



HRH the Crown Prince

# Crown Prince underlines strategy of social distancing and free movement

HRH the Crown Prince: These measures in combatting coronavirus have proven effective to ensure that family life and economic productivity can continue

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Bahrain's Crown Prince said yesterday that the Kingdom's strategy of preventing the spread of Covid-19 will continue to be focussed on reducing gatherings to five people or fewer.

It has remained the most effective proven strategy in combatting the virus as well as en-

suring family life and economic productivity can continue within a managed framework of free movement.

HRH Prince Salman congratulated the Bahraini people on their self-discipline and civic responsibility in adhering to the measures already adopted, and said continuing to abide by instructions from Bahrain's

key government ministries was critical.

The Crown Prince went on to thank Bahrain's coordinating and response ministries for their enormous efforts to date and reiterated that it was only through the essential partnership between the government and its citizens that this approach continues to succeed.

The Crown Prince said Bahrain's commitment to overcoming the virus was absolute and no government capability would be held back in maintaining the health and safety of its people.

HRH Prince Salman reminded citizens that everyone has a vital, on-going role to play and that, together, Bahrain would emerge stronger.

## Nationalism and unity are key: Interior Minister

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The values of nationalism and unity were stressed yesterday by a top government official, especially in light of the current situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa delivered this message in a speech marking the first anniversary of the launch of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism (Bahrainouna).

"The 26th of March marks the first anniversary of the launch of the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Na-

tion and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism 'Bahrainouna'," the minister said in his speech.

Shaikh Rashid is also the follow-up committee head for the implementation of the plan, which was unveiled on March 26 last year.

"On this occasion, I express sincere thanks and appreciation to

HM the King, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, HRH the Crown Prince and all nationalist and loyal Bahrainis who

are involved in the current

situation that requires unity and a positive response to all precautionary measures to ensure safety," he added.

"Out of the dedication to promote the sense of nationalism and national unity and asserting love and loyalty to the leadership of HM the King, we and the upcoming generations, especially in such circumstances, need to continue working on translating our love to the nation in responsible behaviour and social awareness, linked to the Arab and Islamic legacy and the values of our religion that calls for tolerance, moderation and the promotion of positive citizenship.

"The nation isn't only a geographical space we live in, but it comprises the history, roots, culture, identity and existence of the citizen.

"The promotion of the belonging to the nation and national values isn't just about feelings and

emotions, but it fundamentally guarantees to achieve national stability.

"The reinforcement of belonging, national values and the security responsibility towards our society force us to implement community partnership to promote security and safety."

Shaikh Rashid noted that of the plan's 105 initiatives, 82 have been implemented since its endorsement by the cabinet and the formation of a follow-up committee.

The plan has taken steady steps from the phase of being an idea to the execution stage, within the goals and objectives determined in its founding year.

"Under the patronage and direction of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (may God protect him), the national plan values and goals come as part of the enlightened royal vision and thought of creating a modern state, based on

equal-

ity and

justice and

backed by the

foundation of the rein-

forcement of loyalty, belonging,

and the strengthening of its corner-

stones to be the first protection

front of society."

The Interior Minister further thanked all those who have contributed to the implementation of the measures approved by the government in the fight against the coro-



navi-  
rus (COVID-19)  
pandemic.

"We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the national stand of all members of Bahraini society for volunteering as part of the National Campaign to Combat Coronavirus," he said.

## Fruit and vegetable prices increase drastically

Cost of certain products such as onions and potatoes go up by as high as 120 per cent

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A drastic increase in prices for certain fruits and vegetables was reported yesterday in local markets.

The cost of some vegetables such as onions and potatoes went up by as high as 120 per cent.

Traders attributed the rise to two main factors: the first being the steady increase in people's demand for such products, which resulted in a lack of supply; and the delay in the arrival of some shipments, such as those coming from Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The delays were due to the precautionary measures at the border in

ting the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Merchants at Jidhafs Central Market said that, over the past four days, there has been a heavy demand from people buying large quantities of fruits and vegetables, which has caused their stocks to run out before any new quantities arrived.

These new shipments are expected to reach the markets today or tomorrow.

Elsewhere, the price of tomatoes went from BD5 to BD6, while the price of lemon cartons increased from BD12.5 to BD15.5.

The price of onions increased by 120 per cent to more than BD7 in the market, while the price of potatoes increased by 100 per cent to BD3.5. Also, there were price

increases for bananas and oranges.

The merchants called on the concerned authorities to allow for the speedy movement of goods so that prices would return to normal as soon as possible.

## Bahrain capable of meeting surge of COVID-19 cases

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Hospital beds in Bahrain remain available to meet a surge of cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a top health official said yesterday.

Supreme Council of Health chairman and National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) head Lt. Gen. Dr. Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday issued a notice on Bahrain's current health care system capacity.

Shaikh Mohamed confirmed that the Kingdom has increased its capacity to identify and treat

COVID-19 as part of its comprehensive approach to containing the virus and preventing

its spread.

Shaikh Mohamed noted that the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Com-

mander and First Deputy Prime Minister in national ef-

forts fighting the coronavirus continues to minimise

its impact and safeguard the wellbeing of citizens and residents.

The health chief highlighted that the current capacity for treatment centres stands at 1,667

beds, of which 225 beds are occupied. The capacity for quarantine centres stands at 2,504 beds, of which 172 beds are occupied.

Additionally, the compartmentalised structure of quarantine centres allows for quick conversion to treatment centres, if required.

On this note, Shaikh Mohamed added that Bahrain has conducted over 28,000 tests for COVID-19, and contact tracing activities

are underway to reduce COVID-19 transmission by identification, isolation and treatment.



## Learning continues despite class suspensions

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students and their parents, he said.

Speaking during a field tour where he was informed of schools' efforts to activate e-learning, Dr. Al Nuaimi said that the ministry has overcome the current extraordinary circumstances through the provision of three means of remote education, namely the digital content provided by the educational portal, enriched recently by a 45-member specialised team and the teachers; the airing of televised lessons by Bahrain Sports Channels 2; and the allocation of 14 YouTube educational channels for all classes – technical and vocational education – as well as special education.

Dr. Al Nuaimi was informed about a number of distinguished experiences to provide educational services to students, commending the efforts exerted by the concerned sides at the Education Ministry and schools.

He pledged that the Ministry of Education will carry on its efforts aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the educational process for all levels, through providing multiple learning options and reaching the greatest number of students.

Educational services continue despite the suspension of classes at schools across Bahrain. This was affirmed yesterday by Education Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi.

To achieve this goal, the Education Ministry has focused on e-learning, which is based on solid foundations established through the King Hamad Schools of the Future Project that has contributed, through the existing digital potentials, to enhancing communication between teachers,