

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

LIMIT SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

#Commit4Bahrain

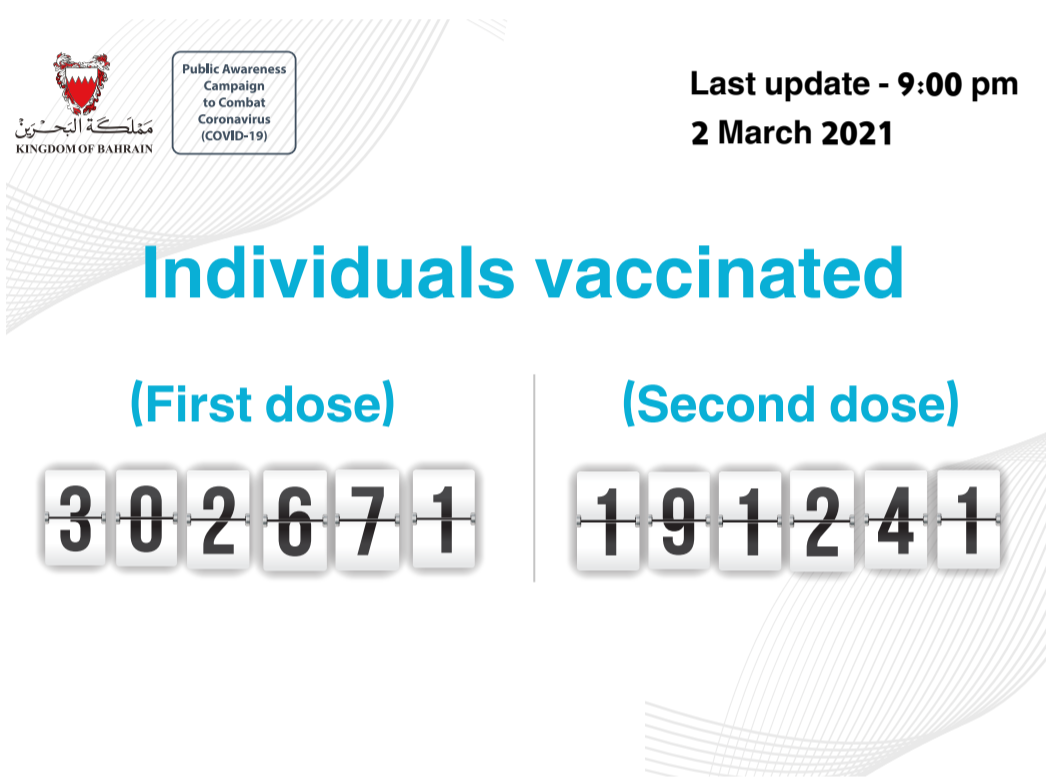
HRH Prince Salman meets Sinopharm chairman remotely

TDT | Manama
 His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday held a remote meeting with China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm) chairman Liu Jingzhen. During the meeting, His Royal Highness noted that overcoming challenges posed by COVID-19 requires ongoing and forward-looking international cooperation, both to mitigate the spread of the virus and expedite vaccine delivery. He highlighted Bahrain's commitment to expand its cooperation with COVID-19 vac-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister during the online meeting

partnership with Sinopharm, which has witnessed Bahrain's participation in phase-III clinical trials in cooperation with Abu Dhabi-based artificial intelligence and Cloud Computing company, Group 42 (G42). HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed that Bahrain's success in curbing the spread of the virus is anchored on the efforts of first responders and coordinated campaign efforts, as well as Team Bahrain's whole-of-society mitigation efforts. Liu expressed his appreciation to His Royal Highness for contributing towards the global COVID-19 response.



Dubai bans Ramadan tents
 Dubai

All permits for Ramadan tents across Dubai have been cancelled as part of the ongoing COVID-19 safety measures, it was announced yesterday. The cancellation means there will be no tents allowed outside mosques, houses or any other public places, a statement issued by the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department (IACAD) in Dubai explained.

Representatives give nod to state budget

Ministry of Finance and National Economy emphasises government's unwavering commitment to key fiscal balance targets

● Part of unprecedented efforts to mitigate effects of lower oil prices and pandemic's impact

TDT | Manama
 The Council of Representatives yesterday approved the Kingdom of Bahrain's 2021-2022 state budget. Upon submission to parliament, the Finance and National Economy Ministry highlighted the government's unprecedented efforts to mitigate the effects of lower oil prices and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cross-government success in tightly controlling recurrent government expenditure (excluding emergency spend) was emphasised, which was BD63 million under budget in 2020. The Ministry also emphasised the government's unwavering



Council of Representatives
 commitment to the Fiscal Balance Programme's targets. Past reforms implemented under the programme include a government-wide spending review, creation of spending efficiency taskforces, roll-out of a voluntary retirement scheme for public sector workers, and the implementation of VAT. The Ministry underlined that strong economic growth projections - 5% for 2021 - demonstrated Bahrain's underlying competitiveness and strong economic fundamentals, which will provide the foundations for

fiscal recovery in the near- and medium-terms. The state budget's fiscal results and projections for 2021-2022 show the Ministry expects total revenues to reach BD2,406 million in 2021 and BD2,457 million in 2022. The government expenditure is expected to total BD3,614 million in 2021 and BD3,569 million in 2022, meaning the overall deficit is expected to be BD1,208 million in 2021 reducing to BD1,112 million in 2022. Announcing the state budget, the Ministry outlined

the new measures taken which include: the creation of a revenue taskforce to support the government's drive to increase non-oil revenues and encourage partnerships with the private sector in the provision of government services; doubling of Mumtalakat's contribution to Government revenues; and increasing the size of the projects budget. The Ministry noted that these measures complement the significant actions taken by the government since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure remains under tight control: Shaikh Salman



TDT | Manama
 Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa's statement during the parliamentary debate: "This budget makes clear Bahrain's continued commitment to the Fiscal Balance Programme, despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, with core government expenditure remaining under tight control. New measures contained within the announcement, including establishing a revenue taskforce, will further drive the Kingdom's economic diversification, and grow the role of the private sector in government service delivery."

BAHRAIN COVID-19

ACTIVE CASES 6591
 DEATHS 453
 DISCHARGED 116487
 NEW CASES 492

210 fils (includes VAT)

6 084010 110021 >