

BD 230 million to finance VRS

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Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday approved one-time funding of BD230 million to finance the government's Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

The fund, HRH Premier while chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting said, will be moved to the public account from the surplus of the Insurance against Unemployment account.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Social Insurance



HRH Prime Minister chairing the weekly Cabinet

Organisation, the move is in line with Law 4/2019 on amending some provisions of Decree-Law 78/2006 on Insurance against Unemployment.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy was requested to take the necessary procedures to transfer the amount.

Hospitals to be run by a board

The session endorsed a recommendation by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on a draft-decree to form a board of trustees for government-funded hospitals

and another for primary health care centres.

The two boards of trustees will carry out the tasks stipulated in the Social Insurance Law promulgated by Law 23/2018.

No impact on realty

The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) yesterday informed the Cabinet that the adjusted electricity tariffs for Bahrainis with more than one account and non-Bahrainis have had no impact on the real estate sector or its stagnation.

On the contrary, the study

revealed that the new tariffs contributed significantly to rationalising the consumption of electricity and water across Bahrain.

Hire unemployed doctors

The session endorsed a proposal to recruit unemployed doctors stressing that the project has been implemented already through various programmes endorsed by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet then endorsed a proposal to exempt foodstuffs sold in school canteens from the Value Added Tax (VAT).



The Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) held an Annual Family Health and Safety evening at the Gulf Hotel. Company President Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, members of the Executive Management, Labour Union Chairman and representatives, employees and their families attended.



Foreign Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, signing in the book of condolences yesterday at the Malaysian embassy to Bahrain, in honour of the demise of the Sultan Ahmad Shah, the father of Malaysia's current King, Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin. The minister extended his sincere condolences to the Malaysian government and people.



The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" in partnership with MENA Center for Investment celebrated the graduation of Intelaaq Student Consultancy Programme participants at Muharraq Model Youth Centre, on Monday. The ceremony witnessed the graduation of more than 90 students from three different batches. The three batches included participants from the University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Bahrain Training Institute, Ahlia University, Royal University for Women, and many other institutes. Registration is now open for Intelaaq's eighth and ninth batches of the program due to begin in early July 2019.

Attempt to burn police vehicle: Court rejects appeal

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Two Bahrainis found guilty of attempting to burn a police patrol vehicle and torching the walls of a school in the Northern Governorate got their three-year imprisonment sentences upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court also upheld the BD500 fine imposed on each of them.

Court records show the suspects were arrested with four minors while participating in an illegal gathering near a school in Diraz village on 20

Court records show the suspects were arrested with four minors while participating in an illegal gathering near a school in Diraz village on 20 March 2018.

March 2018. The suspects, court files say, hurled Molotov cocktails at a police vehicle that arrived at the scene.

However, the Molotov cocktail instead hit a school wall, causing it to catch flames.

Public Prosecution accused them of causing damages to public property, serving a terrorist purpose and endangering the lives of people.

The Prosecution also accused them of attempting to torch a police vehicle and participating in an illegal gathering of more than 15 individuals to disrupt public order.

The Court sentenced them to three years of imprisonment and fines of BD500 each. The suspects choose to appeal the verdict, which was turned down yesterday by the appeals court.

Court cuts sentence in fake bomb case

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The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday reduced to five years the ten-year jail term awarded to a Bahraini man accused of planting a fake bomb in the Capital Governorate.

The appellant was among a group of six accused of disrupting public order by placing a fake bomb on a public road in the Capital Governorate

On 6 September 2015, the group burnt tyres on Oman Avenue and placed there air-conditioners cylinders wrapped with electrical wires. The device, resembling an explosive device, terrified commuters and

The appellant was among a group of six accused of disrupting public order by placing a fake bomb on a public road in the Capital Governorate

residents in the area.

Following an investigation, one of the suspects landed in police custody. He revealed the identities of others involved in the crime.

The involvement of the suspects in the crime was proved using DNA samples collected from the crime scene.

The Public Prosecution accused them of burning objects to serve a terrorist purpose and endangering lives and properties. The prosecution also charged with planting a fake explosive device on a publicly, joining an illegal gathering of more than five individuals and engaging in violence.

The prosecution referred the suspects to the court, which sentenced them to 10 years of imprisonment. However, the appellant pleaded not guilty and the court commuted the sentence by half to five years.