

Podium success!

Bahraini-British racing team 2 Seas Motorsport take two podium finishes in opening round of 2020 British GT Championship | P 12

THE DAILY tribune



Katie Holmes divides fans with latest news during lockdown with daughter

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 4

Microsoft nears big bet on TikTok after LinkedIn deal

Coast Guard rescues six individuals from sinking boat

TDT | Manama

Six people were rescued from deep water after their boat sustained damage and was about to sink, the Ministry of Interior reported last night.

The ministry said that Coast Guard patrols managed to save the six individuals following an accident that led to damage on their boat, which resulted in seawater seeping into the vessel. The incident was said to have taken place in the marine area near the Dry Dock. The Coast Guard reported they received a distress call from a boat with six people on board. Patrols were able to respond immediately and pull the individuals out of their vessel. They were brought back to shore while their boat was towed.

Following the incident, the Coast Guard called on all seafarers to adhere to all regulations and to operate their automatic identification devices. It added that it is available around the clock for any assistance on 17-700000 or through the hotline 994.

Kuwait PM assures cabinet of Emir's health

Reuters | Cairo

Kuwait's prime minister assured the cabinet yesterday of the 91-year-old Emir's health, which he said had remarkably improved, Kuwait's Council of Ministers said in a tweet.

Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah is in the US completing medical treatment following surgery for an unspecified condition in Kuwait.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
41,835

ACTIVE CASES
2,678

DEATHS
150

DISCHARGED
39,007

NEW CASES
299

CRITICAL
48

210 fils (includes VAT)

Virus warning

WHO chief cautions there may never be a 'silver bullet' for COVID-19; urges to maintain 'basics of public health'



A representative image showing a man walking past a poster advertising coronavirus precautionary measures

AFP | Geneva

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday it had completed the groundwork in China to probe the origins of the new coronavirus—as it warned there might never be a “silver bullet” for COVID-19.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged governments and citizens to focus on known basic steps to suppress the pandemic, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance, and wearing a mask.

“We all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection,” Tedros told a virtual press conference.

“However, there’s no silver bullet at the moment—and there might never be.

“The basics of public health” are most effective for now, Tedros added, saying that wearing a mask in particular was sending a “powerful message to those around you that

we are all in this together”.

Infections are surging in some countries around the world, but Tedros insisted that, however bad the situation was, past examples such as South Korea showed it could be turned around.

“When leaders step up and work intensely with their populations, this disease can be brought under control,” he said.

China mission

The coronavirus has killed over 690,000 people and infected at least 18.3 million since the outbreak emerged in Wuhan in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

The WHO began pressing China in early May to invite in its experts to help investigate the animal origins of COVID-19.

The UN health agency sent an epidemiologist and an animal health specialist to Beijing on July 10 to lay the groundwork for a probe aimed at iden-

tifying how the virus entered the human species.

Their scoping mission is now complete, said Tedros.

“The WHO advance team that travelled to China has now concluded their mission,” he said. Tedros said WHO and Chinese experts had agreed the terms of reference and a programme of work for a WHO-led international team of scientists and researchers from around the world.

“Epidemiological studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the potential source of infection of the early cases,” he said.

Working backwards

Scientists believe the killer virus jumped from animals to humans, possibly from a market in the city of Wuhan selling exotic animals for meat.

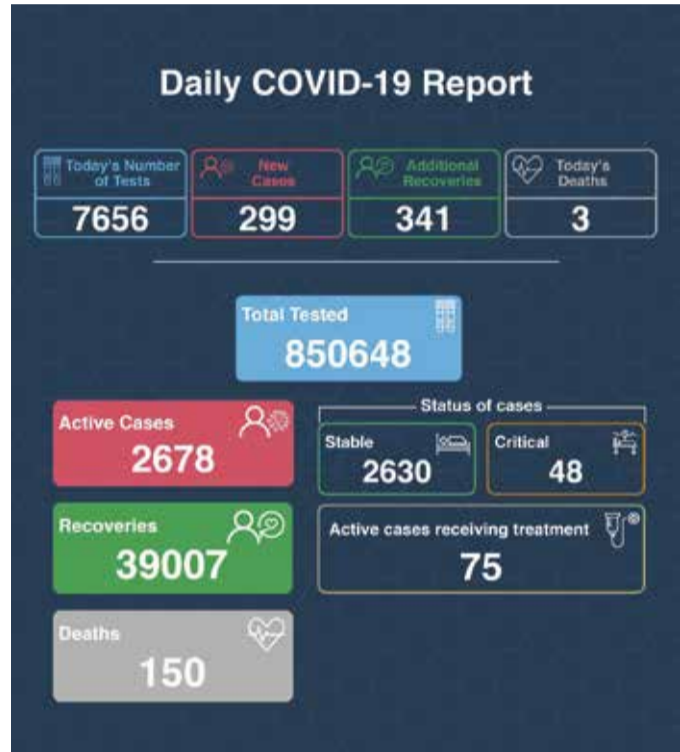
WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan paid tribute to the work already done by Chinese experts but stressed that the search for the disease’s origin would require much deeper study. “There are gaps in the epidemiologic landscape, and what is required is going to be a much more extensive, retrospective epidemiologic study to look at those first cases and clusters in Wuhan and to fully understand the links between those cases,” he said.

From there, “we can then determine at what point, in Wuhan or elsewhere, the animal-species barrier was breached”.

Ryan said that without detailed investigations, the search would be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

“The real trick is to go to the human clusters that occurred first and then to work your way back, systematically looking for that first signal” where the virus jumped species, the Irish epidemiologist said.

Three COVID-19 deaths; total active cases decline continues



Health Ministry reports 341 additional recoveries from COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total discharged to more than 39,000 individuals

TDT | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took three lives in Bahrain yesterday, the Ministry of Health reported.

The deceased included a 43-year-old expatriate woman, a 52-year-old Bahraini man, and a 68-year-old expatriate man.

Their passing brought the total coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 150.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victims’ families.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced early this morning that out of 7,656 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 299 new cases were detected. These included 121 expatriate work-

ers and 178 contacts of active cases. There were zero new travel-related cases.

The new active cases brought the overall number of confirmed registered cases in Bahrain to 41,835, dating back to when the first case was reported in February of this year.

There were also 341 additional recoveries from COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to more than 39,000 at 39,007.

Following those recoveries, the current total of active cases continued to drop, as the number went to 2,678. Of these, 48 are in critical condition and 75 are receiving treatment. The remaining 2,630 cases are stable.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 850,648.

178

is the number of new infections reported yesterday from contacts of active coronavirus cases

RENAISSANCE DAM DILEMMA

Nile basin countries resume talks over disputed dam

AP | Cairo

Three key Nile basin countries resumed their negotiations yesterday to resolve a years-long dispute over the operation and filling of a giant hydroelectric dam that Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile, officials said.

The talks came a day after tens of thousands of Ethiopians flooded the streets of their capital Addis Ababa in a government-backed rally to celebrate the first stage of the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renais-

sance Dam’s 74 billion-cubic-metre reservoir.

Ethiopia’s announcement sparked fear and confusion downstream in Sudan and Egypt. Both Khartoum and Cairo have repeatedly rejected the filling of the massive reservoir without reaching a deal among the Nile basin countries.

Ethiopia says the dam will provide electricity to millions of its nearly 110 million citizens, help bring them out of poverty, and also make the country a major power exporter.

Egypt, which depends on the Nile River to supply its booming population of 100 million people with fresh water, asserts the dam poses an existential threat.

Sudan, between the two countries, says the project could endanger its own dams—though it stands to benefit from the Ethiopian dam—including having access to cheap electricity and reduced flooding. The confluence of the Blue Nile and the White Nile near Khartoum forms the Nile River that then flows the length of

Egypt and into the Mediterranean Sea.

Irrigation ministers of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia took part in yesterday’s talks, which were held online amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The virtual meeting was also attended by officials from the African Union and South Africa, the current chairman of the regional block, said Sudan’s Irrigation Minister Yasir Abbas. Officials from the US and the European Union were also in attendance, said Egypt’s

irrigation ministry.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed attributed the reservoir’s filling to the torrential rains flooding the Blue Nile—something that occurred naturally, “without bothering or hurting anyone else.”

However, Egypt’s Irrigation Minister Mohammed Abdel-Atty said the filling, without “consultations and coordination” with downstream countries, sent “negative indications that show Ethiopian unwillingness to reach a fair deal”.