

Neymar welcome anytime at Barca, says Suarez

Neymar "will always be welcome" back at Barcelona, the Spanish giants' striker Luis Suarez told Mundo Deportivo yesterday. **P12**

OP-ED **6** Africa has a COVID-19 time bomb to defuse

THE DAILY **tribune**

Kylie Jenner is world's youngest self-made billionaire 2nd year in a row

10 CELEBS



WORLD 8 India considers narrowing lockdown to virus hotspots

Discharged COVID-19 patients reach 477 after 10 more recoveries

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced on social media last night 10 more recovered cases from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Health Ministry said that the cases were discharged from their treatment and isolation centres.

Their recovery brought the total number of discharged patients last night to 477.

According to the Health Ministry's website, where information is updated multiple times daily, another 341 cases remain active, three of which are critical.

The total tested increased to 52,804.

Bahrain Embassy in Cairo to facilitate return of about 250 Bahraini citizens

TDT | Manama

Ambassador-Designate of Bahrain to the Arab Republic of Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Hisham bin Mohammed Al Jowdar, affirmed yesterday that the Embassy is securing the return of about 250 Bahraini citizens to Bahrain in the upcoming days.

This is being conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Kingdom's repatriation plan of citizens abroad, who would like to return in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The Ambassador-Designate also stressed that the Embassy is working around the clock to monitor the conditions of all Bahraini people in various Egyptian governorates and to facilitate their return to the Kingdom.

More than one million face masks supplied to supermarkets, pharmacies by Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism to help in implementation of new measure

Home-made face coverings are allowed to be used, but they must meet the standards outlined by Health Ministry

TDT | Manama

People in Bahrain must wear a face mask or an appropriate face covering whenever they are out in public, starting from tonight.

This has been ordered by the Government Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, as part of a number of new measures that are to come into effect this evening to help curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in

Face masks on!

Government order requiring citizens, residents to wear face coverings while in public comes into effect tonight



A Community Policeman wearing a face mask as he performs his duties while in public

the Kingdom. "All citizens and residents are required to wear face masks whilst in public," it was stated on a list of the measures released as part of the Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus. The campaign stresses that

wearing a face mask or face covering in public not only protects one's self but also the community as a whole.

In light of this decision, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism announced yesterday that it has distributed more than one million face masks at supermarkets and pharmacies across the Kingdom.

The ministry said that the supply of masks will help in the implementation of the government's orders for people to protect themselves from possible COVID-19 infection.

Home-made masks are also allowed to be used, but they must meet the standards outlined on the Ministry of Health's website.

Among the most basic requirements, face coverings made at home with cloth must fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face. They must be secured with ties or ear-loops, and must include multiple layers of fabric. These home-made coverings must also allow for breathing without restriction.

Meanwhile, the Ministry also reiterated yesterday that it remains prohibited to export all kinds of protective face masks without their prior permission.

This ban is being applied for a period of three months from the date of implementation of the decision.

This regulation will be strictly enforced, and violators will be severely punished.

Penalties are also to be handed out to those who manipulate prices on essential goods that help prevent infection, such as face masks and hand-sanitisers.

It has been stressed by officials that wearing face masks in public will help greatly in curbing the spread of COVID-19. This, along with social distancing guidelines and taking care of one's personal hygiene, all help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Commercial stores to re-open under strict conditions

Shops in Seef Mall locations in Seef District, Muharraq and Isa Town back in operation from tomorrow

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The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism yesterday reminded all commercial and industrial businesses that will be re-opening to the public from tonight must strictly follow the conditions set to help curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease.

The conditions require all employees and visitors to wear a face mask or face covering at all times.

The number of employees in any facility must also be minimal and overcrowding in stores must be actively prevented to ensure sufficient social distancing measures are maintained at all times. This also applies to those who will be queuing outside stores

before being allowed to enter in the event that there are too many customers.

Stores must also ensure continuous sterilisation, including their external premises, in accordance to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Amongst the commercial shops that will be re-opening are those at the Seef Mall locations in Seef District, Muharraq and Isa Town.

They will be open from Friday until April 23, as per government directives.

Shops at these malls will operate from 12noon to 8pm daily, while financial institutions, optical shops, pharmacies and government entities will operate daily from 10am to 10pm, and from 10am to 11pm on weekends.

Carrefour at Seef Mall in Muharraq will continue to be open as usual, from 8am until midnight daily.

Seef Mall management stressed that they are closely monitoring the latest updates regarding the spread of the pandemic, locally and internationally. They noted that a special emergency team has been formed and is making every effort to ensure the safety of its mall visitors, shoppers and employees, and is ready to take swift procedures in the case of any urgent occurrences that require direct and immediate intervention.

Furthermore, management confirmed that none of their commercial malls have recorded any cases of COVID-19. They

are continuing to take additional intensive measures to clean and disinfect all their facilities to ensure the safety of everyone under their roof.

Hand-sanitisers have also been fixed in all common areas at the malls, while security guards continue to vigilantly monitor shoppers and visitors to ensure they maintain a safe distance between each other, in compliance with social distancing measures.

Commercial businesses that are to stay closed until further notice are movie theatres, sports centres, private swimming pools, shisha cafes, salons and tourist locations, while restaurant services remain limited to delivery and takeout.

Quarantine violator punished!

Doctor who defied isolation rules gets one-month jail, BD2,000 fine and deportation order

TDT | Manama

A doctor was convicted yesterday of abstaining from implementing self-confinement at his home, which was imposed on him to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Low Criminal Court sentenced him to one month in jail with force, fined him BD2,000 and ordered his deportation.

The General Health Directo-

rate reported that the convict arrived in Bahrain from an infected country. After undergoing a blood test, the doctor was informed of a decision to isolate him for 14 days at home, in line with procedures adopted for people who come from coronavirus-infected countries.

Following up on his case, it was found out that he violated the quarantine procedure by reporting to his clinic where he mixed with workers and

patients. Testing positive for COVID-19, he had exposed other people to infection.

The Public Prosecution investigated the case and listened to the doctor who examined the convict on arrival in the Kingdom. It also interrogated the convict after recovering from the disease and ordered him to compulsory confinement and to refer him to the specialised court, which issued its aforementioned verdict.

"Together for Bahrain's Safety" supports 850 families in a week



More than 850 Bahraini families supported by women have so far benefited from the "Together for Bahrain's Safety" campaign, which began last week. The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) launched the initiative as part of national efforts to combat the coronavirus. Eleven teams made up of 10 members each were deployed nationwide, accompanied by a media team and a specialised medical panel. The campaign has also benefited families of health employees who are on the front-line battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Above, volunteers distribute boxes of goods at a home.



02 'A culture of peace'

03 Strengthening infrastructure and services

04 Coming together

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HRH the Prime Minister

'A culture of peace'

Leading global figures share message of love and cooperation in forum marking International Day of Conscience

HRH the Prime Minister urges the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in providing peace, growth and stability amid current circumstances the entire world is facing

TDT | Manama

A culture of peace and cooperation amongst people around the world is one of the ultimate goals of the International Day of Conscience (IDC), an initiative of HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

This message was shared by leading international figures in a high-profile video conference forum marking the IDC.

The forum was organised by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in cooperation with the

Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University in the US and the Court of HRH the Premier.

A number of top global figures participated in the forum. Among them were United Nations (UN) Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini, Alliance of Civilisations High Representative Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Bahrain's Shaikh Hussam bin Isa Al Khalifa, and several other officials and peace ambassadors accredited by the UN.

The forum focused on the significance and importance of the initiative of HRH the Prime Minister on launching the IDC and his address to the world on this occasion.

The participants touched on the role played by the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa



Shaikh Hussam



Mohammed



Espinosa



Tibajuka

Al Khalifa, to mobilise global efforts towards creating good conditions for the development process to proceed so that humanity enjoys prosperity and stability, as part of its unwavering interest in sustainable development issues.

Addressing the forum, Shaikh Hussam conveyed the greetings and appreciation from HRH the Prime Minister to the participants and to all those who have contributed to supporting his initiative on the IDC and turning it into a reality.

Shaikh Hussam indicated that



HRH the Premier had urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in

providing the requirements of peace, growth and stability, amid the current circumstances and the big challenge the entire world is facing with the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the heavy losses it has inflicted.

Other speakers were UN High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment and Economic Growth Alaa Murabit, renowned American actor and producer Michael Kirk Douglas, and UN Messenger of Peace Dr. Jane Goodall. There were also statements by former French Prime

Minister Dominique de Villepin, as well as by Tanzanian MP and former UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Executive Director Anna Tibajuka.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed said that the ultimate goal of the IDC is to build a culture of peace through love, based on international cooperation, solidarity and respect for human rights.

Former UN General Assembly President Espinosa stressed that the world must view the current COVID-19 crisis as a warning and a wake-up call to our conscience and awareness. The celebration of the IDC for the first time should remind everyone that they have a role to play in facing this pandemic, away from any selfishness or greed, she noted.

On her part, Tanzanian MP Tibajuka said that as the coronavirus is sweeping the world, the IDC presents an opportunity for people to look into their consciences and lifestyles.

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HRH the Premier orders to double social security benefits

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister,

has ordered to allocate a budget of BD5.5million to double the value of social security benefits which

include 17,000 Bahraini families, which will be disbursed in mid-April.

HRH the Premier also ordered doubling the value of the disability pension, which benefits 12,000 persons with disabilities who are registered in the lists of the Labor and Social Development Ministry.

HRH the Prime Minister's directives came within the framework of his support for needy families and individuals with special needs on various occasions, including the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Meanwhile, preparations to

distribute HRH the Prime Minister's annual Ramadan gifts have already started, as relevant officials began coordination with charity societies and funds.

A total of 100 tonnes of rice will be distributed to needy Bahraini families, as part of HRH the Prime Minister's annual Ramadan grants.

Representatives of the charity societies and funds extended their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to HRH the Premier for his unwavering interest in supporting Bahrain's citizens and alleviating their burdens.

They paid tribute to HRH the Prime Minister for his success in enhancing Bahrain's progress in various fields, in addition to his noble gestures towards the citizens on various occasions.

They asserted that HRH the Premier's kind donations would support needy families during the Holy Month of Ramadan, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless HRH the Prime Minister with abundant health and happiness, and to guide him on the right path for the best interests of Bahrain and its people.



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● More than BD21million worth of sanitation projects are being carried out to provide a healthy environment across the Kingdom

● Future pipeline projects for the sewage sector worth BD31million have been reviewed, in addition to maintenance of Tubli plant and pumping stations

● Executive plan approved to invest in four ports located in Ras Raya, Al Hidd, Askar and Budaiya

● Regulatory requirements discussed for Bahraini street vendors sector in coordination with Labour Fund Tamkeen

TDT | Manama

Multi-million dinar projects aimed at strengthening Bahrain's infrastructure and the sustainability of services to the public and investors are being carried out across the Kingdom.



Deputy PM during the remote meeting of the ministerial committee

Deputy PM chairs remote meeting of Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects

These were discussed yesterday by Deputy Premier and Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, who chaired the 53rd meeting of the committee, which was held through video conferencing.

Committee members participated as well as officials from the relevant ministries and government departments.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the government, led by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Com-

mander and First Deputy Premier, will carry on implementing the plans in order to ensure a supportive environment for comprehensive development.

The committee followed up on the sanitation projects being implemented by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning across the Kingdom.

These projects, worth more than BD21million, are funded from the general state budget.

Shaikh Khalid lauded the efforts exerted by the Works Ministry to implement the directives of HRH Premier, and those of HRH the Crown Prince, to provide a healthy environment in accordance with the Government Action

Plan 2022.

The Ministerial Committee also reviewed the BD31million future pipeline projects for the sewage sector, located in Juffair, Diplomatic Area, Zinj, and Tubli, from Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway to the Saar intersection, in addition to the maintenance of the Tubli plant and pumping stations.

The panel also reviewed the latest developments regarding the project to invest in the Works Ministry's fishing ports. The committee had tasked the Works Ministry to study the investment options in such ports through encouraging the private sector to enter into such projects, by providing privileges and attracting

mechanisms.

The Ministerial Committee approved an executive plan presented by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Department regarding the investment in four out of the 12 ports affiliated with the Works Ministry in Ras Raya, Al Hidd, Askar and Budaiya.

The panel also reviewed the latest developments regarding the issue of 28 Bahraini street vendors, who are licensed by the Works Ministry to practise their activity in Street 77 in Sanad, Street 23 in Tubli and Street 4 in Sitra.

The move is in line with the committee's keenness to ensure the diversity of legal self-employment options for the citizens.

The committee was informed about the Work Ministry's keenness to implement the experience in other regions of the Kingdom after its success in the Capital Governorate.

The committee discussed the regulatory requirements of the street vendor sector, including the licensing of Bahraini nationals only, facilitating the licensing procedures, unifying the sales stalls and supporting street vendors, in coordination with the Labour Fund Tamkeen to pay half the purchase cost of the stalls.

The committee stressed that inspection campaigns would continue to track down unlicensed vendors.

Coast Guard seizes more than half-tonne of shrimp

TDT | Manama

The Coast Guard Commander announced on Tuesday that patrols have seized more than a half-tonne of shrimps along the west coast.

The shrimps were caught through illegal trawling nets.

He said that the land back-up patrols moved to the site after a case was reported about a mini-bus that was loading shrimps at Budaiya beach.

He said that the driver tried to flee the scene and refused to obey orders to stop. Legal steps were therefore required to be taken.

Court upholds five-year sentence for drug trafficker

TDT | Manama

The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently rejected a petition submitted by a Gulf national who was convicted of trafficking and abusing drugs earlier this year, while upholding the five-year prison sentence previously issued against him.

The Fourth High Criminal Court, which announced the verdict last February, also fined the man BD3,000 and banned him from re-entering the Kingdom.

Court files showed that the appellant was arrested last October at Bahrain International Airport upon arrival from Jordan, as he was deemed suspicious to the first witness while passing through customs.

The first witness, a custom's officer, searched the appellant thoroughly and found 2,960

pillars that were hidden in his sandals. Also, the results of the laboratory tests showed that these pills contained the drug amphetamine.

Moreover, the second witness conducted investigations that confirmed that the man brought the pills with the intent of trafficking in Bahrain.

Furthermore, due to the results of the investigation, the appellant confessed to the Public Prosecution of earlier consuming drugs, after the lab results of his urine and blood samples showed traces of cannabis and amphetamine.

The court's decision came as a result of the provided evidence against the man, the testimonies of the first and second witnesses, the appellant's confession, and the technical reports.

Works Minister instructs start of processing for municipalities rents initiative

TDT | Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf instructed those concerned in municipalities to take the necessary measures to stop collecting rents and allowance from all tenants of municipal properties for three months, starting from April.

This initiative came under the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, to support investors and traders under the current circumstances.

The minister pointed out that this action will include all users of municipal property in supermarkets, stand owners, and tenants of small shops in the malls and municipal shops.

He stressed that the financial and economic decisions and



Rents and allowance will not be collected from all tenants of municipal properties for three months, including users of municipal property in supermarkets, stand owners, and tenants of small stores in malls and municipal shops.

WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTER ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF

measures clearly embody the keenness of the government to maintain sustainable growth and enable the Bahraini private sector to overcome the effects of this crisis.

The Coordination Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al

Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, launched a package of economic initiatives to provide the necessary liquidity to the private sector, to deal with the effects of the current conditions in order to maintain sustainable growth.

Uncle and nephew who mugged Asian man lose appeal

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini man and his nephew got their punishment upheld by the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal after they pleaded against their conviction of impersonating policemen and mugging an Asian man last year.

Both men were sentenced to five years in jail each.

The incident was reported to the authorities when an Asian man, the victim, lodged a complaint to the police against the appellants, a 30-year-old uncle of the 18-year-old nephew, alleging that they mugged him for BD50 after claiming they were policemen.

The victim said in his statements that both men approached him, alleging they were cops, and asked him for his identity card, adding that they slapped him, stole his wallet and escaped.

Police investigations led to the identification and arrest of both appellants. The nephew told investigators that his uncle was the mastermind of the crime and that they mugged the victim in the Salmabad area in

the Northern Governorate.

"He informed me that we will be mugging Asian labourers, but I rejected and told him that I don't steal from people," said the nephew in his statements. "He asked me to stop the car in Salmabad and he was talking to an Asian man, the victim, while I was waiting in the car with my headphones on."

"My uncle suddenly called me and asked me to hold the Asian man so he can steal his wallet. After my uncle was done, he yelled at me and told me to run away."

The nephew added: "We later met at home and he gave BD5 saying it was my share from the BD50 that he stole from the Asian man."

Meanwhile, the uncle denied his nephew's allegations and told investigators that his nephew was the one who asked him for assistance to steal money from Asian labourers.

Both men appealed against the previously announced verdict, but the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal rejected their request and upheld their punishment after deliberating the case and reviewing the evidence and testimonies.

TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Hon. Chairman Prince S Natarajan announced yesterday that steps are being taken to distribute text books for the new academic year to all students at their homes, in the wake of the coronavirus threat in the Kingdom.

The school is also in the process of implementing online classes for the academic year 2020-21, in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the government.

Meanwhile, the school has been receiving a number of new applications for fee concessions from parents.

ISB has already offered fee concessions to around 1,000 students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with many parents having lost their jobs and are in financial troubles.

The school therefore needs financial support from the entire community in order to process these new applications for assistance.

ISB, which has the lowest fee structure in the Gulf, is appealing for the support of the Indian community,

associations, and well-wishers to mobilise the financial resources needed to help financially struggling parents in this situation, said Natarajan.

The school's governing body has decided not to charge transport fees from April until the school re-opens. For those who have already paid the fee for this month, it will be adjusted against the monthly school fees.

Students and their families who are in financial difficulties are already being assisted by school teachers and well-wishers under the leadership of the Executive Committee, headed by the chairman.

The school's charity work is done confidentially, in respect of the pri-



Prince S Natarajan

vacuity of the families.

The school will do whatever possible within their limits to assist those who are in need of financial assistance, said Natarajan and Hon. Secretary Saji Antony.

Classes for the new academic year are beginning on April 12. Principal VR Palaniswamy said teachers in Class X and XII have already uploaded pre-recorded video lectures and related notes to the school's parent portal.

The school is now moving forward strictly following the guidelines of the Ministry of Education. Parents will be informed of the details of starting online classes for the new academic year in due course, said Principal Palaniswamy and Riffa campus Principal Pamela Xavier.

#UnitedAgainstCovid19

Coming together

Expat communities step forward to help countrymen in need due to impact of COVID-19 outbreak

TDT | Manama

Well-meaning groups and individuals in Bahrain's ex-

patriate communities are stepping up to assist their countrymen who are struggling to make ends meet in light of the

current situation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Hundreds of foreign na-

tionals are out of work and are unable to generate any income.

The Bahrain government has

quickly responded and put forward many initiatives to assist the Kingdom's residents in this plight.

Many in the various expatriate communities have followed suit and are lending a helping hand in their own way.

Indian Community

Indian Community Relief Fund begins distribution of support kits

Indian Ladies Association members raise money for Migrant Workers Protection Society COVID-19 Relief Fund, while also launching various initiatives online for members

Bahrain Kerala Social Forum (BKSF) distributes food kits, initiative followed by several other Kerala expatriate associations



Some of the goods included in a support kit provided by the ICRF

and much more. One kit is sufficient for up to four people for approximately two weeks.

At the forefront of this initiative is a special ICRF team, headed by Adv. V K Thomas as Convenor, and with Pankaj Malik, Zulfikar Ali, Nasser Manjeri, J S Gill, Satyendra Kumar, Clifford Correa and Shivakumar D V as members.

Apart from providing basic commodities, the fund also includes other amenities. ICRF has already distributed more than

4,000 antibacterial soaps and flyers with disease-exposure prevention instructions.

Meanwhile, Indian Ladies Association (ILA) members have contributed to a fund raising initiative by the ILA's Workers Welfare Subcommittee. The amount collected was transferred online to the Migrant Workers Protection Society COVID-19 Relief Fund and has been used by them to distribute dry rations to daily-wage expatriate workers.

Workers Welfare coordinators mentioned that this was done to avoid any gatherings at camp sites, as per the rules laid down by the government.

ILA has also been assisting in the national campaign to combat COVID-19 by launching various initiatives online for members. A campaign #WashourhandsILA was launched to spread awareness on the importance of hygiene. Over 25 ladies participated.

Various other ongoing ILA activities include "Ek Saath...Virtual Fun", a talent series where the members post two-minute videos of their skill or talent; and "Ek Saath...Virtual Yoga", online yoga sessions for members; while an online Zumba session "Ek Saath...Virtual Zumba" is also being planned.



BKS members and other officials with some of the donated goods



Members of the BKSF Helpline ready to give out food kits

Also in the Indian community, Bahrain Kerala Social Forum (BKSF), which is a popular WhatsApp self-help group among Keralites in the King-

dom, was one of the first associations to take an initiative with BKSF Helpline, through which they have collected and distributed food kits to the needy the

last two weeks.

The group is headed by Kerala Pravasi Commission member Subair Kannur and Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum general secretary Basheer Ambalayi. More than 100 food kits have been distributed among the community through volunteers.

Following this initiative, many other Kerala expatriate associations like Bahrain Keralaleeya Samajam (BKS), Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre, Overseas Indian Cultural Congress, Navakerala Kalavedi, Samsa Bahrain, Friends Association, Bahrain Prathibha, Samskruthi, Kollam Pravasi Association, and MM Team also started similar programmes, which has been a boon to the community during this stressful period.

BKS, which is known as the mother club for Kerala associations in Bahrain, have distributed hundreds of food kits.

Capital Governorate Social Affairs head Ahmed Al Rabea and Strategic Planning and Project Management head Yousif Lori visited BKS and praised the steps taken during this difficult period. The Capital Governorate also contributed 200 packets of dry ration, which included rice, oil, onions and other essentials to BKS in support of the distribution process.

Filipino Community

Philippine Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver, Embassy personnel and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Office spearhead "Bayanihan para kay Kabayan" project, donate food packs to around 1,500 Filipinos to date

The drive to provide relief to Philippine nationals affected by the measures to curb the coronavirus spread is being spearheaded by the Philippine Embassy through the launch of the project "Bayanihan para kay Kabayan". The word "Bayanihan" loosely translates to "working together"; it is a common value of Filipinos who always come together to help each other through difficult times.

Embassy personnel, led by Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Office in Bahrain (OWWA-Bahrain) were able to assemble almost 1,000 packs for distribution.

The Embassy's beneficiaries were contacted for their individual schedules to receive the goods in observance of social distancing protocols, while OWWA-Bahrain delivered the packs to the accommodation of workers who sought assistance.

Members of the Filipino community, as well as other private



Philippine Ambassador Ver with some of the donors and their contributions at the Embassy premises



A group of Filipino ladies with their donations supplied through the Embassy

groups and individuals, answered the call and rallied behind the cause, donating food items through the Embassy for distribution to those in need, particularly those who are working under a no-work, no-pay scheme, those who have been asked to go on

unpaid leaves, and those who have totally lost employment during this difficult time.

Donations have included sacks of rice, canned goods, instant meals, fruits and vegetables, bottles of water, and much more. These have been collected at the

embassy premises in Zinj and distributed to Overseas Filipino Workers most in need of assistance.

Among the groups who have donated through the Embassy are Filipino Club Bahrain, Prince Hall Masons, Pinay Ikaw, Mohamed bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Cardiac Centre, Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. Bahrain, Bravo Manpower, Filipino Teachers of Multinational School, Travellers Tribe, Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers Bahrain and PhilBahMoms, to name just a few.

As of yesterday, the Philippine Embassy, through the help of these donors, have already distributed packs to around 1,500 individuals.

Bangladesh community



BYC members with boxes of donations

Bangladesh Youth Club (BYC) members contribute essential food items to more than 100 Bangladeshis in need

In the Bangladeshi community, members of Bangladesh Youth Club (BYC) have taken an initiative to make a contribution of essential food items to their countrymen in need.

A team delivered the essentials to more than 100 people all over Bahrain. All donations were exclusively contributed by the members

of BYC.

The club has assured that the activity has been executed while abiding by strict guidelines enforced by the government to help control the virus' spread. Members were divided into several small groups of two people each. They applied the appropriate precautions when delivering the donations.

BYC president Al Amin Muhammed has requested that the Bangladeshi community to come forward and help the poor and needy. BYC is ready to extend a volunteering hand should anyone like to make a contribution and needs assistance.

business

BisB rewards customers in the Medical Workforce

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) announced launching a new initiative to reward customers who are also members of the medical teams, working on the front-lines in governmental hospitals and health centres, fighting the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Chief Executive Officer of BisB, Hassan Amin Jarrar, announced this through a video on the bank's Instagram feed, yesterday.

A total amount of BHD 30,000 has been dedicated towards this cause, in which the bank will be rewarding them for going over

“It gives us great pleasure to launch this unique initiative in celebration of our valued customers who are dedicating long hours to serve and protect the community from the emerging virus. I am also pleased to pay tribute to the wise leadership on the success of the measures imposed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, to reduce the spread of the virus”

HASSAN AMIN JARRAR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BISB,



and above the norm to keep the Bahraini community safe during

this challenging period.

He stated, “It gives us great

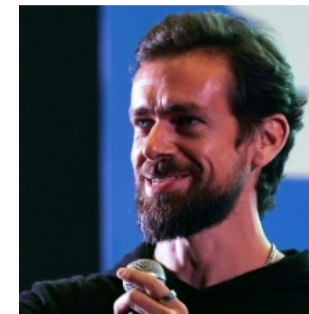
pleasure to launch this unique initiative in celebration of our

valued customers who are dedicating long hours to serve and protect the community from the emerging virus. I am also pleased to pay tribute to the wise leadership on the success of the measures imposed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, to reduce the spread of the virus.”

BisB customers working in the aforementioned fields are requested to submit required data digitally through Bahrain Islamic Bank's website www.bisb.com.

The rewards will be in the form of a cash deposit in the Tejjouri Al Islami account, allowing them to win valuable cash prizes throughout the year.

Twitter's Jack Dorsey pledges \$1 bn for COVID-19 relief effort



Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey

San Francisco

Twitter co-founder and chief executive Jack Dorsey said Tuesday he was committing \$1 billion of his personal fortune to coronavirus relief through his philanthropic fund.

Dorsey said in a series of tweets that he would transfer his equity in his digital payments group Square to his limited liability corporation Start Small, contributing around 28 percent of his overall wealth.

“Why now? The needs are increasingly urgent, and I want to see the impact in my lifetime,” Dorsey said.

“I hope this inspires others to do something similar. Life is too short, so let's do everything we can today to help people now.”

The move could be the largest from a single individual for coronavirus relief and comes with the pandemic spanning the globe and inflicting a heavy toll in lives and economic devastation on the United States.

Korean Air puts 70 per cent of staff on leave



Most of Korean Air's staff will go on leave for six months

Seoul

South Korea's flag carrier Korean Air will put 70 percent of its 19,000 staff on furlough, it said, as it scrambles to cope with the coronavirus pandemic that has brought global aviation to a standstill.

The airline industry is among the sectors worst hit by the virus and the ensuing travel restrictions, with thousands of flights cancelled, routes cut, and companies facing financial turmoil. Korean Air is the flagship of the Hanjin group, one of the multifaceted, family-controlled conglomerates known as chaebols that dominate business in South Korea and played a key part in its rise to become the world's 12th-largest economy.

Gulf stocks end mixed, Saudi edges up

● Nine of 11 Saudi Arabian banks gain

● Qatar sells \$10 bln bonds in multi-tranches

● Egypt extends night-time curfew by 15 days

Reuters

Stock markets in the United Arab Emirates backtracked from two sessions of gains yesterday as investors fled risk on coronavirus fears, while Saudi equities edged up ahead of an OPEC+ meeting on output cuts.

Dubai's main share index dropped 1 per cent, with blue chip developer Emaar Properties declining 2.6pc and Dubai Islamic Bank losing 1.9pc.

In Abu Dhabi, the index lost



Equities edged up ahead of an OPEC+ meeting on output cuts. (file)

1.6pc. First Abu Dhabi Bank slid 2.9pc, while Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank was down 1.5pc.

Ratings agency Moody's had said on Tuesday a \$70 billion UAE stimulus package will support bank liquidity and limit likely asset deterioration due to

the coronavirus outbreak, but will increase the potential for problem loans.

As of April 7, the UAE had registered a total of 2,359 cases. The pandemic has forced vital sectors of its economy, such as tourism and transport, to a near

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.2% to 6,999 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.6% to 3,867 pts
DUBAI	▲ 1% to 1,767 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.6% to 9,030 pts
EGYPT	▲ 2% to 10,096 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.8% to 1,303 pts
OMAN	▲ 1.7% to 3,455 pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.2% to 5,083 pts

standstill.

Qatar's index added 0.6pc, helped by a 0.6pc rise in Qatar Fuel Co and a 1.2pc gain in Qatar International Islamic Bank.

Qatar sold \$10 billion in bonds in tranches of 5, 10, and 30 years on Tuesday, the first Gulf state to raise cash in the debt markets against a backdrop of low oil prices and market uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pan-

demic.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index ended up 0.2pc in choppy trade, with banking and petrochemical shares moving sideways.

Samba Financial Group advanced 4.6pc, while Banque Saudi Fransi added 3.5pc.

Major oil producers including Saudi Arabia and Russia are likely to agree to cut production at today's meeting, but only if the United States joins the effort, three OPEC+ sources said on Monday.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index gained 2pc, extending gains for a third session, as Commercial International Bank leapt 5.1pc.

Egypt will extend a nationwide night-time curfew by 15 days until April 23 to counter the coronavirus spread, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said yesterday.

US planning ways to 'ease' back to normal if virus efforts work - Fauci



Reuters | Washington

US health officials are planning ways for the country to return to normal activities if distancing and other steps to mitigate COVID-19 prove successful in curbing the outbreak, the top US infectious disease official said on Wednesday.

“If in fact we are successful, it makes sense to at least plan what a re-entry into normality would look like. That doesn't mean we're going to do it right now, but it means we need to be prepared to ease into that,” Dr Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told Fox News in an interview.

Putin proposes additional coronavirus relief measures



Reuters | Moscow

President Vladimir Putin yesterday proposed additional measures to support businesses and workers during the coronavirus crisis and said that Russia could not simply shut its economy down due to potentially destructive consequences.

Putin ordered federal and regional government to develop additional measures aimed at supporting citizens, adding that the next two to three weeks would be crucial in Russia's fight against the spread of the virus.

Global trade will plunge by up to a third in 2020 amid pandemic: WTO

AFP | Paris

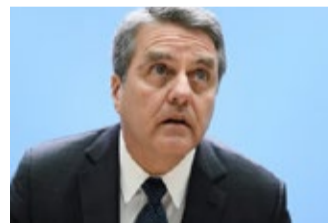
Global trade growth is expected to plummet by up to a third in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the World Trade Organisation said yesterday, warning that the numbers would be “ugly”.

“World trade is expected to fall by between 13 percent and 32 percent in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupts normal economic activity and life around the world,” the WTO said in a statement.

There were a wide range of possibilities for how trade would be hit by the “unprecedented” health crisis, it added. However, WTO chief Roberto Azevedo warned the downturn “may well be the deepest economic recession or downturn of our lifetimes”.

In its main annual forecast, the 164-member WTO pointed out that trade had already been slowing in 2019, before the emergence of the novel coronavirus.

Global trade, already hit by trade tensions and uncertainties around Brexit, is expect-



WTO chief Roberto Azevedo gave the warning during a virtual news conference

ed to register “double-digit declines in trade volumes” in nearly all regions this year, the WTO said.

“This crisis is first and foremost a health crisis which has forced governments to take unprecedented measures to protect people's lives,” Azevedo said in a statement.

“The unavoidable declines in trade and output will have painful consequences for households and businesses, on top of the human suffering caused by the disease itself,” he said.

The dollar value of world merchandise exports fell by three percent to \$18.89 trillion, the WTO said.

EU ministers fail to agree virus economic rescue in all-night talks

Reuters | Brussels

EU finance ministers failed yesterday to agree on a rescue plan to help hard-hit member states face the coronavirus outbreak, after the Netherlands blocked the deal over bail-out conditions.

“After 16 hours of discussions, we came close to a deal but we are not there yet. I suspended the Eurogroup and (we will) continue tomorrow Thursday,” said Eurogroup chief Mario Centeno.

Bickering EU finance ministers were unable to bridge differences on how to rebuild their economies after coronavirus.

The ministers' video conference dragged on from Tuesday into Wednesday, with Italy and Spain insisting on having no strings attached to the aid plan on the table

Africa has a COVID-19 time bomb to defuse

TOLBERT NYENSWAH

Africa's healthcare systems will be overwhelmed when coronavirus cases escalate. Africa has little hope of support when countries like the US cannot supply its healthcare workers with personal protective equipment.

In Liberia, the first case of COVID-19 came from someone who brought the disease from Switzerland. This traveller's household cook was the next in Liberia to test positive for the infection.

This is not the way it is supposed to work. According to the stereotypes, it is the working class in the slums of a non-industrialized country – in this story, that would be the cook – who transfers the infection to the traveller, who then brings the contagion to the industrialized nation. But we do not live in stereotypical times.

Think back to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a few years back. Seven out of the 28,646 suspected cases escaped the African continent in three and a half years and yet the industrialized world was in a full-scale panic.

Today, it is the industrialized world that is exporting an infectious disease to the global south. While not as deadly as Ebola, COVID-19 is far more contagious.

Africa, with its long underfunded healthcare systems, is a time bomb just waiting to explode. The first few dozens of COVID-19 infections were detected in March, but the virus probably arrived weeks or months before.



Coronavirus is a looming threat to Africa's population of more than 1.2 billion.

In Africa, deaths from COVID-19 might far exceed what the world is witnessing right now unless major steps are taken. But we have little hope for substantial financial support when countries like the US cannot afford to properly supply its healthcare workers with personal protective equipment (PPE).

In hearing stories of workers trying to make their own visors and re-using surgical masks, I think back to the Ebola outbreak when we in Liberia were compelled to do the same. The lack of PPE had a catastrophic effect: 192 health workers died in Liberia from Ebola and related causes.

And yet, with a virus this dangerous, the international commu-

nity should invest in all countries needing help, from the US to Liberia to anywhere else, because to do otherwise would allow this infection to continue its virulent march around the world.

Sub-Saharan Africa is disproportionately affected by communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Non-communicable diseases such as heart attacks and cancer are on the rise, coupled with frequent outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola, measles, meningitis, and monkeypox. Health systems are severely challenged: they have unreliable stocks of essential medicines; little to no electricity; high medical fees for patients; and poor access to

The Ebola epidemic that raged through West Africa was an existential threat to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A challenge to governments around the world, it severely threatened international public health systems in ways they have never been challenged before.

health facilities. We have some of the worst child and maternal morbidity and mortality rates on

Gifted children need help if they are to ch

SARA AL-MULLA

Appreciating a painting by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci is a delightful experience. Born in 1452, Leonardo epitomized the spirit of the Renaissance and his interests encompassed the realms of art, architecture, sculpture, invention, mathematics, engineering, astronomy, botany, and science. As a young man, Leonardo showed a keen interest in the arts and his father, having recognized his talent, decided to apprentice him to one of Florence's most established painters and sculptors of the day, Andrea del Verrocchio. His six-year apprenticeship ensured that the young protege acquired a vast range of technical skills, as well as the artistic skills of drawing, painting, sculpting and modeling. Leonardo went on to become one of the most influential and inspiring artists in history. In 2017, Christie's sold one of his paintings for \$450.3 million – by far the highest price paid for any artwork at an auction.

A gifted individual is a gift to civilization and we have a responsibility to nurture their unique talents. The National Association for Gifted Children in the US defines gifted individuals as "those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an

exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10 percent or rarer) in one or more domains." Gifted children have an exceptional ability to learn information quickly, solve complex problems, use advanced vocabulary and communication skills, sustain detailed memories, and see the various connections and perspectives between different issues.

Research conducted on gifted children shows stark differences in their development in comparison to their peers. Gifted students develop, both cognitively and emotionally, at a much faster pace than their peers. This means that they are more sensitive to their surroundings, perceptive of situations, and experience more emotional intensity. They are also intrinsically motivated to succeed, showing interest in learning activities and lessons are individualized and related to their passions. They are highly curious, often preferring to question and ponder ideas, rather than memorize and answer questions. Gifted children also tend to be introverted and find studying in groups distracting.

That is why gifted students benefit tremendously from specially tailored education programs that aim to accelerate and enrich their learning, enabling them to realize

their potential. Many longitudinal studies demonstrate the positive effects of these education programs on gifted children's lives. Research by James Reed Campbell and Herbert J. Walberg on a control group of 345 students who participated in talent development programs showed that 52 percent went on to earn doctoral degrees. Another study on 2,409 gifted adolescents tracked their accomplishments over a 25-year period and found that, among the sample, individuals had registered 817 patents, published 93 books, one had been awarded the Fields Medal in mathematics and another had won the John Bates Clark Medal for the most outstanding economist under 40.

These findings have huge implications for educators and parents. Schools need to offer customized learning experiences that cater to gifted students. First and foremost, schools need to put in place identification procedures to discover gifted students. Secondly, every school needs to have an expert in gifted education in order to provide the necessary programs and services to this group. Furthermore, teachers need to be trained in educating gifted students; from understanding their development to designing lessons in a way that nurtures their talents.



Above, a poster for the exhibition 'Leonardo da Vinci' is seen in front of The Louvre Museum in Paris on October 24, 2019. (AFP)

Educational acceleration also allows students to complete the traditional curriculum at a faster rate. This includes grade-skipping, early entrance to kindergarten, school or university, and

1609

Eighty Years' War: Spain and the Dutch Republic sign the Treaty of Antwerp to initiate twelve years of truce.

1609

Philip III of Spain issues the decree of the "Expulsion of the Moriscos".

1682

Robert Cavalier de La Salle discovers the mouth of the Mississippi River, claims it for France and names it Louisiana.

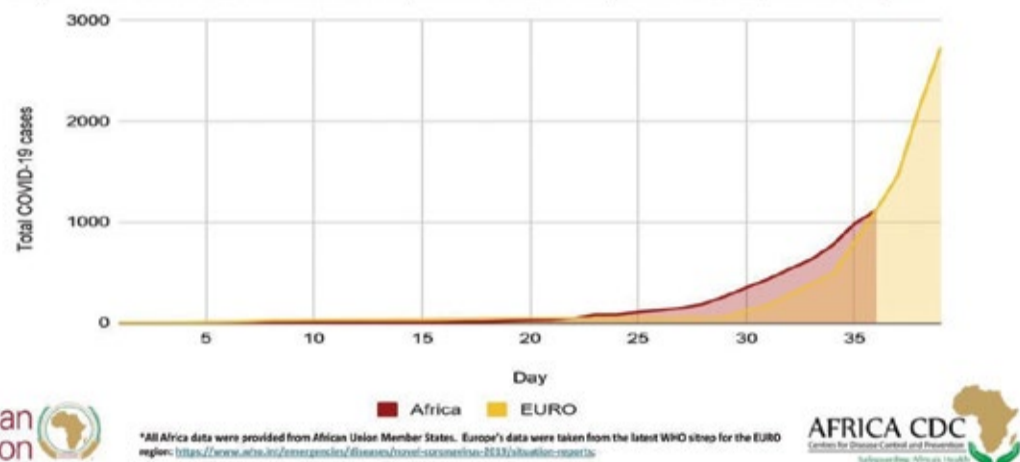


1782

American Revolutionary War: Battle of the Saintes begins.

COVID-19: First 40 days for Africa and Europe*

Comparison of the total number of COVID-19 cases reported over the first 40 days since first case reported in each region



the planet. There isn't much in Africa standing in the way of COVID-19. It is one of the fastest-moving and hardest-hitting pandemics in human history. This is a looming threat to the over 1.2 billion people on the continent of Africa. The high-income countries that bear much of the healthcare costs in Africa are confronted with the COVID-19 fight themselves.

To be honest, unless we obtain more support, we may never know the true impact of COVID-19. Liberia's healthcare system was able to identify these first two cases and track down their contacts – as a top-line system should. Many other African countries are also ahead of the curve, thanks to our

experiences with Ebola.

But once the cases escalate, even the best of systems will be overwhelmed. And this pandemic will never end if we cannot root out all of the infections it causes, even in the poorest of countries. As we see with other infectious diseases like tuberculosis, once they find a home in the slums and other impoverished places around the world, infections will always escape out and threaten the wealthier regions.

The Ebola epidemic that raged through West Africa was an existential threat to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A challenge to governments around the world, it severely threatened international public health systems in ways

they have never been challenged before.

And yet, even as the first few months of COVID-19 has hit harder than Ebola, there is one lesson learned that many of us will never forget.

We are all on this planet together. You may not be able to wall off diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola, but you also cannot wall off the common bonds of humanity that all of us share. If we are to get through this pandemic – and we will, because humans are a stubborn species – we will get through it together, by providing support to the more impoverished parts of the world. This chapter of our history does not have to end so darkly.

change the world



The Gifted Education Program in Singapore is a stellar case study.

The model is based on a combination of curriculum enrichment, the advancement of essential skills, field trips, and specialized out-of-school learning experiences in partnership with tertiary institutions.

in higher grade levels). Grouping gifted students together also creates a positive learning experience, as it offers the challenges and complexity needed to grow, in addition to improving students' social and emotional well-being. Furthermore, gifted students can attend out-of-school programs and specialized classes in specific subject areas in order to advance their learning. Lastly, supporting parents through counselling and parenting programs can empower them to make the best choices for their gifted children.

The Gifted Education Program in Singapore is a stellar case study. The model is based on a combination of curriculum enrichment, the advancement of

essential skills, field trips, and specialized out-of-school learning experiences in partnership with tertiary institutions. For example, the Moot Parliament Program is a six-month mentorship project designed for secondary school students with the aim of educating them about democracy.

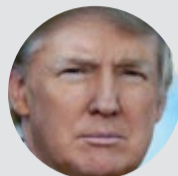
The Innovation Program is another signature Singaporean project that focuses on encouraging gifted students to solve real-life problems. Students are briefed about a particular challenge and then innovation mentors from partnering tertiary institutions share their expertise on how to stimulate creative thinking, assess the viability of ideas, and propose improvements to proposals and prototypes. This all culminates in the Young Innovators' Fair, where projects are presented by students and judged by a panel. Other programs offer focus on developing knowledge and skills in various domains, such as the creative arts, science, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences.

Leonardo once said: "The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of." Gifted children have the opportunity to make the world a better place, but that can only be made possible if we invest in their education and learning experiences as early as possible.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



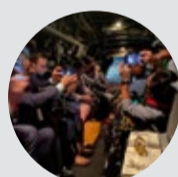
Republicans should fight very hard when it comes to state wide mail-in voting. Democrats are clamoring for it. Tremendous potential for voter fraud, and for whatever reason, doesn't work out well for Republicans. @foxandfriends @realDonaldTrump

02



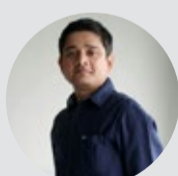
A fortnight back Kerala had the dubious distinction of being the state with highest number of active Covid cases. Now it has moved to the 8th rank - a testimonial to Kerala's medical and social strategy of containment and vibrant public health system. @drthomasisaac

03



There's a big debate going on among folks about whether cable should be airing Trump briefings. Okay. But if you're running the beginning of the briefing, why cut away from Pence and the actual health officials? @maggieNYT

04



Big order by the #SupremeCourt: All #COVID19 patients to be tested free of cost. SC says all Govt labs & accredited private ones must carry out all tests relating to #COVID19 for everyone without a penny. Issue of reimbursement will be dealt with at a later stage. @utkarsh_aanand

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Permanent signature



YENUS S

Since its establishment as a world body more than 70 years ago, the United Nations, has celebrated April 05 as an International Day of Conscience (IDC) for the first time in its history. It is now internationally declared that April 05 will be celebrated every year as IDC. The reason for this big and historical day was the proposal put forward by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa to consider conscience of humans in decisions making and conflict resolutions for the betterment of humanity. The initiative was unanimously adopted by the United Nations last year.

The occasion paved the way for the Premier to put his permanent signature at the world body, the first Arab leader to do so. Thereafter every year when April 05, is celebrated the world over, the Premier's achievement, commitment, lifelong dedication and contributions to the world community will be addressed. Indeed, it is history in the making! Speaking on the occasion, the Premier said "only a reassured and truthful conscience can uphold righteousness and inspire humanity in dealing with the crisis of poverty and epidemics, as well as in attaining sustainable peace".

The world in general and the Middle East in particular has and continue to witness conflicts of various sorts ranging from power politics to sectarianism to tribal confrontations, spiced up by state and non-state actors. The results of which have resulted in the deaths

The Arab League threw its weight behind the Premier's initiative and called on strengthening the IDC qualities and use to solve conflicts and integrate them in international systems and relations among countries.



and displacement of hundreds, if not millions, of innocent people and destruction of the infrastructure. This devastation continues to date with no solution on the horizon.

A new approach to deal with such continuous challenges was long overdue. Political parties of various stripes and powerful countries with stakes in the conflicts more often than not end up without a solution. The Premier's initiative that takes into consideration the conscience of humans, focusing on avoiding hatred and violence and promoting global peace, stability, security, respect for human dignity, cooperation, justice and equality seem to be the right medicine for the disease. The promotion of these qualities in solving conflicts remains at the centre of the

IDC. The IDC initiative is also a reflection of Bahrain's relentless efforts towards achieving global peace and stability.

The IDC qualities are ingrained in Bahrain society, where unity in diversity is observed and reflected in the social cohesion that existed in the Kingdom. The Premier said that "our initiative in calling for the observance of an IDC stems from the values, principles, civilization, historical heritage of the Kingdom of Bahrain which combines culture, heritage and principles of true Islamic religion". That is why Bahrain is best known for being a place of harmony, coexistence and tolerance in a region dominated by hatred and conflicts, where violence has shaped political landscapes of several countries. Bahrain is now trying to promote its qualities in an effort to solve the multifaceted challenges the world is facing. Solving conflicts that are erupting in different parts of the globe, helping fast track the progress in achieving sustainable development and containing the Covid 19 pandemic to reduce its effect on human lives and world economy require cooperation of countries concerned.

The Arab League threw its weight behind the Premier's initiative and called on strengthening the IDC qualities and use to solve conflicts and integrate them in international systems and relations among countries. Hopefully the Arab League will urge the conflict-ridden member states to embrace the Bahrain initiative to solve their increasing conflict of interests and request them to focus on their similarities rather than differences when they celebrate IDC.

The IDC is a wakeup call for the world community. It urges us to use our God-given human conscience in cooperating and understanding common challenges that affect us all. By so doing, we can share resources, respect each other and develop together, for the betterment of humanity.

world

Britain's Johnson enters third day in intensive care

AFP | London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson began a third day in intensive care yesterday battling the coronavirus, which has struck at the heart of the British government. "I understand the prime minister is in a stable condition, he's comfortable and in good spirits," Edward Argar, a junior health minister, told Sky News.

"He has in the past had some oxygen but he's not on ventilation."

The Times reported Johnson's persistently high temperature had fallen, while the Daily Telegraph said he was being cared for by one of Britain's leading lung doctors.

Newspapers urged Britons to keep their stricken leader at the forefront of their minds, with the country in lockdown to try to stem the spread of COVID-19 in its third week.

"He stayed at work for you... now pray at home for him," The Sun tabloid splashed across its front page. "Boris 'will pull through'" said the Daily Express. Deputising for Johnson, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called him "a fighter" and predicted "he'll be back, leading us through this crisis in short order".

Johnson, 55, is the most high-profile government leader to become infected with COVID-19 and messages of support flooded in from across Britain and the world.

He was admitted to intensive care on Monday evening after spending Sunday night in hospital following concerns he still had a cough and high temperature 10 days after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

His transfer to intensive care

BORIS JOHNSON
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
Aged 55

- Since 1987-2019: Eurosceptic journalist and commentator. Makes a name for himself writing exaggerated negative claims about the European Union.
- 2016-2018: Foreign minister. Resigns over Prime Minister Theresa May's soft Brexit deal with the EU.
- 2019: Prime minister. Clinches modified Brexit deal. Decisive general election victory puts lid on political chaos over Brexit.
- 2020: Britain leaves the EU.
- March 27, 2020: Tested positive for COVID-19.
- April 5/6: Hospitalised, moved to intensive care unit.
- April 7: On oxygen support, not on ventilator.

2003: Conservative member of parliament.

2008-16: Mayor of London.

2016: Leads campaign for Britain to leave EU (Brexit).

2016: Still image from footage released April 3, 2020.

The latest from the hospital is that the prime minister remains in intensive care where his condition is improving. I can also tell you that he has been sitting up in bed and been engaging positively with the clinical team people

FINANCE MINISTER RISHI SUNAK

is unprecedented for a prime minister during a national emergency.

For many people, it brought home the seriousness of the disease that has so far seen 6,159 deaths in Britain, with a record 786 more reported in a daily update on Tuesday.

'Work goes on'

Despite the record daily death toll, there was more encouraging news with the number of new daily cases remaining at a roughly stable 3,643.

Raab chaired the daily coronavirus meeting in the prime minister's place on Tuesday.

India considers narrowing lockdown to virus hotspots

Reuters | New Delhi

India is considering plans to seal off coronavirus hotspots in Delhi, Mumbai and parts of the south while easing curbs elsewhere as a way out of a three-week lockdown that has caused deep economic distress, officials said on Wednesday.

The sweeping lockdown of India's 1.3 billion people to prevent an epidemic of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the virus, ends on April 14 and Prime Minister Narendra

A second stimulus package India is poised to announce in coming days will be worth around 1 trillion rupees (\$13 billion) and focus on help for small and medium businesses weathering the coronavirus outbreak, two senior officials said on Wednesday.

er to extend it. More than 80 per cent of the positive cases of the coronavirus have been traced to 62 districts — less than 10pc of India's landmass — according to government data.

These are concentrated in the western state of Maharashtra, home to financial capital Mumbai, Delhi and the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala.

Many parts of the country have not reported a single case. Modi is due to take a decision this week on whether

Joy, relief as exodus from Wuhan begins

AFP | Wuhan China

Voicing joy and excitement from behind face masks, tens of thousands of people fled Wuhan on Wednesday after a 76-day travel ban was lifted on the Chinese city where the coronavirus first emerged.

Previously quiet train and bus stations bustled as an exodus began from the city of 11 million, with some passengers wearing hazmat suits.

Hao Mei, a single parent from the nearby city of Enshi, said her two children had been home alone since she got stuck in Wuhan, where she works in a school kitchen.

"You have no idea! I was already up around 4 am. I felt so good. My kids are so excited. Mum is finally coming home," the 39-year-old told AFP as she waited to board a train.

"At the start of the lockdown, I cried every night. I was really miserable, because my little girl is still young, she's only 10."

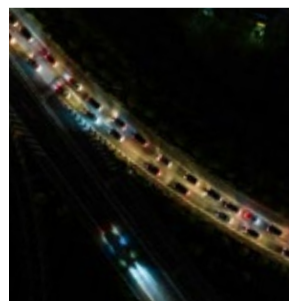
Up to 55,000 people are expected to leave Wuhan on Wednesday just by



A medical worker leaving Wuhan hugs colleagues before boarding a plane back home



Previously quiet train and bus stations bustled as an exodus began from the city of 11 million



Cars queued at highway toll stations in Wuhan yesterday night as they prepared to leave the city

with queuing passengers in protective wear wheeling cases and staff spraying disinfectant on the floor.

State news agency Xinhua said there would be around 200 flights on Wednesday.

A group of medics leaving Wuhan tearfully hugged colleagues from the city goodbye as they prepared to board flights home.

World-first lockdown

Wuhan led the world with an unprecedented quarantine lockdown on January 23 in a bid to stop the spread of the then-mysterious respiratory virus.

Chinese disease control officials said in January that the virus likely leapt from wildlife to humans at a Wuhan market that sold wild animals for food.

The rest of surrounding Hubei province quickly followed Wuhan, cutting tens of millions of people off from the world.

The officially reported number of new deaths has plummeted in recent weeks.

Global Covid-19 Cases:

1,491,465

Deaths

87,444

Recovered:

319,060

Active cases

1,084,544

Closed cases

406,417

New cases

+60,042

New deaths

+5,401

Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Bahrain	823	+12	5		477	341	3	484
Saudi Arabia	2,932	+137	41		631	2,260	41	84
UAE	2,659	+300	12		239	2,408	1	269
Kuwait	855	+112	1		111	743	21	200
Oman	419	+48	2		72	345	3	82
Jordan	353		6		138	209	5	35
Iraq	1,202	+80	69	+4	452	681		30
Egypt	1,450		94		276	1,080		14

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New deaths	Total Deaths
USA	418,410	+1,399	14,240
Spain	146,690	+628	14,673
Italy	139,422	+542	17,669
Germany	110,483	+167	2,183
France	112,950	+541	10,328
China	81,802	+2	3,333
Iran	64,586	+121	3,993
UK	60,733	+938	10,869
Turkey	38,226	+87	812
Belgium	23,403	+205	2,240
Switzerland	23,248	+72	893
Netherlands	20,549	+147	2,248
Canada	18,479	+21	402
Brazil	14,152	+13	699
Portugal	13,141	+35	380
Austria	12,901	+30	273
S. Korea	10,384	+8	200
Israel	9,404	+7	72
Russia	8,672	+5	63
Sweden	8,419	+96	687
Norway	6,086	+4	93
Australia	6,013	+1	50
India	5,749	+18	178
Ireland	6,074	+25	235
Chile	5,546	+5	48
Denmark	5,386	+15	218
Czechia	5,221	+11	99
Poland	5,000	+7	136
Romania	4,761	+18	215
Japan	4,257		93
Pakistan	4,196	+3	60
Malaysia	4,119	+2	65

Figures as of closing

Coronavirus intensive care what is involved?

AFP | Paris

The coronavirus pandemic has caused many thousands of people, including Britain's prime minister, to need treatment in intensive

care units, where severe cases of COVID-19 often receive breathing support.

Boris Johnson was moved into intensive care when his condition worsened on Monday, 10 days after diagnosis -- a

typical progression as the virus begins to attack the lungs, reducing the amount of oxygen going to the body and its vital organs.

Failure to at least halt COVID-19 will lead to organ failure

and death but keep the patient alive long enough, and they stand a chance of overcoming it and pulling through.

Here is a summary of what is involved in intensive care treatment:

Q: Who ends up in intensive care?

Life support is reserved for patients suffering from severe respiratory failure resulting from the lungs being affected by the virus.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated at the end of February that in China some 20 per cent of infections resulted in severe cases -- 6.1 pc who were critical, as well as 13.8 percent deemed severe.

Admission depends on the seriousness of the symptoms -- as well as the availability of beds.



Life support is reserved for patients suffering from severe respiratory failure resulting from the lungs being affected by the virus

In Italy, a March estimate put the number of confirmed cases requiring intensive care at 12pc. So far in countries that have had outbreaks, figures show that the vast majority of serious cases are in men.

British data from 2,621 patient admissions to intensive care up to April 3, showed that 73 pc were men, with an average age of 60.

"It is becoming increasingly recognised that there are substantial differences in the im-

mune system between males and females and that these have significant impact on outcome from a wide range of infectious diseases," said Philip Goulder, Professor of Immunology in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford.

He said lifestyle and social factors could also be involved, including smoking "which affect the level of pre-existing disease such as heart disease, chronic lung disease and cancer."

Q: What is involved in looking after intensive care COVID-19 patients?

The guiding principle of intensive care is to help patients whose vital organs -- heart, lungs, kidneys -- are at risk and need immediate and constant help.

In COVID-19 cases, it is the lungs which come under attack, with patients struggling to get enough oxygen, often deteriorating very quickly as a result.

This deterioration "can happen very quickly between the eighth and tenth day of the illness, often in the space of just



A nurse tends to an intubated and sedated patient infected with COVID-19 at the intensive care unit of the Peupliers private hospital in Paris

a few hours," Dr Albrice Levrat, head of intensive care in the eastern French city of Nancy, explained to Le Point weekly.

In the first instance, the patient is given oxygen through tubes to the nose, progressing to a pressurised full face mask.

If that does not work, then medical staff with turn to mechanical ventilation, which requires the patient to be sedated heavily.

A tube is then inserted through the trachea to carry

oxygen directly into the lungs as a machine effectively takes over the patient's breathing.

Intubation is a major medical procedure which can last for several weeks, requiring an entire medical team to monitor and adjust as required until the patient can breathe on their own again unaided.

Some doctors have resorted to a new technique: they artificially oxygenate blood by extracting it with a machine and then returning it into the body.

Q: What is the prognosis for intensive care patients?

Despite the heroic efforts of medical staff, the figures for COVID-19 survival and recovery in intensive care, especially when it proceeds to mechanical ventilation, make for grim reading.

British statistics suggest that perhaps half of all patients going into intensive care die, especially if they are elderly and have other underlying conditions.



In Italy, a March estimate put the number of confirmed cases requiring intensive care at 12 per cent

For example, among those patients aged 70 or over, the figures showed more than 68 percent died; for the 50-69 age bracket it was nearly 46 percent but fell to more than 23 pc for the 16-49 group.

The guiding principle of intensive care is to help patients whose vital organs -- heart, lungs, kidneys -- are at risk and need immediate and constant help



'Obesity is major COVID-19 risk factor'

Reuters | Paris

Being overweight is a major risk for people infected with the new coronavirus and the United States is particularly vulnerable because of high obesity levels there, France's chief epidemiologist said on Wednesday.

Professor Jean-François Delfraissy, who heads the scientific council that advises the government on the epidemic, said as many as 17 million of France's 67 m citizens were seriously at risk from the coronavirus because of age, pre-existing illness or obesity.

"This virus is terrible, it can hit young people, in particular obese young people. Those who are overweight really need to be careful," Delfraissy told Franceinfo radio.

"That is why we're worried about our friends in America, where the problem of obesity is well known and where they will probably have the most problems because of obesity."



French immunologist Jean-François Delfraissy

Delfraissy said 88 per cent of those infected with the coronavirus suffered only severe flu-like symptoms.

The mortality rate for young people entering hospital with severe COVID-19 respiratory disease was about 2pc, he said, but that rose to 14pc for people who

are more fragile.

Despite the rapid spread of the virus in France, the country is still far from getting to the point where 50pc to 60pc of the population has been infected and recovered and at which point a certain level of "herd immunity" is reached, Delfraissy said.

"Initial data show that the number of people who may have developed immunity is lower than we imagined, about 10-15pc," said the veteran infectious diseases specialist who has led French research into Ebola and AIDS.

He said it was too soon to end France's lockdown, which started March 17 and is set to last until at least April 15.

The council's recommendation was for strict confinement to continue several weeks from now and that before the lockdown could be unwound, pressure on intensive care units (ICU) needed to ease and the

spread of the virus slow.

On Tuesday, the number of COVID-19 patients in ICU rose by just 59 (1pc) to 7,131 but the number of confirmed and probable cases reported nationally jumped by a record 11,059 or 11pc to 109,069 as more and more nursing homes declared cumulative data for the first time.

A third condition for ending the lockdown was having sufficient stocks of equipment, Delfraissy said, notably masks, testing kits and tools for tracing infected patients.

French coronavirus testing capacity has risen from 3,000 per day in mid-March to 30,000 on a daily basis now, and will rise to 100,000-250,000 per day in about two weeks, he said.

Obesity has been cited as a possible explanation for higher than average per-capita COVID-19 death rates in the US city of New Orleans and in Mexico.

Latest developments



Courtesy of The Print

● **India gets first drive-through coronavirus tests.** India's first drive-through testing centre has opened in New Delhi, requiring a doctor's prescription and costing roughly \$60. India has so far recorded over 5,000 coronavirus cases, but since it has so far carried out little testing among the 1.3 billion population, experts caution the real number is likely to be far higher.



● **A three-man space crew finished preparations on Wednesday for a mission to the International Space**

Station, which is going ahead despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner of Russia's Roscosmos space agency and NASA's Chris Cassidy will blast off from Kazakhstan for a six-month mission at 08:05 GMT today.

● **US Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly resigned Tuesday over his mishandling of an outbreak of the coronavirus on the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier, Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced.**



Modly sparked outrage Monday after he flew from Washington to Guam, where the warship is docked, to defend his actions to the crew. In a forceful, profanity-laced speech, he accused Crozier of "betrayal," called him "too naive or too stupid" and suggested the sailors' love for him was misplaced. Hours later, back in Washington, Modly issued an apology, but President Donald Trump publicly questioned Crozier's treatment and said he would get directly involved.



● **Wisconsin held its presidential primary as planned Tuesday, contradicting a state-wide stay-at-home order and defying concern that the election could expose thousands of voters and poll workers to**

the coronavirus. Long lines, shuttered polling stations and workers in hazmat suits marked the most unsettling and confounding contest of the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination race: a vote at the height of a deadly pandemic.

● **A first batch of 8-million protective masks is unloaded from a Lufthansa airplane** at the Franz-Josef-Strauss airport in Munich, southern Germany, having arrived from Shanghai.

● **A former choirboy who accused Australian Cardinal George Pell of molesting him said Wednesday he accepts the top Vatican cleric's acquittal, but urged survivors of child sex abuse to keep coming forward.** A day after Australia's top court quashed Pell's conviction and released him from jail, "Witness J" said he understood and accepted the court's verdict.



● **Hundreds of people held under mandatory quarantine in Kenya after returning from abroad are up in arms after the government extended their confinement for another 14 days.**

Around 2,000 people were placed in forced quarantine as they arrived in the country from March 22 until international flights were banned three days later, a chaotic process criticised by some passengers as likely to have helped spread the virus.

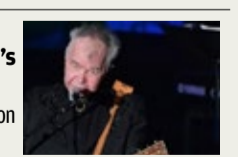
● **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday placed on special leave a minister seen lurching at a friend's house in violation of the coronavirus lockdown.** Ramaphosa has ordered a three-week national lockdown to try to brake the virus, which has infected 1,749 people, killing 13 of them, according to an official tally. But a picture posted on Instagram on Sunday showed

Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams having lunch with five other people at the home of a former deputy minister earlier that day.

● **The Afghan government will release 100 Taliban prisoners on Wednesday, an official told AFP, a day after the insurgents said they were walking out of talks with Kabul.** The two foes have been negotiating in Kabul since last week to try to finalise a prisoner swap that was originally supposed to have happened by March 10 and pave the way for "intra-Afghan" peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban.

● **Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday announced additional payouts to health professionals working on "the frontline" of the country's fight against the coronavirus.** Doctors treating coronavirus patients would be paid an additional 80,000 rubles (\$1,059) per month, while nurses, ambulance medics and drivers would get between 25,000 and 50,000 rubles.

● **John Prine, an American folk legend widely considered one of his generation's most influential songwriters, died** following complications of coronavirus Tuesday, his publicist said on behalf of his family. He was 73 years old.



● **A deadly Pacific storm slammed into Fiji yesterday, tearing off roofs and flooding towns, after leaving a trail of destruction in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.**

● **Syrian Arab Air Force pilots flying Sukhoi Su-22 military planes and a helicopter dropped bombs containing poisonous chlorine and sarin nerve gas on a village in the country's western Hama region in March 2017, a new team at the global chemical weapons watchdog has concluded in its first report.**

celebs

Selena Gomez

Kylie Jenner

Britney Spears promotes social distancing, thanks 'tirelessly working' healthcare professionals

Los Angeles

Promoting the measure of social distancing to combat the spread of coronavirus, singer Britney Spears on Tuesday shared a poster of her iconic hit "...Baby One More Time" but with a twist to the lyrics.

Bringing a spin to the 90s hit, the pop star shared an illustration of herself from the music video on Instagram.



Britney Spears

In the shared illustration, the 38-year-old is holding up a bottle of sanitiser, and next to that is written "my loneliness is saving me," instead of the song's original lyrics, "my loneliness is killing me."

"Enough said," the singer wrote the caption.

Alongside, the 'Oops!... I Did It Again' singer also extended her thank you to "all of the healthcare workers tirelessly working" to keep everyone safe during the coronavirus crises.



Selena Gomez: US was 'formed by those who came from other countries'

Los Angeles

Singer Selena Gomez has challenged US President Donald Trump and his administration to do better on the issue of immigration. Gomez told the April issue of Vogue Arabia that she is shocked by what illegal immigrants have been going through at the US-Mexico border, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Promoting her Netflix series "Living Undocumented", the singer said: "I don't claim to be an expert and I understand that there have to be rules and regulations, but we have to do better than what we are doing. We simply have to." "I hope we can still offer the American dream. I hope we can still offer people a better life. It's so important to remember our country was formed by those who came from other countries."

Kylie Jenner is world's youngest self-made billionaire 2nd year in a row

Los Angeles

Reality TV star and make-up czarina Kylie Jenner becomes the youngest self-made billionaire in the world for the second year in a row. Forbes released the annual World's Billionaires list, and Jenner remains the youngest self-made billionaire.

Jenner first made it onto the billionaires list in March 2019, then further cemented her spot in November, when she agreed to sell 51 per cent of her Kylie Cosmetics to beauty giant Coty Inc. for \$600 million.

The deal, which closed in January, values her business at about \$1.2 billion. The cash from the sale and her remaining 49 per cent share of the company make Jenner one of just 2,095 people in the world with a ten-digit fortune, reports forbes.com.



Rita Wilson on why she fell for Tom Hanks



Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson

Los Angeles

Singer-actress Rita Wilson says she fell in love with her husband, actor Tom Hanks, as she loves "a good storyteller".

During an appearance on "The Kelly Clarkson Show", the 63-year-old talked about what attracted her to her husband, reports foxnews.com.

Clarkson shared that Hanks is quite the chatterbox, which Wilson said was something that made them get along "instantly".

"First of all, I love a good storyteller," she said, adding: "So anybody who could tell a good story, I'm down with that."

Wilson explained that she grew up in a "very vocal" family as they expressed themselves through "food and talking", so Hanks' attitude wasn't unusual for her.

Singer Katy Perry pledges for COVID-19 relief

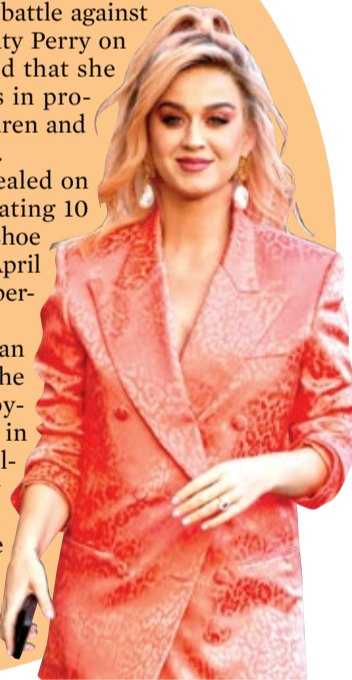
Los Angeles

Katy Perry

Doing her bit to aid the battle against coronavirus, singer Katy Perry on Wednesday announced that she will be making contributions in providing essential items to children and families impacted by COVID-19.

The 35-year-old singer revealed on Twitter that she will be donating 10 percent from the sale of every shoe and handbag in the months of April and May from her brand - kateperrycollections.

A mother-to-be, the musician will be donating the fund to the non-profit organisation 'Baby-2Baby' to assist "their efforts in providing essential items to children and families impacted by COVID-19." Many big names from the music industry have chipped in their support to help the world in its fight against the coronavirus.



Naomi Campbell won't be the same after COVID-19 pandemic ends

Los Angeles

Supermodel Naomi Campbell says she will not be the same anymore after the coronavirus pandemic ends.

On her online show "No Filter with Naomi", Naomi spoke about how the ongoing health crisis has changed her attitude and perspective towards life, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"There's a lot of things I would not do the same. I want to simplify my life in many different ways."

"I don't think it's ever gonna go back the

same, in terms of the hygiene. For me, never. But when we get this...I will call it a new reset because I really felt like the planet, Mother Nature, needed a break," she said.

Naomi added: "I felt like a lot of gluttony and excess that this truly was just like, It's too much."

She also acknowledged she has lost people in her life to the disease and knows others who have too.



Naomi Campbell

Mohanlal interacts with health workers, sings for them

Thiruvananthapuram

Superstar Mohanlal, now holed up in his Chennai residence since the nationwide lockdown began, on Wednesday interacted with Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja and about 250 health professionals across the state and appreciated their great service to the society.

The highlight of the nearly one hour long interaction was Mohanlal singing a



Mohanlal

hugely popular Malayalam film song "Lokem muzhuvun sukem pakeran ayi snehadeepeme mizhi thureku" from the film "Snehadeepame Mizhi Thuraku" directed by A.P. Bhaskaran, which released in 1972.

The superstar profusely thanked each and every health worker doing great service to the society by foregoing all their difficulties, besides pointing out that the coming days will be crucial for the state.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VINCENT MELEDATHU PARAMBAN OUSEPH S/O MO OUSEPH**, holding Indian Passport No. J 1751290, dated 20.04.2010 issued at BAHRAIN having permanent residence at (full address in India) **MELEDATHU PARAMBAN HOUSE, NEAR K S R T C CHALAKUDY, TRICHUR DT., KERALA**, presently residing at (full address in Bahrain) Flat - 114, Al Mubarakiya Building, Road No. 1810, Hoora, will henceforth be known as (Given name) **VINCENT** (Surname) **MELEDATHU PARAMBAN OUSEPH**. Objection(s) if any, may be forwarded to Embassy of India, P.O Box 26106, Bldg 1090, Road 2819, Block 428, Al Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Sonakshi Sinha's stern message for people abandoning pets over coronavirus

Mumbai

Taking on people who are abandoning their pets due to the misconception that they spread or contract coronavirus, 'Dabangg' actor Sonakshi Sinha on Wednesday said that such people should abandon their inhumanity instead.

Sinha took to social media to post a picture of herself having a good time with her dog and penned a caption for those who are abandoning their animal friends.

"Hearing stories about people abandoning their dogs because



Sonakshi Sinha

they think the virus spreads through them. I have news for you - you are idiots and the only things you should abandon are your ignorance and inhumanity! #dogsdontspreadcorona #bekindtoanimals," the 32-year-old actor wrote.

SUDOKU

	7		1			9		
6		5	9	7		2		
	9							
7	6			2		4		
4			1		6			9
	8		9			6	7	
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3		2	5	1			6	
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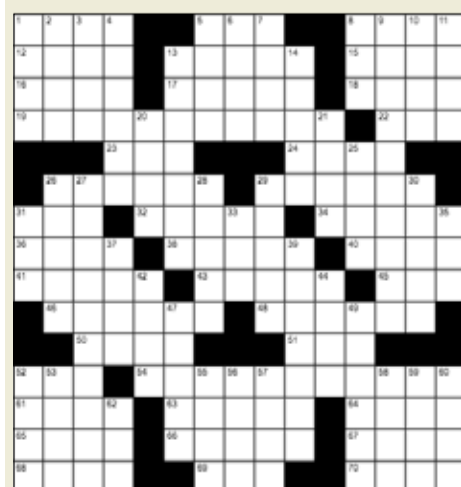
Yesterday's solution

6	7	1	3	2	4	8	9	5
3	4	8	5	1	9	7	2	6
2	5	9	8	7	6	4	1	3
4	8	7	1	9	3	5	6	2
1	6	3	7	5	2	9	8	4
5	9	2	8	4	8	3	7	1
8	2	5	4	6	7	1	3	9
7	1	6	9	3	5	2	4	8
9	3	4	2	8	1	6	5	7

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Toll rds.; 5- Excavate; 8- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 12- Churn; 13- Inhibit; 15- Metal filament; 16- Outstanding; 17- Varnish resin; 18- Periods of history; 19- Presides over a meeting; 22- Powdery residue; 23- Moo _ gal pan; 24- Bath powder; 26- Shocked; 29- Dense metallic element; 31- Song syllable; 32- Arrive at; 34- Conger catcher; 36- River to the Seine; 38- At the bottom of the barrel; 40- Indifferent; 41- Outer coat of a seed; 43- Like tubers; 45- Employ, utilise; 46- Tempestuous; 48- Stylish; 50- Not pro; 51- Fleming who created Bond; 52- TV part; 54- Dispossess; 61- Reformer Jacob; 63- Military camp; 64- Competed; 65- Environmental sci.; 66- Called one's bluff; 67- Elysium of Genesis; 68- Start of a counting rhyme; 69- D.C. VIP; 70- Actress Olin;

Down

1- _ Il (razor brand); 2- Milne creation; 3- Basic currency of Papua New Guinea; 4- Sled; 5- Remove from text; 6- Anatomical passage; 7- Precious stones; 8- Farm female; 9- Inexplicable; 10- Some nest eggs; 11- 20th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 13- Deprived of office; 14- Mob scenes; 20- Laugh heartily; 21- Specify; 25- Falsehoods; 26- Spring sign; 27- Car fill up location; 28- Dawdle; 29- 1977 George Burns film; 30- Unordered; 31- Little one; 33- Boardroom bigwig; 35- Caviar; 37- School founded in 1440; 39- Like barber poles; 42- Commedia dell' _; 44- Age unit; 47- Assorted; 49- Whine; 52- Canadian tribe; 53- Starchy staple; 55- School orgs.; 56- Hard to find; 57- Amenable; 58- Adjutant; 59- High schooler; 60- Actress Best; 62- Willy;

Yesterday's solution

S	E	R	B	A	S	P	S	P	T	A	S	
O	L	E	A	S	W	O	R	E	R	O	M	A
R	I	E	L	M	I	L	O	S	E	R	I	N
T	A	L	C	A	P	O	T	E	S	T	E	E
S	A	N	A	A	D	E	A	F	M	U	T	E
E	T	H	Y	L	T	I	E	R	E	R	S	
L	Y	E	T	A	R	R	Y	G	A	S		
A	L	A	S	R	I	G	S	S	U	E	D	E
M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E	H	O	R	D	E
L	A	S	T	T	A	N	G					
S	U	P	I	N	E	T	O	M	E	S	T	A
E	P	I	C	O	R	A	L					
T	A	C	O	T	H	O	S	E	C	R	E	E
A	T	A	N	M	U	T	T	Y	A	K	S	

SPORTS

Solskjaer wants United ready for return to “normality”

AFP | London

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is looking at transfer targets during the lockdown and believes Manchester United are well-placed to exploit any knock-on effects of the coronavirus suspension.

With training and matches halted in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Norwegian has used some of this unexpected free time to pinpoint how best to improve the squad.

Jadon Sancho, Jude Bellingham and Jack Grealish are among the names liked with the club, with Solskjaer working with United's staff to fine-tune targets.

“Football is going to get back to normality at one point, and it's very important we're ready when that happens,” the United manager told Sky Sports.

“We want to be the best at everything, and of course now is a chance to spend more time, you discuss players, discuss plans.”

Asked whether United can exploit the transfer market when football returns, Solskjaer said: “Who knows how the market is going to react to this? Who knows which clubs need to sell players?”

“There might be just a situation there where you can



Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer kicks the ball during a training session

exploit, and I know that we at Man United, we are one of the biggest, and the biggest, financially well-off.

“I'm sure we are capable, when we get back to normality, that we can do the business that

we want to.”

Solskjaer's team last played on March 12 against Austrian side LASK in a Europa League last-16 first-leg game played behind closed doors, which they won 5-0.



We want to be the best at everything, and of course now is a chance to spend more time, you discuss players, discuss plans

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

Marcus Rashford and Paul Pogba are likely to have recovered from their injury lay-offs by the time football resumes.

“In a way, they have got an opportunity here to play a bigger part in this season than they had hoped,” said Solskjaer.

“And they are big players for us, some of the most important players.”

United are currently fifth in the Premier League table, chasing a top-four berth that would guarantee entry into next season's Champions League.

“We can kick on, I'm sure we can get a good start and climb up that table if we keep doing the right thing,” said Solskjaer.

“Even with the FA Cup and Europa League, if that does go ahead, we've got good chances there.”

Paraguay court releases Ronaldinho into house arrest



Retired Brazilian football great Ronaldinho arrives at a hotel in Asuncion

AFP | London

A Paraguayan judge on Tuesday ordered the release of Brazilian football great Ronaldinho and his brother into house arrest while they await trial on charges of using false passports to enter the country.

Judge Gustavo Amarilla told reporters that he had ordered the “continuation of house arrest in a hotel for Ronaldinho and his brother.”

The pair were jailed one month ago to await trial, but their lawyers have posted bail of \$1.6 million.

Ronaldinho, considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, was a star of Brazil's 2002 World Cup win and played for European giants Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan, among others.

The ruling means the bro-

thers can swap their grim police cell block -- which has also housed Paraguay's former soccer federation chief and the ex-speaker of the lower house of parliament -- for a plush colonial-style hotel in downtown Asuncion.

The brochure of the refurbished 107-room Palmaroga Hotel, located in the capital's historic center, describes it as offering “a seamless blend of early 1900s Renaissance grace and modern comfort as well as luxury.”

“I have the assurance of the hotel managers that they, at their own expense, can observe house arrest there,” Amarilla told a news conference.

Paraguay's appeals court last month rejected a request to release the pair, meaning the two-time world player of the year spent his 40th birthday behind bars.

Mane would ‘understand’ if Liverpool were denied title

Omnisport | London

Sadio Mane would “understand” if the 2019-20 season was scrapped due to the coronavirus pandemic, even though Liverpool are just two wins away from claiming the title.

The Reds have been champions-in-waiting for some time, having taken 79 points from 29 games to open up a 25-point lead over Manchester City.

Yet the Premier League, like the vast majority of competitions across the world, has been halted due to restrictions designed to limit the spread of

COVID-19.

It remains to be seen when, or even if, the Premier League will return as the hiatus has extended past the beginning of May already.

However, Mane insists there are bigger concerns given over 83,000 people have died after contracting coronavirus worldwide.

Asked if he felt like a champion already, Mane told talkSPORT: “I think not yet. I love my

want to get the trophy, it's what I would love.

“But with this situation, whatever happens I will understand.

“It has been difficult for Liverpool, but it has been more difficult for many millions of people around the world.

Some people have lost family members and that is the more complicated situation.

“But for myself, it's my dream and I want to win it this year.

“If that's not the case, I will accept. It's part of life. Hopefully we will win it next year.”

Some - such as Manchester United's Luke Shaw - have suggested the Premier League should be voided if the season cannot resume.

However, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said earlier this week he sees “no way” in which Liverpool could be denied the title.

The Reds have not won a top-flight championship since 1989-90, prior to the inception of the Premier League.



Sadio Mane



I want to win the games and I want to get the trophy, it's what I would love. “But with this situation, whatever happens I will understand. It has been difficult for Liverpool, but it has been more difficult for many millions of people around the world

SADIO MANE

Mourinho admits he was in the wrong over training session



Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho (L) looks on during a training session (file photo)

AFP | London

Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho has accepted he was in the wrong for holding a one-on-one training session with midfielder Tanguy Ndombele in a public park in London.

Mourinho was pictured on social media flaunting government rules by meeting up with the midfielder Tuesday, even though they kept to social distancing guidelines.

Fellow Spurs players Davinson Sanchez and Ryan Sessegnon were spotted running side by side in a separate session, while Serge Aurier filmed himself on Instagram running alongside a friend.

“I accept that my actions

were not in line with government protocol and we must only have contact with members of our own household,” said the Portuguese manager.

“It is vital we all play our part and follow government advice in order to support our heroes in the NHS and save lives.”

London Mayor Sadiq Khan told the BBC the players and Mourinho should be leading by example.

“My concern is people, particularly children, who might support Spurs or follow football may see these images, pick up a paper, watch the internet and think, well if it's OK for them, why isn't it OK for me?” he said.

PSG launch crowdfunding platform to fight coronavirus

Reuters | Paris

Paris St Germain are launching a crowdfunding platform to help the local hospitals amid the coronavirus outbreak, the French champions said yesterday.

“By opening a crowdfunding platform... Paris St Germain is keeping the solidarity momentum toward the caregivers of the Paris and Ile de France (region) hospitals, the volunteers and beneficiaries of the Secours Populaire... and Action against Hunger,” the Ligue 1 club said in a statement.

“The club is calling on the whole PSG family to contribute.”

PSG, who have already raised 200,000 euros (\$217,240) by selling a ‘Tous Unis’ (All United) jersey, added that they would announce new solidarity measures in the coming days.

On Tuesday, sports daily L'Equipe reported that a French League working group had been discussing wage cuts for Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 players but added that no final decision had been made yet.

Neymar welcome anytime at Barca, says Suarez

AFP | Barcelona

Neymar "will always be welcome" back at Barcelona, the Spanish giants' striker Luis Suarez told Mundo Deportivo yesterday.

Neymar left Barca in a world record move to Paris Saint-Germain in 2017 but has been persistently linked to a possible return to the Camp Nou.

Suarez told the paper: "Everybody knows 'Ney', we all know the affection we have for him in the dressing room."

"His ability is indisputable and he still has so much to show. He will always be welcome in the changing room, we appreciate him a lot."

Suarez, 33, recovering from right knee surgery, said it was "complicated" to talk about players joining Barca at this time of crisis with the coronavirus pandemic.

"But I can talk about players, and these are huge players," he commented when asked by the paper to discuss the rumours linking the 28-year-old Neymar with a Barca return.

The Uruguayan also had warm words for Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, the 22-year-old Argentine whose name also been associated with a move to Catalonia.

"Lautaro is a player who is progressing in Italy, he is a flexible centre-forward, with spec-



Neymar (L), Luis Suarez (C) and Lionel Messi takes a break during a training session for Barcelona (file photo)



Everybody knows 'Ney', we all know the affection we have for him in the dressing room. His ability is indisputable and he still has so much to show

LUIS SUAREZ

tacular moves and that shows what a great a striker he is."

Questioned about how any eventual new signings would fit in Suarez said: "There will always be a healthy rivalry between us, and while we are all focused on the same objective, that is winning, any players who come in to help the team achieve its aims will always be welcome."

He then turned to last week's deal with the club to cut players'

wages by 70%, with Barca captain Lionel Messi accusing the club of undermining the squad during negotiations.

"There were some things that were said that were false, like that the players didn't want to see their salaries reduced, that some were against it."

"That they (club management) were saying that without being part of the squad was annoying. It annoyed all the players."

KHK Heroes and the IOC Community partner to help others



BRAVE CF president Mohammed Shahid receives a food pack from Mohammed Mansoor, managing director for Exelon and chairman of Saara Group, from IOC Community

TDI | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa directed KHK Heroes Board of Directors to initiate campaigns to support the vision HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Premier and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

KHK Heroes called on Bahrain to make food donations, contribute financially, volunteer time to KHK Heroes or take up the challenge to create and post a video online and

nominate someone else to pay it forward.

The IOC Community has answered this call and accepted the challenge. Together with KHK Heroes, the IOC Community has organised food supplies and assembled a team of volunteers to provide food packs to those in need throughout Bahrain.

The IOC Community has organized 50 plus volunteers and assembled 100 plus food packs, with the number growing daily.

Each food pack consists of 5kg rice packs, 2-liter cooking oil, 3kg wheat flour, 1kg sugar, 1 kg lentils, and 1/2 kg loose tea.

The latest initiative is targeted to help migrant workers who are struggling during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

BOC E Gaming Tournament with KHK eSPORTS and ComiCon becomes huge success on first day

AFP | Sydney

The eSports gaming tournament organized by The Bahrain Olympic Committee, in cooperation with the Khalid Bin Hamad Sports Organization (KHK) and Bahrain Comic Con (BCC) was a huge success on its first day.

The tournament was held across two different games, PUBG and FIFA 20 (the latest version of the PS4) and was



streamed live with over 4000 viewers watching the live stream and supporting the players competing in the tournament.

All the participants played against each other in the safety of their homes to support the Governments 'stay at home' campaign.

After the intense competition, the number of players who qualified for the next round for PUBG was 240 players, taking only the top 10 teams in each group and a number of 370 players onto the next stage for FIFA20.

England's Ben Stokes named as leading cricketer in the world by Wisden

AFP | London

Ben Stokes has ended Virat Kohli's three-year reign as Wisden's leading cricketer in the world after playing a starring role in England's World Cup win last year.

The 2020 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, published on Thursday, crowns the swashbuckling all-rounder as the sport's pre-eminent player.

He is the first England player to receive the honour since Andrew Flintoff in 2005.

The 28-year-old won the man-of-the-match award in the World Cup final against New Zealand at Lord's and then produced a remarkable match-winning innings of 135 not out in the third Ashes Test against Australia.

"Ben Stokes pulled off the



England all-rounder Ben Stokes reacts during a match (file photo)

performance of a lifetime -- twice in the space of a few weeks," said Wisden editor Lawrence Booth.

"First, with a mixture of outrageous talent and good fortune, he rescued England's run-chase in the World Cup final, before helping to hit 15 off the super over.

"Then, in the third Ashes Test at Headingley, he produced one of the great innings, smashing an unbeaten 135 to pinch a one-wicket win.

"Against red ball or white, he was a force of nature."

Stokes in January won the International Cricket Council's player of the year award.

England pace bowler Jofra Archer, who bowled the super over in the World Cup final, is among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

Australians Pat Cummins, Marnus Labuschagne and Ellyse Perry have been named alongside Archer, as well as South Africa-born Essex off-spinner Simon Harmer.

Perry also reclaimed the leading women's cricketer in the world title from India's Smriti Mandhana.

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