

**Spain legend Casillas retires**

Spanish World Cup winner Casillas called time on career after being sidelined for more than a year with a heart problem | **P 08**

**Kashmiri youth creates 80,000 face masks to help COVID fight**

# THE DAILY tribune

**Cate Blanchett: Have always identified as a feminist**



**ByteDance founder defends TikTok's US strategy in staff letter**

**One COVID-19 death; total confirmed cases surpass 42,000**

TDT | Manama

The coronavirus (COVID-19) took the life of a 48-year-old expatriate man yesterday, the Ministry of Health announced.

His passing brought the total number of virus-related deaths in Bahrain to 151.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victim's family.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced early this morning that out of 7,601 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 297 new cases were detected. These included 132 expatriate workers, 163 contacts of active cases, and two travel-related case.

The new active cases brought the overall number of confirmed registered cases in Bahrain to 42,132, dating back to when the first case was reported in February of this year.

There were also 328 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 39,335.

Following those recoveries, the total number of current active cases continued to drop to 2,646, with 43 in critical condition and 95 receiving treatment. The remaining 2,603 cases are stable.

The total tests conducted in Bahrain increased to 858,249.

## Deadly blasts rock Beirut

● **Enormous explosions rip through Lebanese capital, killing more than 27 as death toll continues to climb**

● **Thousands wounded as local hospitals overwhelmed, while many others remained trapped under rubble**

● **Cause of explosions not immediately known; confiscated explosive materials stored at city's port among suspected reasons**

● **Lebanese president calls for emergency Supreme Defence Council meeting, while the prime minister declares today a national day of mourning for the victims**

● **Bahrain expresses deep regret, voices solidarity with people of Lebanon; Foreign Ministry source reveals no Bahrainis were among casualties**

AFP | Beirut

Two enormous explosions rocked Beirut's port yesterday, killing at least 27 people and wounding thousands, shaking distant buildings and leaving the Lebanese capital in fear and chaos.

The number of dead continued to climb as updates were reported by officials.

The deafening second blast sent an enormous orange fireball into the sky, flattened the harbourside, and sent a tornado-like shockwave ripping through the city, shattering windows kilometres away.

Bloodied casualties stumbled among debris and burning buildings across central Beirut as health minister Hamad Hassan reported an initial estimated toll of 27 dead and 2,500 injured, calling it "a disaster in every sense of the word".

A soldier at the port told AFP: "It's a catastrophe inside. There are corpses on the ground."

Relatives of people who worked inside the blast zone gathered at a security cordon as they scrambled for news of their loved ones.

"Ambulances are still lifting the dead," the soldier said.

The blasts were heard as far away as Nicosia on the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, 240 kilometres away.

The country's Red Cross reported "hundreds of wounded" and called for urgent blood donations.

The cause of the explosions was not immediately known but a top official, general security chief Abbas Ibrahim, said confiscated explosive materials

had been stored at the city's port. "It appears that there is a warehouse containing material that was confiscated years ago, and it appears that it was highly explosive material," he said.

An Israeli government official who requested anonymity told AFP: "Israel had nothing to do with the incident."

Retired US nuclear scientist Cheryl Rofer wrote on Twitter that the "red cloud" of the massive blast was "very likely ammonium nitrate", a common agricultural fertiliser that is a highly explosive compound.

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun called for "urgent" defence council talks, while Prime Minister Hasan Diab declared today as a day of mourning.

Beirut governor Marwan Abboud told Lebanese journalists that he was at the site to search for firefighters who were on the site fighting the fire that broke out before the explosion, but have not been seen since.

He said: "This reminds me of what happened in Japan, to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I've never seen damage of this size and width, and so catastrophic. This is a national catastrophe. This is a problem for Lebanon, and we don't know how we're going to get out of it."

**Foreign Ministry source: No Bahrainis among blast victims**

No Bahraini citizens were among the victims of the explosion that rocked Beirut yesterday, a source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told our sister paper Al Ayam.

The source pointed out that



Residents tend to the body of a victim near the blast site

**"I've never seen damage of this size and width, and so catastrophic. This is a national catastrophe. This is a problem for Lebanon, and we don't know how we're going to get out of it."**

BEIRUT GOVERNOR MARWAN ABBOUD

off the site of the incident, while the Red Cross was transporting victims from the location, which was declared a disaster area.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry expressed its deep regret regarding the horrific explosion, it said in a statement.

The Foreign Ministry stressed the solidarity of Bahrain with the brotherly people of Lebanon during these horrible times. It also expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and the Lebanese government, and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

The Foreign Ministry called on Bahraini citizens in Lebanon to communicate with the ministry through one of the following numbers: the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Operations Office on +973-17227555; the Bahrain Embassy in Damascus on +963991144444; or the Office of Bahrain in Lebanon on +9613824709.

Continued on Page2



## Parliamentary committee calls to halt economic, tourist activities with Turkey

TDT | Manama

A call has gone out to take strict measures and halt economic activities with Turkey and ban visits of Bahraini and GCC tourists to Turkish cities.

This was made by the Council of Representatives' Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee.

It stressed this yesterday in

view of Turkey's continued interference in Arab internal affairs and the issuance of hostile statements, and based on the principle of Arab national solidarity.

The committee said that it is time to take a unified GCC and Arab stance against the Turkish blatant interference in Arab countries, emphasising that it is clear that Ankara's policy in the region is based on an expansionist agen-

da, and that it violates all norms of international relations and law.

The committee affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with the UAE in the face of the unprecedented Turkish campaign targetting its sovereignty and reputation.

"Any targetting of the UAE is a targetting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and all Arab countries," the committee said. The committee

renewed its condemnation and denunciation of the hostile statements made by Turkey's defence minister against the UAE, stressing its categorical rejection of the statement issued by the Turkish defence ministry regarding that of Bahrain's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The panel said that the Turkish defence ministry's statement was far from reality, considering

it as a clear attempt to undermine and ignore the principles of international law, conventions and norms, as well as to strain relations in the region.

The committee stressed that GCC regional security is an integral part of Arab national security, in accordance with the Arab League Charter, and serious moves must be taken to confront blatant Turkish ambitions.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

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- ACTIVE CASES: 2,646
- DEATHS: 151
- DISCHARGED: 39,335
- NEW CASES: 297
- CRITICAL: 43

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