

Valtteri Bottas wins F1 Austrian Grand Prix after Hamilton suffers penalty | P 08

# THE DAILY tribune



**COVID-19 claims another life; 690 new recoveries**

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that the coronavirus (COVID-19) has claimed one more life in Bahrain.

The deceased was a 52-year-old Bahraini man.

His passing brought the overall number of coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 97.

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

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 9,801 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 510 new cases were detected. From these, 284 were expatriate workers, 223 were contacts of active cases, and three were travel-related.

Their detection brought the overall number of confirmed cases in Bahrain to over 29,000 ever since the first case was reported.

There were also 690 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, the Health Ministry said. After confirming that the patients were free of COVID-19, they were released from their respective isolation and treatment centres, bringing the total number of discharged in Bahrain to 24,649.

## HM the King appoints HH Shaikh Nasser; sets up security agency

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 24 of 2020 yesterday, appointing National Security Advisor Major General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa as the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) secretary-general.

HM the King also issued Royal Order 26 of 2020, establishing the Strategic Security Agency (SSA), affiliated with

the SDC.

The royal order stipulates that the SDC shall set the SSA powers and structure.

HM the King issued Royal Order 27 of 2020 appointing Shaikh Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa as SSA chairman.

He also issued Royal Order 28 of 2020, appointing Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa as SDC deputy secretary-general, in addition to his current position.



HM the King



HH Shaikh Nasser

# Another grim milestone

GCC fast approaching 500,000 mark in coronavirus cases

● Bahrain's recovery rate is over 83 per cent with over 29,000 cases recorded

● National authorities are allowing a gradual easing of curfews at urban centres and opening air spaces.

● UAE's aviation ministry to resume transit flights via Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah airports.

TDT | Manama

The number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council is fast approaching 500,000 cases, reminding us once again of the need to remain vigilant as policy makers continue to lift restrictions imposed to curtail the spread.

A disturbing factor is the prevalent illnesses such as hypertension and diabetes among the population in the Gulf region.

Positive news, amidst all the alarming numbers however, is the high rate of recoveries in the GCC, thanks to intense screening, quarantine measures and testing for COVID-19 cases.

What makes GCC's fight effective is a series of measures including contact tracing and curfews.

The recovery rate in Bahrain is over 83 per cent with a total of over 29,000 cases recorded so far.

Of the six GCC nations, United Arab Emirates (UAE) has conducted more than 3.5 million tests till date, especially in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. The recovery rate there is 78 per cent, when compared to the total cases.

Over the last few months, GCC nations controlled the

Country	Total cases	Recovery rates
Bahrain	29,367	83%
Saudi	209,509	69%
Kuwait	49,941	81%
UAE	51,540	78%
Oman	46,178	60%
Qatar	99,799	92%



spread of the virus to a large extent by imposing restrictions at public places.

Now the authorities are allowing a gradual easing of curfews at urban centres and even opening air spaces.

The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority of the UAE has launched a health and safety advisory outlining all precaution-



Residents and citizens of GCC nations following health and safety measures in public spaces

ary measures to be followed in hotels and service industries.

The manual addresses social distancing measures, cleaning and sanitisation of guest rooms, health checks of hotel staff and guests, hygiene protocols, in addition to regulations on operations of restaurants, cafes, swimming pools, beaches, health clubs and other utilities at these establishments.

Meanwhile, Emirates and Etihad, both leading airline companies in the UAE, have already announced that they will operate flights to 49 destinations across Asia, Europe and Australia this

month.

UAE's aviation ministry has decided to resume transit flights via Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah airports.

Saudi Arabia on the other hand, after reviewing the epidemiological situation and the high occupancy levels of the intensive care units, has decided to further tighten health precautions in the city of Jeddah for a period of 15 days starting today.

However, domestic travel through air and land will be allowed, and entry into and out of Jeddah will not be restricted outside the curfew hours.

SUPPORT EXTENDED AMIDST PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

## Saudi approves visa and residence permit extensions for expatriates

Riyadh

In a new measure, Saudi Arabia has extended the validity of residence permits for expatriates who have gotten stuck outside the kingdom due to the global travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to an official source at the Saudi Ministry of Interior, new measures were announced yesterday to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on individuals, the private sector and economic activities in the

kingdom. The following measures were approved as part of a Royal decree passed yesterday, within the continuous efforts exerted by the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

The validity of the final exit visa for expatriates has been extended free of charge.

For expatriates who are outside Saudi on exit and return visas which expire during the period of suspension of entry and exit from the kingdom, the validity of their expired resi-

dence permits (Iqama) can be extended for a period of three months free of charge.

Unused exit and return visas for expatriates can be extended for a period of three months free of charge.

Those who had arrived on a visit visa and are currently inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can continue to stay even if their visas expire during the period when Saudi has imposed exit and entry restrictions into the country. This extension will be done for a period of 3 months free charge.

## Three sailors rescued after boat sinks at sea

TDT | Manama

Three sailors were rescued after their boat sank while they were in the open sea last week, the Ministry of Interior reported last night.

According to the Ministry, the sailors were able to cling to lifesaving equipment and managed to get enough of a signal to make a call with a cell phone to the main operations room.

The Coast Guard and other rescue teams were able to respond immediately, eventually rescuing the sailors after four hours in the water.

According to the Interior

Ministry, the operations room received the call at 6.52pm on Thursday night by a citizen stating that the boat he and two of his companions were in had sunk in the region off the Hidd coast, amidst strong water currents.

Coast Guard Command and Police Aviation Command were informed at once and quickly launched a search. The Ministry said that despite the sailor's poor cell phone signal, the operations room was able to maintain communication and coordinate their location until they were rescued.

**YOU DON'T MISS IT**

Three arrested in security guards assault

► P 03

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL CASES 29,367

ACTIVE CASES 4,621

DEATHS 97

DISCHARGED 24,649

NEW CASES 510

CRITICAL 45

210 fils (includes VAT)

