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Kingdom greets France President on National Day

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to France President Emmanuel Macron on his country's National Day.

HM the King and HRH Prince Salman wished the French President wellness and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad lauded the deep-rooted and good relations between the two friendly countries and peoples and praised their steady development.

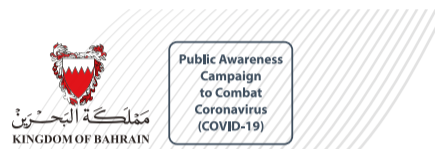
HRH Prince Salman highlighted the strength of relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and France.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to France Prime Minister Jean Castex.

HRH Prince Salman briefed on travel developments



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the 390th Coordination Committee meeting, which was held remotely yesterday. HRH Prince Salman was briefed on the latest developments in travel procedures through Bahrain International Airport. They also discussed the latest developments in dealing with the COVID-19 and related procedures.



Last update - 9:00 pm
13 July 2021

Individuals vaccinated

(First dose)

1 0 9 0 1 0 9

(Second dose)

1 0 2 5 1 1 2

(Booster dose)

9 3 5 1 9

Human rights strides

Shura committee gives thumbs up to 'very encouraging' UK report

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has made important achievements and advanced efforts in various areas to safeguard human rights.

The Shura Council's Human Rights Committee, chaired by Ahmed Mahdi Al Haddad, noted that the international community appreciates the concrete steps taken by the Kingdom in this field.

This comes as the committee welcomed the 2020 Human Rights and Democracy Report issued recently by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

The report praised Bahrain's measures to investigate allegations of human rights violations, and indicated the credibility, transparency and impartiality of the oversight bodies in charge of investigations into allegations of ill-treatment.

It also highlighted the progress made by the Bahrain government, represented by the Interior Ministry, to ensure care for detainees and convicts, as well as meet their needs and ensure their safety and rights within the reformation and rehabilitation institution.



Shura Council's Human Rights Committee members

The Shura committee asserted that the report's confirmation of the significant reduction in the size of the prison population, both by 169 royal pardons, and by increased use of alternative sentencing legislation, leading to the release of 4,200 convicts, is best response to attempts to undermine the kingdom's human rights protection achievements.

The panel also hailed the report's highlighting of Bahrain's initiative to draft an integrated National Human Rights Action

Plan, which is the first of its kind at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

It is expected to be discussed at the UN Human Rights Council at the end of 2023, stressing the Shura Council's unwavering interest in developing legislation related to human rights, and keenness to contribute to the National Human Rights Action Plan.

The Shura committee said that the UK 2020 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Report included the British government's support for Bahrain, as a friend, in its efforts in the field of combating trafficking in persons.

It is supported by Bahrain's success to maintain the Tier-1 status in the annual report of the US Department of State for combating people trafficking for the fourth straight year. Regarding the Government of Bahrain's efforts to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic without affecting the rights of society, the Shura committee expressed satisfaction for the UK report which highlighted the measures taken by Bahrain to protect the rights of vulnerable people and safeguard wider society during the pandemic. In this regard, the committee praised the report's highlighting of the kingdom's interest in the inmates of the reformation and rehabilitation institutions, in addition to its economic and health measures for the benefit of the citizens and residents alike, particularly with the Bahraini government's introduction of a visa amnesty from March to December 2020, resulting in the "normalisation of the status" for over 30,000 workers who might otherwise have lost their jobs.

Developing labour market P4

Arafah and Eid Al Adha holidays

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Minister, yesterday issued a circular regarding the Arafah and Eid Al Adha holidays.

According to the circular, the Kingdom's ministries and public institutions will be closed on the day of Arafah, and during Eid Al Adha, corresponding to 19-22 July, respectively.

Bahrain condolences with Iraq over hospital fire

TDT | Manama

Bahrain expressed its utmost condolences to the government and people of Iraq over the victims of the fire incident that broke out in Al Hussein Teaching Hospital in Nasiriyah.

The incident caused the death and injury of a number of COVID-19 infected patients at the hospital.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry wished all the injured a speedy recovery.

Bahrain adds 16 more countries to Red List

P3

BAHRAIN COVID-19

- ACTIVE CASES: 1009
- DEATHS: 1378
- DISCHARGED: 265013
- NEW CASES: 76
- CRITICAL: 30

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- ADEL HAMEED ABDULRASOOL GHULOOM ALI
- ADEL SALEH SALEM ABDULMALEK ALANSARI
- ADNAN ABDULLA HUSAIN ALSAYED
- AGIN CHATHOTH PUTHIYA PURAYIL
- AHMED ABDULQADER JASIM BUHAMOOD ALQAHTANI
- AHMED HAFEDI ALI BARHOOM
- AHMED ISA ALI MOHAMED
- AHMED MOHAMED AHMED HUSAIN ALQANNAS
- ALI MOHAMED JAAFAR MAHDI NASER
- ALMASS FATHI ALMASS
- AMINA ANWAR ALI ALRAYES
- ASIF KHAN YAR MOHAMMAD QASIM
- AYSHA SAUD ABDULAZIZ RADHI SABT
- DALAL ABDULLA ALI EBRAHIM ESKAFI
- DALLELA ALI ALFRED DASOZA
- EBRAHIM KHALIL EBRAHIM A.AZIZ ALMUQAWWI
- EMAN ABDULRAHMAN MOHAMED ABDULRAHMAN
- FARHAT NASEEM SIDDIQI
- FATEMA ABDULLA EBRAHIM BUSHAIT
- FATEMA ABED KHULAF ALMOHAMED
- FATEMA EBRAHIM YUSUF EBRAHIM MOHAMED
- FATEMA MAHMOOD AHMED MOHAMED AHMEI
- FATEMA MAJEED ABDULHUSAIN ALHAJARI
- FATEMA RASHEED MOHAMED ALI ALSATAHI
- HALEEMA AHMED ABDULLA SAHLAN
- HANEESA KORATTUMADATHIL
- HAROON MOHAMED RASHEED MOHAMED HADI ALBASTAKI
- HASSAN IBRAHIM HASSAN MADY
- HIND A.LATIF SALEM ABDULLA AHMED ALJAOINI
- HUDA MOHSEN KHALIL MOHSEN ALHALWACH
- HUSAIN ABDULGHAFOR GHULOOM HUSAIN HUSAIN ABDULMONEM RAMADHAN NASER ALI
- JASIM ALI JASIM HASAN
- KAMAL HASAN MOHAMED SEDIQ
- KAMEELA ABDULGHANI HAMEED HASSAN MARHOON
- KHALEEDA YUSUF AHMED ALMEHZA
- KHULOOD ADNAN AHMED AHMED MUBARAK
- LATIFA AHMED ZAYED ALJALAHMA
- LATIFA YUSUF AHMED ABDULQADER AHMED
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- MARYAM MAHMOOD AHMED ALGANNAS
- MARYAM SALMAN A. MOHSEN A. WAHABA AL SILAIMAN
- MARYAM TALEB ABDULRAHIM TALEB MOHAMED ABDULLA HASAN ALI ALOTHMAN
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- MOOZA SALEM FADHUL SAIF ALMOJAMI
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- NOORA EBRAHIM ALI SALEH SALEM
- RUBINA ABDULRAZAQ ABDULAZIZ CHOUDAR
- SABHA ATSHAN ALI ALMAJED
- SAFA ALI GHULOOM RAHMATALLA FARHAD POOR
- SALAH MOHAMED NOOR SHAIKH ABBAS
- SALAH SALEM MOHAMED ABDULLA ALKHALAQI
- SAMEERA RAHMA ALI JASSIM
- SAMI JAAFAR HUSAIN AHMED
- SAYED AHMED HABIB MAHFOODH SHUBBAR MOHAMED
- SAYED NASER ADNAN SALEH AHMED
- SHAIKHA ABDULLA SALIM ALTEHMAZI
- SHAIKHA ADNAN HUSAIN ALHUSAIN
- TASNEEM HAKKIMUDDIN SAIFUDIN
- TONY MATHEW THOMAS
- WALEED ABDULRAB ABDULRAHMAN SALEH
- WALEED ISHAQ MOHAMED SAFFY
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- DINA JAMAL MOHAMED EBRAHIM JAMAL
- FATIMA YOUSUF AHMED FOLATHI
- HALABEL JAAFAR ALI AHMED NASEEB
- HEND AHMED YAAQOUB ATEEQ SALIS
- HUSAIN ABDULLA YUSUF ALMEHAIZA
- KHALED ALLAHAM
- KHALIFA EID SAIED ALSHAER ALMANSOORI
- MAHMOOD ISMAIL AHMED MOHAMED
- MARIAM AHMED ABDULLA SULTAN
- MOHAMED ABDO AHMED
- MOHAMED AHMED ABDULLA ALASAADI
- MOHAMED SHARIF MOHAMED AQEEL ALBASTAKI
- MUFEEDAH MUSTAFA ABDULLA YAHYA
- NABEEL ABDULQADER MOHAMED A.RAHMAN ALKOOHEJI
- NAJAT ALI AHMED ALMALIK
- NASSER MOHAMMED AHMED MOQBEL
- RAALA MOHAMMED HAMDAN ALATHALI
- RABAB MOHAMMED HUSAIN AHMED ALKHAYYAT
- RASHED BASHIER JAWHER BASHIER ALROMAHI
- SAMEERA AHMED YOUSUF DARWISH
- SAYED MOHAMED KADHEM SAIED HASHEM
- SHUAA MOHAMED HASSAN MOHAMED
- TAUFEUQUE LAL MOHAMMED
- YUSUF KHALED SALEM ABDULLA BUHAMMOOD
- ZAHRA ABDULLA ALI MAHDI
- ZAYAN AHMED YOUSUF ALKOOHEJI

\$1,000 EID PRIZE WINNERS

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- MOHAMMED ALI RASHED
- MOHAMMED MUNEEF RAZZAZ
- MUNEERA ALI AHMED ALJAWDER
- NASSER MOHAMED MUBARAK ALI SAQER ALJALAHMA
- NATHEER A.RASOOL AHMED
- RASHEED ADEL AHMED HASAN
- RUQAYYA BADER ABDULLA
- SAFIA MOHAMMED ALAMRANI
- SAMA AMJAD QASIM
- SHAHAD YASER AHMED SAIED MEFTAH
- SHAIKHA AHMED ANWAR ABDULLA ABDULWAHAB
- SHAIKHA FAISAL ALABBASI
- SHAIKHA MOHAMED A. RAHMAN
- SHARIFA HAMAD NASER MOHAMED
- SHRADHA AGASTI
- YAAQOUB MOHAMED HUSAIN ALSHOMALI
- YOUSUF AHMED A.NASER MOHD. ALABBASI
- YOUSUF ABDULAZIZ ABDULRAHMAN MOHAMED ABDURAHMAN
- YUSUF AHMED ALI ABBAS MOHAMED ALMULLA
- ZAHRAA ALI A.HUSAIN
- ZARA MAZHAR MUSHTAQE
- ABBAS HUSAIN ABBAS
- ABDULLA AHMED EID
- ABDULLA SALMAN RASHID ALBADERY
- AHMED ISA MOHAMED HUSAIN SARHAN
- ALI ABDULLA MOHSEN ISMAEL
- ALI HUSAIN ALTHAWADI
- ALI HUSAIN EBRAHIM
- ALJOORI A.HADI
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- AMEERA OBAID FARES ALHUSAIN
- AMGAD MAHMOUD SHAFIK GHOBASHY
- ARSLAN SAIED
- AZIZA HUSEIN ASAAD ALHINDI
- BASEMAH AHMED ABDULRASOOL ALSAMAHJI
- BATOOL SAYED HASSAN NASER EBRAHIM
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- HAWRA MAKI HASSAN ABDULLA SALEEM
- HAYAT JAAFAR MASOOD SANAD
- HUSAIN JANI ALI MOOSA
- HUSSAIN AMIN AKBAR SADIQ
- JAMAL HAROON EBRAHIM ALI ALALAYA
- JASSIM ISA SAQR ALSHIRAWI
- KHALID HASSAN MOHAMMED ABDUL GADER
- KHULOOD ABDULLA JUMA ALFLAITI
- LAYLA MOHAMED HASSAN ALI HASSAN MARZOOQ
- LUBNA AHMED MOHAMMED ALMANNAI
- MAHMOOD MOHSEN ABDULNABI MOHSEN SALEH ASFOOR
- MARYAM MAHDI ABDULLA ALI AHMED
- MOHAMED ABDULNABI MANSOOR KADHEM
- MOHAMED ALI AHMED HUSAIN ALDERAZI
- MOHAMED SHAREEF PANDIKASALA
- MOHAMED WALEED MOHAMED AHMED SHAHEEN
- MOHAMMAD UMAR FAROQ KHAN
- MURTAZHA SALMAN ALI ABDULLA SALMAN
- MUSTAFA AHMED ABDULRASOOL
- NADIA YUSUF AHMED ABDULLA
- NAWAL EID SAQER BASHEER
- RAHANA MAHDI BUSHEHRI
- RAMA NASER JABER YUSUF ALNASER
- RANA MOHAMED HUSAIN JALIL
- RAWAN JAMEEL HASAN
- RUQAYYA HASSAN ABDALI MARZOOQ
- SAMEER EBRAHIM HAMAD ALWAZAN
- SAMEERA ABDULLA MOHAMED ABDULLA
- SARA SALMAN ABDULLA YUSUF MAHMOOD
- SEREN SAAD ALQASHAR
- SH. RAZAN ABDULRAHMAN ABDULLA AL KHALIFA
- SHAIQWI MOHAMED A.RAHMAN ALHASHIMI
- SUNIL VALEPAMPALIV SIVARAMAN NAIR
- TAYYEB ABDULQADER MOHAMED ALMULLA
- VASUNDHARA SINGH
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- YUSUF FARAJ SAAD FARAJ
- YUSUF MOHAMED ISA ALI
- ZAHRA MOHAMED HADI AHMED ALHALWACH
- ZAHRAA S. EBRAHIM MAHFOODH
- ZAIN IQBAL TARIQ IQBAL HAJI UMER HAYAT
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- ALI NADER
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- AMEENA MOHAMMED EBRAHIM AHMED FADHEL
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- AYSHA MOHAMED
- AZZAM YASER MAARAFI
- DANA MOHAMED SABRI
- EBRAHIM NASEEM RAJA ALI JAVED SHAREEF
- ESRAA JAAFAR HUSAIN ALMUBARAK
- FAISAL AHMED A.HAMEED
- FAJER EBRAHIM ALHAMMADI
- FAJER MOHAMED ALMOOSA
- FAJER SALAH ALHUMOOD
- FATEMA ALI RASHED ALI
- FATEMA ATEQ SALEM ALARMANI
- FATIMA ADEL ALI
- HASAN MOHAMMED ALSHARABI
- HASSAN ALI MERZA ALI HUSAIN
- HAWRA SAIED MOHAMED SALEM SALAMAN HASHEM
- HAYA ALI ALBULFASA
- HISSA EBRAHIM YUSUF
- HUSAIN ALI A.NABI GHANEM MOHAMED ABDULLA
- HUSAIN NADER MOHSEN
- HUSAM TAWFIK MOHAMED
- KAWTHER FAISAL NASAR
- KHAODJA AFTAB AHMED
- KHALED WALEED ALSAIED
- KHALIFA FAREED YUSUF KHALIL ALMOAYYED
- KHATER ABDULLA KHATER
- LAYLA ANIS YAHYA SALEH ALI ALJABERI
- LUJAYN RASHED JANAH
- LUJAYN ZEAD ANEIS SHARAF
- LULWA WALEED ANWAR
- MAHMOOD HANI
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- MARYAM JAMAL MURAD
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HRH Prince Salman issues edicts

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict 37 of 2021, transferring two Ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Under the edict, the Head of Bahrain's Diplomatic Mission to China, Dr Anwar Yusuf Abdullah, and the Head of Bahrain's Diplomatic Mission to



HRH Prince Salman

France, Dr Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar, were transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Affairs Minister shall implement the provisions of this edict, which takes immediate effect, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

His Royal Highness also yesterday issued Edict 38 of 2021, appointing a director at the Ministry of Interior, as follows:

Article 1:

Major Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Binali is appointed Director at the Ministry of Interior.

Article 2:

The Minister of Interior shall place the director mentioned in Article 1 of this decision, in one of the vacant departments of the Ministry of Interior, according to the duties, responsibilities and necessary requirements, and considering his qualifications and experience.

Article 3:

The Minister of Interior shall implement the provisions of this Edict, which comes into effect immediately, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Set for Green Alert Level

The following activities are for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals

- Retail shops
- Shopping malls
- Providing the option to attend education and training institutions
- Holding private events in homes
- Gyms, sport halls and swimming pools
- Restaurants and cafes
- Organising events and conferences in external spaces
- Playgrounds and entertainment centers
- Barber shops, salons and spas
- Entering standalone government centers
- Public attendance of sporting events in outdoor areas

Limited to:

- Cinemas
- Organising indoor events and conferences
- Attendance of indoor sporting events

Additional conditions:

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain will adopt the Green Alert Level starting on Friday, 16 July.

The National Medical Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) made the announcement yesterday

following a review of the average coronavirus (COVID-19) positivity rates and approval by the Government Executive Committee.

The Kingdom will adopt the Orange Alert Level during the Arafah and Eid Al Adha holidays, starting from 19 to 22 July.

Shura call to strengthen Bahrain-UK cooperation

It is important to exchange legislative expertise and experiences: Fakhro

● Open up new areas of bilateral action

● Discuss ways to enhance relations

● Virtual parliamentary meeting held

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and the United Kingdom need to continue efforts to strengthen cooperation and joint action in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Shura Council First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro said this can be done through exchanging legislative expertise and experiences, opening up new areas of bilateral action, and discussing ways to enhance the deep-rooted bilateral relations.

Fakhro made the statements during a virtual parliamentary meeting held by the Shura Council's Secretariat-General, in cooperation with the UK-based Global Partners Governance, under the theme "Bahrain and the World - Reflection on the Economic and Political Scene after the Spread of COVID-19".

Several Shura Council mem-



The online discussion in progress

bers, Member of the UK House of Lords and Advisor to Global Partners Governance, Lord Jeremy Purvis of Tweed and diplomats from Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Ministry participated in the online forum, moderated by former Deputy Minister at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and former Member of the House of Commons, Alistair Burt.

Fakhro conveyed the greetings to the Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh to the participants, as well as his wishes for success to their meeting, the first of its kind to be held by Shura Council in cooperation with Global Partners Governance.

He stressed the importance of

Bahrain's Shura Council and the UK parliament further, highlighting Bahrain's appreciation of its long-standing relations with Great Britain.

He highlighted Bahrain's successful efforts to confront the pandemic at the health, economic and social levels, citing the sharp drop in the number of daily infections.

Lord Jeremy expressed pride in holding the virtual Bahrain-UK parliamentary meeting, noting that it reflects the advanced level of bilateral relations, and Bahrain's keenness to develop its national legislation through enriching it with other experiences.

He underlined the key role played by parliaments in countries' response to COVID-19 challenges, through identifying the needs of many fields related to public services, economy and legislation.

Burt praised the Shura Council's initiative to hold the remote meeting to pave the way for exchanging opinions and legislative experiences that serve countries during this period, voicing pride in Shura Council members' opinions and proposals that contribute to enhancing parliamentary action between the two kingdoms, as well as strengthen their direct communication and coordination vis-a-vis issues of mutual interest.



The virtual dialogue focused on political, economic and legislative fields, especially in light of the repercussions of the pandemic on the economy, and the need to regain trust and build flexibility in facing future challenges.

the meeting in pushing cooperation and coordination between

HM King's Advisor for Diplomatic Affairs receives US Charge d'Affairs, Turkish Ambassador



His Majesty the King's Advisor for Diplomatic Affairs Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa received US Charge d'Affairs Ethan Goldrich. The Advisor affirmed Bahrain's pride in the distinguished relations and strategic alliance with the US, and the great development in the cooperation, which reflects the common desire to open wider areas for joint work and to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples, wishing Goldrich every success. The charge d'affairs expressed praising Bahrain's progress at various levels, wishing the Kingdom further prosperity. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed also received yesterday Turkish Ambassador to Bahrain Esin Cakil. The Ambassador stressed her country's keenness to develop aspects of cooperation with the Kingdom at all levels.

Bahraini-South Korean cooperation discussed



Minister of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning, Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, met virtually with South Korean Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Hae Kwan Chung. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of Agriculture and Marine Wealth Dr Nabil Mohammed Abul Fatah and Assistant Undersecretary for the Sewerage Sector Eng. Ibrahim Al Hawaj. The Works Minister and the South Korean Ambassador discussed boosting cooperation between the two friendly countries and issues pertaining to the infrastructure projects carried out in Bahrain and South Korea.

Bahrain adds 16 more countries to Red List

● Travel regulations updated for passengers

● Move to prevent spread of coronavirus

● 22: Total number of countries in Red List

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has expanded the number of countries included in the Red List to 22, adding 16 more, in a bid to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

This comes as the Civil Avi-

ation Affairs updated travel regulations in line with directives issued by the Government Executive Committee after a review of the latest recommendations of the National Medical Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The countries newly included in the Red List are Mozambique, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, Namibia, Mexico, Tunisia, Iran, South Africa, Indonesia, Iraq, Philippines, Panama, Malaysia, Uganda and the Dominican Republic.

The existing countries in the Red List are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam.

Passengers arriving from

Red List countries, including passengers who have transited through any of those countries at any point in the preceding 14 days, are prohibited from entry unless they are citizens or residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Passengers eligible for entry must present a negative PCR certificate, with a QR code, administered within 48 hours of their departure, undergo further testing upon arrival, and on their 10th day of mandatory quarantine. Payment for testing may be made on arrival or through the 'BeAware Bahrain' application.

For travellers' convenience, designated quarantine centres

licensed by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) are available.

Passengers with an address in Bahrain, registered in their name or the name of an immediate family member, may complete their 10-day mandatory quarantine at that residence. Passengers aged six and below are exempt from these requirements.

All other travel procedures for arrivals from non-Red List countries remain in place.

Red list countries are modified based on an assessment made by the national medical taskforce and is periodically reviewed in line with international developments.

RCSI Bahrain concludes 'History of Medicine Talks' webinar series



Prof Corbally



Prof Ootom

TDT | Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI Bahrain) concluded its "History of Medicine Talks" series of nine webinars, which commenced in February, to survey the development of the medical field across the ages and its influence on present-day medical practice.

Hosted by Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at RCSI Bahrain, Professor Martin Corbally, the aim of the webinar series was to emphasise the important lessons to be learned across centuries, the need to constantly question the current status quo and embrace change as an inevitable aspect of the evolution of medicine and surgical practices.

Professor Corbally commented: "The History of Medicine webinar series informed us not just of the skills and dedication of our predecessors, but also their persistence in the pursuit of solutions. Therefore, we must appreciate the countless doctors, nurses and patients over the many thousands of years who have helped forge medicine as we know it today."

"The webinar also highlighted how science contributes to our understanding of medical practice 200 years ago and I would hope, develop resilience, empathetic skills and remind our students to persevere when faced with challenges."

The series delivered by RCSI Bahrain faculty and experts from different medical specialties explored a range of topics in the fields of surgery, anatomy, obstetrics and gynaecology and pathology through different time periods. All webinars were open to healthcare

practitioners and ended with a question-and-answer session.

The series included a variety of themes such as "Women: Their Fall and Rise" presented by the late Professor Jim Dornan, Former Chair and Professor, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, RCSI Bahrain and "Anatomical Dissection and the History of Anatomy" delivered by Chair and Professor, Department of Medicine at RCSI Bahrain, Professor John Flood.

In addition to, "What can we learn about disease in ancient times from Paleopathology", presented by Associate Professor in Surgery, Department of Medicine, RCSI Bahrain, Professor Thomas Walsh, "Medicine and the Holocaust", by Lecturer in Healthcare Ethics, RCSI Bahrain, Dr Fionnuala Gough, "Another Unprecedented Epidemic?: The Irish influence on the 1832 Cholera Epidemic" by Consultant Paediatrician, King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH), Dr Gabriel Fox.

The final webinar of the series was moderated by His Excellency Dr Faisal Al Mousawi, Former RCSI Bahrain President, Former Minister of Health and Speaker of the Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain and featured the topic of "The History of Medicine in the Arab World", presented by Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, (KHUH), Dr Mohamed Amin Al Awadhi.

President of RCSI Bahrain, Professor Sameer Ootom commented: "The History of Medicine webinar series, the first of its kind in RCSI Bahrain, provided an opportunity for our students and healthcare professionals to understand and explore the changes that have occurred in the field of medicine across the centuries."

Developing labour market

National plan provides more quality job opportunities for Bahrainis: Humaidan

TDT | Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister and Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Board of Directors Chairman Jamil bin Mohammad Ali Humaidan praised the Cabinet's decision to adopt the National Labour Market Plan 2021-2023.

The plan reflected the visions and directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop the labour market in accordance with the basic principles of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 of sustainability, competitiveness and justice.

It will contribute in creating quality job opportunities for citizens and making them the best choice for employment, in addition to continuing to develop control and regulatory procedures and enhancing the contributions of the private sector in the labour market.

The Minister stressed that the plan took into account the challenges facing the labour market and previous achievements that



The plan took into account the challenges facing the labour market and previous achievements that promotes economic growth, serves the objectives of developing capabilities and skills of national human resources, and improves the means and the mechanisms

JAMIL BIN MOHAMMAD ALI HUMAIDAN, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

promotes economic growth, serves the objectives of developing capabilities and skills of national human resources, and improves the means and the mechanisms.

He referred to the many unprecedented measures that have been taken to maintain the stability of the labor market in Bahrain during the pandemic and proved the Kingdom's ability and the support and cooperation of the business sector to deal with these challenges with responsibility.

The plan seeks to achieve the principle of preferential employment for citizens, and to develop a mechanism for attracting foreign

workers.

It is also taking advantage of the initiatives launched by the government to reduce the economic repercussions of the pandemic and ensure the stability of national employment in the labour market by paying the salaries of citizens working in the private sector.

As well as supporting successful experiences such as the part-time work system and remote work, which takes into account flexible work requirements in some jobs capable of benefiting from the productive female workforce with the directions of the National Plan for the Advance-

ment of Bahraini Women 2013-2022, which is supervised by the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and aims to make Bahraini women's participation in the labour market sustainability.

The plan stressed the importance of regulating workers' housing licensing and adhering to safety requirements in these establishments, provided that continuous follow-up of these accommodations to ensure the safety and rights of workers, in addition to intensifying efforts and measures aimed at controlling irregular workers and reducing their numbers in the labour market.

Colourful Philippine cultural heritage on display



Ambassador Ver and the guests of honour view the artworks

TDT | Manama

The Philippine Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain presents the Philippine Cultural Heritage Art Exhibit entitled "Iba't Ibang Kulay at Hugis ng Kasaysayan" (History in Myriad Colours and Forms).

The event, part of the 123rd Philippine Independence Day celebrations, is being held in cooperation with the Filipino Creatives Bahrain art group and the Filipino Writers Circle.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver and Chief Executive Officer of Harbour Gate, Alex



Craine. Indonesian Ambassador Nur Syahrir Rahardjo and Farida Hairani Hisham, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam, also attended the opening night.

The art exhibit features a unique way of promoting Philippine cultural heritage through arts in different colours and

forms accompanied by literary works crafted by Filipino artists and writers who have made Bahrain their second home.

In addition, the exhibit features art works created by budding young Filipino artists.

The exhibit will run from 10 to 23 July 2021 at the Harbour Gate, Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Nass looks to sign FTA with Brazil to step up trade

Federation of GCC Chambers and Arab-Brazilian Chamber hold virtual meeting

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chairman Sameer Nass expressed pride in the growing bilateral relations of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries and Brazil at all levels.

Also Chairman of the Federation of GCC Chambers, Nass recalled the recent meeting between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, which was held in March 2021 via video conferencing. This came



The online discussion in progress

during a virtual coordination meeting held between the Federation of GCC Chambers and the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking at the meeting, Nass cited the trade volume between the GCC and Brazil which amounted to \$9.2 billion in 2018 and called to consolidate efforts to reinforce trade and investment and connect business

owners from both sides.

He voiced the keenness of the business community of the GCC in having a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between both sides, which will contribute to facilitating trade and boosting economic cooperation.

Nass also called to exchange business delegations and hold sector-specific business functions to highlight investment

and partnership opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce President Osmar Chohfi reiterated pride in the high-level relations between Brazil and the GCC, exemplified in the growing, diplomatic, political, and economic ties.

He shared the sentiment of Nass with regard to consolidating efforts to boost trade and partnerships.

He also revealed the Arab-Brazilian Chamber's plans to reinforce liaison with Arab countries, which include inaugurating a representative office in Riyadh and Cairo, in addition to its existing office in Dubai-the UAE.

Chohfi expressed confidence in the outcomes of the forthcoming Brazil-GCC economic forum, scheduled for November.

Jail term upheld for money launderers

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court upheld the jail sentence of an owner of a production company and two other men involved in money laundering.

The defendants were earlier sentenced to five years in prison along with fines worth BD5,000. The court also ordered for the confiscation of BD200,000 from them. A fourth man was involved in the case, but was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

According to court files, the production company owner is an Arab man who is believed to have been generating enormous income through prostitution. He reportedly circu-

lated transferred part of the income to the second and third defendants who were jobless.

Investigators discovered that the defendants used to circulate the money before using it to purchase valuables.

Shockingly, the Arab man was already in prison, serving a five-year imprisonment sentence when it was found that he was implicated in this case too. He was arrested earlier for running a prostitution den.

He denied involvement in money laundering, stating that the income came from the operations of his company. The other two men also claimed they weren't guilty, saying that they were partners in the same establishment.

PART TWO

Will ignoring 'ESG' impact your 'Licence to Operate'?



JEYAPRIYA PARTIBAN

Understanding stakeholder expectations

The first step is to understand where your business stands today through the eyes of your key stakeholders. In our experience, stakeholder expectations are high and increasingly relate to how the financial institution is contributing to solutions facing society and the economy – entrepreneurship, unemployment, climate action, community development, and empowerment through the nationalization of the workforce embedding inclusion and diversity within the organization's DNA.

The past few months have put a particular spotlight on culture, human capital management, and the robustness of supply chains. In addition to scrutinizing how the organization operates, customers and clients are looking at how it models leadership by offering banking and investment products that align with their values and contribute to societal and environmental solutions.

Institutional investors and regulators also have increasing expectations regarding conduct and disclosures that fall into the spectrum of ESG – the environmental, social, and governance factors that present material risks and opportunities for the business.

An enterprise-wide vision of ESG

These changing expectations reflect a new way to think about ESG and how it can create value for banks. Fully integrating ESG as part of the way you do business, not just manage risk, can create new business opportunities, and serve to attract and retain customers. Embedding ESG as a part of all business decisions based on a deep understanding of stakeholder expectations, and how an ESG lens on core business activities can contribute to broader strategic objectives can enable significant differentiation from competitors.

Many banks have already taken an initial step along this path by aligning their community investments and corporate responsibility activities in line with their values and purpose that includes aspirations beyond traditional business goals. It is important to have an enterprise-wide vision and ambition regarding ESG that the organization can work towards. CEOs need to ask themselves:

- How can we leverage ESG to strengthen our business?
- What influence do we want to have?

How can we be truly bold and create something that both differentiates us and really reflects our values as an organization?

Maximizing the opportunity These are unprecedented times that we live in. For all the challenges, this also means that there is an opportunity to have a greater impact than ever. In the light of this, three thoughts that every business leader must consider:

- Now is not the time to be incremental – COVID-19 has hugely accelerated and amplified the issues that ESG concerns itself with. Be bold in what you do.

- Be authentic – everything that you do must be rooted in the bank's values and reflect the way that the bank wants to do business. Don't commit to things you don't believe in. Stakeholders expect accountability.

- It's a journey – you won't get to where you want to be overnight. It takes time and perseverance. This makes it even more important to engage your stakeholders as part of the journey.

ESG issues as well as their associated opportunities and risks are becoming more and more relevant for financial institutions. For banks, sustainability is not just an ethical, but may soon enough also become an economic and existential question – generating a new type of risk: ESG risk. Banks ought to approach ESG risks in a holistic fashion when embedding them into their risk management frameworks. This process includes adjusting business and risk strategies and corresponding risk appetite statements, making sure roles and responsibilities are fully transparent throughout all three lines of defense.

While ESG risk is not a fully stand-alone risk type, it exerts influence on financial and non-financial risks present in a bank to varying degrees. Hence, risk management methods and processes must be amended, considering the complex cause-effect-relationships across risk types. This involves risk measurement/ assessment techniques in 'run-the-bank' and in 'change-the-bank' processes as well as in stress testing applications.

Besides embedding ESG into risk frameworks, banks need to consider related issues in product design, pricing, and sales decisions. Also, an appropriate consideration of ESG risks in a wide range of change processes is of vital importance for fostering profitability.

Business leaders in Bahrain have an immediate opportunity to make a difference within the marketplace and the community by embarking on their ESG journey and embedding select UN SDGs within the core DNA of their business. Invest in ESG now and you're investing towards building a better and financially sustainable business for the future of our planet, and for the young generation of leaders and professionals to come.

The author is Partner and Head of Advisory at KPMG in Bahrain. She has over 26 years of experience providing corporate governance advisory, compliance, internal audit, and enterprise risk management services to various clients in the financial and non-financial services sector in over 25 countries.

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Gulf Air's Acting Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Abdulhameed AlAlawi recently received Bahrain's Ambassador to Israel Khalid Yousif Al Jalahma at the airline's headquarters in Muharraq. They discussed potential business cooperation between the national carrier and the Embassy of Bahrain in Israel. Captain AlAlawi congratulated Al Jalahma and extended the airline's full support.

Aramco drops Morgan Stanley on gas pipelines deal

Reuters | Dubai

Saudi Aramco has dropped Morgan Stanley as an adviser for the sale of its gas pipelines and picked JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs for the role, three sources familiar with matter said.

JPMorgan had also advised Aramco on the sale of the oil pipeline business, which was sold to a consortium led by Washington-DC based EIG Global Energy Partners for \$12.4 billion.

Aramco has also invited banks to advise on the financing of the deal, sources told Reuters, the second major midstream deal after the sale of the oil pipelines.

The gas pipeline deal will also have an element of staple financing arranged by Aramco for the buyer, similar to the oil pipeline transaction that was backed by \$10.5 billion in bank loans, they said.

gig Bahrain, Takaful select GDP candidates



TDT | Manama

Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company (gig Bahrain) & Takaful International (gig Bahrain-Takaful) announced selecting the final three can-

didates for their Graduate Development Program (GDP); after a series of qualifying rounds.

The finalists are: Sara Lary, May Mahdi, and Ayat Juma.

In collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance,

the "Graduate Development Programme" encourages fresh Bahraini graduates to pursue a professional leadership position in the insurance industry, as well as obtaining professional qualifications in the field.

Ithmaar announces \$100,000 2nd Thimaar quarterly winners

TDT | Manama



Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, presented two Bahrainis, Mohamed Yousif Mohamed Janahi, father of four and Fatima Ahmed Abdulla, mother of four, a cash prize of US\$100,000 each as the Bank distributed the second Thimaar quarterly prizes for the year.

The draw was held remotely at the Bank's headquarters in Seef district.

"I'm obviously delighted to win the US\$100,000 quarterly prize of Thimaar," said Janahi. "When I received the phone call from the Bank's Branch Manager informing me that I won the prize, I felt I was watching a dream coming true. It is truly a blessing from Allah, the Almighty," he said.

"I've always dealt with Ithmaar Bank and I've been banking with them for more than 18 years. The Bank has always offered Thimaar account prizes to a large number of winners, which was a big part of the appeal for me as it increases my chances of winning," said Janahi. "The Bank has also made it easier for anyone to open an account, with the Mobile App. Opening new accounts digitally is, truly, very convenient," he said.

"Getting to know that you won US\$100,000 in cash is always a splen-

did news," said Fatima Abdulla. "In these challenging times, this win comes at just the right time for me and my family. It has made us all very happy," she said.

"I've been banking with Ithmaar Bank for or a long time because of its efficient and reliable customer service," said Fatima Abdulla. "I haven't been fortunate enough to win cash prizes over the past years. So, winning with Ithmaar Bank was a complete shocker for me, and it was almost hard to believe it's true," she said.

On behalf of all of us at Ithmaar Bank, I congratulate both Mohamed and Fatima and their families on winning the second Thimaar quarterly prizes. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate all other Thimaar winners of this month," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim.

"Saving money for the future is one of the wisest decisions for each one of us, although it can certainly be a challenge. Thimaar savings account incentivises saving and investing for the future, and we are truly honoured to be part of this journey with our customers," he said.

"Ithmaar Bank offers the highest number of prizes of any similar scheme in Bahrain, making Thimaar account

one of the most rewarding saving schemes in the Kingdom," said Abdul Rahim. "With another grand prize of US\$1 million prize coming up this year, our forthcoming winner will be another Thimaar millionaire. These potentially life changing prizes can be won with a little as a single BD30 deposit, and the more you save and the longer you wait the bigger your chances," he said.

"Customers can now instantly open a Thimaar account directly from their mobile phones, without the need to physically visit a branch. Bahraini and non-Bahraini residents can now securely open new accounts in just a few minutes by simply downloading Ithmaar Bank's Mobile App," he said.

This year, a total of 2,271 prizes will be awarded, the most offered by any bank in Bahrain. Throughout the year, customers are able to win US\$1 million grand prize, six quarterly prizes worth US\$100,000 each, along with many more cash prizes.

Thimaar, Arabic for fruits or harvest, is a prize-based saving account that Ithmaar Bank introduced to help encourage its customers to save.

View the winners list by visiting the Bank's website at: www.ithmaarbank.com/thimaar

News in brief

◆ **Russia on Tuesday set another record for coronavirus-related deaths over a 24-hour period**, despite efforts from authorities to slow a rampant third wave of infections. A government tally reported 780 pandemic fatalities and 24,702 new cases. Russia, the fifth worst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, has seen a wave of new infections driven by the Delta variant over recent weeks, a surge exacerbated by a slow vaccine rollout. Authorities have faced a vaccine-sceptic population, with an independent poll last week showing that 54 percent of Russians do not plan on getting a Covid-19 jab.



Russia sets another pandemic high for virus deaths

◆ **The Taliban do not want to battle government forces inside Afghanistan's cities**, a senior insurgent leader said Tuesday, as the militants also warned Turkey against extending its troop presence. The insurgents have swept through much of northern Afghanistan in recent weeks, and the government now holds little more than a constellation of provincial capitals that must largely be reinforced and resupplied by air. On Tuesday, the head of a Taliban commission that oversees government forces who surrender to the insurgents urged the residents of cities to reach out to them.



Taliban say do not want to fight inside Afghanistan's cities

have swept through much of northern Afghanistan in recent weeks, and the government now holds little more than a constellation of provincial capitals that must largely be reinforced and resupplied by air.

◆ **Thailand yesterday defended mixing two different Covid-19 vaccines to battle a surge in infections**, after the WHO's top scientist warned it was a "dangerous trend" not backed by evidence. The kingdom is struggling to contain its latest outbreak fuelled by the highly contagious Delta variant, with cases and deaths skyrocketing and the healthcare system stretched thin. Authorities said they will mix a first dose of the Chinese-made Sinovac jab with a second dose of AstraZeneca to try and achieve a "booster" effect in six weeks instead of 12. Thailand's chief virologist Yong Poovorawan said this would be possible by combining an inactivated virus vaccine -- Sinovac -- with a viral vector vaccine such as AstraZeneca.

Thailand defends Covid vaccine 'mix-and-match' after WHO warning



◆ **Saudi Arabia will send a medical aid package to Tunisia that includes one million doses of vaccine** to help the North Africa country control the rapid spread of the COVID pandemic. Saudi Arabia joins other Arab countries in helping Tunisia, which is facing the collapse of its health care system, including Egypt, Algeria, UAE, Kuwait, Turkey and Qatar. The Saudi Press Agency said on Monday the aid also includes 190 respirators and other equipment. "We are in a catastrophic situation ... the health system has collapsed, we can only find a bed in hospitals with great difficulty," said health ministry spokesperson Nisaf Ben Alaya.

Saudi Arabia to send one million doses of vaccine to Tunisia

Arab countries in helping Tunisia, which is facing the collapse of its health care system, including Egypt, Algeria, UAE, Kuwait, Turkey and Qatar.

Greece to require vaccination or negative test at indoor restaurants



Athens

Greece will require customers at indoor restaurants, bars and cafes to prove they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or have tested negative within the last three days, the government announced yesterday to combat an infection surge.

Under the new regulations, which will remain in force until August, all customers at indoor bars and restaurants will have to be seated. Those dining outdoors will not require proof of vaccination or a test.

"It is crucial not to give the impression that we are losing control of the pandemic so that our tourism industry can go on and operate normally," Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis told a news conference.

"The course of Greece's economy will hinge on how well we comply with the measures and control the pandemic."

Violence spreads

● **Jailing of ex-president Zuma triggered initial protests**

● **Violence has broadened into protest over social injustice**

● **More than 40 killed so far in unrest**

● **Troops move in to flashpoints to help outnumbered police**

● **Shops, government buildings shut amid widespread looting**

Reuters | Johannesburg



Members of the military patrol past looted shops as the country deploys army to quell President Jacob Zuma, in Soweto, South Africa

UNFULFILLED PROMISE

At least 45 people have so far been killed during the unrest, 19 in Gauteng and 26 in KwaZulu-Natal, according to state and provincial authorities. Police Minister Cele put the official death toll at 10.

On the streets, protesters hurled stones and police who responded with rubber bullets, Reuters journalists said.

In Soweto, police and military



French firm to turn grain from Lebanon port blast into compost



Damaged grain silos at the port of the Lebanese capital Beirut, almost a year after the August 4 massive explosion that killed more than 200 people

AFP | Beirut

A French firm aims to turn tonnes of rotting grain at Beirut's devastated port into compost, the company said yesterday, nearly a year after Lebanon's worst peacetime disaster ravaged its silos.

The detonation of a huge stockpile of fertiliser at the port last August 4 killed more than 200 people and wrecked huge swathes of the capital.

Inside the port, the shockwaves pummeled through the port's silos, sending waves of imported grain spilling out.

Today, large mounds of rot-

ting grain emit an overwhelming stench, not far from the wrecks of two boats sunk in the explosion.

France's Recygroup, in partnership with Lebanese firm Mondis, is to funnel 1.3 million euros (\$1.5 million) into converting the wheat to a new use, for agriculture.

"We imagine we'll find 20,000 to 30,000 tonnes of grain. We think we can treat them within three to four months," Recygroup co-founder Christophe Deboffe said. Mondis head Marwan Rizkallah said work would start within a week.

Deboffe said they estimated half of the grain is mixed with

bits of concrete or iron, and it needs to be separated from the blast rubble using an industrial sieve.

Before the blast, the silos could hold up to 100,000 tonnes of grain in towers 48 metres (160 foot) high.

Lebanon's cash-strapped authorities have yet to start any reconstruction at the port, where only five cranes still operate from an original 16.

The international community has conditioned any cash bailout on Lebanese politicians forming a new government and enacting reforms, but a deeply divided ruling class has yet to agree on a new cabinet line-up.

Bangladesh

AFP | Dhaka

Bangladesh will lift its nationwide coronavirus lockdown for the country's second-biggest religious festival, the government said Tuesday, even as new infections soared to record levels.

The cabinet said all restrictions would be eased in the Muslim-majority country of 169 million people from Thursday ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival which will be celebrated from July 20 to 22 this year.

The removal of the curbs would "normalise economic activities" ahead of the celebrations, it added.

Tens of millions of people usu-

Philippine police

AFP | Manila

Philippine police have won a battle for the bulge after the force dropped a requirement for officers seeking promotion to meet body fat targets, an official document showed yesterday.

Expanding waistlines have been a hefty problem among police in the Southeast Asian country for years. A 2019 study showed almost 35 percent of personnel were overweight and nearly 10 percent obese.

Rules introduced at the start of the pandemic by former police chief Debold Sinas -- who publicly acknowledged his own efforts to shed kilos through diet and exercise -- made it compulsory

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	34,766,952	623,044	188,253,683
2 India	30,941,863	409,503	
3 Brazil	19,106,971	534,311	
4 Russia	5,833,175	144,492	4,058,456
5 France	5,813,899	111,353	Recovered:
6 Turkey	5,486,959	50,278	172,122,839
7 UK	5,191,459	128,481	New cases
8 Argentina	4,662,937	99,255	+195,753
9 Colombia	4,530,610	113,335	New deaths
10 Italy	4,273,693	127,808	+2,812
11 Spain	3,971,124	81,020	
12 Germany	3,744,422	91,775	
13 Iran	3,417,029	86,207	
14 Poland	2,880,959	75,173	

Figures as of closing

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	283,212		16,403		219,291	47,518
Saudi Arabia	503,734	+1,295	8,006	+14	484,883	10,845
UAE	653,284	+1,522	1,876	+6	631,294	20,114
Kuwait	377,364		2,136		357,256	17,972
Oman	287,054	+982	3,472	+37	260,826	22,756
Qatar	223,646	+142	599		221,549	1,498

1789

Bastille Day - the French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris (now celebrated as France's national day)

1850 1933

1st public demonstration of ice made by refrigeration by Florida physician John Gorrie

All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany



386BSD is released by Lynne Jolitz and William Jolitz, starting the open source operating system revolution. Linus Torvalds release "Linux" soon afterwards

1992

in South Africa



Zuma, 79, was sentenced last month for defying a constitutional court order to give evidence at an inquiry investigating high-level corruption during his nine years in office until 2018. The violence worsened as Zuma challenged his 15-month jail term in South Africa's top court on Monday. Judgment was reserved until an unspecified date

Minister Bheki Cele told a news conference, echoing sentiments expressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa overnight.

The bodies of 10 people were found on Monday evening after a stampede at a Soweto shopping mall, premier David Makhura said.

Hundreds of looters raided warehouses and supermarkets in Durban, one of the busiest shipping terminals on the African continent and a major import-export hub.

Outside a Durban warehouse of retailer Game, Reuters filmed looters stuffing cars with electronic goods and clothes. Inside, the floor was a wreckage of discarded packaging as the crowd systematically emptied the shelves.

Aerial footage from local channel eNCA showed black smoke rising from several warehouses, while debris lay strewn.

Troops were moving into flash-points on Tuesday as outnumbered police seemed helpless to stop the unrest. Columns of armoured personnel carriers rolled down highways.

The rand, which had been one of the best performing emerging market currencies during the pandemic, dropped to a three-month low on Tuesday, and local and hard currency bonds suffered.

Security officials said the government was working to halt the spread of the violence and looting, which has so far spread from Zuma's home in KwaZulu-Natal province to Gauteng province surrounding the country's biggest city Johannesburg. They deployed soldiers onto the streets to try to contain it, but stopped short of declaring a state of emergency.

"No amount of unhappiness or personal circumstances from our people gives the right to anyone to loot, vandalise and do as they please and break the law," Police

Unrest linked to jailing of former

were patrolling as shop owners assessed the damage.

Cele said 757 people had been arrested so far. He said the government would act to prevent it from spreading further and warned that people would not be allowed "to make a mockery of our democratic state".

Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, speaking at the same news conference, said she did not think a state of emergency should be imposed yet.

to lift lockdown for festival



People in Sreenagar, Bangladesh walk to board a ferry to their hometowns

ally head back to their villages families. to mark Eid al-Adha with their Bangladesh imposed its strict-

est-ever lockdown at the start of the month as new Covid-19 cases and deaths climbed to pandemic highs.

Under the lockdown, people were only allowed to leave home for emergencies and to buy essentials, with public transport, shops and offices shut.

But infections have continued to climb, with nearly 14,000 people testing positive on Monday -- a new daily record -- to take the total number of cases to just over one million.

The death toll has risen above 16,600. But experts say the real figures could be much higher amid fears of underreporting.

in battle for the bulge after body fat rule dropped



Rules introduced at the start of the pandemic made it compulsory for officers to work out daily and submit monthly body mass index readings

for the 220,000 members of the force to work out daily and submit monthly body mass index (BMI) readings.

Officers seeking to rise up the ranks were blocked if they failed to meet BMI targets, said person-

nel head Major General Rolando Hinanay.

In a memo to his recently appointed boss, the reed-thin police chief General Guillermo Eleazar, Hinanay called for the rule to be suspended.

He argued Covid-19 restrictions had made it difficult for officers to work out and lose weight.

"As a result, many personnel were disqualified for promotion," Hinanay said.

Eleazar confirmed to reporters Tuesday he had approved the request.

Officers are supposed to have a BMI of between 18.5 and 27, depending on their age, to qualify for service. Generally a BMI of between 18.5 and 24.9 is considered a "healthy weight".

A petition filed by disgruntled officers had argued the policy was "detrimental" and "a form of discrimination to personnel who are above normal BMI".

Iran says it is holding talks on prisoner exchanges with US

Reuters | Dubai

Iran said yesterday it was holding talks on prisoner exchanges with the United States aimed at securing the release of Iranians held in US jails and other countries over violations of US sanctions.

"Negotiations are under way on the exchange of prisoners between Iran and America, and we will issue more information if Iranian prisoners are released and the country's interests are secured and the talks reach a conclusion," government spokesman Ali Rabieei said.

"Because of its humanitarian aims, Iran is ready to exchange all American political prisoners in exchange for the release of all Iranian prisoners who have been detained around the world at the behest of America," he told a news conference carried on a government website.

There was no immediate US comment on his remarks.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price said on Monday that Washington would not impose a deadline on a seventh round of talks, and only Tehran could determine when talks would resume.

Pope Francis to leave hospital as soon as possible, says Vatican



Pope Francis speaks with a health worker at the Gemelli hospital, as he recovers following scheduled surgery on his colon, in Rome, Italy

Reuters | Vatican City

Pope Francis is continuing his planned treatment and rehabilitation after intestinal surgery 10 days ago and will leave hospital as soon as possible, the Vatican said yesterday.

The Vatican's daily medical bulletin on the 84-year-old pope, who had part of his colon removed on July 4, also said he had met many patients during his stay at the Gemelli hospital but felt particularly close to "those who are bedridden and cannot return home".

It gave no further details on the pope's condition. The Vatican had said on Monday that he would stay in hospital a few days longer than the

seven originally expected to "optimise his medical and rehabilitative therapy".

On Sunday he made his first public appearance since the surgery, standing for about 10 minutes while speaking from the balcony of his suite.

He has no commitments for the rest of the month apart from his Sunday blessing, though the Vatican is proceeding with plans for a papal trip to Slovakia and the Hungarian capital of Budapest in mid-September.

Scotland's bishops on Monday announced that the pope will attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November, health permitting.

Philippines to probe report of Chinese sewage-dumping at sea

Reuters | Manila

The Philippines' defence minister on Tuesday ordered the military to investigate a report by a US-based tech firm that hundreds of Chinese vessels were dumping sewage into contested areas of the South China Sea.

China maintains a constant presence of coastguard and fishing boats in the South China Sea to assert its claim of sovereignty, including hundreds in the Spratly islands, where the Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia also have claims.

Similarity, an AI-based satellite image analysis firm, on Monday made public satellite



images over a five-year period that it said showed damage caused by untreated human waste from Chinese vessels. At a forum on Monday, Liz Derr, Similarity co-founder and CEO, said the waste could threaten fish stocks.

"It is so intense you can see it from space," Derr said.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I wish @Malala a very happy birthday! Thank you for your work and commitment to girls' education worldwide, and your ongoing support for the @UN as our youngest Messenger of Peace!

@antoniogetterres

02



It's #WorldMaskWeek. A properly fitted mask reduces your risk of #COVID19. #Thanks-ForMasking & helping to stop the virus spreading further. But to stay safe, Avoid crowds, Physically distance, Open windows, Clean your hands and Get vaccinated when it's your turn

@DrTedros

03



"Approvals for companies to drill for oil and gas on U.S. public lands are on pace this year to reach their highest level since George W. Bush was president." We're not only subsidising the climate and ecological crisis - we're speeding it up.

@GretaThunberg

04



I cannot say this powerfully or emphatically enough - this pandemic is not over. It is only thanks to the vaccine programme that we are able to take these cautious steps now. But to take these steps we must be cautious and we must be vaccinated. Please get that jab.

@BorisJohnson

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Classifieds

THE DAILY **tribune**

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Gene editing 'blocks virus transmission' in human cells

● The tool was effective against viral transmissions in lab tests

AFP | Paris

Scientists have used CRISPR gene-editing technology to successfully block the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in infected human cells, according to research released Tuesday that could pave the way for Covid-19 treatments.

Writing in the journal Nature Communications, researchers in Australia said the tool was effective against viral transmissions in lab tests, adding that they hoped to begin animal trials soon.

CRISPR, which allows scientists to alter DNA sequences and modify gene function, has already shown promise in



Researchers in Australia said the tool was effective against viral transmissions in lab tests, adding that they hope soon to begin animal trials on the method

eliminating the genetic coding that drives the development of children's cancer.

The team in Tuesday's study used an enzyme, CRISPR-Cas13b, that binds to relevant RNA sequences on the novel coronavirus and degrades the genome it needs to replicate inside human cells.

Lead author Sharon Lewin

from Australia's Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity told AFP that the team had designed the CRISPR tool to recognise SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19.

"Once the virus is recognised, the CRISPR enzyme is activated and chops up the virus," she said.

"We targeted several parts

of the virus -- parts that are very stable and don't change and parts that are highly changeable -- and all worked very well in chopping up the virus."

The technique also succeeded in stopping viral replication in samples of so-called "variants of concern" such as Alpha.

Although there are several Covid-19 vaccines already on the market, available treatment options are still relatively scarce and only partially effective.

Co-author Mohamed Fareh from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said that another benefit of the research was its potential to be applied to other viral diseases.

"Unlike conventional anti-viral drugs, the power of this tool lies in its design-flexibility and adaptability, which make it a suitable drug against a multitude of pathogenic viruses including influenza, Ebola, and possibly HIV," he said.

Anger mounts after 92 die in fire on Iraq COVID ward



People walk past the damaged al-Hussain coronavirus hospital

● Death toll reaches 92, more than 100 injured

● Coronavirus ward gutted after oxygen tank explodes

● A tragedy waiting to happen, says medic at hospital

● Similar fire in Baghdad in April killed 82

Reuters | Nassiriya, Iraq

The death toll from a fire that tore through a coronavirus hospital in southern Iraq rose to 92, health officials said on Tuesday, as authorities faced accusations of negligence from grieving relatives and a doctor who works there.

More than 100 people were injured in the blaze on Monday night in Nassiriya, officials said. An investigation showed the fire began when sparks from faulty wiring spread to an oxygen tank that then exploded,

police and civil defence authorities said.

It was Iraq's second such tragedy in three months, and the country's president on Tuesday blamed corruption for both. A statement from the prime minister's office called for national mourning.

Rescue teams were using a heavy crane to remove the charred and melted remains of the part of the city's al-Hussain hospital where COVID-19 patients were being treated, as relatives gathered nearby.

A medic at the hospital, who declined to give his name and whose shift ended a few hours before the fire broke out, said the absence of basic safety measures meant it was an accident in the making.

"The hospital lacks a fire sprinkler system or even a simple fire alarm," he told Reuters.

"We complained many times over the past three months that a tragedy could happen any moment from a cigarette stub but every time we get the same answer from health officials: 'we don't have enough money'." While some bodies were collected for burial, with mourners weeping and praying over the coffins, the remains of more than 20 badly charred corpses required DNA tests to identify them.

Iranian commander urged escalation against US forces at Iraq meeting

Reuters | Baghdad

A senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander urged Iraqi Shi'ite militias to step up attacks on US targets during a meeting in Baghdad last week, three militia sources and two Iraqi security sources familiar with the gathering said.

American forces in Iraq and Syria were attacked several times following the visit by an Iranian delegation led by Revolutionary Guards intelligence chief Hossein Taeb, which came after deadly US air strikes against Iran-backed militias at the Syrian-Iraqi border on June



Blast walls of a sleeping quarters for US soldiers are seen at Ain al-Asad air base in Anbar province, Iraq

27.

While encouraging retalia-

tion, the Iranians advised the Iraqis not to go too far to avoid

a big escalation, three militia sources briefed on the meeting said.

The Iranians did, however, advise them to widen their attacks by retaliating against US forces in Syria, according to one of the three militia sources, a senior local militia commander briefed on the meeting.

The flare-up comes as significant differences cloud diplomatic efforts to revive the Iranian 2015 nuclear agreement, which was abandoned by former US President Donald Trump but which Iran wants reinstated to allow it to resume key exports of oil.

Hamilton wants more diversity in F1

AFP | London

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton says he wants to be remembered for “helping people and changing the industry and the viewpoints” after the publication of his report into improving diversity in motorsport.

Britain’s seven-time world champion was spurred into action after noticing the lack of diversity in an end-of-season photograph in 2019 and subsequently set up the Hamilton Commission.

Hamilton, 36, has taken the knee before every race since the beginning of last season and has persuaded his Mercedes team to paint its cars black to highlight discrimination.

The commission’s report, Accelerating Change: Improving Representation of Black People in UK Motorsport, asks for a di-

versity and inclusion charter to be implemented by F1 teams and other motorsport organisations.

Expanding the apprenticeship provision to include higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships as an alternate pathway into the sector are among the other suggestions to attempt to draw in under-represented groups to F1.

Paid work placement and work experience schemes, as well as supporting the creation of scholarship programmes to enable black graduates from degrees to progress into specialist motorsport roles have also been proposed. Hamilton, the only black driver in Formula One, told the BBC he hoped the findings would be “part of my legacy”.

“I would like to be remembered for much more than winning championships, which

is an amazing thing on its own, but for actually helping people and changing the industry and the viewpoints,” he said. “We are all the same. We all bleed the same. There is no reason why it shouldn’t be as diverse as the world around us.

“All it takes is the shift of the needle and then in the long distance that can be a whole continent’s size. It could be huge.” Hamilton said the commission, which included experts in motorsport, education and engineering, had found that obstacles for black people ran deeper than issues in gaining access to the sport.

“We realise it’s not just the motorsport industry that needs to change,” said Hamilton. “We found there are still systemic issues facing young black people at all levels of the education system.”



file pictures

Federer pulls out of Olympic Games

BBC

Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer has pulled out of the Tokyo Olympics because of a knee injury.

Federer, 39, lost in the quarter-finals of Wimbledon this year but anticipates re-joining the tour for the hard-court swing later in the year.

The Swiss won doubles gold at Beijing 2008 alongside Stan Wawrinka and silver in 2012 in the singles after losing to Andy Murray in the final in London.

Federer, now ranked number nine in the world, had two



knee surgeries in 2020.

In the last two years he has seen his Grand Slam tally equalled by Spain’s Rafael Nadal at the 2020 French Open and most recently by Serbia’s Novak Djokovic - who won a record-equalling 20th major at Wimbledon.

BRAVE CF 54 set for September 25, marking the promotion’s debut in Poland

Konin, Poland

Brave Combat Federation, the fastest-growing MMA promotion in the world, has become Europe’s biggest Mixed Martial Arts organisation, with multiple events held in the continent and the biggest scouting programa for European fighters in place.

The expansion is at full steam, with the Bahrain-based



event announcing yet another card for the region, this time marking its debut in Poland. BRAVE CF 54 will take place in the historical city of Konin, situated roughly 180 km away

from the capital Warsaw.

The event will be held in association with local promoters Galana Group. The Polish debut for Brave Combat Federation will crown a very busy end of summer and beginning of fall for the truly global MMA promotion. BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood is already confirmed for Milan, Italy and the following BRAVE CF 53 announced for Almaty, Kazakhstan, both in

August. Over the course of the last years, BRAVE CF quickly rose to a prominent position in the European MMA scene, becoming the continent’s top international promotion due to its unparalleled numbers: with more than 70 European fighters, from 25+ different nations signed, and being the only global MMA promotion in history to host 7 events in Europe in a single year.

S.Korea draw 2-2 with Argentina in Olympics prep match

● The match held in Yongin, south of Seoul, was one of two warm-up matches this week ahead of the Tokyo Olympics set to begin next week.

AFP News

The South Korean Olympic football squad drew 2-2 against Argentina on Tuesday after they netted an injury-time equaliser in a friendly match in front of empty seats.

The match held in Yongin, south of Seoul, was one of two warm-up matches this week ahead of the Tokyo Olympics set to begin next week.

It was played without spectators under tightened coronavirus restrictions as a recent surge in infections grips the greater Seoul area.

Argentina went ahead early



Argentina’s Carlos Valenzuela (R) competes for the ball with South Korea’s Um Won-sang (L) during their friendly football match in Yongin, South Korea

when Alexis Mac Allister scored from just outside the box in the 12th minute to give his side a 1-0 lead.

But South Korea caught up in the 35th minute with midfielder

Lee Dong-gyeong’s long-range strike hitting the back of the Argentine net.

The visiting team took the lead again 10 minutes into the second half when Carlos Valen-

zuela made a curling shot into the far corner after receiving a cross.

The home team then generated a last-minute turnaround when winger Um Won-sang delivered an equaliser in the 92nd minute.

The 2-2 draw gave the players “confidence that they could play well against a strong team,” head coach Kim Hak-bum said in a post-game interview.

South Korea will play France on Friday in their last preparation match before heading to Japan, where they will start their quest for a second Olympic medal against New Zealand on July 22.

The South Korean team won bronze at London 2012.

Romania and Honduras are also in Group B while Argentina will face Egypt, Spain and Australia in Group C.

The top two teams from each of the four groups will advance to the quarter-finals.

Gayle’s half-century powers West Indies past Australia

AFP News

Chris Gayle half-century blasted the West Indies to victory over Australia in St Lucia on Monday, clinching the five-match T20 series between the sides.

Chasing a modest target of 142, Gayle recaptured his most destructive form in racing to 67 off only 38 balls to take his team to the target with five overs to spare at the Daren Sammy Stadium.

By spearheading the West Indies to an insurmountable 3-0 lead in the series, the 41-year-old also sent an ominous warning that he could yet be a factor in the Caribbean side’s defence of the World T20 title later this year.

Gayle’s pyrotechnics followed another efficient West Indies performance in the field as wrist-spinner Hayden Walsh again presented the



most effective challenge to the Australians with figures of two for 18 in limiting the visitors to 141 for six.

All-rounder Moises Henriques topscored with 33 and struck the only two sixes of his team’s innings.

Henriques’ contribution followed his side’s best opening partnership of the series -- 41 -- between captain Aaron Finch and Matthew Wade.

However, the tempo of the innings dropped considerably when they were separated by Obed McCoy in what proved to be the seamer’s only over of the innings.

Formula One star Norris ‘shaken’ after Euro final watch theft

AFP | London

McLaren driver Lando Norris had his luxury watch stolen outside Wembley stadium after watching Italy’s Euro 2020 final victory against England.

Norris was robbed of the Richard Mille watch, worth a reported £40,000 (\$55,000), as he approached his McLaren supercar following the dramatic penalty shoot-out on Sunday.



The 21-year-old was shaken but unharmed in the incident, his Formula One team said.

Norris is preparing for this weekend’s British Grand Prix at

Silverstone.

“McLaren Racing can confirm that Lando Norris was involved in an incident, after the Euro 2020 final match at Wembley, during which the watch he was wearing was taken,” a statement said.

“Thankfully, Lando was unharmed but he is understandably shaken. The team is supporting Lando and we are sure

Norris was robbed of the Richard Mille watch, worth a reported £40,000 (\$55,000), as he approached his McLaren supercar following the dramatic penalty shoot-out on Sunday.

that racing fans will join us in wishing him all the best for the British Grand Prix this weekend.

“As this is now a police matter we cannot comment further.”

Norris’s mugging is the latest off-field incident to overshadow the Euro final.

The security operation around the match in London has been widely criticised after hundreds of ticketless fans stormed the pe-

rimeter gates and gained access to the stadium.

Many fans who had paid for tickets found their seats occupied by the mobs who had broken into Wembley, while social media videos showed people being attacked on the concourses.

Police made 53 arrests at Wembley, with several officers hurt in the violent scenes.

Olympic football team head for camp with 28 players

TDT | Manama

A 28-player Bahrain Olympic football team departed yesterday for Istanbul where they will be holding an overseas training camp until the end of the month.

The delegation is headed by team manager Shaikh Salman bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and head coach Ismail Karami.

The players are Ammar Mohammed, Omar Abdulbasit, Younis Mousa, Adnan Fawaz, Abdulla Al Haiki, Abdulrahman Sayed, Ali Khalifa, Hussain Al Attar, Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla Freah, Ebrahim Shareeda, Mohammed Marhoon, Hamza Abdulla, Ali Al Dosari, Ali Muftah, Sayed Mohammed Amin, Faisal Abdulla, Hassan Issa, Fahad Jassim, Mohammed Ahmed, Ziyad Basil, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Hussain Tawfiq, Hamad Fouad, Faisal Hassan Habib, Hamza Al Jabne and Abdulla Nimer.



Olympic team head coach Ismail Karami, right, during training

The Olympic team will train at the Turkish capital until July 27. During this period, they are

scheduled to play a number of friendly games against local teams.

The players are

Ammar Mohammed, Omar Abdulbasit, Younis Mousa, Adnan Fawaz,
Abdulla Al Haiki, Abdulrahman Sayed, Ali Khalifa, Hussain Al Attar,
Ahmed Al Sherooqi, Hussain Abdulkarim, Abdulla Freah, Ebrahim Shareeda,
Mohammed Marhoon, Hamza Abdulla, Ali Al Dosari, Ali Muftah,
Sayed Mohammed Amin, Faisal Abdulla, Hassan Issa, Fahad Jassim,
Mohammed Ahmed, Ziyad Basil, Ebrahim Al Khattal, Hussain Tawfiq,
Hamad Fouad, Faisal Hassan Habib, Hamza Al Jabne and Abdulla Nimer.

The Bahrainis' camp is part of their preparations for upcoming competitions, including their participation in the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Bahrain are in Group C of the qualification competition, alongside Iraq, Afghanistan and the Maldives. Their games will be held in the Kingdom during the last week of October.

2008 Olympic champion DeGale has gold medal stolen

The break-in happened on Sunday during England's Euro 2020 final defeat by Italy.

Reuters

2008 Beijing Olympics middleweight boxing champion James DeGale has appealed for help after his gold medal and MBE were stolen from his parents' house.

The Briton, who is also a two-time IBF super-middleweight champion, said the break-in happened on Sunday during England's Euro 2020 final defeat by Italy.

DeGale posted security footage on Instagram of someone walking alongside

the house and covering the camera, and said two of his "prize possessions" had been taken.

"They are worthless to anyone other than me and they are two achievements that I prize from my boxing career," he said. "I am gutted and need my medals back."

DeGale, 35, retired from boxing in February 2019.



Euro vs Copa America!

Messi could lead Argentina against Italy in a 'Super Cup'

The proposed game will be played before the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

Agencies

Days after leading Argentina to their first Copa America triumph in 28 years, recent reports suggest Lionel Messi could soon be facing Euro 2020 winner Italy in a 'Super Cup'.

According to Barca Blaugranes, CONMEBOL, South America's footballing body have requested UEFA to hold a one-off game between Argentina and Italy to find out which team is better.

Earlier, the winner of each confederation's tournament



would compete against one another in the FIFA Confederations Cup. However, the tournament has been scrapped. The last edition of the Confederations Cup was played in Russia in 2017, which was won by Germany.

Despite the proposal, Argentina and Lionel Messi will have to wait to compete against Italy. Due to the global pandemic and congestion in club football scheduling, the proposed game will be played before the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

It is worth noting that the concept of European and South American champions playing against each other is not new. The Artemio Franchi Trophy was played in 1985 and 1993. France were the first winners of the tournament, beating Uruguay 2-0 while Argentina were victorious in 1993, defeating Denmark.

According to Barca Blaugranes, CONMEBOL, South America's footballing body have requested UEFA to hold a one-off game between Argentina and Italy to find out which team is better.

Both the Copa America 2021 and Euro 2020 campaigns were

special. While it was the first time ever that Messi had won an international trophy wearing the Argentina shirt, Italy had even failed to qualify in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Messi ended the Copa America campaign as the player with the most number of goals and assists. He was deservedly named the Player of the tournament, having played the most influential role in the team's triumph.

Italy, on the other hand, put in a great shift, especially defensively. While the center-back pairing of Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci wasn't dribbled past even once in the whole tournament, goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma was named the Player of the Tournament. It was the first time in the history of the European Championships that a goalkeeper was named the best player.

48,000 meals a day : Tokyo tackles feeding an Olympic Village

AFP

Even under ordinary circumstances, feeding an Olympic Village is a mammoth task, with chefs preparing tens of thousands of meals a day for elite athletes from around the world.

But at Tokyo 2020, there's an added pressure: strict coronavirus rules forbid athletes from eating at local restaurants, so it's their only chance to sample Japan's famous cuisine.

"I feel it's a lot of responsibility for us," admitted Tsutomu Yamane, senior director of Tokyo 2020's food and beverages services department.



Menus are largely divided into three categories: Western, Japanese and Asian, which covers Chinese, Indian and Vietnamese options. And given Japan's world-famous cuisine, there will be plenty of local flavour.

"We want them to enjoy (Japanese food)... but it's major pressure," he said.

It's a huge undertaking: the village can host up to 18,000 people at a time and its cafeteria will serve up to 48,000 meals a day, with some open around the clock.

Anti-infection rules mean athletes can't go anywhere but the village, training sites and competition venues.

So organisers will provide 700 menu options, 3,000 seats at the main two-storey cafeteria and 2,000 staff at peak hours to meet the needs of all.

Informal dishes

The focus will be on informal dishes rather than high-end dining, with ramen and udon noodles among the staples, said Yamane.

Always-popular ramen will be offered in two of its most famous broths: soy sauce, and miso -- the fermented soybean paste that is central to Japanese cuisine.



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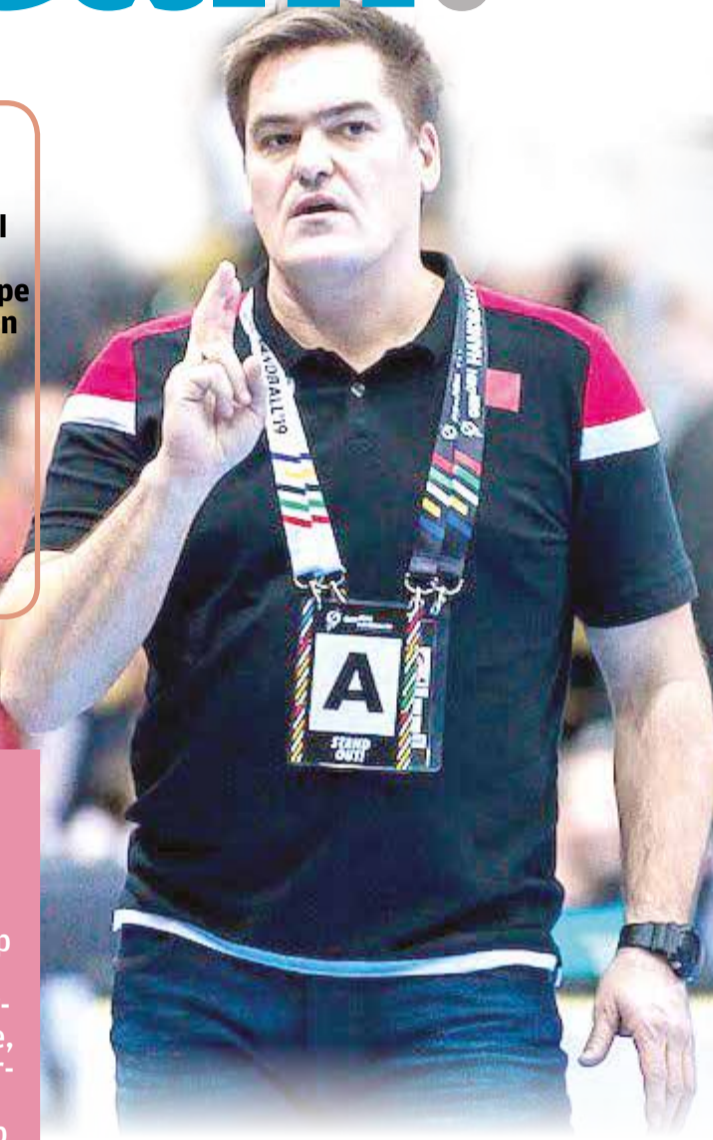
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‘Dare to dream!’



Flashback: Bahrain skipper Hussain Al Sayyad in action during the Olympic qualification tournament in 2019 (File photo)

“I know that we will fight as warriors all the time and give everything, so we hope we can make Bahrain proud”
 — ARON KRISTJANSSON



BETTER YOU KNOW
 Bahrain are in Group B of the Olympics’ men’s handball tournament group phase, alongside Egypt, Portugal, hosts Japan, world championship silver-medallists Sweden, and reigning World and Olympic champions Denmark

● **The Bahrainis open their Olympics campaign against Sweden on July 24**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s national handball team head coach Aron Kristjansson has called on his players to “dream” and give it “all they got” when they make history later this month and fly the Kingdom’s flag at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The handball stars are the first-ever Bahrainis to qualify for a team sport at any Olympics, and Kristjansson urges them to seize the moment and make the most of this rare opportunity.

“It is huge for Bahrain to qualify for these Games,” Kristjansson says. “We have 11 opponents and they are among the best teams in the world.”

“The people of Bahrain should be very proud of the team. Bahrain is a small team in world handball and have made this great accomplishment to reach the Olympics.”

“I know that we will fight as warriors all the time and give everything, so we hope we can make Bahrain proud.”

The former Iceland international and world-renowned coach has challenged his players to not be satisfied with just being at the Games, but to go a step further and possibly upset their heavily favoured competition.

He adds: “If the team comes out of these five games playing good matches, playing good games, and pressing the teams, everybody giving all they got, [it will be a success].”

“We cannot say we should aim for something that is unrealistic, but we should have a dream. We should have a dream to go further to get some wins and try our best and make everybody surprised and proud of us.”

Bahrain are in Group B of the

men’s handball tournament’s preliminary round and are set to face the sport’s powerhouses in their five fixtures.

“In our group are the two teams that played the final in the last world championship, Sweden and Denmark, so this is a very tough group and we will

The Bahrainis take on Portugal on July 26, and then face reigning World and Olympic champions Denmark two days later.

have to stick very hard together to come out of it in a good way,” Kristjansson explains.

“We have five games, very difficult all of them, and we will really have to be at our best to get good results.”

“Sweden and Denmark are the strongest teams, also Egypt have developed very well. They played very well in the last world championship. Portugal is among the top eight in the world; they are newcomers, but a very exciting team. They have been playing very well the last two or three years, so they are a stronger team than many people think.”

“We are looking at our game against Japan, who are one of our opponents in Asia, to try and

Bahrain head coach Aron Kristjansson challenges men’s national handball team players to reach for the skies as they head towards historic debut participation at the Olympic Games starting later this month in Tokyo

get a win. They have home advantage and have been training now for five months together. They will be a difficult game but there is the possibility we are looking for to get this win against Japan, and maybe surprise somebody else.”

Kristjansson relishes Bahrain’s role as underdogs, and is excited about the possibility of shocking the world at the Olympics. The top two teams from each pool advance to the last eight, and it is something Kristjansson believes is not necessar-

ily out of reach. “We are in a very difficult group, but you never know,” he says. “This is sports. You have to aim for victory every time.”

“We want to get the first win for Bahrain, and if you get the first win, maybe you can get one surprise also. Anything can happen.”

“We are not the favourite for the quarter-finals, there are other teams favoured for that position, but we will do everything to make the people of Bahrain proud of us and to get some wins.”

The Bahrainis have been training daily under Kristjansson’s watch the past few weeks at the Bahrain Handball Association arena in Um Al Hassam. They are scheduled to leave for Japan on Friday. There, they will play a tune-up game against Argentina on July 19 as part of the final lead-up to the start of competition.

The Bahrainis open their Olympics campaign against Sweden on July 24. They then take on Portugal on July 26, and then face reigning World and Olympic champions Denmark two days later. Bahrain square off with fellow-Asian side Japan on July 30, before completing the preliminaries against Egypt on August 1.

Group A consists of Norway, France, Germany, Brazil, Spain and Argentina. The top four from each pool move on to the knockout quarter-finals.

Kristjansson heads to Olympics as coach after missing chance as Iceland international

Before becoming a coach, Aron Kristjansson was a top player who played for the Iceland national team for a decade.

In 2003, the now-48-year-old helped his national team qualify for the Athens Olympics in 2004, but in a cruel blow, he injured his knee following the qualification, forcing him to miss the Olympics and leading to his retirement as a player.

Kristjansson now gets to fulfill his Olympic aspirations leading Bahrain in Tokyo. “Of course, it’s something you aim for as an athlete—to reach the Olympics,” he says. “We did it in the national team in Iceland in 2003, for the Olympic Games in 2004; unfortunately, I got injured and it ended my career just before the Olympics, so that was of course a very hard feeling to miss it.”



Aron Kristjansson, left, during his younger years as a player

“Time moves on, you forget about it, but I’m thrilled like all the players about this qualification.”

Kristjansson was the man who helped Bahrain qualify for Tokyo, but for several reasons, had to leave the team shortly after.

With the Olympics delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and Bahrain’s head coaching post opening up, Kristjansson has found his way back and is now ready to finish the job he helped start.

“It was a very extraordinary situation for everybody in the world last year because of the pandemic and they moved the Olympics. Now, we as a team have the possibility to finish it, go there and to show our best,” he says.