

**Gaicho almost quit MMA before joining BRAVE CF**

Champ Daniel Gaicho reveals he came close to quitting MMA before meteoric rise to BRAVE CF title | P 12

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**Gulf Air CEO steps down**



Kucko  
 TDT | Manama

National carrier Gulf Air announced last night that Kresimir Kucko will step down from his role as CEO by the end of the month.

Commenting on this development, Gulf Air's board of directors chairman Zayed R Al Zayani said: "We extend our sincere thanks to Kresimir Kucko for his dedication, contributions and services during his tenure with us. On behalf of Gulf Air's board of directors, the airline's management team and workforce, I extend my thanks to him for his contributions and wish him success going forward."

Kucko said: "I was truly honoured to have contributed to the success story of Gulf Air over the past three years amidst the many challenges we faced. Working with a talented, majority Bahraini workforce of aviation professionals has been a positive experience that saw us collectively deliver strong results for Gulf Air. The experience of living in the Kingdom has been truly incredible both for myself and my family; we have been warmly welcomed by all and truly embraced Bahrain's rich culture."

Kucko began his journey at Gulf Air in 2017 by setting the organisation's strategy with clear corporate goals and a concise five-year network and fleet expansion plan.

**COVID-19: 678 new cases, 627 recoveries**

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health reported 678 new active coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Bahrain yesterday, with zero deaths. From 11,840 tests conducted, the fresh infections included 111 expatriate workers, 564 contacts of active cases, and three travel-related

cases. The new cases brought the overall infected number in Bahrain to more than 61,000, from the time the first case was reported in February. There were also 627 new recoveries, as the total active cases went to 6,599—136 of which are receiving treatment with 34 in critical condition. Tests conducted rose to 1,276,075.

**HRH the Crown Prince reviews virus measures**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, chaired

yesterday the 346th meeting of the Government Executive Committee.

It was held remotely. The latest developments on measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bahrain were reviewed.



HRH the Crown Prince chairing yesterday's meeting

**CIRCLE OF PEACE!**

**Bahrain and UAE sign historic normalisation agreements with Israel at the White House**

Agencies | Washington

Upon directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani participated in the signing ceremony of the declaration of support for peace between Bahrain and Israel, and the signing of the peace accord between the UAE, the US and Israel yesterday.

The ceremony was held at the White House, in the presence of US President Donald Trump.

UAE Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al

Nahyan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu participated in the signing.

In his speech on the occasion, Dr Al Zayani said that the declaration supporting peace between Bahrain and Israel is "an historic step on the road to genuine and lasting peace, security, and prosperity across the region, and for all who live there, regardless of religion, sect, ethnicity, or ideology."

He added: "Today's declaration was made possible by the vision, courage and commitment of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, who, supported by the people of Bahrain, has

protected, institutionalised, and enhanced Bahrain's centuries-old spirit of co-existence and harmony, and has the wisdom to recognise that genuine



From left, Dr Al Zayani, Netanyahu, Trump and Sheikh Abdullah hold up copies of the declaration of support for peace signed between Bahrain and Israel

**What was only dreamed of a few years ago is now achievable, and we can see before us a golden opportunity for peace, security and prosperity for our region.**

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR ABDULLAH BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI

co-operation is the most effective means to achieve peace and to safeguard the legitimate rights.

"Thank you, Your Majesty, for this vision of peace for the region based on trust, respect and understanding between all faiths, races and nations."

Dr Al Zayani congratulated "our brothers in the UAE" on their own momentous peace accord with Israel and commended Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed for his "great leadership and

foresight to make peace possible and secure a brighter future for our region".

The Foreign Minister expressed his particular and deep appreciation to Trump and his administration, and thanked Prime Minister Netanyahu for "these steps from you and your government, recognising that enduring peace and security is only possible through a genuine engagement that protects the rights and interests of countries and peoples in the region".

**Government support hailed**

Leading businessmen talk to *The Daily Tribune* about Bahrain's instrumental support—initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and executed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister—to citizens, residents and businesses to help alleviate the economic repercussions of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

We thank Bahrain's wise leadership, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, for the support and generous gestures shown to help citizens and residents during this current coronavirus crisis. We all appreciate the direction of HM the King as well as HRH the Crown Prince's initiative directing banks to help citizens and businesses by deferring loan payments. At the moment, many businesses are struggling with no returns, especially hotel, travel and retail companies, which are all connected. Banks are our partners in business, and I am sure they will have some consideration to help, which will play a big role in the economy's revival. Once the situation improves, businesses can regularise their operations and this will help achieve that. Foreign businesses are also keen to come to Bahrain, seeing the long-term future goals of the Kingdom and the initiatives taken by HM King Hamad. I am sure that we will see a recovery to the national economy, and we look forward to that soon."

DADABHAI GROUP CHAIRMAN  
 MOHAMMED DADABHAI

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our government, in particular HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for his prompt support to the business community, by way of deferment of loan installments to our bankers, waiver of electricity and water charges, and some wage support to some of our employees, all of which helps us survive this COVID-19 pandemic. We are a 100 per cent Bahraini establishment, owners of Hasan Mansouri Properties, Mansouri Mansions Hotel, The Country Club, Maguire's Irish Restaurant, and Spacemaker portable buildings. The government support has been a blessing; we are all Team Bahrain! I hope there will be consideration and future support for the hotel, restaurant and tourism sector, as further support is needed. I would suggest a further waiver of electricity, municipal, and taxes generally, for up to another year, which may help us survive until society and businesses start returning to somewhat normal conditions. Also, interest-free loans—or better, grants—could be provided to those businesses that require it to see more sustainable times; certainly it will help provide sufficient working capital. There is still a lot of work to be done to return our Bahraini society and businesses back to normal. Inshaallah, with the continued discussions and relations with the business community and government, we will reach a comfortable solution for Bahrain. Peace and health to all."

HASAN MANSOURI MANAGING DIRECTOR  
 KARIM MANSOURI

The Kingdom has seen extensive support during this pandemic, with loan repayment extension and interest waiver extension in line with CBB directives, GOSI reimbursement, 100 per cent of salary paid for Bahrainis for a period of April to June and further 50 per cent from July to September. EWA bill payments for April to June, and land rental waived for April to September, which has helped the industry survive during this critical market situation. We extend our great gratitude for this support. Meanwhile, some companies could not benefit from certain facilities provided, such as the loan installment and interest charge support, which was provided only for BD denominations, for which companies could not benefit for long-term loans in USD and other non-BD currency. The liquidity fund support was also not benefitting since it did not cover companies with government shareholding. I believe this is not a fair decision especially for industrial companies like Balexco and other similar companies, who have maintained a high rate of Bahrainisation and have made a good amount of contributions in the Kingdom's export activity. It would be great support if another session of liquidity fund support is considered for industrial companies with very minor government shareholding, as its business depends largely on exports and it will have a direct contribution on the Kingdom's economic growth. The market is still suffering and companies are in need for liquidity fund support and for all denomination loan installment extension with interest waiver for at least another six months."

BALEXCO CHAIRMAN JASSIM MOHAMED SEYADI

The Kingdom of Bahrain has earned glowing international praise and recognition, including from the World Health Organisation, for its handling of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This was due, largely, to the quick and decisive leadership of the government, as well as the full and prompt support of all aspects of society. With focus now gradually shifting to finding a vaccine and to addressing the economic impact of this outbreak, we must continue in this same spirit of decisive leadership and close collaboration. We must aspire to maintain this internationally celebrated approach and continue to set a standard for others to follow. These are challenging times for all of us. However, if we all do our part, we can collectively overcome even the greatest of challenges, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister."

ITHMAAR BANK CEO  
 AHMED ABDUL RAHIM

I am very optimistic that Bahrain can soon revive its businesses. The supporting measures given by the government have helped businessmen to gain more confidence. Bahrain has set a perfect example for other countries. This is the time to stand united and every citizen should cooperate and put maximum effort to support each other. This is a testing time for us. So many high dignitaries, including ministers, have volunteered for the phase three trial for the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine. I am sure we may be able to get a positive response from this test. We need to create more positive thoughts, which can motivate citizens to overcome the crisis. There are countries that failed to give even proper health-care, whereas in Bahrain the government has done much better than any other country—paying the salaries of citizens, waiving off electricity bills, deferring loans, has helped us to manage the economic turbulence. I salute the leaders for their vision and care."

BAHRAIN INDIA SOCIETY  
 VICE-CHAIRMAN  
 ABDULLAHMAN JUMA

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 61,643
- ACTIVE CASES: 6,599
- DEATHS: 213
- DISCHARGED: 54,831
- NEW CASES: 678
- CRITICAL: 34

210 fils (includes VAT)



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