

Virtual fans? Premier League looks at options for empty stadium games

The Premier League is exploring the use of audio effects and computer generated 'fans', to improve the viewer experience of watching behind closed doors games.

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Shaikh Khalid calls for developing school sports

Mass evacuations for major cyclone in S.Asia

Eid prayers to be performed at Al Fateh Mosque

TDT | Manama

Eid Al Fitr prayers will be performed at Al Fateh Mosque, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has said.

However, the prayers will be limited to the imam and to a small number of people, in line with the precautionary measures taken by Bahrain to stem the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The prayers will be broadcast live on television and on radio.

The decision to perform the prayers was taken based on the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to uphold the Islamic tradition.

Imams in other mosques will proclaim the traditional Eid takbeers (praise to Allah) that precede the prayers and sermons, but there will be no prayers.

Bahrain had shut down mosques as part of the preventive measures to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus through congregations.

Last month, it allowed the Friday prayers and the taraweeh prayers associated with the blessed month of Ramadan at Al Fateh Mosque.

The Eid prayers will be performed on Saturday or Sunday, depending on the sighting of the moon that marks the end of Ramadan, the ninth month on the lunar Islamic calendar based on the motion of the moon.

HM the King receives the ambassadors of Italy, Bangladesh



HM the King with Italian Ambassador Amadei



HM the King receives the credentials of Bangladeshi Ambassador Islam

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received yesterday two new ambassadors to Bahrain during a ceremony held at Al Sakhir Palace.

HM King Hamad was present with the credentials of Italian

Ambassador Paola Amadei and Bangladeshi Ambassador Muhammad Nazrul Islam.

HM the King exchanged welcome statements with the two ambassadors and hailed the strong bilateral relations and steadily growing ties binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and their respective countries. HM the

King wished them every success in performing their diplomatic duties to consolidate relations of cooperation and friendship with Bahrain.

The ambassadors conveyed to HM the King the greetings and appreciation from their countries' leaders, who wished HM King Hamad abundant health

and happiness and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity. They lauded the solid relations between their countries and the Kingdom at all levels.

The ceremony was attended by HM the King's Personal Representative; HM the King's Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs

representative, National Security Advisor and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman; the Royal Court Minister; the Foreign Affairs Minister; and the Royal Protocols chief.

The two ambassadors arrived at the Al Sakhir Palace separately and were each welcomed by the Royal Protocols chief.

Global COVID-19 cases near 5M

Moscow

The total number of people worldwide who have been confirmed to be infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19) is nearing five million.

As of early this morning, more than 4.94 million across the globe have contracted the disease, and more than 322,000 deaths have been recorded.

As the coronavirus outbreak eases in Western Europe and parts of the US, cases are rising steadily in Russia, which is now behind only the US in the number of reported infections.

New hot spots emerged yesterday in Russia, as the country recorded nearly 10,000 new infections in 24 hours, bringing the total to nearly 300,000, about half of them in Moscow.



A pedestrian watches as a man is tested for the coronavirus in Boston, Massachusetts.

The US has recorded 1.55 million confirmed infections and over 92,000 deaths.

Cases are still rising across Africa,

where all 54 nations have seen confirmed infections for a total of over 88,000 cases and 2,800 deaths, according to the Africa

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

South Africa had the highest number of cases at over 16,400, with nearly 290 deaths.

Latin America has seen more than 480,000 confirmed cases and about 31,000 dead. The highest number of cases is in Brazil, which became the world's third worst-hit country on Monday. There are now more than 260,000 infections despite limited testing.

Elsewhere in Latin America, intensive care units in the Chilean capital of Santiago have been beyond 90 per cent capacity for days, and officials warned that intensive care staff members are reaching their limits.

Infections are also increasing in poor areas of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, where authorities relaxed strict lockdown

measures last week, allowing some businesses to open and children to walk outside on weekends.

Colombia struggled with an outbreak in Leticia, a city on the border with Brazil, where hospitals were overwhelmed and patients were being sent to commandeered hotels. Colombia has recorded about 16,300 confirmed cases and close to 600 dead.

Some countries have seen encouraging signs reverse: Iran reported a steady drop in new infections through April, only to see them rise again in May.

In India, cases surged past 100,000, and infections are rising in the home states of migrant workers who fled cities and towns during a nationwide lockdown when they lost their jobs. India is now seeing more than 4,000 new cases a day.

BY THE NUMBERS

Health Ministry announces 348 new active COVID-19 cases, 33 recoveries

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that it had registered 348 new active cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bahrain.

This marked a steep increase in new cases, as compared to recent days.

From these, 233 are among expatriate workers, 114 are contacts of active cases and one is travel-related.

Their detection brought the total number of active cases in the Kingdom to 4,556. Nine of these are critical cases, while the rest are stable.

The Health Ministry also announced yesterday 33 new recoveries. After confirming that

46
 is the number of Bahraini citizens flown home from Oman yesterday on a special flight as part of Bahrain's International COVID-19 Repatriation Programme

the patients are free of the virus, they have been discharged from isolation and treatment centres.

The total number of recoveries, as of last night, reached 2,964.

The total tested rose to 249,411. Meanwhile, in continuation of the national efforts to tackle

COVID-19 and to deal with current developments, the Ministry of Health announced that it has increased the capacity of isolation and treatment centers to 5,619 beds. Of these, 4,410 were occupied at the time of the Health Ministry's announcement.

The beds at preventive quarantine centers have also been increased to 5,168, with an occupancy of 719 at the time of the announcement.

The Health Ministry also announced the return home of 46 Bahraini citizens from Oman yesterday.

They were flown back to the Kingdom as part of Bahrain's International COVID-19 Repatriation Programme.



A view of the cabin of the aircraft that carried the 46 Bahraini citizens from Oman



TOTAL CASES	7,532
ACTIVE CASES	4,556
DEATHS	12
DISCHARGED	2,964
NEW CASES	348
CRITICAL	9

210 fils (includes VAT)



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