

# Development march intact



The Premier during the meeting

## Manama:

**Prime Minister** HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has affirmed that Bahrain has attained landmark achievements in many fields thanks to its solid development basis.

The Premier made the statements as he yesterday received the Shura Council Chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh,

MPs and Shura Council members, in the presence of senior state officials.

Prince Khalifa said that efforts to enhance the national progress and bring more gains will continue unwavering.

The Kingdom is on the threshold of a new phase of national action based on stronger cooperation between the Executive and the

Legislature, said the Premier, adding that such cooperation has proven its feasibility.

Prince Khalifa highlighted the crucial and pivotal role played by the Parliament and Shura councils in the Kingdom's political process, stressing its role in enhancing the democratic practices through exercising its legislative and monitoring

roles.

He pointed out that the impacts of regional developments on the economy and security of the Kingdom should stimulate more coordination and cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches in order to overcome them and reduce their effects on the national development march.

## 'Use social media appropriately'

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**With rumours** flying thick and fast regarding the re-emergence of swine flu, frightened citizens and residents flocked health centres to get vaccinated against the disease.

It has been officially recognised that social media networks had a big role in spreading fears among the public. This motivated the state to pay more efforts to curb the quick spread of false news on online platforms, by intensifying cooperation between government authorities to deliver the truth to the public.

Speaking at a Press conference that followed the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday, Information Affairs and Shura Council and Parliament Affairs Minister and the Official Government Spokesperson Isa bin Abdulrahman Al Hammadi said, "The power of social media sites has been locally and globally recognised.

Therefore, there's an urgent need to educate people on the appropriate use of it."

"We can't demand the public to cease using them to communicate. In fact, we are pushing government entities to improve interaction with the public through social media websites, even before publishing official statement in the local press," the minister said, underlining the significance of social media networks nowadays.

He also mentioned that "when rumours appeared on the spread of swine flu in Bahrain recently, Health and Information Affairs Ministries posted on their social media pages that the matter would be discussed in an extraordinary TV show on the same night."

"Such procedures are needed to combat the rumours swarming social media networks and deceiving the public," Mr Al Hammadi commented, adding that the country has set certain regulations that criminalise online illegal activities such as insults.

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