



# Swarms of locusts invade Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Swarms of desert locusts that have been reaping havoc across Saudi Arabia have spread to Bahrain yesterday.

Citizens and residents were astonished in seeing hordes of locusts descending upon them from the sky as they stepped out of their houses in several parts of the Kingdom.

The swarms, however, were mild and not as critical as reported in Saudi Arabia, where it had spread throughout the central, eastern and western regions including Riyadh, Jeddah, Mecca, Qassim and more.

"It didn't cause major concern to us, though its sudden appearance took us by surprise," said a resident in Tubli where the swarm was visible.

Experts say strong winds from Saudi Arabia might have brought these insects into the Kingdom.

Mobile footages of the swarms were posted by many on social media platforms, which soon went viral in the Kingdom.

Authorities also sprung into action.

Ministry of Works, municipalities and urban planning immediately send teams of experts to contain the situation before spiralling out of hands.

The Agriculture and Marine Resources Department at the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning said it's following the spread in some regions of the Kingdom and teams from the Plant Protection and Quarantine section are spraying the affected areas.

## Bahrain is not within the locust itinerary

The Ministry stated that they are in constant touch with Saudi Arabian authorities.

"There is continuous communication with the National Centre for Locust Research and Control in Saudi Arabia to exchange information regarding develop-



Screengrabs taken from videos circulating online in Bahrain show the intensity of locust invasion in the Kingdom

ments of locust outbreak in the region," said the Agriculture and Marine Resources Department.

Confirming that "there is no need to panic", the depart said that they had been following up the developments of locust outbreak in the region, since early February.

They explained that the locust outbreak was caused by an atmospheric depression from the southern side that ends in Manama, causing wind speed to reach 30 kilometres per hour, which contributed to transporting large locust swarms from

Yemen and Oman to Dammam, Al-Ahsa and Buqayq in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain is not within the locust itinerary, and that some locust numbers reach it from time to time, stressing that it is often not dangerous.

In a statement to BNA, the department asserted that according to the official classification of the Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in the Central Region, "Bahrain is among countries in which locusts spread, and not those in which they multiply, and which include Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen."

## Delicacy in Kuwait



Locust consumption is dwindling across Kuwaiti society among the younger generation, but the senior citizens stand by the protein-rich insect

Not all consider locusts as a threat, especially in Kuwait where some like it baked, while others love them dried.

Kuwaitis say the crunchy offerings are surprisingly nutritious and delicious.

In fact, locusts are consumed in many parts of the world and are a staple of some cuisines. Experts say they are an excellent, energy-efficient source of protein.

In Kuwait, they retain a sturdy fan base among older citizens.

Authorities have sought in vain to ban the consumption of locusts over fears they could be contaminated.



## Not a concern: Ministry

The spread, a ministry source said, can be contained by employing various measures including spraying of insecticides.

The source said that the size of the locust population in Bahrain is small and not a cause of concern.

Locusts reportedly can spread from stagnant water and swamps, which was also a reason for the recent mosquito outbreak.

## What exactly are locusts?

- Locust is the common name for any member of several species of short-horned grasshoppers of the family Acrididae.
- They are essentially relatives of grasshoppers and are sometimes solitary insects with lifestyles much like grasshoppers.
- They are from 1.25 to 7.5 centimeters (0.5 to 3 inches) in length.
- However, under favourable environmental conditions, they can congregate into thick, mobile, ravenous swarms, which according to experts will be a "devastating natural disaster."
- Large swarms of locusts can completely strip the foliage and stems of plants such as forbs and grasses.
- According to Prevention Web, a knowledge base about disaster management, a single desert locust swarm the size of Brussels could consume Belgium's entire food supply in a single day.
- The desert locust, indigenous to Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, is considered to be one of the worst.

BAHRAIN CINEMA COMPANY B.S.C.



### Recommendation of Declaration of Dividends

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Cinema Company B.S.C. resolved, at its meeting held on 20th February, 2020, to recommend the distribution of dividend for the year ending 31st December, 2019 to the shareholders whose names are registered on the Company's register on the Record Date. This is subject to the approval of the Company's shareholders on the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The proposed distribution is as follows:

a) Cash Dividend: 50% of share nominal value, equivalent to 50 fils per share amounting to BD 3,946,960.

Below are the key dates to be taken note of:

Event	Date
<b>General Meeting Date</b> (Shareholders' approval date)	25-03-2020
<b>Cum-Dividend Date</b> (Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	26-03-2020
<b>Ex-Dividend Date</b> (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	29-03-2020
<b>Record Date</b> (The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	30-03-2020
<b>Payment Date</b> (The Day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	09-04-2020

Dr. Esam Abdulla Fakhro  
Chairman



### BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (BATELCO) B.S.C. Recommendation of Declaration of Dividends

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) B.S.C. resolved, at its meeting held on 20 February 2020, to recommend the distribution of dividend for the year ended 31 December 2019 to the shareholders whose names are registered on the company's register on the Record Date. This is subject to the approval of the company's shareholders on the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

The proposed distribution is as follows:

Cash Dividend: 27.5% of share nominal value, equivalent to 27.5 Fils per share amounting to BD45.7M. (The proposed annual cash dividend includes 10% declared and paid to the shareholders as interim dividend).

Below are the key dates to be taken note of:

Event	Date
<b>General Meeting Date</b> (Shareholders' approval date)	25 March 2020
<b>Cum-Dividend Date</b> (Last day of trading with entitlement to dividends)	26 March 2020
<b>Ex-Dividend Date</b> (First day of trading without entitlement to dividends)	29 March 2020
<b>Record Date</b> (The Day on which all shareholders whose names are on the share register will be entitled to dividends)	30 March 2020
<b>Payment Date</b> (The Day on which the dividends will be paid to the entitled shareholders)	12 April 2020

Abdulla Bin Khalifa AlKhalifa  
Chairman  
20 February 2020