



Sophie Turner: COVID-19 lockdown is like a prison for Joe Jonas **10** CELEBS

WORLD **8** Use malaria drugs only for virus emergencies

No COVID-19 spread in expat community

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There is no spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the expatriate community, the Health Ministry assured yesterday.

The Ministry's announcement came after rumors were circulating on social media that COVID-19 was spreading amongst expatriates.

Recently, a group of 47 expatriate workers had tested positive in Bahrain, but authorities were able to respond to the situation quickly and isolate them from the rest of the community.

"Contrary to what was said, there is no spread of the virus amongst expatriates," the Ministry stated. "There are 47 expatriates who tested positive recently after they came in contact with a positive case, but this has not caused a community spread."

"The positive cases were isolated and precautionary steps were taken. We have been in coordination with the company's management and they have not left quarantine."

"They are under observation and we decided to have them in quarantine for two more weeks."

Meanwhile, the Ministry said that a video currently circulating on social media regarding a quarantine and treatment centre located in Sitra does not reflect the procedures and arrangements in place at that particular site.

"MOH is taking all necessary measures to contain COVID-19, and is actively caring for all citizens and residents to safeguard the Kingdom's collective health and safety," it said on its website.

The ministry urged the public to rely only on official sources for all information regarding the coronavirus.

As of last night, the total number of recovered cases in Bahrain reached 337, with a total of 228 active cases, three of which are critical. There have been a total of 34,860 tests administered.

Ministry of Finance and National Economy publishes 2019 Bahrain Annual Economic Report

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Bahrain's economic development remains on track, according to the 2019 Bahrain Annual Economic Report published yesterday by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

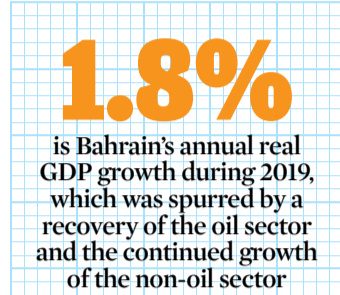
The report incorporates the latest economic data and indicators

and highlights important global and regional economic analysis.

It indicates that Bahrain's economic development is supported by the government's comprehensive fiscal and economic strategy, and the guiding principles of the Economic Vision 2030.

Results show that the Kingdom of Bahrain recorded annual real GDP growth of 1.8 per cent during 2019, spurred by a recovery of the oil sector, which grew by 2.2 per cent and the continued non-oil sector growth of 1.7 per cent, both in real terms.

The hotels and restaurants sector registered the strongest non-



oil sector performance in 2019; growing by 6.8 per cent year-on-year, supported by a 3.8 per cent increase in the number of visitors across the King Fahd Causeway and a 5.5 per cent increase in ar-

rivals via Bahrain International Airport.

The average length of stay for visitors increased by 16.8 per cent, with average daily visitor spending increasing by 1.1 per cent.

Demand for five-star and four-star hotels also saw strong growth in 2019, with occupancy rates reaching 52 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively. Demand for five-star accommodation was particularly strong, increasing by six per cent year-on-year.

The personal and social services sector also registered strong growth in 2019, expanding by 2.9 per cent and bolstered by growth

in the private educational services and private health services sectors.

The construction and manufacturing sectors saw robust expansion of 2.6 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively, in 2019, with the manufacturing sector partly supported by the inauguration of Aluminum Bahrain's Line Six Expansion Project.

The report further indicates that financial services remains the Kingdom's largest non-oil sector, contributing 16.5 per cent to GDP, followed by manufacturing at 14.5 per cent and government services at 11.8 per cent.

'Pillars of the health sector'

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Nurses are an essential pillar of the health sector, given their noble efforts and dedication to serving Bahrain's citizens and residents.

This was asserted yesterday by Health Minister Faeqa bint Said Al Saleh as she made field visits to various healthcare sites accompanied by Ministry of Health undersecretary Dr. Waleed Khalifa Al Manea and assistant undersecretaries.

Minister Al Saleh paid tribute to all nursing staffs, especially

for their commendable contributions in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, which are in line with the directives of the Government's Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

She stressed that they are at the forefront of the battle and that they put the health and safety of everyone as their top priority.

Nurses have their clear imprints in the development and



The Health Minister and other officials during their field visit to BIECC

Health Minister pays tribute to Bahrain's nurses for their noble efforts, dedication in serving the people

55
 Nurses are at the forefront of the battle to curb the coronavirus, and they put the health and safety of everyone as their top priority.

HEALTH MINISTER FAEQA BINT SAID AL SALEH

modernisation witnessed by Bahrain's health sector, she added, and noted that they are doing their utmost to ensure the comfort of patients while carrying out their humanitar-

ian duties professionally and around the clock.

The Health Minister extend her thanks and appreciation to all nursing teams, in particular marking the World Health Day, which is to be observed worldwide on April 7 under the theme, "Support Nurses and Midwives".

On his part, Al Manea saluted the nursing staff and noted that the designation of 2020 as the nursing year has highlighted their dedicated efforts amidst the global outbreak of COVID-19.

As part of the field visits, the

Health Minister made stops at the COVID-19 examination centres at the Bahrain International Airport, Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, and at the Accident and Emergency Department at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

The Health Minister, undersecretary and assistant undersecretaries expressed their sincerest thanks and appreciation to all medical professionals, affirming their full support for their tremendous efforts in serving the Kingdom's people.

JUSTICE IS SERVED... ONLINE

Civil, commercial cases now fully electronic

New service allows electronic filing of cases; submitting all defence statements, pleadings, and applications during all stages; and issuance of judgments

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A major shift in the delivery of justice before Bahrain's courts has been completed.

This was announced yesterday by Cassation Court president and Supreme Judicial Council vice-president Chancellor Abdulla bin Hasan Al Buainain.

He was speaking during a vid-

eo conference with Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa and Information and e-Government Authority (iGA) chief executive officer Mohammed Ali Al Qaed.

Al Buainain said that all procedures of civil and commercial cases of all types and degrees are now fully electronic.

Al Buainain praised the continuous support of the Government Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, who had a prominent role in the success of these efforts and achievements. All this comes in line with the comprehensive development



A screenshot of the video conference

goals set by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Shaikh Khalid expressed his

deep thanks and appreciation to the iGA for their efforts in supporting the implementation

of the electronic system and in providing solid grounds for the advancement of the continuous development and implementation of justice.

In addition, Al Buainain revealed that the new service will allow the electronic filing of cases and submitting all defence statements, pleadings, and applications to the courts during all stages of the case including issuance of judgments. This will include cases in the first degree which was announced recently, as well as the appeal stage before the Appeal and Cassation Courts.

The protection of all constitutional and legal guarantees established for a fair trial are ensured in these electronic procedures.



02 \$1.25 billion bond repaid

03 February exports worth BD196 million

04 TRA records 89 pc jump in telecom disputes

210 fils (includes VAT)

