

**Ahli lift Khalifa bin Salman Cup**

Victors secure impressive league-and-cup double after defeating arch-rivals Manama in final | P 12

THE DAILY **tribune**



George Clooney reveals he almost starred in 'The Notebook'

10 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 MENA Fintech forum returns virtually

**Russia 'ready to accept' US nuke proposal**

Agencies | MOSCOW

Russia said yesterday it's ready to accept a US proposal to freeze the number of nuclear warheads and extend the two nations' last arms control pact for one year.

The statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry marks a shift in Moscow's position after Russia and the US rejected each other's offers regarding the New START treaty that expires in February.

The ministry noted that it's ready for a deal if the US does the same and doesn't put forward any additional demands, the statement read.

The US said it was prepared to meet immediately with Russia to finalise the agreement, the State Department said yesterday.

"We appreciate the Russian Federation's willingness to make progress on the issue of nuclear arms control," spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

"The United States is prepared to meet immediately to finalise a verifiable agreement. We expect Russia to empower its diplomats to do the same."

The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by then US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The pact limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers, and envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 78,533
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,139
- DEATHS: 305
- DISCHARGED: 75,089
- NEW CASES: 309
- CRITICAL: 31

210 fils (includes VAT)



**HM King condolences with Saudi Arabia**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, on the demise of His Royal Highness Prince Nawaf bin Saad bin Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin



HM the King



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, also sent a similar cable of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

HRH the Prime Minister and HRH the Crown Prince sent a similar cable to Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

**Vaccine 'unlikely' to ever eradicate COVID: UK's top scientist**



LONDON

A coronavirus vaccine is "unlikely" to ever completely eradicate the virus, and the disease may never disappear, the British government's chief scientific adviser has warned.

"I think it's unlikely that we'll end up with a truly sterilising vaccine that completely stops infection. It's likely that this disease will circulate and be endemic," Sir Patrick Vallance told a UK government committee yesterday.

The medical definition of endemic describes a disease that is constantly present in the population, much like seasonal flu.

"My assessment — and I think that's the view of many people — is that's the likely outcome," Vallance said.

**HRH Premier Award winners announced**

TDT | Manama

The Court of HRH the Prime Minister yesterday announced the winners of the first edition of the \$200,000-worth "Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Doctor".

The winners were announced at a press conference attended by Health Minister and Jury Chairperson Faeqa bint Said Al Saleh, and members Arabian Gulf University president, Dr Khalid Al Ohaly, and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-Bahrain) presi-



HRH the Prime Minister

dent, Dr Samir Al Atoum. category entitled "Innovation and Creative Award in Therapeutic, Clinical and Medical Research Award".

Dr Ghufraan Ahmed Jassim, consultant family physician and RCSI-Bahrain associate professor, won the second place, while Dr Najat Mohammed Abul Fath, family physician and director of public health at the Ministry of Health, won the second place bis.

In the second category, the "Extended Loyalty and Giving Award", it was won by Dr Mariam Ebrahim Al Hajeri, family physician and Assistant Un-

dersecretary for Public Health at the Ministry of Health, in appreciation of her dedicated efforts for more than 30 years in the government sector and civil society institutions, as well as her implementation of health programmes that have enhanced public health in the Kingdom.

Award's Board chairman and Undersecretary of HRH Premier's Court, Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, lauded HRH Premier's initiative aimed at shedding light on Bahraini doctors for their efforts and sacrifices.

**UAE makes historic trip to Israel**

Multibillion-dollar fund, visa-free travel deals signed to cement normalisation

Netanyahu hails diplomatic breakthrough

Agencies | DUBAI

A UAE delegation arrived in Israel yesterday in a historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation that cemented a breakthrough normalisation deal with a series of meetings and agreements.

The Emiratis landed in Israel's Ben Gurion airport, where they were met by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and agreed a multibillion-dollar fund.

The parties signed four agree-



HAN Etihad Airways plane carrying a delegation from the UAE on a first official visit, lands at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv

ments including one on visa-free travel — the first of its kind between Israel and an Arab country.

Other deals were on the promotion and protection of investments, co-operation in sci-

ence and innovation and civil aviation.

The five-hour-long meeting — held in the airport because of coronavirus precautions — saw the announcement of the

**\$3bln**  
 The Abrahamic fund for development and initiative in the private sector.

\$3 billion Abrahamic fund for development and initiative in the private sector, UAE's state news agency WAM reported.

"The fund reflects the three countries' desire to prioritise people's wellbeing regardless of their religious beliefs and identities," UAE's Minister of State to the UAE Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh said.

Top US officials accompanied the group on the trip, which was



**"WE ARE MAKING HISTORY IN A WAY THAT WILL STAND FOR GENERATIONS."**  
 ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

the next step after Israel signed a normalisation deal with the UAE and Bahrain.

Change of heart

**Pope wears mask for first time at public event**

Reuters | Rome

Pope Francis wore a mask for the first time at a public function yesterday when he and other religious leaders attended a prayer service for peace around the world.

The pope wore a white mask during the service at the Rome

Basilica of Santa Maria in Ara-coeli. Previously he wore masks only in a car taking him to his weekly audiences in the Vatican.

He had come under some criticism, particularly on social media, for not wearing a mask at his general audiences and sometimes coming in relatively close contact with visitors.



Pope Francis

Pope Francis, 83, attended the service with other Christian leaders in the basilica, including the Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians.

Simultaneously in other locations in Rome, Jews were praying in the city's synagogue and Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist

and Sikh leaders also prayed for peace.

The event took place as the number of people who have tested positive for the coronavirus has risen steadily in Italy in the past few weeks. Italy recorded 10,874 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, up from 9,338 on Monday.