

Education Ministry rejects reports of virtual classes during Ramadan

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The Education Ministry yesterday rejected claims of shifting to online classes during Ramadan, terming such reports as 'false'.

The ministry said it had not taken any such decision allowing schools here to switch to remote learning during the blessed month, the ministry statement said. The ministry also said that in-person classes are to continue as planned.

Reports have said that the



Council of Representatives of Bahrain has approved a motion led by Mohammad Al Rifaaee, Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee, for remote learning during Ramadan.

Al Rifaaee was quoted as saying: "The move to remote education will not only ease traffic congestion but also provide students with a comfortable learning environment, particularly during the period of fasting."

He said: "Bahrain has already proven its ability to deliver a

The Ministry of Education said there is no such decision and called on students and parents to obtain all information regarding the educational process and school through official channels of the education ministry.

strong online education experience, and this move will only enhance the student's learning experience during Ramadan."

However, the Ministry of Edu-

cation said there is no such decision and called on students and parents to obtain all information regarding the educational process and school through official channels of the education ministry.

The Holy Month is expected to start on the 23rd of next month and ends on the 20th of April.

Bahrain returned to in-person schooling in August last year after a long hiatus since the shifting to virtual classes in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

NHRA confirms: Eye drops in the Kingdom are safe



Representative picture

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The National Health Regulatory Authority yesterday confirmed having no eye drops in circulation in the Kingdom, flagged as contaminated by the US Centres for Disease Control.

The CDC has warned against using a specific brand of over-the-counter eye drops after a potential link to a string of aggressive infections across the US was discovered.

On Wednesday, the CDC urged the public to "immediately discontinue" the use of EzriCare Artificial Tears following 55 cases of the "extensively drug-resistant" Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacteria reported across 12 states—including California, Colorado,

Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin—between May 2022 and Jan. 2023.

NHRA confirmed that all the existing products available in the Kingdom are free of contamination.

In the US, Patients had a variety of presentations, including inflammation, respiratory infection, urinary tract infection, and sepsis. Outcomes also varied from permanent vision loss, hospitalization and at least one death.

Upon reviewing the exposures among patients, it was determined that most of those presenting with the eye infection recently used artificial tear drops, and some noted that they used more than one.

Inspection campaign



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) conducted a joint inspection campaign in the Muharraq Governorate, in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) of the Ministry of Interior and the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate. The campaign resulted in reporting violations related to the Labour Market and Residency laws. The cases were referred for legal action. LMRA renewed its call to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices by reporting violations via www.lmra.bh or by calling 17506055.

Bahrain marks Environment Day

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Bahrain yesterday celebrated National Environment Day marked every year on February 4, and this year under the theme "Let's Make It Sustainable".

Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, said the occasion gives an opportunity to focus on developing ways of dealing with environmental and climatic challenges and meeting the needs of individuals without prejudice to the right of future generations.

"Bahrain has become one of the countries with clear achievements and imprints in environmental protection by holding top positions at important international and regional organisations.

HH Shaikh Abdulla affirmed that Bahrain's achievements and gains are the fruitful outcomes of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's strategy and insightful visions, as well as the result of the ongoing support, interest and fol-



His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa

low-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad called on everyone to join hands and invest in sustainable development and demonstrate the principles of social responsibility towards environmental issues.

The kingdom has issued several laws and legislation, including Law (7) of 2022 on the Environment, and taken many measures to protect the environment and achieve the goals announced by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to address climate change effects, and reach zero neutrality by 2060.

My client Farhad Meysami's life is in danger, says lawyer

(Continued from page 1)

Iran has been rocked by nationwide unrest following the death of Iranian Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini on Sept. 16 in police custody, posing one of the strongest challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

Rights groups say more than 500 protesters have been killed and nearly 20,000 arrested. At least four people have been hanged, according to the Iranian judiciary.

"My client Farhad Meysami's life is in danger," tweeted lawyer Mohammad Moghimi. "He went on hunger strike to protest the recent government killings in the streets." He said Meysami had lost 52 kg (115 lb).

Images of Meysami show him curled up on what looks like a hospital bed, and another stand-



Imprisoned Iranian activist Farhad Meysami

ing, his ribs protruding.

"Shocking images of Dr. Far-

had Meysami, a brave advocate for women's rights who has

been on hunger strike in prison," tweeted Robert Malley, Wash-



In a letter published by BBC's Persian Service, Meysami made three demands: an end to executions, release of political-civil prisoners, and an end to "forced-hijab harassment".

ington's special envoy for Iran. "Iran's regime has unjustly denied him and thousands of other political prisoners their rights and their freedom. Now it unjustly threatens his life," he said.

In a letter published by BBC's Persian Service, Meysami made three demands: an end to executions, release of political-civil prisoners, and an end to "forced-hijab harassment".

"I will continue my impossible mission in the hope that it may

become possible later on with a collective effort," he wrote.

On Thursday, the activist HRANA news agency reported that Iranian film director Jafar Panahi had started a hunger strike in prison to protest against authorities' refusal to release him temporarily on bail pending a retrial.

Panahi was detained in July and told he would serve a six-year prison sentence originally issued by a Tehran court in 2010 amid a stepped-up crackdown on dissent.