

Bahrain to host FIBA Asia qualifiers

National team to take on Iraq on November 24 and then play against India two days later | P 12

WORLD 6 Trump shares joke story on Biden, Twitter in earnest

THE DAILY **tribune**

Neymar misses PSG game after Brazil duty

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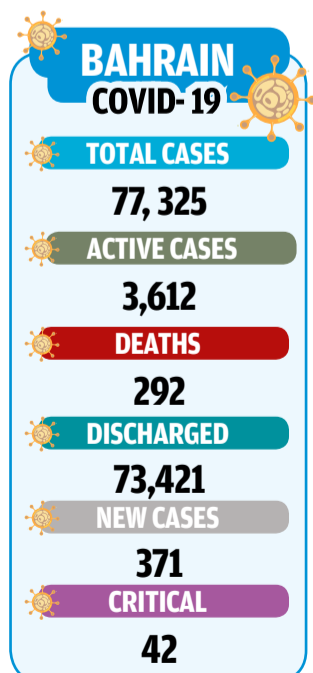
BUSINESS 5 Pandemic bruised 90pc of biz women: report

WHO defends data after remdesivir flopped COVID trial
 Reuters | Zurich/Geneva

A World Health Organization (WHO) trial that concluded Gilead Sciences Inc. remdesivir did not significantly help COVID-19 patients is reliable, a scientist who evaluated it said yesterday, as the US company criticised its methodology. "It's a reliable result, don't let anybody tell you otherwise, because they'll try to," Richard Peto, an independent statistician hired by the WHO to evaluate its Solidarity trial, told reporters, adding that any benefit of remdesivir may be due to chance.

US hoping for two Covid-19 vaccines by end of November
 AFP News

Two American companies expect to apply for emergency approval for their Covid-19 vaccines by late November, welcome news as the US hits a third surge of its coronavirus epidemic and approaches its eight millionth case. Pfizer said Friday it hopes to move ahead with its vaccine after safety data is available in the third week of November, a couple of weeks after the November 3 presidential election. The announcement means the United States could have two vaccines ready by the end of the year, with Massachusetts biotech firm Moderna aiming for November 25 to seek authorisation. But experts warn it will take many months until they are widely available.



210 fils (includes VAT)



Bring Israel, Palestinians into talks: Saudi Foreign Minister

Agencies

Bringing Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table should be the main focus of Middle East peace efforts, said Saudi foreign minister. "I believe that the focus now needs to be on getting the Palestinians and the Israelis back to the negotiating table. In the end, the only thing that can deliver lasting peace and lasting stabil-



"I believe that the focus now needs to be on getting the Palestinians and the Israelis back to the negotiating table"
 PRINCE FAISAL BIN FARHAN AL SAUD
 SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

ity is an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said in a virtual appearance at a US think tank. Speaking to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy think tank, the Saudi foreign minister also said he hoped it may soon be possible to resolve a dispute that led Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt to sever political,

trade and transport ties with Qatar in mid-2017. "We hope ... that we are able to find a path forward to address the legitimate security concerns ... that drove us to take the decisions we took," he said. "I think there is a path towards that and we are hoping that we can find that in the relatively near future." Asked when that might happen, he replied: "Your guess is as good as mine."

'Touch and go'

UAE delegates first official visit to Israel to begin and end at airports

- Israel reportedly sending delegation on Sunday to Bahrain
- UAE delegation will have nine groups

TDI, Agency | Jerusalem

The first official delegation to Israel from the United Arab Emirates may remain at the airport and fly home the same day, rather than conduct a wider visit, due to coronavirus precautions, an Israeli minister said. Israel is under a second coronavirus lockdown, which it



El Al's airliner carrying Israeli and US delegates at Abu Dhabi International Airport. (Courtesy of Haartz)

plans to begin easing next week, after a surge in cases. Science Minister Izhar Shay,

whose ministry is taking part in talks with the UAE delegates due to arrive on Tuesday, said the visitors would stay for several hours under a coronavirus protocol. "Right now it looks kind

"Right now it looks kind of 'touch and go'. It's possible that the meetings will be at the airport or close to it"
 IZHAR SHAY
 ISRAELI SCIENCE MINISTER

of 'touch and go'. It's possible that the meetings will be at the airport or close to it," he told Tel Aviv radio station 102 FM.

Officials have said the UAE delegation will involve eight or nine groups working on various areas of bilateral cooperation, as a follow-up to talks launched in Abu Dhabi during an Aug. 31 visit by an Israeli delegation.

Two other officials involved in the planning, one Israeli and the other US, said it was possible the UAE delegation visit would take place entirely at Ben Gurion airport, near Tel Aviv. The UAE has yet to confirm the delegation visit. Shay said Israel would send its first official delegation on Sunday to Bahrain. (Continues on page 3)

Israel's parliament passes UAE agreement
 Al Arabiya

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, ratified the country's peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, bringing into full effect the normalisation announced two months ago. The parliamentary approval

follows Israel's cabinet - under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - officially approving the deal on Monday. Israeli parliament member Michal Cotler-Wunsh said the historic moment has the "potential to be the beginning of the end to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

15 Sept
 UAE, Bahrain signed deals establishing formal ties with Israel at a White House ceremony on 15 Sept

On top of the world

Bahrain's flag is now on top of the world. Raising it there at a height of 26,781-feet above the sea-level at Manaslu was an 18-member mountaineering team led by Bahrain's Royal Guard. (Full story on page 2)

Yemen prisoners exchange continues
 Agency

Planes carrying prisoners to be exchanged by Yemen's warring parties took off yesterday on the second day of an operation to return about 1,000 men home and help build momentum for a new push to end a catastrophic war. More than 700 prisoners were exchanged on Thursday as the operation started, said the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is managing the process. UN Yemen envoy Martin Griffiths told the Security Council on Thursday the swap was an "airlift of hope", adding that both parties remain in negotiations for a permanent ceasefire.

Safe journey!

Low risk of Covid infection on planes if masks worn: US

AFP News

The risk of being infected with the coronavirus on an airliner is very low if passengers wear masks, according to a study carried out aboard Boeing long-haul jets by the US military. Researchers using sensors and fluorescent tracers measured the volume of airborne contagious matter emitted by a dummy simulating an infected person breathing normally. The passengers most exposed



Researchers used sensors and fluorescent tracers for the study

to the infected person -- those just in front of, behind or beside the dummy -- were represented in the study by the sensors. Some 300 test rounds were carried out on the ground and in flight over the course of eight straight days in August in cooperation with United Airlines on Boeing 767 and 777 jetliners. The study concluded that 99.7 percent of Covid contaminant particles were eliminated by the sophisticated ventilation systems on the planes before they

reached the passengers seated closest to the dummy. Expanding outward to the 40 seats closest to the infected person, the elimination rate is 99.99 per cent, the study said. However, the tests only looked at a scenario involving a single infected passenger. They also assumed that everyone on the plane wore a mask continuously, and did not address a scenario in which an infected person walks around the cabin of the plane.