





BE Determined

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Two more COVID-19 deaths, 654 new recoveries

TDT | Manama
 The coronavirus (COVID-19) took another two lives yesterday in Bahrain, the Ministry of Health announced. The deceased included an 86-year-old Bahraini man and a 59-year-old expatriate man. Their passing brought the total number of virus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 111.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, the ministry announced early this morning that out of 9,867 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 602 new cases were detected. These included 351 expatriate workers, 234 contacts of active cases, and 17 travel-related cases.

There were also 654 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, bringing the Kingdom's total number of discharged individuals to 29,753.

The total number of current active cases went to 4,214, with 51 in critical condition and 97 receiving treatment. The remaining 4,163 cases are stable.

The total tests conducted increased to 685,318.

HRH the Crown Prince chairs executive committee meeting

● **Renewable energy projects, electricity and water sector development, and COVID-19 fight were among issues discussed**

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister chaired yesterday the 333rd meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely.

During the meeting, among



HRH the Crown Prince

the issues discussed were ongoing renewable energy projects, electricity and water sector development and Bahrain's status in the UN E-Government Survey 2020.

Measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic were also reviewed.

Students' health, safety paramount

Education Ministry formulates initial plan for start of new academic year, taking into account COVID-19 situation

TDT | Manama

A return to regular classes in Bahrain's public and private schools will be permitted only if the health and safety of students and staff can be guaranteed, according to a top Ministry of Education official.

The ministry's General and Technical Education assistant undersecretary Latifa Isa Al Bonoodha said yesterday that an initial plan has been outlined for the start of the new academic year in September, taking into account all conditions related to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

She added that the ministry is ready to continue with distance learning, should the need arise, or even have a combination of both traditional and remote education.

"Students will gradually attend classes based on the current health condition and as per the di-



Al Bonoodha, left, during yesterday's virtual conference

rectives of the National Taskforce for Combatting COVID-19," said Al Bonoodha, who was speaking in a virtual conference organised by the National Communication Centre.

Al Bonoodha revealed that, in the event that a return to traditional education would be permitted, classes would host only a limited number of students.

Moreover, she said that morn-

ing assemblies, as well as recesses and physical education classes, could be cancelled as further measures to help protect the health and well-being of all involved.

The full details of the mechanisms of a return to regular classes will be determined by the relevant authorities based on the health situation, she added.

"Schools will be equipped with

Students will gradually attend classes based on the current health condition and as per the directives of the National Taskforce for Combatting COVID-19

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GENERAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY LATIFA ISA AL BONOODHA

sanitisers and other health equipment, while students will need to commit to social distancing throughout school days to protect their health as well as that of the staff," she noted.

Al Bonoodha indicated that public schools' technological facilities would be upgraded in case students would need to continue with distance learning in the new

academic year. Students in both public and private institutions in Bahrain at all levels had recently successfully completed the previous school year via distance education, following the COVID-19 outbreak, she noted.

Explaining further, Al Bonoodha stated that combining traditional learning with remote education means that students could physically attend classes just twice or thrice a week.

She said that the Education Ministry has done plenty to accommodate students through virtual classes, including the creation of thousands of online lessons as well as 14 YouTube channels.

The Education Ministry had recently announced that the new academic year for public schools will begin from September 6 for administrative staff and September 16 for students.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS REMAIN

Ukraine: too soon to blame human error for downed passenger plane

Reuters | Kiev

Ukraine's foreign minister said yesterday it was too soon to blame human error for the shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger airliner near Tehran in January, challenging the findings of Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation (CAO).

The CAO said in an interim report that the plane was accidentally downed, killing 176 people on board, because of a misalignment of a radar system and lack of communication between the air defence operator

and his commanders. But Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told an online briefing that many questions remained unanswered.

"I want to clearly emphasise: it is early to say that the plane was shot down as a result of human error, as the Iranian side claims," he said.

"We have many questions, and we need a large number of authoritative, unbiased, objective answers about what happened."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down the Ukraine International Airlines flight with a



Wreckage, including part of the engine, from the downed plane

ground-to-air missile on January 8, shortly after the plane

took off from Tehran. Iran later called it a "disastrous mistake"

by forces who were on high alert during a confrontation with the US. Tehran said last month it would send the black box flight recorders from the downed airliner to France for analysis and that experts from the US, Canada, France, Britain and Ukraine would take part in the decoding.

Kuleba said an Iranian delegation was due to arrive in Kiev later this month to discuss compensation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in February Kiev was not satisfied with the size of compensation Iran had offered.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
34,078

ACTIVE CASES
4,214

DEATHS
111

DISCHARGED
29,753

NEW CASES
602

CRITICAL
51

210 fils (includes VAT)

