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An official complaint has been filed under the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) by two expatriate residents against a man who verbally attacked them and filmed them without their consent.

The PDPL, in effect since August 2019, protects individuals from unauthorised circulation of personal details on digital platforms.

A video has been circulating on social media since Friday in which the pair of Asians were shown to be victims of an unwarranted verbal attack directed at them by the accused man.

The man was seen in the video to be in his car while he filmed the two friends on their evening walk, with one of them also walking a pet dog.

The man, as can be heard in the video, yelled at the friends for not wearing facemasks during their excursion, as per government orders to help curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

But according to one of the victims, they tried to explain to him that they were not wearing facemasks because they were out exercising and the man would not listen while continuing his verbal attack.

As per Ministry of Health guidelines, citizens or residents who wish to exercise in public spaces are exempt from wearing masks.

"On Friday afternoon, we were informed by friends that this vid-

Victims of verbal attack video gone viral file official complaint



An infographic issued by the Ministry of Health showing guidelines for wearing facemasks when exercising

Bahrain's capability to surmount challenges stressed

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Shura Council chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh expressed yesterday his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the care accorded to the legislative branch, which has enabled it to assume its role appropriately.

Marking the adjournment of the second session of the fifth legislative term, the Shura Council chairman praised the tremendous efforts of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, as well as the ministers, to boost cooperation between the Shura Council and the government.

Al Saleh lauded the constructive cooperation with the Rep-

to ensure Bahrain maintains its development march unabated.

He commended the unity and awareness of the Bahraini people in confronting challenges and dealing with global developments.

The Shura Council chairman thanked the National Taskforce for Combating COVID-19 for its tireless efforts, spearheaded by HRH the Crown Prince, in handling the crisis and protecting people's health and safety.

He also thanked all institutions and individuals who contributed to protecting the Kingdom and people's health by adhering to the preemptive measures put in place by the authorities.

He urged to rally efforts to face challenges and draw lessons from the crisis in mapping out strategies, stressing Bahrain's capability to surmount challenges and cope with international developments.

resentatives Council, presided by Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, and described it as an assertion of parliament's determination to continue serving the national interest.

He also praised the efforts of Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanim bin Fadhel Al Buainin and his unwavering keenness to attend the council's sessions.

The Shura Council chairman affirmed that the exceptional circumstances undergone by Bahrain and the world because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has necessitated the continuation of legislative efforts via electronic means, such as holding meetings remotely

Online 'Readathon' initiative by NMS-DPS



New Millennium School (NMS) has been observing the "DEAR Time" (Drop Everything and Read) initiative every Tuesday as a part of its weekly activities. Continuing with this practice while students remain at home during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, the school resumed its weekly "Readathon" activity in its online classes. The students and staff were actively involved in the activity yesterday by reading books of their choice, comprising different genres. This activity united all the participants and it inspired thoughtful and responsible global citizens of tomorrow. Parents were also invited and they took an enthusiastic initiative to be a part of the online "Readathon" session. School management and the principal encouraged the children and staff to inculcate reading as a regular habit and thanked the parents for their overwhelming support. Left, some of the students and parents participating in the "Readathon" activity.

We love Bahrain and treat it like our home, which is why we were so taken aback and hurt by the behaviour of this man.

ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE VERBAL ATTACK

eo has gone viral and was being shared on various Instagram pages and WhatsApp groups," said one of the victims.

The friends then lodged their official complaint at Hoora Police Station on Friday evening and are waiting to hear back from the police, who helped identify the accused as a Bahraini national. They said that the police were supportive and assured them justice. They also lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Division on Monday.

"We understand that people are scared during this time; however, it is completely unacceptable for a

vigilante with less than adequate knowledge of the law to target a particular race, threaten civilians and circulate unauthorised videos on social media," the victims commented to TDT about the incident. "Such cases, if not reported, will go unpunished."

Recalling the incident, they told TDT that the accused even yelled racial and derogatory comments at them from his car.

"We love Bahrain and treat it like our home, which is why we were so taken aback and hurt by the behaviour of this man," they explained. They added that they "received an outpouring of support from both Bahraini and non-Bahraini friends following this incident".

"People need to understand that COVID-19 does not choose or select a particular race or ethnicity to attack," the friends highlighted. "It affects us all, irrespective of race, creed, social status or religion. In such times, it is important to be compassionate."

Indian, 60, in need of urgent medical care is last-minute addition to repatriation flight

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A 60-year-old Indian national residing in Bahrain, who is in urgent need of specialised medical care, was a last-minute addition to a repatriation flight that departed the Kingdom yesterday.

Are Anjaiah, a native of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, was one of 174 Indians who travelled on Air India Express flight IX890 to Hyderabad, despite not being on the originally approved list of passengers.

The flight was part of the second wave of trips under the "Vande Bharat Mission" organised by the Indian government.

Anjaiah was recently diagnosed with a deep fungal infection, which allegedly could lead to an oral carcinoma of the tongue. As a result, he was advised to undergo a biopsy.

Resulting from a coordinated effort by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Indian Embassy in Bahrain, Anjaiah was allowed to travel on the flight. The decision was taken under special consideration owing to his current medical condition.

Supported by Indian Embassy second secretary PK Chowdhury and the prompt response from Embassy staff, his case was fast-tracked to achieve the desired result.

Yesterday's flight was the third under the "Vande Bharat Mission". Two flights from Bahrain flew to the Indian cities of Kochi and Kozhikode in the coastal state of Kerala earlier this month, as part of the mission's first phase.

Derasat webinar addresses issues related to COVID-19

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Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) discussed the dilemma faced by policymakers in balancing decisions between economic concerns and public health priorities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Derasat Research and Studies director Dr. Omar Al Ubaydli ad-

Human Life".

The webinar was the second held by Derasat in its "Expert's Bulletin" series, which features Derasat experts sharing and discussing updates on how COVID-19 is affecting the world.

Dr. Al Ubaydli had worked as Economics assistant professor at George Mason University in the US. He was a member of Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell's Joint Advisory Board of Economists.

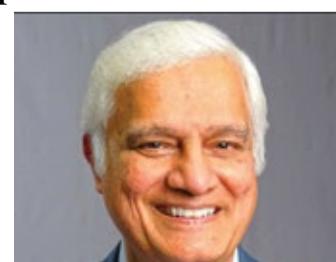
Indian Christian preacher Ravi Zacharias dies at age 74

Ravi Zacharias, a fervent advocate of Christianity, died yesterday at the age of 74 at his residence in Atlanta, the US.

Zacharias, an Indian national whose campaigns have brought him to Bahrain in the past, was born in 1946 in Chennai, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

He spent the last 48 years travelling the world, preaching the word of Christian faith before succumbing to spinal cancer.

Zacharias had been undergoing medical treatment and his daughter Sarah Davis announced two



weeks ago that his doctors were doing everything in their power to help him.

"His oncologist informed us that this cancer is very rare in its

aggression and that no options for further treatment remain," Davis, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) CEO, said earlier this month. "Medically speaking, they have done all they are able."

She added: "His thoughts and conversations in recent years and his final weeks were saturated with gratitude for this team of evangelists, apologists, and staff that he called family at RZIM."

Zacharias visited Bahrain last November to speak at an event organised by YMCA and National Evangelical Church.