterday denied the rumour circulating on social media networks, which claimed that one person had died at the hospital due to swine flu (H1N1). An official from the hospital called upon the public to not circulate false news but to depend on official sources. The official affirmed that the hospital's administration will keep the public informed on any updates.

government authorities to deliver the truth to the public.

Speaking at a Press conference that followed the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday, Information Affairs, Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister Isa bin Abdulrahman Al Hammadi said, "Swine flu is



A picture posted online shows citizens flocking to a health centre in the Kingdom, seeking H1N1 vaccination.

a seasonal disease and isn't as deadly as it was when it first appeared in 2009."

As per the instructions of the Premier HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Health Ministry submitted a detailed report to the Cabinet yesterday on swine flu cases in Bahrain and the procedures taken to confront it and prevent it from spreading.

"Vaccinations are available at local health centres and they're optional for citizens and residents. The supply of vaccination is sufficient and the processes are ongoing smoothly," said the minister.

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE



A Palestinian youth flashes the "V" for victory sign as he stands inside Israeli territory after protestors tore down a section of a border fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip during clashes with Israeli security forces yesterday in central Gaza. Palestinian foreign minister Riad Al-Malki accused Israel of seeking to spark "a third intifada", as violence again flared in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Subsidy redirection benefits citizens

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The recent decision to redirect subsidies has proven that commercial establishments were benefiting from the subsidised meat products in the past and not the eligible beneficiaries (household), it has been revealed.

This was stated by Information Affairs, Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister Isa bin Abdulrahman Al Hammadi during the post-Cabinet Press conference that was held at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

Confirming that the decision will remain in effect, the minister mentioned that citizens only benefitted from



Mr. Al Hammadi

20% of the subsidised meat products in the past, while the remaining 80% went to non-Bahrainis, hotels and restaurants, which mainly used them for commercial purposes.

"The main beneficiaries of decision to remove the meat

subsidies are the citizens," the minister confirmed, adding that the direct fund compensation scheme to citizens is the best way to benefit them.

As reported earlier, the Government has decided, in consensus with the National Assembly (Shura Council and Parliament) to scrap meat subsidies, as part of the endeavours to cut government expenses. It has been reported that BD67 million was dedicated to support meat products in local markets in 2014.

After several delays, the scheme came into effect on October 1. However, despite several calls from Parliamentarians to delay it once more, the government showed no intention to withdraw the decision.