

# Saudi, Bahrain shuras reject EU accusations

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Jamila Ali Salman, the Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council, yesterday thanked the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia for backing Bahrain's proposal to adopt a unified stance against the position of the European Parliament members on the rights situation in the Gulf States.

Jamila Ali Salman said the move by the Saudi Shura Council reflects the depth of the brotherly ties enjoyed by the two countries.

Bahrain called for a unified stance on the issue during the fourth meeting of the Gulf-European Parliamentary Committee last March.

The European Parliament had



accused Bahrain of harassing rights defenders and accused Bahrain of lifting a de facto moratorium on the death penalty,

which were all categorically rejected by the Kingdom.

Dr Abdullah Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, the Chairman

of the Saudi Shura Council, had categorically rejected the politicisation of the human rights

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JAMILA ALI SALMAN, THE SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE SHURA COUNCIL

issued and selectivity in dealing with it and exploiting it.

He also called on the European Parliament members to adhere to neutrality, objectivity, and non-selectivity and respect the cultural diversities of nations around the world in their work.

Dr Al Sheikh also called for confronting attempts to impose cultural hegemony on the societies in the Gulf.

Jamila Ali Salman said the gulf legislative council forms a powerful parliamentary force and will act together to confront repeated attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the GCC countries.

She also refuted the inaccurate information and data on which the positions of the Euro-

pean Parliament and other international organisations are based, especially in human rights.

Ali Salman called on the European Parliament members to remain aware of the advanced steps the Arab nations had made in this field.

The Deputy Speaker also emphasised that cooperation and integration between shura and representative councils of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations are one of the pillars of the Gulf Parliamentary world.

"Gulf parliaments play an important role in highlighting the achievements of the Gulf during their participation in the regional and international parliamentary forums," Jamila Ali Salman said.

## Adhere strictly to COVID-19 measures: police tell citizens and residents

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Police directorates and security departments in the Kingdom had urged the general public to adhere strictly to COVID-19 protocol citing a steady increase in existing cases.

"Avoid gatherings, visits, and follow precautionary measures while visiting mosques and other places," they said in a statement.

"What needed to overcome this pandemic is awareness and a sense of responsibility to society."

Until April 15, the Interior minis-

try took 8,960 measures to maintain social distancing standards, booked 71,395 cases for not wearing face masks in public places and shops, and held 8,383 awareness campaigns. During this period, the General Administration of Civil Defence carried out 246,243 cleansing and sterilisation operations, trained 1,180 from private institutions and companies, 1,051 from government offices and 6,062 volunteers on correct methods of sterilisation operations.

The authority supervised 1,708

disinfection and sterilisation operations with the participation of volunteers.

Civil Defence trained 1,230 people to sterilise mosques and conducted 107 disinfection and sterilisation operations in cooperation with cleaning companies.

Since the pandemic began, the National Ambulance Centre responded to 9,413 calls on the Coronavirus, as the Transport Department attended 30,411 calls. It included transferring 88,614 cases.

## Vaccination must for visiting Salmaniya Medical Complex

● Visitors should have completed 14 days after the second dose

● Two visitors per patient

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Salmaniya Medical Complex will deny entry to visitors who are not vaccinated starting from the fourth day of

Eid.

The hospital, in a statement, also said they would allow only those who had completed 14 days post the second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Those who have recovered from the virus should present a certificate via the "BeAware" application to gain entry.

Certificates will appear in the app 14 days after the second dose.

Visiting times are from 5 to 7 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Only two visitors are allowed per patient.



### National Employment Programme

Bahrainisation is getting more traction with more and more companies accepting Bahraini talents. Bahrain Precast Concrete Co, WestPoint Home, Anousheh, Physiorelax Physiotherapy Medical Center and Fib General Trading are some of the companies in which Bahrainis joined in various positions recently as part of the National Employment Programme launched in 2019. The programme helps Bahraini citizens improve their chances of being the top choice for employment in the labour market while maintaining the labour market's ability to attract talent. The programme employs Bahrainis and qualifies them for long-term jobs and equal opportunities based on the needs of the labour market. The deal allows employers and companies to register job vacancies with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to recruit job seekers enrolled in the National Employment Programme.



### Community service

Police officers taking part in community service ensuring the practice of COVID-19 protocols recommended by the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus.



## Pesticides available at subsidised rates: ministry

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Works Ministry announced resuming the distribution of pest control materials to farmers at subsidised rates.

The move aims at reducing the cost of production, the Agriculture and Marine Resources Agency said.

The department said that var-

ious pesticides, pheromone and adhesive traps for insects are ready for distribution.

"Farmers had benefited from programmes in large numbers, which is reflected positively in the increase and quality of the crops," the agency said in a statement. The agency called on farmers to follow safety proce-

dures and urged them not to use pesticides in periods meant for harvesting fruits. The officials also called on farmers to pursue other methods before resorting to pesticides like caring for farm cleanliness, getting rid of the remnants of the previous crops, and solar sterilisation during the summer.

### New Horizon School



New Horizon School yesterday conducted a virtual Investiture Ceremony for the 2021-'22 year. Principal Leena Verma and the school leadership team took part. During the event, newly elected student council members pledged to work earnestly while receiving their prestigious badges and sash. A felicitation address followed.