

# Traders fear fruit shortage over 'red light on imports from India'

The virus, which is released through bats' saliva, urine and excreta, typically spreads due to bats consuming fruits on trees

● The Indian Commerce Ministry has said it is monitoring the outbreak and will assess if the virus will bear implications for the country's fruit exports.

TDT|Manama

Traders at the Central Market fear a possible shortage of fruits and vegetables as according to them the Customs Department is refusing to give a clearance for consignments from India following Nipah outbreak.

"I think we are definitely heading for a shortage. The demand for fruits and vegetables has been high since it is Ramadan. I hope the epidemic will be controlled and the exports would resume soon," said a trader, who doesn't want to be identified.

The outbreak of Nipah virus, which has resulted in the death of ten people



A view of the Central Market

in Kerala, has already affected India's fruit exports, according to Indian Commerce Ministry.

The virus, which is released through bats' saliva, urine and excreta, typically spreads due to bats consuming fruits

on trees.

Specifically, it is the Greater Indian Fruit Bat, found abundantly across

South Asia, which carries the Nipah virus.

The Indian Commerce Ministry has said it is monitoring the outbreak and will assess if the virus will bear implications for the country's fruit exports.

"We are keeping an eye on the developments. If the situation persists, we may have to ask our agencies to do a formal assessment of whether this will hurt India's export potential," an Indian newspaper quoted a commerce ministry official as saying.

Since these bats feed on any fruit they can find, there's a risk of exports of many fruits getting affected.

The deaths in Kerala is the third instance in India's history of a Nipah virus outbreak, the first two times being in West Bengal's Siliguri in 2001 and Nadia in 2007.

This time around, the outbreak has been detected in the Southern state, where the first victims were three members of a family in Kozhikode, followed by a nurse who took care of the infected.

## 'Elderly's welfare a top priority for government'



The government, led by HRH the Prime Minister, has allocated great importance to the elderly through its programmes and plans, as reflected in the efforts of the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

MR BU HAZZA

● HRH Premier's vision in forming the committee proves the desire of the government to cooperate with official institutions and civil society organisations in order to achieve the ultimate goal of serving the elderly in the kingdom, Bu Hazza said in a statement yesterday.

Manama

Good Word Society's Chairman, Hassan Mohammed Bu Hazza, has expressed pride in the precious trust conferred on him by His

Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa through appointing him as member of the National Committee for the Elderly.

Bu Hazza asserted that Bahrain is among the first Arab countries in which an elderly committee has been established, which, he said, reflects the interest of the kingdom and the government in such an age group.

HRH Premier's vision in forming the committee proves the desire of the government to cooperate with official institutions and civil society organisations in order to achieve the ultimate goal of serving the elderly in the kingdom, Bu Hazza said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the new session of the National Committee for the Elderly will continue its programmes and

projects aimed at serving the elderly, noting that the committee will build on the achievements of the previous session, step up co-operation with the relevant sides and find new sources to finance its programmes and activities.

The government, led by HRH the Prime Minister, has allocated great importance to the elderly through its programmes and plans, as reflected in the efforts of the Labour and Social Development Ministry, he said.

Bu Hazza also highlighted the keenness of the Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, to activate the National Strategy for the Elderly and its executive plan, raise public awareness on the issues of the elderly and organising conferences and workshops in this regard.

## CBSE to declare Class XII results today

TDT|Manama

The Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) will declare its Senior School Certificate Examination (Class XII) on May 26, said a statement issued by the board yesterday.

"As per previous years, this year also the CBSE is hosting its results on net with the technical support of National Informatics Centre (NIC), and the results can be checked on [www.results.nic.in](http://www.results.nic.in), [www.cbseresults.nic.in](http://www.cbseresults.nic.in) and [www.cbse.nic.in](http://www.cbse.nic.in)," it said.

The schools will automatically get their entire schools results on email id's already registered with the board, the statement added.

The board which began going digital since last year with regard to its results also provides digital mark sheets at <https://digilocker.gov.in>.

"Students can also view their results on UMANG mobile application which is available for android, iOS and windows based smart phone," the statement said.

## Need to boost skill training stressed

● Dr Al Nuaimi stressed strenuous efforts to develop the technical and vocational streams, as part of the national project to upgrade education and training and meet Bahrain's development needs.

Manama

Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Survey and Land Registration Bureau President Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and members of the Royal Family visited the Ramadan majlis, which was hosted by Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi marking the advent of the holy month.

Ministers, ambassadors, Shura Council members, senior officials, businessmen, academic figures, media



Shaikh Khalid with Dr Al Nuaimi and other officials at the Majlis.

personalities and citizens were also in attendance.

Dr Al Nuaimi stressed strenuous efforts to develop the technical and vocational streams, as part of the national project to upgrade education and training and meet Bahrain's development needs.

He said that new industrial specialties had been introduced during the 2017-2018 school year, citing particularly computer technology, electronics, and electricity, announcing plans to expand the scheme to include other high schools across Bahrain.

He underlined the ministry-led efforts to encourage intermediate school students to join the technical and vocational specialties. These sustained efforts have paid off as the number of students who enrolled in the technical education rose 5,161 during the current school year, while 755 others chose commercial studies.