



YOU DON'T MISS IT
 International community urged to take resolute steps to confront Iran
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Hydroxychloroquine, HIV drugs halted in COVID trials

Reuters | Geneva

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday that it was discontinuing its trials of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and combination HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir in hospitalised patients with COVID-19 after they failed to reduce deaths.

"These interim trial results show that (the drugs) produce little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalised COVID-19 patients when compared to standard of care. Solidarity trial investigators will interrupt the trials with immediate effect," the WHO said in a statement, referring to large multi-country trials that the agency is leading.

The U.N. agency said that the decision, taken on the recommendation of the trial's international steering committee, does not affect other studies where the drugs are used for non-hospitalised patients or as a prophylaxis.

Another arm of the WHO-led trial is looking at the potential effect of Gilead's antiviral drug remdesivir on COVID-19.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

- TOTAL CASES: 28,857
- ACTIVE CASES: 4,802
- DEATHS: 96
- DISCHARGED: 23,959
- NEW CASES: 447
- CRITICAL: 46

210 fils (includes VAT)



Fire flares at Iranian power plant

- Four incidents within a span of just two weeks
- The blaze affected a power station transformer in Ahvaz

Reuters | Dubai

A fire broke out at a power station in southwestern Iran yesterday, Iranian media reported, the latest of several recent fires and explosions within a span of just two

weeks. The blaze, which affected a transformer in the power station in the city of Ahvaz, was put out by fire fighters and electricity was restored after partial outages. State-run power company TAVANIR spokesman Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said to the semi-official news agency Tasnim.

On Thursday as reported by Tribune, a fire broke out at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility but officials said operations were not affected.

A former official suggested the incident could have been

an attempt to sabotage work at the plant, which have been involved in activities that breach an international nuclear deal.

Nineteen people were killed on Tuesday in an explosion at a medical clinic in the north of the capital Tehran, which an official said was caused by a gas leak.

On June 26, an explosion occurred east of Tehran near the Parchin military and weapons development base that the authorities said was caused by a leak in a gas storage facility in an area outside the base.

HRH the Premier names new security Chief



HRH the Premier with Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid
 TDT | Manama

Advisor to HRH Premier, Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa will now oversee the security of the Prime Minister.

This was announced by His

Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa in an edict, yesterday.

The edict entrusts Shaikh Khalifa with the management of the Prime Minister's security affairs.

'Remarkable'



Frontline health worker checking equipment at an isolation and treatment centre

WHO supremo calls Bahrain's COVID-19 battle 'comprehensive' and 'extremely effective'

TDT | Manama

World Health Organisation showered its praises on Bahrain yesterday by calling its battle against the deadly coronavirus pandemic as "proactive and extremely effective".

Measures adopted by Bahrain were "comprehensive" and effective in slowing the spread of the virus, said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General, in a letter to Bahrain.

The letter addressed to the Health Minister, Faeqa bint Said

Al-Saleh yesterday, came in response to her congratulations for the 73rd World Health Assembly's session, which was held for the first time at a distance.

The global session achieved forecast goals by coming up with important health-related decisions to address the repercussions of COVID-19.

Dr Tedros praised Bahrain's continuous efforts and coordination with WHO to follow up on the development of the virus and efforts towards finding a cure.

He noted that Bahrain has played a remarkable role in curb-



Bahrain has adopted a comprehensive approach to handle the coronavirus pandemic by taking precautionary measures in a proactive and extremely effective way to slow the spread of the virus

WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

ing the spread of the virus.

He also praised Bahrain's solidarity with the other member states of the organisation in tak-

ing comprehensive measures and unifying efforts to quickly find the necessary treatment.

Dr Tedros recently congratu-

lated the Kingdom's unique decision to honour distinguished Bahraini doctors for their outstanding medical research, initiated by HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. He lauded the Bahraini Doctor Day, and allocating a special award for doctors, named after HRH the Premier.

Bahrain's frontline health sector workers were greatly appreciated for their unwavering efforts. He underlined that Bahrain, by doing so, has inspired various countries in the region to emulate these steps.

How Bahrain has stepped up

A complete plan was drawn up to recruit, qualify and train the necessary manpower. The precautionary measures have greatly helped to reduce the spread of the virus in the Kingdom. Bahrain was the first Arab country to join a "solidarity test" to test the first vaccine, and start clinical trials of treatment with blood plasma.

- » High standard tracking
- » Proactive assessment of impacts of contacts
- » Increased capacity of hospitals, precautionary quarantine centres, isolation and treatment centres
- » Never a shortage of laboratory tests, intensive care equipment, or personal protective equipment
- » Successful handling of complex cases
- » Effective treatment protocols which helped in treating many existing cases

CORONA PROTECTION, NOW IN 24 CARATS

Latest innovation to ward off coronavirus: A gold face mask

AFP | Pune

An Indian man said he paid about BHD 1,500 (\$4,000) for a face mask made of pure gold to protect him from the coronavirus (COVID-19) raging in the country.

Gifted craftsmen took eight days to create the bespoke gold mask, which weighs 60 grams (two ounces), said businessman

Shankar Kurhade, from the Indian city of Pune in Maharashtra, one of the worst hit states in the country.

"People are asking me for selfies," Shankar told AFP. "They are awestruck when they see me wearing the gold mask in markets."

"It is a thin mask and has tiny pores that is helping me to breathe," he said.



Shankar Kurhade wearing his gold face mask

"I am not sure if it will be effective to protect me from a coronavirus infection, but I am taking other precautions," the 49-year-old added.

Even before the pandemic hit the nation, Shankar said he liked to adorn himself with gold jewellery weighing up to a kilogramme. He wears a bracelet, necklace and rings on each finger of his right hand when he

goes out.

He explained that he got the idea for the gold face mask after seeing a news report about a man wearing one made from silver.

India has made face masks mandatory in public places in a bid to control the spread of the virus in the country, which has around 650,000 confirmed cases and more than 18,600 fatalities.