

**Champions crowned for national racing season**

The champions of the 2019/2020 national racing season have been crowned in both circuit racing and karting. | P 08

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THE DAILY **tribune**



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**BE**  
**Determined**

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**SIO, Government team discuss urgent reform package**

TDT | Manama

A high-level meeting yesterday discussed an urgent reform package for extending the validity of pension and insurance funds until 2086.

The discussions focused on a package recently approved by the Social Insurance Organisation and being reviewed by the Government. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Jameel bin Mohammad Ali Humaidan, the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Ghanem bin Fadhel Al-Buainain, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mahmood Hashem Al-Kooheji, the Chairman of SIO and Eman Mustafa Al-Murbati, the CEO of the SIO were present.

The meeting said the reforms cannot be delayed any further for it has to meet the financial needs of 95,000 Bahraini retirees.

The assets of the public-sector pension fund will be depleted in 2024 and that of the private-sector pension fund in 2033.

**HM King, French President call for joint action**

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Joint action is crucial for preserving regional stability and enhancing development, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and French President Emmanuel Macron in a joint statement yesterday.

The leaders stressed that reaching political solutions to the crises in the region is crucial to fulfilling peoples' aspiration for progress, stability and peace.

HM, the King was holding a telephonic conversation with the French President during which they reviewed ways to



HM the King



French President

bolster strong relations and strategic partnership. The leaders also reviewed re-

gional and international developments, mainly the Palestinian cause and the crises, particular-

ly in Syria and Libya.

In this context, HM the King praised the role of France in maintaining international peace and combating terrorism.

The two sides also touched upon the developments in the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to deal with it.

HM, the King congratulated the French President on his firm leadership in controlling the pandemic.

Macron hailed Bahrain's role in promoting peaceful coexistence through dialogue and promoting security and peace in the region.

**Coronavirus can be airborne during medical procedures**

Reuters

The World Health Organization said airborne transmission of the novel coronavirus can occur during procedures that generate aerosols. The agency said some reports related to indoor crowded spaces have suggested the possibility of aerosol transmission, combined with droplet transmission, such as during choir practice, in restaurants or in fitness classes.

**Saluting healthcare heroes**

HRH PM exempts healthcare workers from licence renewal fines

TDT | Manama

Healthcare heroes of Bahrain should not be troubled with fines or dues for any licence renewal delays amid the deadly pandemic, ordered HRH the Prime Minister.

Do not collect fines or dues from frontline health workers if they were not able to renew their permits on time, the order states.

The directive, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa said, appreciates the efforts exerted by the medical personnel to combat COVID-19 and guaranteeing the safety and health of the Kingdom's citizens and residents.

The new order is effective for licence renewal delays since February 2020.

The rule exempts health workers who have not renewed their licences from paying any fines or financial dues for not being on time.



HRH the Premier

In a statement, Bahrain Medical Society (BMS) president Dr Ghada Al-Qassim said the move confirms PM's "constant care and support for doctors" and has also filled the "hearts of the medical staff with joy."

She said the order "would stimulate frontline doctors to step up their efforts to combat the pandemic."

The latest announcement follows various initiatives rolled out recently including stimulus packages announced to cushion the financial pain inflicted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dr Al-Qassim thanked President of the Supreme Council for Health, Lieutenant-General Dr

Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and Chief Executive of National Health Regulatory Authority (NHR), Dr Mariam Al Jahama for their constant support for doctors.

Reports say there were more than 14,000 health workers in the Kingdom, between the period from 2013 to '17, with the majority of them being in the public sector.

Now, following government directives, the MoH is working to increase the percentage of Bahrainis employed in the sector to 80 per cent by 2021.

Bahrain also issued Law 1/2019 in March 2019 amending Article 14 of the Private Health Establishments Law, giving priority to recruiting qualified Bahraini physicians, technicians, and nursing staff in private health establishments.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the ratio of doctors available to treat Bahrain's population was 0.92 per 1000 people in 2016.

*Fighting the pandemic*



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister yesterday Chaired the 332nd meeting of the Government Executive Committee held remotely. The meeting reviewed the latest developments on measures to combat the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

**Tamkeen doubles support for businesses hurt by COVID-19**

TDT | Manama

Tamkeen yesterday doubled its financial grants to businesses in the most adversely affected sectors amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

The move follows the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister as part of expanding the outreach of its Business Continuity Support Programme to maximise beneficiaries.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tamkeen



Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa Labour Fund, Shaikh Moham-

med bin Essa Al Khalifa, said the programme will partially cover the operating expenses of small and micro enterprises to ensure their business continuity and better manage their recovery amid the deadly pandemic.

For the purpose, Tamkeen said it is developing an opera-

tional plan, details of which will be announced soon.

The programme, which supported 15,600 cos and 900 Bahrainis to date also backs taxicab drivers, public transport and bus drivers, driving instructors and kindergarten and nursery workers.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

**TOTAL CASES**  
31,528

**ACTIVE CASES**  
82

**DEATHS**  
103

**DISCHARGED**  
26,520

**NEW CASES**  
597

**CRITICAL**  
54

210 fils (includes VAT)

