

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.

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Discharged COVID-19 patients reach 477 after 10 more recoveries

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

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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 (VOCID-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

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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

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

TD | 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.



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