

HM King, Saudi Crown Prince exchange Eid greetings

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday exchanged Eid greetings with Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud during a telephonic conversation.

The leaders exchanged Eid Al Adha wishes and wished both countries and peoples as well as the Arab and Islamic nations further growth and prosperity. They also reviewed distinguished historical relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Separately His Majesty the King greeted Iraqi Prime Minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, and His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar of Johor in Malaysia over the phone over Eid Al Adha.

His Majesty King Hamad sent cables of congratulations to President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and President of Benin Patrice Guillaume Talon on their countries Independence Day and President of the Swiss Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga on Swiss national day.

37,840 recoveries

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Kingdom yesterday announced a new coronavirus (COVID-19) death, a 55-year-old expatriate man, raising the total number of deaths from the pandemic to 147. Health Ministry announced the latest death on its twitter handle and offered condolences to the family of the deceased.

There are currently 71 patients in the Kingdom who are receiving treatment at various facilities, of which 41 are admitted to critical care.

Some 2,995 active cases are there in the Kingdom, Health Ministry said, out of which 2,954 patients are in a stable health condition.

The ministry also said it carried out 4,326 COVID-19 tests in the Kingdom yesterday to identify 227 new patients.

Some 92 of the newly detected cases were expatriate workers. There were also 130 cases, who were contacts of active cases. Five travel-related cases were also detected.

New 483 recoveries were also detected bringing the total number of people cured of their infection in the Kingdom to 37,840.

Bahrain, as of yesterday, conducted some 830,998 tests.

According to the Health Ministry's contact tracing pages, during the period from 23 July to 29 July, Bahrain detected



some 2,675 confirmed cases, of which 1283 were Bahrainis and 1,391 were expatriate citizens.

The average number of cases per day has declined during the week to 382 from 439 cases detected per day during the week before.

Most of the cases were detected were contacts of active cases - 1004 of the total cases.

Altogether, last week, six people, the ministry said, were instrumental in passing on the infection to 56 others.

A 60-year-old male citizen, who tested positive after developing symptoms, found was in touch with 10 other across seven households. Seven of the cases, including the index patient's wife, children and grandchildren, were direct contacts.

In another incident, a 60-year-old Bahraini man, also tested positive after developing symptoms, passed on the disease to 10 others across seven households. Seven of the cases,

including the index patient's wife, children and grandchildren, were in direct contact.

BeAware App alert led to finding a 29-year-old male expatriate who came near with a positive case. Contact tracing led to finding a total of 10 additional cases, all of whom came into contact with the index case at work.

The ministry, during the same week, also reported four other incidents, in which each of the positive cases ended up infecting more than 10 others.

Cases included that of a 47-year-old male expatriate, who gave the infection to 13 others, a 62-year-old female citizen, who was responsible for infecting 11 others, a 43-year-old male expatriate who passed on the virus to nine others and a 33-year-old male expatriate, who was in contact with 12 other expatriates.

The 33-year-old expatriate man came in contact with 11 of his colleagues in the same company, impacting seven different families in two different buildings.

In all, the cases affected more than 16 households in the Kingdom. Six months after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has infected more than 17 million people and wreaked global economic mayhem. Global daily cases are now approaching the 300,000 marks, with the curve showing no sign of flattening -- it took just 100 hours for one million new cases to be recorded.

Making Eid safe

Muharrag police distribute face masks, gifts



In pictures, during the campaign

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Muharrag police directorate yesterday distributed face masks and pamphlets on coronavirus preventive measures as part of an awareness campaign held to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Kingdom.

The campaign, which emphasised the importance of adhering to precautionary measures strictly, also distributed gifts to children and a national magazine published by the General Directorate of Information Security & Radio Communication.

The event was part of social responsibility programmes and events being rolled out by the Muharrag Governorate Police Directorate.

Brigadier Saleh Rashid Fahad Al Dossari, the Director-General of Muharrag Governorate's Police Directorate, stressed the interest of the directorate in communicating with people and sharing the joy of Eid Al-Adha with them.



Al Dossari said the directorate would use this blessed occasion in spreading the culture of safety and developing a sense of responsibility in the community in battling the deadly pandemic.

Terzi coordinated actions with MIT

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Nordic Monitors says part of Terzi's job was to coordinate actions with MIT, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's confidant Hakan Fidan. He worked closely with the Pentagon on a train and equip programme for Syrian opposition fighters. After noticing that MIT had been trying to pass off radical militants as mod-

erates, he raised an objection and protested the deception, making himself a target of MIT and his boss Aksakalli.

"[Terzi's murder] had to do with a trap devised by Zekai Aksakalli, who did not want such facts to come out into the open," Alakus testified.

"Semih Terzi knew very well how the oil taken from ISIS [in Syria] was rerouted [to Turkey]

through Iraq's [Kurdistan] Regional Government with the help of a prominent local politician [in Kurdistan] and with the cooperation of [Turkish] public officials and using the capabilities of a [Turkish] government agency and how much commission was taken," Alakus explained. "This is why he was the target, Your Honor," Alakus added.

Hajj: 'Dream come true'

(Continues from Page 1)

Last year, King Salman made the trip to Mina and was seen on state-run television observing worshippers from the window of a high-rise.

But it was unclear whether he would visit this year after his 10-day stay in hospital.

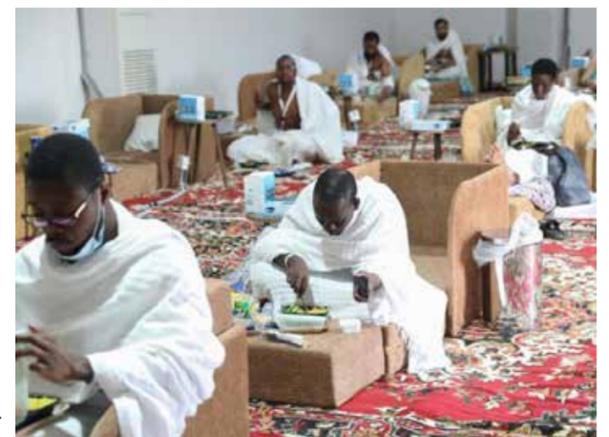
On Thursday, pilgrims scaled Mount Arafat for Quran recitals and prayers to atone for their sins in what is seen as the high point of the event.

"I am so happy to be chosen among millions for the Hajj this year," Saudi pilgrim Wedyan Alwah said before setting off on the climb.

"My lifetime dream has come true."

They made their way down Mount Arafat to Muzdalifah, another holy site, where they spent the night before the stoning ritual.

Late on Thursday, a health ministry spokesman said that there were no Covid-19 infections, nor any other major diseases among pilgrims so far.



The Hajj typically costs thousands of dollars for pilgrims but this year, the Saudi government is covering all expenses, including health care

Health precautions

The pilgrims, who have all been tested for the virus and are subject to regular temperature checks, are also required to be quarantined after the Hajj, authorities said.

Six hospitals, 51 field clinics and 200 ambulances catered

to the faithful, health ministry spokesman Mohammad al Abd Al Aly said.

Some 8,000 health care professionals were also deployed, he added.

The Hajj began on Wednesday when pilgrims were brought inside the mosque in small batches.

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