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Prince Faisal sworn in as deputy to King Abdullah



Prince Faisal bin Hussein
Reuters | Amman

Jordan's Prince Faisal bin Hussein was sworn in as deputy to his brother King Abdullah, state television reported yesterday.

US sending Ukraine two surface-to-air missile systems - Pentagon

Reuters | Washington

The United States is sending Ukraine two NASAMS surface-to-air missile systems, four additional counter-artillery radars and up to 150,000 rounds of 155mm artillery ammunition as part of its latest weapons packages for Ukraine, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The assistance package, worth about \$820 million, was broadly announced by US President Joe Biden on Thursday in Madrid following a gathering of NATO leaders that was focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



The Pentagon is seen from the air in Washington

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

10028681

ACTIVE CASES

14070

DEATHS

1493

DISCHARGED

611764

NEW CASES

1471

CRITICAL

10

220 fils (includes VAT)



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EU recognition reflects international confidence in Bahrain: Ministry

TDT | Manama

The decision by the European Union to recognise the COVID-19 certificates issued by Bahrain reflects their confidence in the health system of Bahrain, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

"The mutual recognition reflects the international confidence in the health system of the Kingdom and the measures



it took to address COVID-19 following the highest international standards," the ministry said.

These are "result of the efforts of Team Bahrain, led by His Roy-

al Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister," the statement stressed.

The decision allows Bahrain and the European Union countries of their mutual recognition of digital certificates related to vaccination, examination and recovery from COVID-19, as well as their acceptance of all travellers coming from both sides

as of July 1, 2022. The foreign ministry explained that the approval of the request came after confirming the readiness of "Be Aware Bahrain" and its compliance with the international technical standards in ensuring the validity and safety of official certificates.

The European Commissioner for Justice Affairs, Didier Reyniers, welcomed the accession of Bahrain to the European Union system linked to 75 countries.

The Commission of the European Union has announced that it has decided to recognise the COVID-19 certificates issued by Bahrain, Ecuador, Korea, Kosovo, and Madagascar.

The European Union mission of Bahrain praised this step, which would facilitate travel procedures, as the European Union extended the use of digital COVID-19 certificates until the end of June next year.

Pilgrims throng Mecca for Hajj



More than 344 thousand pilgrims arrive in Medina for pilgrimage

One million fully vaccinated pilgrims to perform the 2022 Hajj

TDT | Manama

Pilgrims from across the globe started converging in thousands on Mecca in Saudi Arabia yesterday for the Hajj pilgrimage -- the world's biggest gathering, which this year would welcome some 1 million pilgrims after two years of COVID-19 pandemic-induced disruptions.

This year, entry is only for pilgrims aged 18 to 65 who are fully vaccinated against COVID and do not have chronic diseases.

Wrapped in white robes, hajjis yesterday walked under the burning desert sun, with some carrying umbrellas, to perform the first ritual of Hajj, as thousands walked around the Kaaba, the sacred building at the centre of Mecca's grand mosque, immersing themselves in divinity.

"Praise be God... It's impossible to describe my feelings right now," said Ahmed Sayed Mahmoud, an Egyptian pilgrim. "Being in the Grand Mosque and in the land of the two holy mosques makes me very happy."

The latest statistics of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah show that 344,881 pilgrims have arrived in Madinah through the air and land ports to perform Hajj, a once-in-a-lifetime duty for every able-bodied Muslim

who can afford it.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, 278,751 pilgrims have arrived at Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah since receiving the first Hajj flights this year.

Land Migration Centre received 49,806 pilgrims, and the Hajjaj Al Ber Centre received 16,162 pilgrims.

Bangladeshis top the chart of foreigners with 12,411 pilgrims, followed by Pakistan with

8,229 pilgrims, India with 6,595 pilgrims, Iran with 6,433 pilgrims, and Nigeria with 6,320 pilgrims.

Statistics say 265,130 pilgrims left Medina during the past days to Makkah, while 79,451 pilgrims are still there in Medina.

Security was tight with officers stationed among the pilgrims as cameras repeatedly scanned the surroundings and checkpoints.



July 9 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha. Accordingly, June 30 was the first day of Dhu Al Hijjah, marking the start of the Hajj pilgrimage season this year. The first day of Eid Al Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu Al Hijjah. Arafat Day falls on the ninth day of Dhu Al Hijjah, which is on Friday, July 8.

NATO in talks to build naval base in Albania, prime minister says

Reuters | Tirana

Albania is in talks with NATO to build a naval base at Porto Romano, a port under construction on its Adriatic coast, Prime Minister Edi Rama said yesterday.

Rama told a news conference that Porto Romano, situated close to the coastal town of Durres and intended as the country's biggest port, would have a commercial section as well as a military naval base.

The military base would be built and co-financed by NATO and Albania, he said.

"We will soon go back to Brussels to continue our discussions regarding our proposal...for the installation of a NATO naval base in the new port in Durres," Rama added.

Protesters break into Libya's parliament building

Reuters | Benghazi

Protesters broke into Libya's parliament in Tobruk yesterday evening and set a fire in front of the building to express their anger towards Libya's warring political parties, witnesses told Reuters.

Security forces protecting the parliament withdrew from the site, the witnesses added.

Demonstrations took place on Friday in Tobruk, Benghazi and some smaller towns over a failure of government.

Revamped gun laws

New York may ban concealed guns in many places, including Times Square

Reuters | New York

New York lawmakers began voting yesterday on revamped gun laws that would ban guns from a long list of "sen-



The New York State Capitol in Albany

sitive places," including Times Square, after the US Supreme Court said the state's restrictive gun-license rules were unconstitutional. The emergency legislative session began on Thurs-

day, a week after the Supreme Court's conservative majority ruled for the first time that the US Constitution grants an individual right to carry weapons in public for self-defence.

The court also allowed that people could be banned from carrying their weapons in certain "sensitive places," but warned lawmakers against applying the label too broadly.