

Anger over rising 'online vice trade'

Interior Ministry intensifies efforts to curb immoral behaviour and human trafficking to protect Kingdom's image

- Concerned citizens express outrage through social media
- Capital Police arrests three women behind 'immoral video'
- All social media platforms being misused by vice network
- Posting women's indecent pictures to attract customers

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Many citizens have taken to social media to express their outrage over 'growing online flesh trade across social media platforms'. This follows the arrest of three women who were behind an "immoral video" currently being circulated on social media. "The Capital Police arrested

“During the pandemic, the vice network also started going online like other sectors. It is high time the authorities put a brake on these activities or else it will affect the image of our great nation.”

- CONCERNED CITIZEN

three women in relation to a social media video that went viral," the Interior Ministry tweeted. The ministry added that relevant legal procedures have been taken before referring the case to the Public Prosecution. Retweeting on the issue, Mona Al Bassam commented: "Congratulations to the Interior Ministry. Such arrests will end online immoral behaviour and flesh trade in the Kingdom." Al Bassam also posted a screenshot along with the retweet showing a social media



Flesh trade has moved from the street to the Internet



Social media are fuelling online prostitution and sexual exploitation

profile with a woman's picture inviting "potential customers to engage in flesh trade". All social media platforms are

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allegedly being misused by the vice network to boost flesh trade in the Kingdom. Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a citizen who doesn't want to be named, said: "All social media platforms are filled with links posted by members of the vice network, which is very well established. They post vulgar and indecent pictures of women with an aim to attract potential customers. "During the pandemic, the vice network also started going online like other sectors. It is high time the authorities put a

brake on these activities or else it will affect the image of our great nation." Another citizen said he received a WhatsApp call from a foreign number that he hadn't seen before. "It was a woman on the other side. She asked me to turn the video call on. I did so and all I could see was a nude woman on the other side, asking me to come to an apartment in Juffair. I abruptly disconnected the call. "There has to be tough action to curb such activities on social media or else it could adversely affect the future of our young generation," he lamented. The Interior Ministry has intensified its efforts against vice trade and its associated crime human trafficking. The Daily Tribune recently published a report in which Global Organized Crime Index highlights the Kingdom's success against human trafficking. Attributing the Kingdom's low criminality score to its high success in combating human trafficking, the report called for increased caution to maintain the success record.

First COVID-19 death in Kingdom after 42 days

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The Ministry of Health reported a COVID-19 death on Sunday night – the first of the current year, taking the number of deceased in the Kingdom to 1,395. The last COVID-19 death was reported on November 20, 2021. "The Ministry of Health expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the patient that died from COVID related illness and to all those families that have lost loved ones, with the hope for a full and speedy recovery to those receiving treatment at present," the ministry tweet says. "There are currently 4,269 active COVID-19 cases, and all are stable. Presently no individuals are in critical condition." The ministry also reported the formation of three clusters last week.

"The contact tracing of a symptomatic 34-year-old female citizen revealed 23 primary infections and 8 secondary infections, resulting in a total of 31 positive cases across 17 different households. "The cases detected include family and friends, where the primary cases had direct contact with each other during a wedding." The second cluster was formed after 12 people belonging to five different households were infected by a symptomatic expatriate couple, aged 62 and 56. The infected were friends of the couple, who had contacts during a gathering, according to MoH. Meanwhile, the contact tracing of a symptomatic 68-year-old female citizen revealed eight positive cases across three different households. The infected include relatives and a domestic help.

Spectra art competition winners honoured



Indian Ambassador Srivastava with the winners
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The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) has honoured the 13th Faber-Castell 'Spectra 2021' art competition winners at a ceremony held on 2 January at the Indian Embassy hall, Seef. On the same day, the ICRF released the Calendar 2022 containing the winning paintings. The annual art carnival, organised by the ICRF, had an overwhelming response this year which saw students from 17 countries joining the competition. More than 550 children from around 80 schools spread across 17 countries participated in the art competition held online on 10, 11 and 26 December. In ad-



dition, a competition for adults group (18 years and above) in Bahrain was held as well. Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Sri Piyush Srivastava, the Chief Guest of the ceremonial event, distributed trophies and certificates to the winners. Sri Ravishankar Shukhla, Sec-

ond Secretary at Embassy of India, and Sri Ithjas Aslam, Second Secretary at Embassy of India, also joined the ceremony. Present at the ceremony were ICRF Chairman Dr Babu Ramachandran, General Secretary Pankaj Nallur, Vice Chairman Adv. V K Thomas, Advisor Bhagwan Asarpota, Advisor/Ex Officio Aruldas Thomas, Joint Secretary and Spectra Convener Aneesh Sreedharan, Treasurer Mani Lakshmanamoorthy, Spectra Joint Convenors Nithin Jacob and Muralikrishnan and Mr Sanjay Bhan of title sponsor Faber Castell and ICRF Excom members Suresh Babu, Raman Preeth, Murli Nomula, Javad Pasha, and Pankaj Malik. The Title Sponsor of the event was Faber Castell, who has been supporting this event from its inception in 2009. Net proceeds from the competition is going towards a Family Welfare Fund to provide relief to support the families of deceased Indian labourers drawing wages below BD100 per month.

Stage set for largest children's art festival in expat world



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) will organise Devji BKS Balakalotsavam 2022, the largest children's art festival in the expatriate world, from January 15 onwards. The last date for registration is January 7, said P V Radhakrishna Pillai, BKS President, at a press conference held yesterday. BKS General Secretary Varghese Karakkal, Devji Group Retail Sales Manager Shaji C K were among those who attended the event. The festival will feature around 200 events across seven venues. Registration can be done through the website www.bksbalakalotsavam.com.

610 rain-related cases recorded

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The Police Directorates in Governorates and Security Directorates have exerted tremendous efforts during the recent heavy rain in the Kingdom, including regulating traffic and dealing with cases received by the main operations room. The Operations Directorate activated the emergency plan in coordination with police directorates, civil defence and traffic that included field procedures that brought situations to normal. The Operations Room dealt with 292 cases from December



Authorities directing traffic

30 to January 2, including 100 cases related to rain floods. The concerned security authorities were contacted, and legal, and security procedures were taken. Traffic patrols dealt with 234 accidents, including 197 minor

damages and pulling 125 vehicles with technical faults in flooded areas. They also regulated traffic in 15 junctions because of faulty traffic signals and carried necessary road diversion on roads and tunnels.