

Health Ministry issues warning against scam calls and messages

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The Ministry of Health raised concerns over suspicious WhatsApp calls and messages using its logo to trick vulnerable people and steal sensitive and private information.

Internet users in Bahrain have been warned of falling prey to scam messages that use disguises to mislead victims into stealing sensitive information.

"The Ministry of Health warned of phone calls and messages via WhatsApp bearing its logo or the logo of the application BeAware from numbers inside and outside the Kingdom of



Beware of dubious Whatsapp calls and messages. (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

Bahrain, as these calls speak on behalf of the Ministry of Health and collect special information about vaccination doses against



Suspicious communications are requesting people to download a fake app that allegedly collects information about COVID-19 vaccination doses, to facilitate and speed up additional dose registration. This allows the fake app to access mobile information, bank account information, and accounts linked to the device.

the coronavirus (COVID-19)," said the statement on the Ministry's official Instagram page.

The statement further said that suspicious communications are requesting people to download a fake app that allegedly collects information about COVID-19 vaccination doses, to facilitate and speed up additional

dose registration. This allows the fake app to access mobile information, bank account information, and accounts linked to the device.

Confirming that these communications are fraudulent, the Ministry stressed that the matter is being handled in coordination with the Anti-Cybercrime De-

partment.

"We are confirming that the only app approved in Bahrain for Coronavirus vaccination doses is the BeAware App. The app has been designed to update automatically and programmed to maintain the highest levels of security and privacy," the statement concluded.

Islam advocates for tolerance, coexistence and respect for all



Dr. Bucheeri
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Tolerance, brotherhood and humanity are among the core values and messages of the Holy Quran, and the Islamic religion advocates for coexistence and respect for others.

This was emphasised by Ambassador Dr. Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Director-General for Legal Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as he took part in the United Nations Human Rights Council's urgent debate.

The debate was convened by an urgent request from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the alarming rise in premeditated and public acts of religious hatred as manifested by the recurrent desecration of the Holy Quran in some European and other countries, on the sidelines of the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council.

Dr. Bucheeri also underscored that these repeated incidents of burning copies of the Holy Quran are unacceptable attacks and reprehensible practices that constitute an insult to Islam and Muslims.

He stressed that such incidents are inconsistent with religious freedom and the values of tolerance and human coexistence, and generate hatred, extremism, and violence, in addition to being inconsistent with international charters and laws.

Bahrain, Finland keen to bolster cooperation

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The steady growth of Bahrain-Finland bilateral ties over the past four decades reflects the two countries' keenness to bolster their cooperation and partnership across political, economic and cultural fields, as well as support global efforts to consolidate security, stability and peace in the Middle East and the world.

This was emphasised by Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al



Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed with From-Emmesberger

Khalifa, Political Affairs Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as he held talks with Sofie From-Emmesberger, Director General of the Department for Africa and the Middle East at the Finnish Foreign Affairs Ministry.

They co-chaired the third round of political consultations meeting between Bahrain and Finland, which the Kingdom hosted yesterday.

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed lauded the solid Bahrain-Fin-

land relations, stressing that both countries are committed to strengthening them.

From-Emmesberger expressed her country's pride in the progress made in its political and economic partnership with Bahrain, as well as appreciation for its initiatives to promote the peace and tolerance culture, in addition to encouraging dialogue among countries and peoples. She wished the kingdom continued progress and prosperity.

Disabled woman to testify against alleged rapist at Appeals Court

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A disabled woman who was allegedly sexually assaulted will testify at the High Appeals Court in on August 7, 2023, in the presence of the man accused of raping her.

The defendant had been acquitted by the Court of First Instance, but the Public Prosecution challenged the verdict, leading to the case being referred to the High Appeals Court.

In the initial trial, the court dropped the charges against the defendant, a Bahraini man, after medical reports were presented indicating that he was not aware of the victim's



disability, which places her mental cognition below the age of 14.

The reports revealed that her condition was a specialised one that only experts could diagnose. The Public Prosecution had charged the defendant with sexually assaulting the victim, who is mentally under-aged,

following a report from the victim and her attorney. She stated that she became acquainted with the defendant and that he assaulted her several times.

The defendant acknowledged his relationship with the victim but claimed to have been unaware of her medical condition since she did not inform him or display any signs of being mentally disabled.

During the trial, the court heard a statement from a psychiatrist and reviewed additional medical reports that indicated that the victim has a permanent mental disability that places her mental cognition between the ages of 8 to 10 years.

Asian drug smuggler trial postponed to hear witnesses

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The High Criminal Court adjourned the case of an Asian drug trafficker until July 18, 2023 to hear the prosecution witnesses.

The defendant allegedly attempted to smuggle drugs in children's toy boxes. According to a parcel company employee, the accused brought a box containing drugs to be sent to a European country and was asked to pay 150 Bahraini dinars.

The employee asked the accused about the box's contents,

and he claimed it contained toys for children. The witness requested proof of identity from the accused to complete the parcel's shipping procedures, but he claimed not to have the necessary documents at the time.

The employee grew suspicious and cut the box open, causing the crystalline substance to spill out. He then informed his supervisor, who reported the incident to the

authorities.

Subsequently, a criminal investigation was launched into the matter, and it was discovered that the accused had intended to traffic drugs outside the country and was in possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia when arrested at his residence.

The Public Prosecution has charged the defendant with drug trafficking and possession of narcotics for personal use.

Bahrain to host first-ever SDMX Global Conference in Middle East in October

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Bahrain will be hosting the ninth SDMX Global Conference on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange from October 29 to November 2 on the theme of Empowering Data Communities.

The event is co-organised by the SDMX Sponsors and the Bahrain Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) with support of ESCWA and Banca d'Italia, and will bring together a broad range of official statistics compilers and users from national, regional and international agencies, academia and the private sector.

The Global Conference is a bi-annual event for the official statistics community worldwide to share information on recent and upcoming SDMX developments leveraging SDMX tools and technologies for enhanced collaboration and knowledge sharing.

It will include three days of plenary sessions followed by two days of statistical capacity building for statisticians at beginner and advanced levels. It is set to attract various levels of statisticians, SDMX experts, and data professionals, the conference is a major global event in the statistics field, providing an opportunity to discuss the latest international developments and specifi-



The first edition of this conference was held in 2007 in the US, with subsequent events hosted by France, the US, Thailand, Ethiopia, and Hungary. The eighth edition was organised remotely in Mexico due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

cally enhance the process of exchanging statistical data, indicators, and SDMX metadata.

It will also enable participants to stay up to date with the latest developments related to national data and information exchanges and enhance the capabilities of those working in the field through specialized workshops and general discussions.

Registration via www.sdmx2023.org to attend event. Call for presentations to submit at the conference is available till July 31 via its website or via email: sdmx2023@sdmx.org.