

## Interior Ministry calls for dedication, cooperation in following health and safety guidelines

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The Interior Ministry yesterday called for the public to dedicate themselves to protecting the safety of all in Bahrain by strictly following a set of guidelines.

### These included the following:

- Leave home only to go to work or hospitals or buy medicines and other essential requirements.
- Sports on public roads should be practiced individually or a maximum between two persons while keeping the social distance. Children are not allowed to be taken along.
- More than five individuals are not allowed to gather or sit in front of homes and roads.
- Gatherings at parks and beaches are prohibited.
- Commitment to precautionary measures during family and social meetings, including weddings and funerals. The attendance of burial rituals is limited to relatives only.
- Commitment to the social distancing in queues and a distance of no less than one meter at shopping centres, public service areas and transportation points for workers.
- Benefit from home delivery services to get groceries and other requirements.



Community police patrol the streets

These guidelines follow the implementation of the decisions by the coordination meeting chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown

Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, as part of precautionary measures to avoid the spreading of coronavirus.

The Interior Ministry asserted dedication and cooperation to

follow all instructions. Commitment to these safety rules will contribute to the success of the Kingdom's efforts to prevent the spreading of coronavirus.

## HM the King orders renaming charity body

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 15/2020 yesterday renaming the Royal Charity Organisation.

Article One stipulates that the Royal Charity Organisation be renamed the Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

Article Two stipulates that the Royal Order will come into effect on the date of its issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

## HRH the Crown Prince restructures national committee

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict 4/2020, re-structuring the National Industry Protection and Support Committee (NIPSC).

The edict stipulates that the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry's Undersecretary for Industrial Affairs, and Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Development, will be NIPSC's Chairman and Deputy Chairman, respectively.

Director of Customs Clearance at the Interior Ministry, Director of Registration at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and the economist in charge of relations with the GCC countries at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy will serve as members of NIPSC for a renewable three-year term.

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism shall implement the edict, which takes effect one day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

## Inmate dies of natural causes

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A 52-year-old Asian inmate died while receiving treatment at a hospital, the Ministry of Interior announced yesterday.

The deceased, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a drug case, died of natural causes. Legal proceedings are being taken.

## Customs Affairs launch new services

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As part of the commitment to precautionary measures against coronavirus, the Customs Affairs announced yesterday the launch of new services, including the call centre, to meet the requirements of clients and answer inquiries. The services are available via telephone on 17359306 and 17359207 and on WhatsApp at 17359829 during working hours from 8am to 2pm, Sunday to Thursday. An e-mail can also be sent to customerService@customs.gov.bh throughout the day.

## Donations sought for low-income workers in wake of COVID-19

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Efforts are underway to provide food and basic necessities to low-income individuals who have been affected by the lack of work due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Groups such as the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) are calling on those able to provide donations as hundreds are expected to be unable to generate income in the coming weeks.

The MWPS posted the following message on social media last night: "In the wake of COVID-19, a number of low-income workers are not earning an income. MWPS will be distributing food and basic necessities to such workers.

"If you would like to contribute to MWPS COVID-19 Relief Fund, you can do so online or through Benefit Pay."

The MWPS International Bank Account Number is BH21 NBOB 0000 0099 6077 19.

Those who would like to reach out to MWPS may call 17827895 or 39861932, or e-mail mwpsbah2@gmail.com.

- Punishments for individuals who refuse to follow these initiatives could face imprisonment for a period of no less than three months and a fine of no less than BD1,000 and not exceeding BD10,000, or one of these two penalties.

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Immediate and decisive action will be taken against those who violate provisions of the Public Health Law and any preventative measures aimed at protecting the society.

This was stressed yesterday by the Public Prosecution during a coordination meeting with Health Ministry officials, in the presence of Acting Senior Advocate General Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Al Hammadi.

The meeting took place as part of the tireless efforts to curb the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The meeting cast light on mapping out a specific mechanism for a constructive comprehensive system between the Public Prosecution and the Health Ministry in the fight against COVID-19.

Commitment to all procedures imposed to isolate in-

# Stern warning for violators

Public Prosecution stresses immediate and decisive action against those who go against coronavirus control measures



affected people or suspicious cases were also stressed. Other procedures like closing public outlets and reducing gatherings were reviewed.

The meeting also shed light

on legal requirements that have to be finalised regarding any violations of the measures taken to curb the COVID-19 outbreak.

Bahrain has announced a number of strict measures for

the public to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Among them are barring public gatherings of more than five people at places including, but are not limited to, markets, public parks and public beaches.

Punishments for individuals who refuse to follow these initiatives could face imprisonment for a period of no less than three months and a fine of no less than BD1,000 and not exceeding BD10,000, or one of these two penalties.

Similar penalties are also in place for those who violate the 14-day self-quarantine rule, as well as for any establishments that go against recently announced measures to help combat the spread of the coronavirus, among other violators.

## Supermarket outlet closes after suspected virus case

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Establishments at a leading shopping mall were forced to shut down yesterday following a suspected case of the coronavirus (COVID-19) with an employee.

The Alosra Supermarket outlet at Najibi Centre in Saar was one of these stores after a member of its staff was suspected to have contracted the virus.

The supermarket chain announced in a statement on social media yesterday: "As a precautionary measure, with the safety of our customers and staff always our primary con-

cern, we have imposed a temporary shut-down of our Najibi Centre outlet due to a suspected case of COVID-19 amongst one of our team members at the Customer Service counter (where Tobacco is merchandised) - as yet this case is not confirmed.

"The outlet is closed for disinfection; when we re-open we will deploy a new team while the existing team self-isolate as a standard precautionary measure.

"In the meantime, all our other outlets remain open as normal and our home delivery service www.alosraonline.com

**The outlet is closed for disinfection; when we re-open we will deploy a new team while the existing team self-isolate as a standard precautionary measure**

ALOSRA STATEMENT

continues to operate. We will update you as we learn more."

Meanwhile, another leading supermarket chain announced

that its Budaiya Road outlet had undergone a sanitisation of its surrounding area.

Al Jazira Supermarket said on social media last night that the Civil Defence Authority conducted the procedure, which did not affect operations.

Al Jazira said in a statement: "As a precautionary measure, and as part of the continuous efforts to combat the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Civil Defence Authority conducted a sanitisation of the area surrounding Al Jazira Budaiya.

"The Civil Defence conducted the sanitisation of all areas

outside and around our Budaiya store. The outlet remained open and operating as normal during the sanitisation process and shall continue to do so.

"We assure our customers that their safety and the safety of our staff is always our primary concern. Accordingly, we continue to follow Ministry of Health safety guidelines with regard to sanitisation of public places, including daily sanitisation and disinfecting of all areas, disinfecting of shopping trolleys after each use, as well as making gloves and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser available to all customers and staff."