

Bahrain at low risk of Marburg Virus Infection, says Ministry of Health



TDT | Manama

Bahrain has a low risk of being affected by the Marburg Virus, which has been reported in Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea, confirmed the Ministry of Health yesterday.

Since there are no direct flights between Bahrain, Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea, the chances of the virus reaching the Kingdom are low, the ministry said citing a risk assessment from the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDPC).

The ministry said it is closely monitoring regional and global development and is in constant coordination with the World Health Organisation and the GCDPC to monitor developments related to communicable diseases.

This is for maintaining preparedness and response plans as well as setting the necessary protocols for dealing with them.

The Ministry said it will keep the public informed about the latest developments through various official media channels.

Iran Guards officer killed in Israeli strike on Syria: website

Tehran, Iran

An officer from Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards was killed in Israeli air strikes on Syria early on Friday, a website affiliated with the Guards said.

Sepahnews, the website of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said one of the force's officers was killed in the Israeli raid.

"Milad Heidari, one of the military officers and advisers of the Guards in Syria, was martyred at dawn on Friday in the Zionist regime's criminal attack on the outskirts of Damascus," it said.

Israel would "undoubtedly... receive a reply to this crime", the report added.

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This aerial view shows locals affected by the February 6 earthquake attending a mass "Iftar" fast-breaking dinner in the town of Atareb in the rebel-held western countryside of Aleppo province, yesterday at the end of the fasting day during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Iran state TV apologises for airing kiss: media

Tehran, Iran

Iranian state television has issued an apology after broadcasting images of a couple sharing a brief kiss, local media said yesterday.

All displays of physical contact between men and women is forbidden on the Islamic republic's official TV networks.

In a Thursday broadcast, the Nasim entertainment channel showed a young couple kissing for a few seconds at a park, as they were passing in front of a hidden camera recording a prank show.

In a statement published by the ISNA news agency yesterday, Nasim apologised for an "error that resulted from the negligence of the production team".

It added the channel "will firmly handle those responsible for the negligence following an inquiry".

In 2021, two presenters on state television -- husband and wife -- apologised after hugging each other during a live broadcast, spurring controversy.

The two said they had been unaware they were on air.

End western 'Dominance'

Russia adopts new anti-West global strategy

TDT | agencies

President Vladimir Putin yesterday signed off on a new Russian foreign policy strategy aimed at curtailing Western "dominance" and identifying China and India as key partners for the future.

The new document cements the deep Cold War-style rupture between Russia and the West over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, according to AFP.

"The Russian Federation intends to give priority to the elimination of vestiges of the dominance of the United States and other unfriendly countries in world politics," the strategy document said.

The term "unfriendly countries" is used by Russia to refer to those countries, particularly in Europe and North America,

Russian President Vladimir Putin launches a number of pharmaceutical facilities in Russia via a video link at the Kremlin in Moscow



Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the document recognised "the existential nature of threats to the security and development of our country, driven by the actions of unfriendly states". "The United States of America is directly named as the main instigator and driver of anti-Russian sentiment," he said.

that have condemned Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine and adopted sanctions.

The 42-page document, which was published on the Kremlin's website, said that

Russia would aim to "create the conditions for any state to reject neo-colonialist and hegemonic aims".

Announcing the document at a security council meeting, Putin said that updates to Russia's strategy for engagement on the global stage were necessary due to "radical changes" in the world.

The strategy reflects the Russian leader's increasingly anti-Western stance in the face of sanctions and Western military aid to Ukraine, as was also seen in his state of the nation speech last month.

In the new strategy, Russia stressed the importance of "the deepening of ties and coordination with friendly sovereign global centres of power and development located on the Eurasian continent."

Tunisia imposes water rationing

Tunis, Tunisia

Tunisia announced tight restrictions on water usage, including rationing tap water, yesterday, as the drought-hit country braces for another baking summer.

The North African country's dams are at critical lows following years of drought, exacerbated by pipeline leaks in a decrepit distribution network.

The agriculture ministry announced a ban on the use of potable water for irrigating farmland or green spaces, or for cleaning public areas or cars.

Life is priceless

Latvian fined 50,000 euros for crushing 'golden' eggs

Riga, Latvia

Latvia came down hard on a man who squashed the eggs of a protected bird species, issuing a 50,000-euro fine that his lawyers said valued them as if they were pure gold.

A court in the Baltic state ordered the penalty after the man came across the nests of black-headed gulls -- a protected species -- and crushed several eggs.

"These 10 eggs are priced



Representative picture

higher than if they were made of pure gold," his lawyers protested, according to a report from the local paper Latvijas Avize.

Judge Lauris Shnepsts however remained unmoved, arguing that it was wrong "to compare

precious wildlife with a piece of shiny metal".

"I hope this case will set a legal precedent for wildlife protection in our country," he told reporters following Tuesday's verdict.

The incident dates back to the spring of 2021, when Artis Kruminis rowed across a

northern lake to an island inhabited only by wild birds and smashed the eggs.

The crime may have gone unnoticed had it not been for a local scientist who happened to be doing field research there and whose footage helped crack the case.

"I tried to calm down the egg-crusher but he got even more aggressive, he started to use his oars to throw up eggs in the air and hit them," the professor later testified in the courtroom.

