

HM King thanked by Palestinian president



HM the King
 TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas, also chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), in reply to HM's cable of condolences over the passing of PLO Secretary-General Saeb Erekat.

HM the King sent a cable of congratulations to Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange Touadéra on his country's Republic Day.

HH the King also sent a cable of congratulations to Romania President Klaus Iohannis on his country's Great Union Day.

Zero COVID-19 deaths; 169 new cases reported

TDT | Manama

There were zero deaths from the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bahrain yesterday, while 169 new cases and 164 additional recoveries were reported.

The death toll stands at 341.

Following 10,234 tests, the fresh infections included 83 expatriate workers and 70 from contacts of active cases, while 16 were travel-related.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
86,956

ACTIVE CASES
1,474

DEATHS
341

DISCHARGED
85,141

NEW CASES
169

CRITICAL
14

210 fils (includes VAT)



Haas hopeful of speedy Grosjean recovery

Brazilian Pietro Fittipaldi to make F1 race debut in place of recuperating Frenchman at this weekend's Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix | P12

Respect maritime borders!

Coast Guard hailed for restraint and professionalism over Qatari patrols' interception of Bahraini vessels

Kingdom appeals to refrain from actions that threaten security and peace in the Arabian Gulf region

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is committed to exercise its sovereignty over its territorial waters and promote regional peace and security.

This came as the Cabinet praised the efforts of the Coast Guard in protecting maritime borders following the interception of two Bahraini Coast Guard vessels by Qatari Coast and Border Security patrol vessels in the territorial waters of the Kingdom on November 25.

The Cabinet, during its weekly virtual meeting held yesterday and chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, noted the restraint and professionalism demonstrated by Bahrain's Coast Guard personnel during the incident.

In this regard, the Cabinet welcomed the statements of the Council of Representatives and Shura Council for the need to respect applicable laws, international norms and relevant agreements, and to refrain from actions that threaten security and peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

The Cabinet also welcomed the work of the Supreme Council for Women on the occasion

of Bahraini Women's Day, emphasising the need to continue pursuing greater women's advancement across all sections of society.

It praised HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's direction to provide Formula 1 tickets to frontline health workers and their families in recognition of their great contribution to Bahrain's COVID-19 response. The Cabinet then commended Team Bahrain's success in hosting the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 during unprecedented circumstances.

Youth empowerment programmes following the 2020 Youth Summit were also discussed in the Cabinet, and directed the creation of a taskforce to assess its recommendations

and integrate them into government programmes.

The Cabinet welcomed Bahrain's recent success in winning five different Arab Government Excellence Awards, underlining the importance of further enhancing service excellence, in line with citizens' aspirations.

The Cabinet extended the Kingdom's best wishes to the UAE on the occasion of their 49th National Day.

A number of memorandums and proposed laws were discussed and approved during the meeting.

The Cabinet approved a memorandum from the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training regarding the development of the education sector.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairing the weekly Cabinet Meeting

It includes the restructuring of the Ministry of Education's work into two sectors: the first

to oversee policy, strategy and performance, and the second to oversee school affairs in order to enhance the education system and educational services in public schools.



The Cabinet welcomed the statements of the Council of Representatives and Shura Council to respect applicable laws, international norms and relevant agreements



Bahrain's newly acquired patrol warship RBNS Al-Zubara is tasked to protect the nation's territorial waters

Bahraini delegation to visit Israel

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini delegation headed by Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani is set to leave today on an official visit to Israel.

The minister will meet a number of senior Israeli officials



Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani

in Jerusalem, where they will discuss cooperation in the fields of industry, trade and tourism, with an exchange of experiences. This is the second visit of an official Bahraini delegation to Israel, and it comes in light of what was agreed upon in the declaration supporting peace in September.

Houthi ballistic missile lands in Sanaa

Sanaa

The Saudi-led Arab coalition said yesterday that the Houthi militia fired a ballistic missile from Amran that landed in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

The Houthis are continuing to threaten civilian lives with their actions, the coalition said. The Houthi militia has recently

intensified the use of explosive and reconnaissance drones, which a UN committee of experts said earlier was assembled from external components and shipped to Yemen.

The Saudi-led Arab coalition said yesterday the Houthi militia fired a ballistic missile from Amran that landed in Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Cosmic spectacle

Caught on camera! 'Meteor' lights up skies over Japan

Osaka

A fireball spotted falling from the night sky over parts of western and central Japan has lit up social media, with users sharing images of the unusually bright shooting star.

Local media said the fireball was believed to be a bolide, an extremely bright meteor that explodes in the atmosphere.



Still image showing a meteor falls in Tatsuno, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

"We believe the last burst of light was as bright as the full moon," Takeshi Inoue, director of the Akashi Municipal Planetarium, told Kyodo news agency.

The fireball was visible for just a few seconds in the early hours of Sunday, but was caught on cameras owned by national broadcaster NHK — which generally capture earthquake activity rather than extraterrestrial

light shows. "The sky went bright for a moment and I felt strange because it couldn't be lightning," said one Twitter user who saw the fireball. "I felt the power of the universe!"

"Was that a fireball? I thought it was the end of the world..." said another, tweeting a video of the meteor captured while driving.