

Joel Girrbach of Switzerland, Max Kramer of Germany and David Hague of England were the joint-leaders yesterday after the first round in the \$75,000 Royal Golf Club Bahrain Open, following solid scores of six-under par 66. **P16**

Nasa pioneer dies
 Florida

Pioneering African-American Nasa mathematician Katherine Johnson has died at the age of 101.

Nasa announced her death on Twitter, saying it was celebrating her life and honouring "her legacy of excellence that broke down racial and social barriers".

Ms Johnson calculated rocket trajectories and Earth orbits for Nasa's early space missions.

She was portrayed in the 2016 Oscar-nominated film Hidden Figures.

The film tells the story of African-American women whose maths skills helped put US astronaut John Glenn into orbit around the Earth in 1962. Ms Johnson verified the calculations made by new electronic computers before his flight.

SICO to advise KFH-AUB acquisition
 TDT | Manama

SICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, market maker and investment bank (licensed as a wholesale bank by the CBB), announced yesterday that it has been mandated by Kuwait Finance House KSCP (KFH) as Bahrain receiving agent, Bahrain execution adviser and cross-list-



Ms Al Shirawi

ing adviser in KFH's offer to acquire Ahli United Bank.

The cross-border acquisition would create a USD104 billion regional banking powerhouse that is set to become the world's largest Islamic bank in terms of assets.

"We are extremely proud to be making history through our role as one of the lead advisors on this transformational cross-border transaction," said SICO CEO Najla Al Shirawi.

Full story Page 7



04 Witnesses to testify in human trafficking trial

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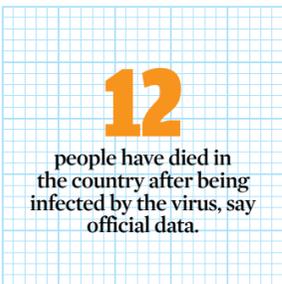
Iran accused of corona coverup

Tehran

Iran's government vowed yesterday to be transparent after being accused of covering up the deadliest coronavirus outbreak outside China, dismissing a lawmaker's claim the toll could be as high as 50.

The authorities in Iran have come under mounting public pressure since it took days for them to admit to "accidentally" shooting down a Ukrainian airliner last month, killing 176 people.

The government announced Iran's coronavirus death toll had jumped by four to 12 — by far the highest outside China — as its neighbours closed



their borders and imposed strict quarantine measures.

But Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, a lawmaker from the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran, alleged the government was "lying."

Ministry of Health
 وزارة الصحة

Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates:

Number of negative results: 305
 Number of infected cases: 2

Latest update: 11:00 PM
 24 February 2020

Measures taken:

- Immediate transfer of the infected cases for treatment and isolation
- Infected Case 1: Examination of those who were in contact with the infected individual (parents, passengers traveling with him on the trip, and students who were driven by him through his work as a driver)
- Closure of 3 schools and a pre-school in Sitra for two weeks as a precaution, as the infected person works as a school bus driver serving those schools
- Infected Case 2: Examination of those who were in contact with the infected individual (family members traveling with her on the trip) and isolating them as a precaution

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Legislative role hailed



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has lauded the dedicated efforts being exerted by the Legislative Branch in order to perform its constitutional duties and assume its supervisory and legislative role to strengthen the pillars of the national democratic march and develop laws and legislation that serve the citizens and meet all their needs, noting that history bears witness to the exemplary cohesion and solidarity among Bahrainis throughout the Kingdom's glorious march. HM the King made the statements while receiving, at Al Sakhir Palace yesterday, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, Chairman of the Shura Council, Ali Al Saleh, and their deputies, in addition to the members of the Reply to the Royal Speech committees at the two councils. They submitted to HM King Hamad the two councils' replies to the royal keynote speech delivered by HM the King while opening the second session of the Fifth Legislative Term. See Page 6

TDT | Manama

Two cases of coronavirus infections were reported in the Kingdom yesterday by the Health Ministry.

While the first case was that of a man, a school bus driver, the second infected with the virus turned out to be a woman, who was diagnosed at the Bahrain International Airport itself.

"The infected citizen arrived in Bahrain after a visit to Iran, accompanied by her husband and her sister in law. The accompanying relatives were also moved to isolation as a precautionary measure, after testing negative for the virus," the Ministry of Health tweeted last night, confirming the second case.

Earlier yesterday, the Ministry of Health has confirmed a patient infected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), arriving from the Iran, via Dubai, has been immediately transferred to the isolation ward at the Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Centre, located in Salmaniya, and is receiving further treatment.

The ministry added that the patient, a school bus driver, had worked on Sunday, dropping off children at two schools, the

Two coronavirus cases confirmed

High alert in the Kingdom after two cases of infection were reported

Crown Prince stresses precautionary measures

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday stressed the Kingdom's strategies in place to tackle coronavirus infections during a meeting with House Speaker Fawzia Zainal and Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh.

HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Ministry of Health is

following the highest standards of epidemiological monitoring to prevent the virus from spreading, following the report of the first confirmed case in the Kingdom.

HRH the Crown Prince added that preventive efforts require constructive, strategic co-operation among the government, citizens and residents, urging all to adhere to the established health guidelines.

Individuals who have been in contact with the patient were contacted and tested to ensure they are free of the virus, as well as being placed under supervision for 14

days at a designated quarantine centre for suspected cases."

The ministry outlined that the infected individual arrived at Bahrain International Airport

on 21 February, from Iran, via Dubai, with no symptoms, noting that the patient's symptoms appeared a few days later. In line with established public health procedures, the ministry has contacted all passengers on the same flight for medical testing.

The ministry has called upon all citizens and residents who are experiencing symptoms of the Coronavirus COVID19, including high temperature, coughing and difficulty breathing, or those who have travelled or had close contact with anyone who has travelled to countries with high infection rates to isolate themselves at home, call 444, and follow the instructions given by the medical team. **See Page 2**