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FUNDRAISING CLAMP CALL

MANAMA: Bahrain is enforcing tougher measures to better monitor fundraising and cash donations.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, who chaired the Cabinet's weekly session at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday, ordered that action be taken against anyone collecting money without a

proper licence.

It comes amid a surge in donations to charitable, humanitarian, social and religious causes, as Muslims believe charity to be more handsomely rewarded during Ramadan than in any other month of the year.

The ministries of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Interior and Social Development have been instructed to take action against anyone without a valid licence fundraising in or near mosques, on roads and

pavements or in other public places.

The Premier said his visit to Kuwait later in the day will aim to strengthen historic bilateral relations.

Ministers also heard that the number of Bahrainis getting jobs in the private sector has increased by seven per cent in the first three months of the year compared with the same period last year.

Labour Minister Jameel Humaidan updated the session with statistics showing that employment

had increased by 5pc during the first quarter of the year in comparison with the same period last year, which covers January, February and March, while new work permits that were issued during that period increased by 25pc.

The Cabinet has also given the London-based Chartered Institute of Arbitrators a licence to develop Bahrain's arbitration sector through training in collaboration with the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry.

Meanwhile, Information Affairs Minister and official government spokesman Isa Al Hammadi said that parliament and the Shura Council had until July 20 to decide on revisions to the national budget for this year and the next.

The Cabinet has also directed the Health Ministry to come up with preventive measures to combat the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in line with World Health Organisation regulations. **Cabinet reports - Page 6**

Bahrain this morning

New push to stop human trafficking

MANAMA: A national centre to tackle human trafficking and provide temporary shelter for victims could be open in Bahrain by the end of this year.

The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) is spearheading the initiative in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). LMRA chief executive Ausamah Al Absi revealed details of the plan as he chaired a meeting of Bahrain's National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking.

Full report - Page 4

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Rioting suspects held

MANAMA: Seven suspects have been arrested for rioting, vandalism and attacking a police patrol with firebombs in Duraz, police said last night. The patrol vehicle was damaged and a policeman injured in the attack early yesterday, they said.

Pictures - Page 13

Scholarships offered

MANAMA: Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday endorsed scholarships and grants for 2,944 students for the 2015/2016 academic year.

These include 1,601 scholarships for government school graduates, 393 for students from private schools, 150 for graduates with special needs and financial grants for 800. Other scholarships will benefit talented students, memorisers of the *Quran* and students with cancer, Dr Al Nuaimi said. Scholarships director Isa Abdulla Al Kooheji urged graduates with a minimum cumulative average of 90 per cent to visit www.moe.gov.bh or www.bahrain.bh to register between tomorrow and Friday.

GCC solidarity 'is imperative'

KUWAIT CITY: Bahrain and Kuwait last night said greater GCC solidarity is imperative in the face of fast-paced regional developments and their repercussions.

The two countries also share a common vision on strengthening regional development and security, said the Premier and the Amir of Kuwait, Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah as they held talks at Dasman Palace in Kuwait City.

Present were Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

His Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al



The Amir of Kuwait holds talks with the Premier in the presence of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Khalifa reviewed ways to bolster bilateral relations with the Amir of Kuwait and greeted him on the advent of Ramadan.

He also praised the role played by Kuwait at the Gulf, regional and international levels. The Premier returned last night.

Historic Kuwait ties hailed - Page 14

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