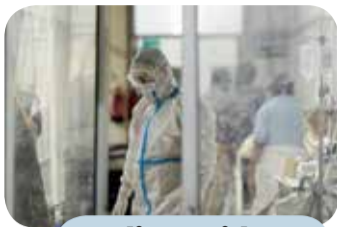


News in brief

◆ **India's total Covid caseload soared past 20 million on Tuesday, official data showed.** In the past 24 hours, India added 357,229 cases, taking the total to 20.3 million, according to the health ministry. Deaths rose 3,449 to 222,408. India has added around eight million new cases since the end of March in a ferocious new wave blamed on virus variants.



India Covid cases soar past 20 million: official data

◆ **Germany's Oktoberfest cancelled again over Covid**

◆ **Germany is cancelling its iconic Oktoberfest** festival for the second year running due to the coronavirus pandemic, Bavaria's state premier Markus Soeder said Monday. The Oktoberfest, which draws around six million visitors annually from around the world in late September to October, was cancelled in 2020 for the first time since World War II.

◆ **Florida governor Ron DeSantis on Monday lifted all Covid-19 restrictions** in the US state, citing the effectiveness and availability of vaccines, in a move that attracted criticism from Democratic mayors. DeSantis signed a law invalidating local emergency orders -- which impose restrictions due to Covid-19 -- effective from July 1, and then signed an executive order that bridges the gap between now and then. "That's the evidence thing to do," the Republican governor said at a news conference, referring to the reduction in infections and deaths as the vaccine rollout continues.

Florida governor lifts all Covid restrictions

◆ **Efforts to remove the cargo of an oil tanker that leaked oil into the Yellow**

Work to remove oil from stricken tanker off China nearly finished



Sea near China's Qingdao after a collision last week should be completed later on Tuesday, the vessel's manager said. The A Symphony was anchored roughly 40 nautical miles off the coast of Qingdao when it was struck in dense fog by the bulk carrier Sea Justice on April 27. The collision ruptured A Symphony's cargo and ballast tanks, causing it to leak roughly 400 tonnes of its bitumen mix cargo.

◆ **The Myanmar junta has charged a Japanese journalist under a "fake news" law,** a report said Tuesday, in the latest blow to press freedom since the military seized power. Freelance reporter Yuki Kitazumi was arrested last month and charged on Monday -- World Press Freedom Day -- with spreading fake news, according to a report by Kyodo news agency. He is one of 50 journalists currently held in Myanmar as part of the junta's crackdown on widespread protests against its February 1 coup. The country has been in turmoil since civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government was ousted, with more than 750 people killed as security forces struggle to quash near-daily demonstrations against their rule.



Myanmar charges Japanese journalist over 'fake news'

AI can Power Bahrain's Environmental Protection



KOTA SRIRAJ

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a wide-ranging branch of computer science concerned with building smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence. It is the endeavour to simulate human intelligence in machines. The most common example of AI is how it has made it possible to deposit cheques from the comfort of one's home. AI is proficient in deciphering handwriting and signatures thereby making online cheque processing practical. Yet another example is how banking processes powered by AI have perfected fraud detection by observing credit card spending patterns. In the business world, AI has minimised human-error and increased insights from big data which have lowered operational costs and increased profitability.

With each passing day, the world is being besieged by environmental concerns such as global warming, animal endangerment, carbon emissions, disease containment, air, and water pollution. Bahrain is no stranger to these threats and in an effort to counter these challenges, the kingdom has already taken a slew of appreciable measures. Some of the measures include the increased utilisation of renewable sources of energy such as wind energy, solar energy, tidal power and biogas instead of conventional sources. But in addition to these measures, Bahrain can stand to benefit much more if AI is roped in for environmental protection as it can take conservation to next level by combining scalability with accuracy.

Globally the application of AI processes are rapidly changing the narrative in the international environmental protection arena. The use of AI in environment protection includes machine learning for protecting the oceans, monitoring shipping, ocean mining, fishing, coral bleaching or the outbreak of marine diseases. For an island nation such as Bahrain these applications of AI can have a far reaching impact which can further be bolstered by forging productive collaborations. For instance, The NGO, Nature Conservancy is collaborating with Microsoft on using AI for carbon storage, seafood harvesting, and conservation of marine life. Bahrain can also find multiple inland uses of AI that can go the extra mile not only for ecological protection but also for ensuring food security. AI can be used in Bahraini agricultural sector for automated data collection, detection of crop diseases and optimizing agricultural inputs and returns based on demand and supply.

Bahrain can also use AI to accelerate the process of environmental analysis. AI can process a huge amount of data quickly and draw conclusions that may have not been possible by humans. For instance, in China, IBM's Green Horizon project uses AI technology to forecast air pollution, track pollution sources and provide potential solutions to deal with it. This is critical for Bahrain because the scale of pollution is reaching such levels that it may soon be difficult to manage the problem with only human efforts. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that exposure to air pollution causes around 4.2 million mortalities across the globe each year. As per its further estimation, around 91% of the global population lives in places where the air quality is much more than the guidelines of WHO and this has led to be a concern for nations around the globe, especially Bahrain.

As challenges arising out of climate change get more complex Bahrain will do well to be an early adapter in the mass scale implementation of AI in environmental protection. In the process of doing this the kingdom must set up a triangular integrated system of people, government and AI. As people get aware of the importance of environmental conservation, the government must take AI to grass root level and provide tools to people in the form of nature conservation apps powered by AI to the people to download. Through these apps the public can track their carbon foot print, reduce greenhouse emissions, provide crucial data pertaining to environment and much more.

These steps can help Bahrain in setting up state of the art environment protection systems that monitor and reduces the amount of energy consumption and water usage that helps in preserving precious resources. As the entire process is data driven, it will become easy for the government to track the progress of the conservation initiatives and make necessary changes to increase efficiency and spot problems in the processes long before they crop up. The use of AI can aid the nation to also succeed in achieving the Economic Vision 2030 by ensuring sustainable growth of the country that is friendly towards the environment.

Environmental protection powered by artificial Intelligence is the future, and Bahrain can set the global benchmark by adopting AI for nature preservation.

Environmental protection powered by artificial Intelligence is the future, and Bahrain can set the global benchmark by adopting AI for nature preservation.

Mexico City r



In pictures, rescuers work at a site where an overpass for a metro partia

China calls for 'basic etiquette' after Philippine outburst

Reuters

China urged the Philippines yesterday to observe "basic etiquette" and eschew megaphone diplomacy after the southeast Asian nation's foreign minister used an expletive-laced Twitter message to demand that China's vessels leave disputed waters.

The comments by Teodoro Locsin, known for occasional blunt remarks, follow Manila's protests over what it calls the illegal presence of hundreds of Chinese boats inside the Philippines' 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). read more

In a statement, China's foreign ministry urged the Philippines to respect the nation's sovereignty and jurisdiction and stop taking actions that complicate the situation. "Facts have repeatedly proved that microphone diplomacy cannot change the facts, but can only undermine mutual trust," it said. "It is hoped that relevant people in the Philippines will comply with basic etiquette and their position when making remarks."



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Philippine's Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., bump th during a meeting in Manila.

The ministry cited by Philippines President Duterte that differences between the countries on individual should not affect friendship cooperation.

"China has always will continue to work with the Philippines, to promote differences and advancement through friendly relations."

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	33,261,297	592,181	154,421,174
2 India	20,658,234	226,169	
3 Brazil	14,791,434	408,829	
4 France	5,680,378	105,387	Deaths
5 Turkey	4,929,118	41,527	3,230,386
6 Russia	4,839,514	111,535	Recovered:
7 UK	4,423,796	127,543	131,871,195
8 Italy	4,059,821	121,738	New cases
9 Spain	3,544,945	78,399	+229,514
10 Germany	3,448,182	84,285	New deaths
11 Argentina	3,021,179	64,792	+3,480
12 Colombia	2,905,254	75,164	
13 Poland	2,808,052	68,133	
14 Iran	2,575,737	73,219	

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	230,713		13,531		172,774	44,408
Saudi Arabia	421,300	+999	7,006	+14	404,707	9,587
UAE	527,266	+1,699	1,598	+2	507,706	17,962
Kuwait	277,832		1,590		261,369	14,873
Oman	197,802	+902	2,062	+9	179,175	16,565
Qatar	207,592		480		194,099	13,013

Taliban launches h

Reuters

Afghan security forces fought back a huge Taliban offensive in southern Helmand province in the last 24 hours, officials and residents said on Tuesday, as militants launched assaults around the country following a



Handover ceremony at Camp Anthonic, from U.S. Army to Afghan Defen