

# Shura Council approves salaries legislation

● Move will see BD215million withdrawn from the unemployment fund to pay the salaries of Bahraini citizens working in the private sector from April to June

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The Shura Council yesterday approved an urgent legislation to pay the salaries of Bahraini citizens working in the private sector for the next three months.

This came in the Shura Council's weekly session, during which the bill received plenty of support.

The move will see BD215million withdrawn from the unemployment fund to pay the Bahrainis' salaries from April to June.

It is a part of measures accompanying the BD4.3billion stimulus package to unify national



The Shura Council's weekly session taking place

efforts in combating the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The legislation follows constitutional procedures in line with the Social Insurance Law.

A draft-law was approved last week by the House of Representatives and it will now be fast-tracked by the Cabinet to be ratified and issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

It is in line with the directives of His Majesty the King, HRH

the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier during these challenging times in light of the COVID-19 disease.

The economic stimulus package aims to maintain the continuity of national programmes, provide the necessary liquidity for the private sector to address

the effects of the current situation, combat COVID-19, and maintain sustainable development.

The package also includes a waiver on electricity, water and municipality bills for both private homes and businesses of all in Bahrain for the next three months, and the deferred payment of bank loans for Bahrainis for six months, among other things.

## Arsonists lose appeal

● Details of the case showed that the men gathered along Avenue 1 in Sitra and placed five tyres on the road before setting them ablaze. The defendants and other unknown accomplices also hurled Molotov cocktails at Public Security forces.

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The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently upheld the prison sentences issued against two Bahraini men who were previously convicted of arson and taking part in an illegal gathering in the Capital Governorate.

The case involves six defendants, including the appellants, who were all sentenced to three years' imprisonment, with two of them being sentenced in absentia.

The crime dates back to December 17, 2018, when the six defendants agreed to gather at one of the main roads in Sitra and burn tyres to halt traffic, simultaneously with the Kingdom's celebrations of National Day and the anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to

the throne.

As a result of the investigations launched by the Public Prosecution then, the six defendants were charged with possession of Molotov cocktails, participating in an illegal gathering, and disturbing public security.

It was shown in the details of the case that the men gathered along Avenue 1 in Sitra on the aforementioned date and placed five tyres on the road before setting them ablaze.

Police reports also showed that the defendants, along with other unknown accomplices, hurled Molotov cocktails at Public Security forces, who reached the scene to douse the fire and handle the situation.

Police investigations led to the arrest of a couple of the defendants, who confessed to their crimes in the interrogation and led the police to their accomplices. Police succeeded in arresting two more defendants, while two more remained at large.

The court sentenced all of the involved individuals to three years' imprisonment; four in praesentia and two in absentia.

The two appellants pleaded against the verdict, but the Supreme Court of Appeal rejected their plea, considering the peremptory evidence against them.

The court also rejected the appeals of the two other defendants involved in the crime last month.

## Teacher convicted of assaulting student loses appeal

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The First Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently rejected a plea submitted by a teacher who was previously convicted by the Criminal Court of assaulting a student and "unintentionally" causing him permanent disability.

According to court files, the teacher was sentenced last year to six months' imprisonment. His appeal against the verdict was filed after exceeding the allowed period to file petitions against verdicts, hence it was rejected by the court.

The details of the case show that the incident occurred in February of 2019. The teacher apparently shoved the student inside the classroom, causing him to fall face-first on one of the studying desks.

The fall broke some of the boy's front teeth and injured his upper jaw. The school informed the student's mother, who immediately lodged a complaint against the teacher to the police.

After reviewing the medical reports, the Public Prosecution charged the teacher of unintentionally causing a permanent disability of one per cent to the victim before referring the case to the court.

At the court, the teacher was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. However, the court suspended the execution of the sentence for three years.

## "Smile" initiative supports children with cancer to tackle COVID-19

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A new initiative hopes to provide psycho-social support to children with cancer and their families, along with coronavirus-protection kits that include masks, gloves and sterilisers.

The "Smile" Initiative has been created by the Bahrain Future Society for Youth.

Volunteers have been busy delivering these kits to the homes of sick children affiliated with the initiative in different areas across Bahrain.

The volunteers followed all precautionary and preventive measures suggested in the coronavirus fight, such as working in small teams, sterilising the kits during packaging and distributing, and also advising parents on how to use them correctly.

Future Society for Youth chairman Sabah Abdul Rahman Al



A volunteer gives one of the children a protection kit

Zayani said that the provision of this in-kind assistance to families of children with cancer comes within the framework of the "Smile" initiative to extend a helping hand in these difficult circumstances.

"We work as part of the national efforts aimed at tackling COVID-19 and provide all possible support to the most vulnerable or affected groups, especially children with cancer who suffer mainly from a weak immune system, who need special and permanent care," Al Zayani said.

According to an emergency plan that was activated by the society's Board of Directors for the current stage, the initiative has suspended all group activities, fearing for the well-being of the sick children, and its backers have begun to work from home with a hotline for parents to communicate and obtain psychological and social support.

## Trial of mugger begins today

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The trial of an Arab national who is accused of attacking an Asian man and stealing more than BD2,000 is scheduled to be held today at the First High Criminal Court.

The case was recently adjourned by the same court to summon the prosecution witnesses, while the judges ordered to release the accused mugger from detention under guarantee of his place of residence to attend today's hearing.

The defendant was charged by the Public Prosecution on January 11 this year of assault and robbery.

This came as police investigations stated that the accused attacked the victim by splashing a liquid substance on his face before stealing BD2,419 from him.

According to the victim's testimony, the unknown liquid temporarily impaired his vision, making it easy for the accused to steal the money and flee the spot.

He added that the defendant also hit him on the head with the container that contained the liquid, causing him several injuries.

The victim told investigators that the incident occurred in Juffair while returning from a bank after he apparently cashed a cheque for the BD2,419 amount.

Police reached the scene shortly, rushed the victim to the hospital and launched a probe, which eventually led to the identification and arrest of the accused.

## Capital Governorate delivers 1,100 meals to expat workers

Charity campaign will continue until the end of COVID-19 pandemic; coordination with donors is underway to provide support.

CAPITAL GOVERNOR SHAIKH HESHAM BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL KHALIFA

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A total of 1,100 meals were distributed yesterday to expatriate workers in the Capital Governorate.

The initiative is part of a charity campaign amid precautionary measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Capital Governor Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa announced the move as he visited yesterday the location where the meals were prepared



Officials look on as the meals are prepared by volunteers.

before their distribution.

Council of Representatives member MP Ammar Al Bannai was also present as volunteers

rallied to take part in the charity campaign on its first day.

The Capital Governor said that it would continue until

the end of COVID-19 pandemic, adding that coordination with donors is underway to provide support.