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WEDNESDAY MARCH 2020 210 FILS ISSUE NO. 8428

AUB says cash deposits made easy for business customers

4 BUSINESS

WORLD 8 India to go under total virus lockdown

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Third death due to COVID-19 announced

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced yesterday the death of a 65-year-old Bahraini national who was suffering from underlying and chronic health problems, and was registered as an active case of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The deceased male, who had returned from Iran via an indirect flight, was placed in isolation and received extensive 24-hour treatment from a specialised medical team.

The man's death is the third in Bahrain due to the coronavirus pandemic.

27,109

is the number of coronavirus tests that have been conducted as of last night

The Ministry highlighted that, except for two cases, all other 210 active COVID-19 cases remain stable and that all patients are receiving treatment from a specialised medical team following guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

As of last night, a total of 27,109 tests have been conducted.

The Ministry of Health expresses its heartfelt condolences to the individual's family at this difficult time.



02 Stern warning for violators

03 More than 400 immersion heaters confiscated

05 BBK approves distribution of 51,374,480 dinars cash dividends

210 fils (includes VAT)



Bahrain among first countries to use Hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19

Hydroxychloroquine is in a class of drugs used to prevent and treat malaria, discoid or systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis.

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is one of the first countries in the world to use Hydroxychloroquine to treat the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Supreme Council of Health chairman and National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus head Lieutenant General

Dr. Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa highlighted this yesterday.

The drug is reported to have had a profound impact when used to treat the symptoms exhibited by active COVID-19 cases.

The Kingdom had first used the drug on February 26 earlier this year, following the registration of its first case on February 24. The compound was administered in line with treatment regimens which have seen notable success in China and South Korea.

Hydroxychloroquine is in a class of drugs used to prevent and treat malaria, discoid or systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis.

See Page 3 for full report

First remote meeting



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister chaired yesterday a Coordination Committee meeting, which was held for the first time remotely. During the meeting, the latest developments in dealing with the coronavirus (COVID-19) were discussed along with measures taken to contain and prevent its spread.

STAYING OPEN

Ministry lists businesses excluded from temporary closure

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has listed the kinds of commercial establishments that are exempt from the temporary closure previously announced to help combat the further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The ministry late last night issued an explanatory statement on the decision to close all commercial shops from 7pm tomorrow until 7pm on April 9.

The Ministry emphasised that the closing of these stores excludes:

- Hypermarkets, supermarkets, cold stores, grocery stores, butcher shops and fish shops
- Bakeries
- Natural gas-fuelling stations and liquid-fuelling stations
- Hospitals, medical centres, pharmacies and optical centres
- Banks and currency exchange bureaus
- Corporate administration offices of companies and organisations that conduct activities without direct engagement with customers
- Businesses that import, export and distribute goods
- Automotive garages and repair shops
- Businesses operating in the construction and maintenance industry
- Manufacturers

Commercial stores will open again from April 9 to April 23. Until then, they are allowed to engage in the sale of goods and services through electronic means and have them delivered. Restaurants are also permitted to operate but only through take away and home delivery services.

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

To all citizens and residents For further developments on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and updates on the Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus, please visit the Ministry of Health's website

www.moh.gov.bh

Be Aware #UnitedAgainstCovid19

Curfew proposal approved!

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Council of Representatives yesterday approved an urgent proposal to impose a partial curfew as part of the efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-2019).

The proposal now awaits the go-ahead from the government.

If imposed, citizens and residents across the Kingdom will be need to remain at home

from 6pm until 5am, except for those whose work require otherwise.

The initiative comes as Bahrain records coronavirus cases daily.

The rapid spread of the pandemic has forced many countries to impose lock-downs and curfews.

Meanwhile, the Council approved several other urgent proposals, and referred them to the government. They included:

- Giving illegal expatriate workers a grace period to rectify their situation and leave the country to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Setting up a new fund for contributions and donations from businessmen, national companies, banks and individuals to cover costs of COVID-19 and other disasters.
- Including working mothers in companies, entities and institutions half-owned by the state in the work-from-home system.
- Delivering e-services at ministries and service departments.
- Paying an incentive bonus to volunteers in the National Campaign to Combat 'Coronavirus'.
- Limiting the economic stimulus package to supporting small, medium-sized and micro private sector companies and enterprises that have been negatively affected by COVID-19, and the precautionary measures enforced to combat it.
- Granting teachers a holiday like students.

# Interior Ministry calls for dedication, cooperation in following health and safety guidelines

TDT | Manama

The Interior Ministry yesterday called for the public to dedicate themselves to protecting the safety of all in Bahrain by strictly following a set of guidelines.

## These included the following:

- Leave home only to go to work or hospitals or buy medicines and other essential requirements.
- Sports on public roads should be practiced individually or a maximum between two persons while keeping the social distance. Children are not allowed to be taken along.
- More than five individuals are not allowed to gather or sit in front of homes and roads.
- Gatherings at parks and beaches are prohibited.
- Commitment to precautionary measures during family and social meetings, including weddings and funerals. The attendance of burial rituals is limited to relatives only.
- Commitment to the social distancing in queues and a distance of no less than one meter at shopping centres, public service areas and transportation points for workers.
- Benefit from home delivery services to get groceries and other requirements.



Community police patrol the streets

These guidelines follow the implementation of the decisions by the coordination meeting chaired by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Com-

mander and First Deputy Prime Minister, as part of precautionary measures to avoid the spreading of coronavirus.

The Interior Ministry asserted dedication and cooperation to

follow all instructions. Commitment to these safety rules will contribute to the success of the Kingdom's efforts to prevent the spreading of coronavirus.

## HM the King orders renaming charity body

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Order 15/2020 yesterday renaming the Royal Charity Organisation.

Article One stipulates that the Royal Charity Organisation be renamed the Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

Article Two stipulates that the Royal Order will come into effect on the date of its issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

## HRH the Crown Prince restructures national committee

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict 4/2020, re-structuring the National Industry Protection and Support Committee (NIPSC).

The edict stipulates that the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry's Undersecretary for Industrial Affairs, and Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Development, will be NIPSC's Chairman and Deputy Chairman, respectively.

Director of Customs Clearance at the Interior Ministry, Director of Registration at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and the economist in charge of relations with the GCC countries at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy will serve as members of NIPSC for a renewable three-year term.

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism shall implement the edict, which takes effect one day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

## Inmate dies of natural causes

TDT | Manama

A 52-year-old Asian inmate died while receiving treatment at a hospital, the Ministry of Interior announced yesterday.

The deceased, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a drug case, died of natural causes. Legal proceedings are being taken.

## Customs Affairs launch new services

TDT | Manama

As part of the commitment to precautionary measures against coronavirus, the Customs Affairs announced yesterday the launch of new services, including the call centre, to meet the requirements of clients and answer inquiries. The services are available via telephone on 17359306 and 17359207 and on WhatsApp at 17359829 during working hours from 8am to 2pm, Sunday to Thursday. An e-mail can also be sent to customerService@customs.gov.bh throughout the day.

## Donations sought for low-income workers in wake of COVID-19

TDT | Manama

Efforts are underway to provide food and basic necessities to low-income individuals who have been affected by the lack of work due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Groups such as the Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS) are calling on those able to provide donations as hundreds are expected to be unable to generate income in the coming weeks.

The MWPS posted the following message on social media last night: "In the wake of COVID-19, a number of low-income workers are not earning an income. MWPS will be distributing food and basic necessities to such workers.

"If you would like to contribute to MWPS COVID-19 Relief Fund, you can do so online or through Benefit Pay."

The MWPS International Bank Account Number is BH21 NBOB 0000 0099 6077 19.

Those who would like to reach out to MWPS may call 17827895 or 39861932, or e-mail mwpsbah2@gmail.com.

- Punishments for individuals who refuse to follow these initiatives could face imprisonment for a period of no less than three months and a fine of no less than BD1,000 and not exceeding BD10,000, or one of these two penalties.

TDT | Manama

Immediate and decisive action will be taken against those who violate provisions of the Public Health Law and any preventative measures aimed at protecting the society.

This was stressed yesterday by the Public Prosecution during a coordination meeting with Health Ministry officials, in the presence of Acting Senior Advocate General Chancellor Dr. Ahmed Al Hammadi.

The meeting took place as part of the tireless efforts to curb the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The meeting cast light on mapping out a specific mechanism for a constructive comprehensive system between the Public Prosecution and the Health Ministry in the fight against COVID-19.

Commitment to all procedures imposed to isolate in-

# Stern warning for violators

Public Prosecution stresses immediate and decisive action against those who go against coronavirus control measures



fectured people or suspicious cases were also stressed. Other procedures like closing public outlets and reducing gatherings were reviewed.

The meeting also shed light

on legal requirements that have to be finalised regarding any violations of the measures taken to curb the COVID-19 outbreak.

Bahrain has announced a number of strict measures for

the public to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Among them are barring public gatherings of more than five people at places including, but are not limited to, markets, public parks and public beaches.

Punishments for individuals who refuse to follow these initiatives could face imprisonment for a period of no less than three months and a fine of no less than BD1,000 and not exceeding BD10,000, or one of these two penalties.

Similar penalties are also in place for those who violate the 14-day self-quarantine rule, as well as for any establishments that go against recently announced measures to help combat the spread of the coronavirus, among other violators.

## Supermarket outlet closes after suspected virus case

TDT | Manama

Establishments at a leading shopping mall were forced to shut down yesterday following a suspected case of the coronavirus (COVID-19) with an employee.

The Alosra Supermarket outlet at Najibi Centre in Saar was one of these stores after a member of its staff was suspected to have contracted the virus.

The supermarket chain announced in a statement on social media yesterday: "As a precautionary measure, with the safety of our customers and staff always our primary con-

cern, we have imposed a temporary shut-down of our Najibi Centre outlet due to a suspected case of COVID-19 amongst one of our team members at the Customer Service counter (where Tobacco is merchandised) - as yet this case is not confirmed.

"The outlet is closed for disinfection; when we re-open we will deploy a new team while the existing team self-isolate as a standard precautionary measure.

"In the meantime, all our other outlets remain open as normal and our home delivery service www.alosraonline.com

**The outlet is closed for disinfection; when we re-open we will deploy a new team while the existing team self-isolate as a standard precautionary measure**

ALOSRA STATEMENT

continues to operate. We will update you as we learn more."

Meanwhile, another leading supermarket chain announced

that its Budaiya Road outlet had undergone a sanitisation of its surrounding area.

Al Jazira Supermarket said on social media last night that the Civil Defence Authority conducted the procedure, which did not affect operations.

Al Jazira said in a statement: "As a precautionary measure, and as part of the continuous efforts to combat the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Civil Defence Authority conducted a sanitisation of the area surrounding Al Jazira Budaiya.

"The Civil Defence conducted the sanitisation of all areas

outside and around our Budaiya store. The outlet remained open and operating as normal during the sanitisation process and shall continue to do so.

"We assure our customers that their safety and the safety of our staff is always our primary concern. Accordingly, we continue to follow Ministry of Health safety guidelines with regard to sanitisation of public places, including daily sanitisation and disinfecting of all areas, disinfecting of shopping trolleys after each use, as well as making gloves and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser available to all customers and staff."

# More than 400 immersion heaters confiscated

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism seizes poorly manufactured heating products from local stores in safety drive

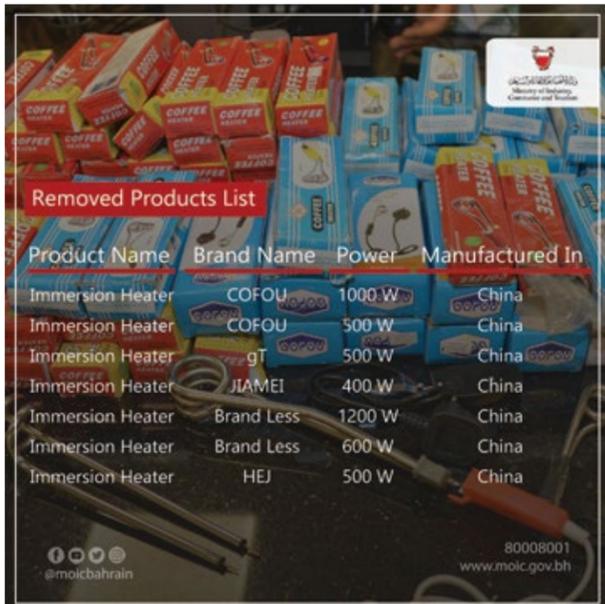
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has confiscated more than 420 poorly manufactured immersion heaters from local markets in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ministry's Inspection and Measurement Department announced yesterday that it had conducted an inspection campaign in a number of establishments in all governorates, and more than 400 devices of this product were seized.

Department director Ali Shabar Jawad said that his office has confiscated these immersion heaters following its continuous follow-up and study of these industrial products circulating in the local markets, and after complaints received by users of these devices.

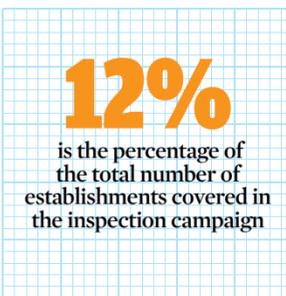
These poorly manufactured products pose a risk to the safety of those who purchase them as it exposes the user to burns and electric shocks, given that the electrodes of the products



are prominent or unprotected. These can also result in fires and damaged property.

The director indicated that tests carried out on the heating devices proved their non-conformity with the general safe-

ty requirements mentioned in relevant ministerial decisions. They confirm the necessity of electrical fuses in each device to ensure the separation of current in the event of a malfunction. The electrical wires and live



poles of the product must also be properly insulated and difficult to access.

Jawad emphasised that the immersion heaters were withdrawn from 12% of the total number of stores covered in the inspection campaign.

The director also noted that the administration continues to implement field surveys to study industrial products traded in the local markets, as well as inspection campaigns to ensure the application of laws and regulations that contribute to the protection, safety and security of individuals and society as a whole.

## Human rights body urges telecom companies to defer payments of low-income workers



Fulad and Altarejos

TDT | Manama

Telecom companies have been urged by a Bahrain human rights organisation to provide deferred payment and payment flexibility to low-income workers.

Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS) has urged telecommunication providers to take into account the economic landscape caused by the coronavirus outbreak and provide payment flexibility to those earning a low income.

The society said that this issue is of human rights concern and needs to be taken seriously.

"The Central Bank of Bahrain has instructed all financial institutions to provide deferred payment and flexibility

to all debtors affected by the financial repercussions; we also urge telecommunications in Bahrain to adopt the same payment flexibility to our expatriate workers and low-income workers," said BHRWS secretary general Faisal Fulad.

"Our domestic workers, services crew, and workers affected by no work-no pay are in need to avail of this kind of assistance from our telecommunication companies," said BHRWS Foreign Rights Worker Committee director Lyne Altarejos.

"We, BHRWS, are deeply grateful to all telecommunications to respond and offer humility to all the debtors, whether expatriate or Bahrainis, until the economy is back to normal operations."

## Coronavirus fight proving effective, says top health official

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's therapeutic protocols in fighting the coronavirus (COVID-19) are proving effective, a leading health official said yesterday.

Supreme Council of Health (SCH) president and National Taskforce to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19) head Lt. General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa affirmed that the therapeutic protocol of Bahrain, which uses Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) medication in treating infected cases, has proven to be effective.

Shaikh Mohammed said the kingdom is one of the first countries to use the medication, pointing out its success in alleviating the symptoms of the virus and reducing its complications.

The SCH President noted that

the Kingdom of Bahrain used Hydroxychloroquine on February 26 this year after detecting the first COVID-19 case two days prior.

He pointed out that the national taskforce decided to use the medication to treat the cases, according to the experience of the countries which achieved a remarkable success in curing coronavirus-infected cases such as China and South Korea, where the recovery indices rose remarkably.

The SCH President affirmed that Hydroxychloroquine is used as a main cure for diseases like Malaria, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. It proved to be very effective in alleviating virus-related symptoms, pneumonia, pain and fever, and pointed out that applying the therapeutic protocol depends on the pathological case.

## Maintenance work on Shaikh Salman Flyover

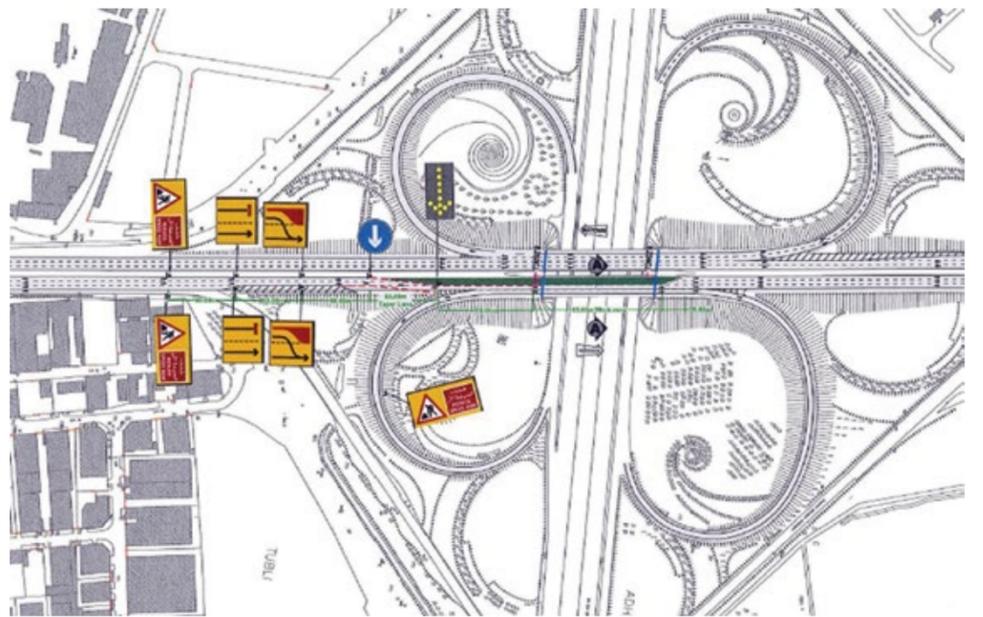
TDT | Manama

The maintenance works of expansion joints on Shaikh Salman Flyover necessitate the closure of the fast and middle lanes for northbound traffic, the Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning announced yesterday.

The work also necessitate the closure of the loop from Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway to Shaikh Salman Highway leading to Sehla area.

The closure was effective from last night at 11pm to Friday at 5am.

The ministry called on all road users to observe the traffic rules for safety of all.



## Rotary Club conducts Interact Pinning Ceremony



Rotary Club of Manama (RCM) recently held its Interact Pinning Ceremony at Bahrain School, in the presence of RCM President Khalid Mukhtar along with members of RCM and Interact Club, parents and Bahrain School academic and administrative staff members. The ceremony was organised by New Generations Director Marwa Rahimi, with the aim of encouraging the youth to partake in voluntary and community service activities. The event also witnessed the recognition and pinning of new members and welcoming the new members into the Interact Club of Bahrain School.

## Higher institutions attend e-learning webinar

TDT | Manama

Staff from higher institutions in Bahrain participated in a webinar yesterday to learn about the best practices in an e-learning environment.

The "Transitioning to Online Teaching" webinar was organised by the Scientific Research Department of the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council, in cooperation with E-Knowledge, a professional company dedicated to innovation and development based in Dubai.

E-Knowledge's e-learning expert Caryn Anderson explained how to achieve successful learning outcomes in the most efficient and productive ways by exploring asyn-

chronous conversations, learning by teaching and grazing versus meals.

Asynchronous conversations include e-mail, chat platforms, blogs and hashtags on Facebook and Twitter.

Learning by teaching focuses on developing student learning through the student teaching peers specific parts of the lesson or specific ideas.

The webinar also reviewed technological tools, blogs and distance education programmes that could be employed in the process of communication between the teacher and the students.

Anderson is a development specialist focused on knowledge and information services, scientific research quality and impact, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration.

# business

## Takaful's AGM endorses results

● Shareholders' net profit at BD 690K compared to BD651K a year ago

TDT | Manama

The Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Takaful International Company yesterday endorsed the company's financial results which included shareholders' net profit of BD 690K compared to BD651K reported a year ago.

Takaful contributions amounted BD 21.721 million as at 31st December 2019 compared to BD 22.034m in the previous year. Earnings per



Jamal Ali Al-Hazeem, Chairman

share amounted 8.12 fils compared to 8.54 fils in the prior year.

Takaful's results showed an increase of 10 per cent in the equity attributable to the parent shareholders amounting BD 10m, compared to BD9.2m a year ago. The results for the year ended 31st December 2019 were



Essam Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer

announced earlier this year.

In the same context, Jamal Ali Al-Hazeem, Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors, said that the continuing policy of expenditures reduction and full utilization of information technology in facilitating and simplifying insurance opera-

tions for individuals and institutions has contributed to achieving a growth of 22pc in the total net profit for the year 2019. He added that the results achieved by the company had come concurrently with being assigned the highest credit rating for Takaful companies in Bahrain (Financial Strength Rating of (A-) Excellent) by 'AM Best' rating agency.

Al-Hazeem went on to say that the Company was able to take several initiatives in the synergy framework with gig-Bahrain during the year by unifying work, procedures and points of sale, which contributed to enhancing customer services and improving the customer experience.

## RBH launches Telehealth services



TDT | Manama

Royal Bahrain Hospital (RBH) said it launched a Telehealth service to provide outpatient consultation services through online audio/video platform.

The service, RBH said, is launched considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as it is now imperative for both patients and clinicians to maintain social distancing. Slots are available from 9 am to 9 pm, Saturday to Thursday.

To avail consultation use this link: [www.royalbahrainhospital.com/telehealth](http://www.royalbahrainhospital.com/telehealth).

tal.com/telehealth.

The system will then ask to insert personal details, choose the specialty and consultant doctor, select/request a time slot and make the Payment.

The email provided while registering will get a link with the confirmed time slot.

Each appointment slot is for 15 minutes and followed by a medical prescription in email.

The service can be utilised over a variety of devices from smartphone to tablets and desktop.

## Mnuchin hopes deal is 'very close' on \$2-trillion

Reuters | Washington

The US Treasury secretary and the Senate Democratic leader voiced confidence late on Monday for a deal to be reached soon on a far-reaching coronavirus economic stimulus package that had been stalled in the US Senate as lawmakers haggled over it.

## Zain implements Coronavirus preventive measures

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a leading telecoms operator in the Kingdom, announced implementing necessary precautionary measures to safeguard its customers and employees during the current COVID-19 novel coronavirus outbreak.

Outlining the measures taken, Zain said it established internal committees to perform sanitisation activities and appointed



Duncan Howard, Zain Bahrain CEO

a nurse 24/7 at its headquarters for a week to monitor tempera-

tures of employees and visitors.

Postponed all training and business missions abroad and circulated instructions and 'Stay Safe' advice from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation.

The company also implemented a smart working system where the majority of employees are working from home remotely and replaced the large face to face meetings with virtual ones.

Zain urged pregnant employees, mothers, those with critical health cases and above 60 years of age to take work from home option.

Zain said it was also the first telecom company to offer students here with free access to online educational platforms, where data will not be deducted from their monthly home broadband packages.

Explaining further, Duncan

Howard, Zain Bahrain CEO, said, "All Zain technicians, visiting customers in their homes, have been provided with hand sanitizer, masks and gloves to use where appropriate. We also have developed many digital channels such as Zain App, E-shop and Z-bot for customers to interact with us digitally to manage their account from the comfort of their own home."



Arab Insurance Group (B.S.C.)

### Postponement of the Annual General Assembly Meeting

Given the current circumstances related to Corona Virus (Covid19), and in the interest of Arab Insurance Group B.S.C. ("Arig") towards Investors, Stakeholders and Public safety, it has been decided to postpone the Annual General Assembly Meeting ("AGM") scheduled for Sunday 29th March 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Bahrain time to Monday 20th April 2020 at 11:30 a.m. through electronic communication means.

In addition, the AGM agenda as published earlier has been amended by deleting item 10 related to election of Board members for the next three years from 2020 to 2022, due to the inability to hold a secret ballot electronically and postponing the elections to a maximum period of six months. It is to be noted that the Central Bank of Bahrain has approved the extension of the current Board's term for six months.

Accordingly, we request Arig's shareholders to follow the below instructions to ensure their participation in the meeting:

- Send an email request with subject line "Arab Insurance Group BSC - AGM" quoting your Investor Number/Shareholder Number which must include a clear copy of valid passport or valid identity card of the shareholder or the person representing them as proxy by email to [bahrain\\_helpdesk@karvy.com](mailto:bahrain_helpdesk@karvy.com) at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled time of the AGM. Please also include the contact number and email ID of the person attending the online session.
- After receiving the required documents and information, a link will be provided to enable the attendee to take the necessary steps to join the session electronically. The device used to participate in the online session must be compatible with video and telecom services. We advise the shareholders to abide with the instructions to ensure a swift and smooth conduct of the meeting in line with the Laws and Regulations.
- If the required legal quorum is not available, the second meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 April 2020, or a third meeting, if required, will be held on Thursday 7th May 2020 at the same time and through the electronic communication means.

Below is the revised AGM agenda:

- Read and approve the minutes of the previous Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Company held on 28 March 2019.
- To discuss and approve the Board of Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.
- To receive the Report of the External Auditors on the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.
- To discuss and approve the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.
- To discuss and approve the appropriations as follows:
  - Transfer of US\$ 1,752,644 to Legal Reserve from the current year net profit;
  - Transfer the balance US\$15,773,798 from the current year net profit to retained earnings.
- To discuss and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the year 2019 and the compliance of the Company with the requirements of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Central Bank of Bahrain.
- To report the transactions that took place during the financial year ended 31 December 2019 with any of the related parties as set forth in note no.35 of the financial statements in line with Article 189 of the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law.
- To absolve the Board of Directors from legal liability for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.
- To appoint or re-appoint External Auditors for the year ending 31 December 2020, subject to the Central Bank of Bahrain approval, and to authorize the Board of Directors to determine their remuneration.
- Any other matters that may arise according to Article 207 of the Bahrain Commercial Companies Law.

#### Important notes to Shareholders:

- Copies of the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the proxy forms are available at Arig House, Diplomatic Area, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, and from the support Share Registrar Karvy Fintech (Bahrain) W.L.L., Office No.74, 7th Floor, Al-Zamil Tower, Building 31, Road 383, Block 305, P.O. Box 514, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Tel: +973 17 215080, Fax: +973 17 212055. Electronic version of the above reports will also be available through Arig website and shareholders' portal at [www.arig.net](http://www.arig.net), [www.bahrainbourse.com](http://www.bahrainbourse.com) or [www.dfm.ae](http://www.dfm.ae).
- Any shareholder registered in the Company's Share Register on the date of the meeting, is entitled to attend the meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on the shareholder's behalf. A proxy shall not be the Chairman, members of the Board of Directors or employees of the Company.
- In case the shareholder is a legal entity, the person who will represent the shareholder should have a letter signed and stamped by the corporate, and to be presented before the due date.
- Proxies must be registered with the support Share Registrar, Karvy Fintech (Bahrain) W.L.L., Office No.74, 7th Floor, Al-Zamil Tower, Building 31, Road 383, Block 305, P.O. Box 514, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, by hand or Fax: +973 17 212055, or electronically by email ([bahrain\\_helpdesk@karvy.com](mailto:bahrain_helpdesk@karvy.com)) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any proxies received after the deadline will be void.
- For any queries, please contact Arab Insurance Group Investor Relations department: Tel: +973 17 544145 or email address: [investor@arig.com.bh](mailto:investor@arig.com.bh).

Chairman  
On behalf of the Board of Directors

Arig House, Building 131, Road 1702, Diplomatic Area 317, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, C.R. No. 10701  
Arab Insurance Group (B.S.C.) - A reinsurance firm regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain

## Fawzi Kanoo sponsors new mosque, multi-purpose hall construction in Diyar Al Muharraq

TDT | Manama

Deputy Chairman of Yusuf bin Ahmed Kanoo Group and Chairman of Bahrain Philanthropic Society, Fawzi Ahmed Kanoo, announced sponsoring the construction of a mosque and a multipurpose hall in Diyar Al Muharraq, north of Bahrain, as part of their ongoing philanthropic projects.

Fawzi Kanoo and Ahmed Alammadi, CEO of Diyar Al Muharraq, signed the construction agreement in Kanoo Tower, Diplomatic Area. Construction will begin in two months.

Commenting on the initiative, Fawzi Kanoo said: "I come from a family that takes philanthropy seriously. My father, the late Ahmed Kanoo, as well as my grandfathers, have all been at the forefront of philanthropy in Bahrain and the region, and through them, I've learnt the



Fawzi Kanoo (Left) and Ahmed Alammadi, CEO of Diyar Al Muharraq signing the construction agreement of a mosque and a multipurpose hall

necessity and importance of giving back to society."

On this note, Ahmed Alammadi said: "Building the mosque and multipurpose hall comes in line with our vision of creating close-knit communities, adding significant value to Diyar Al Muharraq, one of

the largest and most visionary modern urban developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain."

The mosque will carry Kanoo's spouse name, Khulood Mohamed Abdulla Juma, while the multipurpose hall will carry the name of Fawzi Ahmed Ali Kanoo himself.



Fawzi Kanoo and his sons with Diyar Al Muharraq's team.

## AUB says cash deposits made easy for business customers

● **A representative with AUB's deposit card can now deposit cash**

TDT | Manama

AUB said it's now offering its Deposit Card to businesses in a bid to simplifying banking transactions.

Businesses, AUB said, can now deposit cash directly into the company's account without the

need to wait for branch opening or closing hours through a company representative with AUB's deposit card.

"This can be done by visiting one of the selected AUB ATMs and deposit cash for real-time credit."

As a security measure, AUB's deposit card will only be enabled with the deposit function so the cardholder can only be able to deposit cash without the option to see the balance.

The non-individual customer subscribed to SMS Alerts will

receive an alert with up to date information of the cash deposit transactions.

"This empowers businesses to deposit cash 24x7 without the need to wait for the next working day or visit a branch," AUB added.

To accommodate large cash deposits of up to 120 notes in a single transaction, AUB said it maintains bulk cash machines at its Seef Headquarters branch. "There is no cap on the daily number of transactions at the bulk cash machine."

## Edamah defers rent payments

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah), the real estate investment arm of the Kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, has announced deferring April and May rent payments for all affected businesses across its retail, Food and Beverage (F&B) and commercial portfolio.

The move follows on from Edamah's earlier measures which exempted selected tenants from paying rent in March, in line with its efforts to support tenants impacted by the



Chief Executive Officer of Edamah, Amin Alarrayed

novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Chief Executive Officer of

Edamah, Amin Alarrayed, confirmed that the Company continues to support the national efforts to limit the repercussions of the COVID-19 on a local level and reduce the impact on various sectors, noting that Edamah is also working on developing plans to ensure business continuity for small and medium enterprises.

He also reassured that the Company will continue to offer real estate management and development services as part of its efforts to stimulate economic growth.

## SICO approves 10pc cash dividend

TDT | Manama

SICO, a leading regional asset manager, broker, market maker and investment bank, announced that its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) approved the distribution of BD 3.899 million in cash dividends for the year ended 2019 (10 per cent of the nominal share value), representing 10 Bahraini fils per share.

Shareholders also approved the transfer of BD 603 thousand to the statutory reserve and the remaining sum of BD 1.532 m to the retained earnings account.

SICO, with less than ten shareholders, elected to conclude the meeting via agenda circulation, to support Bahrain's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

SICO reported a full-year consolidated net profit of BD 6.0 m in 2019, up 63pc compared to the BD 3.7 m recorded in 2018. Net profit growth for the year was driven by higher revenues and improved operational performance across all business lines.



Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board

The meeting elected Shaikh Abdulla Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Khurram Mirza, Dana Raees, Abdulla Kamal, Hisham AlKurdi, Mohamed Abdulla, Naseema Haidar, Khalid Al Jassim and Tala Fakhro as new board members. They also ratified the appointment of Shaikh Abdulla Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Khurram Mirza, Dana Raees and Abdulla Kamal as board members representing the Social Insurance Organization (SIO) and

Hisham AlKurdi representing National Bank of Bahrain.

Earlier this month, SIO acquired an additional 13.22pc of paid-up capital from two of SICO's existing shareholders, Gulf Investment Corporation GSC and Investcorp Holdings BSC, bringing SIO's total ownership in SICO to 50.38pc in paid-up capital.

At the EGM, shareholders approved the establishment of a new subsidiary in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, SICO Financial Saudi Company, to undertake activities including the management of private non-real estate investment funds (PFM) and sophisticated investor portfolios (SPM). SICO received a license from the Saudi Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in November 2019 to offer asset management services in the kingdom.

SICO's Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa expressed his gratitude to the board members that served their final term with SICO and welcomed the bank's new board members.

## BBK approves distribution of 51,374,480 dinars cash dividends

TDT | Manama

BBK's ordinary general assembly yesterday approved to distribute BD 51,374,480 as cash dividends for the year 2019.

At 40 fils per share, this is equivalent to 40 per cent of the paid-up capital (interim cash dividends include 10pc paid to shareholders with a total of 12.839.144 BD); the cash dividends will be distributed on 12 April 2020.

The general assembly was held at the Four Seasons Hotel amidst strict preventive health measures. The meeting took place in two separate halls via video conferencing, and chairs were arranged relatively far from each other.

The general assembly agreed to distribute bonus shares to shareholders at 5pc of the paid-up capital. This equals 5 shares for every 100 shares held, for a total of BD 6,484,459, to become the bank's capital after the increase of BD 136,173,633 divided into 1.361.736,332 shares.

The amount of BD 6,422,556 bonus shares on the paid-up capital does not include treasury shares and the amount of BD 61,903 bonus shares on treasury shares. BD 7,536,144 has been transferred to the statutory reserve and BD 7,536,144 to the general reserve.

The also meeting approved BD2,000,000 for donations to



BBK's Chief Executive, Reyadh Sater



Murad Ali Murad, Chairman of BBK

the bank and its subsidiaries and recycling the amount of BD430,213 as retained earnings carried over to the next year.

The AGM also approved recommendations for the appropriation of BD650,000 awarded to board members for the year 2019.

The General Assembly of BBK elected seven members to the Board of Directors. New members are Murad Ali Murad, Sh. Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Ghania Mohsen Al Darazi, Jassem Hassan Zainal, Edrees Musaed Ahmad, Sh. Khalifa bin Duaj Al Khalifa, and Mohammad Abdulrahman Hussain. The meeting also named Mishal Ali Al Hellow and Naser Al Raee, Hani Al Maskati Ashraf Bseisu and Noor Al-Jassem as non-executive members of the Board of Directors.

Subsequently, BBK held the extraordinary general assembly which increased the issued and

paid-up capital to an amount not exceeding BD 136,173,633.

Murad Ali Murad, Chairman of BBK, said "BBK enters the year 2020 more determined to face the challenges that were exacerbated by the spread of the Coronavirus that has taken a heavy toll on business and deepened the fiscal deficit. The continuous decline of oil prices, the reduction of the federal interest rate, the increase in the state budget's deficits and the accompanying increase in debts all continue to be a serious concern."

BBK's Chief Executive, Reyadh Sater, said that BBK is aggressively pursuing its strategic goals, as during the year 2019 the bank distributed interim cash dividends of 10 fils per share, and the bank successfully converted BD 86.1 million "the AT1 perpetual bonds" to CET1 capital, besides successfully issued USD 500 million new senior unsecured note for 5 years under the EMTN programme.



## Announcement to the Shareholders of Zain Bahrain B.S.C.

Due to the current circumstances, in line with Zain Bahrain B.S.C. interest in ensuring public safety and as instructed by the authorities in the kingdom of Bahrain to have electronic and teleconferencing procedures in place to hold Zain Bahrain B.S.C.'s AGM and EGM, it has been decided to hold both assembly meetings in cooperation with Bahrain Clear, making use of its teleconferencing facilities in Bahrain Bourse Business Center as scheduled on Monday 30 March at 11:00 a.m.

In order to participate in both assembly meetings through electronic means, we direct our esteemed shareholders to the following instructions:

1) Kindly send your request to participate in the meetings and attach a clear copy of your ID or Passport (Either for the shareholder or his/ her representative) as well as the proxy form to [ir@bh.zain.com](mailto:ir@bh.zain.com) to verify the identity of the participator at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meetings. Please mention in the same email your email address and phone number.

2) After receiving all the required documents and information, participants will receive instructions related to the electronic communication (ZOOM) prior to the above-mentioned meetings' time. It is also required to have both audio and video features on.

Based on the aforementioned, we request our respected shareholders to abide by the instructions mentioned above in order to ensure the smooth convening of the assembly meetings in accordance with the rules and regulations.

For further information, please contact Zain Bahrain's Registrar, Bahrain Clear on the following:

Hotline: +973-17108775  
WhatsApp: +973-33510008  
Email: [csd.info@bahrainclear.com](mailto:csd.info@bahrainclear.com)

## Global stock markets rally on Fed boost

AFP | London

World stock markets rallied strongly yesterday after the US Federal Reserve launched an unprecedented bond-buying plan, the latest salvo in a global counter-attack against fallout from the coronavirus outbreak.

European equities charged higher as investors shrugged off grim survey data showing collapsing eurozone and UK business activity in March, followed by Wall Street which also surged at the opening bell in

New York. The dollar beat a retreat from Monday's three-year peak against the euro on the Fed news.

London stocks won more support after Britain became the latest western nation to implement a nationwide lockdown to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

US senators remain gridlocked, with Democrats on Monday again blocking a nearly \$2 trillion rescue package for the economy.

While much of the planet goes into lockdown, traders

gave a massive thumbs up to the US central bank's pledge to essentially print money in a move not seen since the global financial crisis.

The Fed, which has already slashed interest rates to record lows, said it will buy unlimited amounts of Treasury debt and take steps to lend directly to small- and medium-sized firms hammered by restrictions across the country.

Earlier Tuesday, equities in Asia rallied with Tokyo ending more than seven per cent higher.

# Blunting the Impact and Hard Choices: Early Lessons from China

HELGE BERGER, KENNETH KANG, AND CHANGYONG RHEE

The impact of the coronavirus is having a profound and serious impact on the global economy and has sent policymakers looking for ways to respond. China's experience so far shows that the right policies make a difference in fighting the disease and mitigating its impact—but some of these policies come with difficult economic tradeoffs.

## Hard choices

Success in containing the virus comes at the price of slowing economic activity, no matter whether social distancing and reduced mobility are voluntary or enforced. In China's case, policymakers implemented strict mobility constraints, both at the national and local level—for example, at the height of the outbreak, many cities enforced strict curfews on their citizens. But the tradeoff was nowhere as devastating as in Hubei province, which, despite much help from the rest of China, suffered heavily while helping to slow down the spread of the disease across the nation.

This makes it clear that, as the pandemic takes hold across the world, those hit the hardest—within countries but also across countries—will need support to help contain the virus and delay its spread to others.

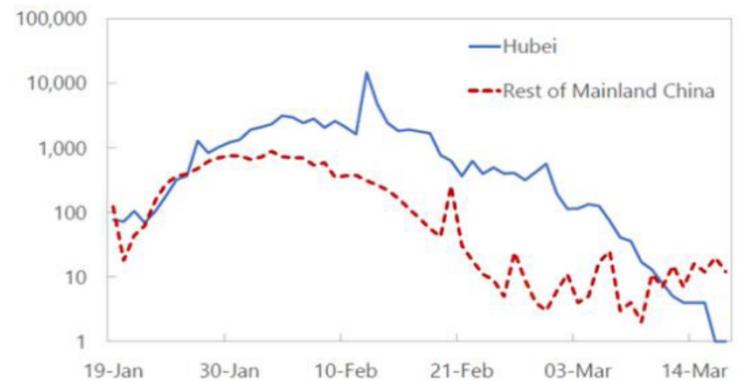
## High costs

The outbreak brought terrible human suffering in China, as it is continuing to do elsewhere, along with significant economic costs. By all indications, China's

## Tale of "two Chinas"

Strict containment measures in Hubei helped limit the virus's spread in the rest of Mainland China.

(New infections in Mainland China, per day, logarithmic scale)



Source: CEIC; and IMF staff calculations.

Note: Infection numbers include imported cases. Logarithmic scale allows to compare growth rates of new infections between the Hubei province and the rest of Mainland China.

## Sudden Industrial production

(Industrial production)



Source: Haver

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

slowdown in the first quarter of 2020 will be significant and will leave a deep mark for the year.

What started as a series of sudden stops in economic activity, quickly cascaded through the economy and morphed into a full-blown shock simultaneously impeding supply and demand—as visible in the very weak January-February readings of industrial production and retail sales. The coronavirus shock is severe even compared to the Great Financial Crisis in 2007–08, as it hit households, businesses,

financial institutions, and markets all at the same time—first in China and now globally.

## Quick action

Mitigating the impact of this severe shock requires providing support to the most vulnerable. Chinese policymakers have targeted vulnerable households and looked for new ways to reach smaller firms—for example, by waiving social security fees, utility bills, and channeling credit

through fintech firms. Other policies can also help. The authorities quickly arranged subsidized credit to support scaling up the production of health equipment and other critical activities involved in the outbreak response.

Safeguarding financial stability requires assertive and well-communicated action. The past weeks have shown how a health crisis, however temporary, can turn into an economic shock where liquidity shortages and market disruptions can amplify and perpetuate

# Covid-19: Six top tips for online teaching



ANDREW FIELD

The current global spread of the Covid-19 virus means that many schools and teachers around the world are looking into how they can continue to teach their pupils remotely if their schools need to close for a limited time. It has been noted that many schools and teachers have had little training or experience in online teaching. In response, Cambridge International has developed a set of recommendations to support teachers make confident use of technology – both within the current situation and in the future.

## Routines are vital

From the outset, look for ways to establish routines that allow everyone to get organised and be engaged. This is about using your existing expertise as teachers to help organise, support and encourage learners to make the best of the situation. This very much depends on your setting, but instead of a morning registration could you have an online morning check-in? Are there any existing routines that you may move online? Are there opportunities to provide learners with more opportunities to share and communicate? Perhaps a small group

could be in charge of summarising the recent classwork? Online doesn't have to be scary – it can be a new way that allows learners to flourish in different ways. Your teaching experience is still key and nobody expects you to be an online expert from day one. Your learners will also be able to assist enormously – they could even be given the task of organising and setting up the routines.

## Be encouraging

### Remember to motivate learners.

Written feedback can sometimes come across as harsher criticism than spoken feedback, so are there ways to use video tools instead? How can learners overcome potential issues in responding? And how can you make sure nobody feels isolated online? The answer with all these questions is to use your experience as a teacher. Within a classroom situation, you would use active learning and supportive activities to allow all learners to contribute effectively. Look for ways to adapt these for an online setting. Perhaps someone nervous at presenting via video might be able to record a presentation with a voiceover. Provide learners with a range of tools, such as these, and allow them to pick.

Also, be open with your learners. We are all facing unprecedented events and uncertain times. Provide learners the space to share their fears and encourage them to do so.



## Is anybody out there?

With remote learning there are real concerns about loneliness, welfare and lack of interaction. It is important to find a way of keeping everyone in contact. You could do this by running a discussion forum or chat group. If your school has

a learning platform or learning management tool you could use this. It's the impact that matters, not the platform. Experiment with discussion tools, set up a forum and allow your learners to lead. Not everything will work from day one, but don't be afraid to acknowledge

where it's not quite meant to see what works for learners.

## Don't forget

Just because le

1955

Civil rights activists led by **Martin Luther King Jr.** successfully complete their 4-day 50-mile march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery, Alabama.



1969

During their honeymoon, **John Lennon and Yoko Ono** hold their first Bed-In for Peace at the Amsterdam Hilton Hotel (until March 31).

1971

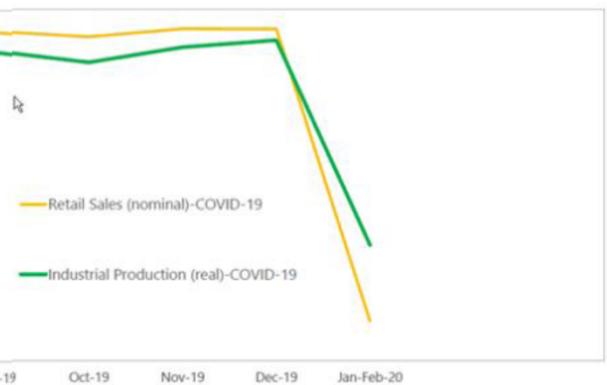
The Army of the Republic of Vietnam abandon an attempt to cut off the **Ho Chi Minh trail** in Laos.

1979

The first fully functional Space Shuttle orbiter, Columbia, is delivered to the **John F. Kennedy** Space Center to be prepared for its first launch.

halt  
ial production and retail sales suffered  
e drops.

duction and retail sales in Mainland China, in percent change from a year ago)



and IMF staff calculations.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

In China, the authorities stepped in early to backstop interbank markets and provide financial support to firms under pressure, while letting the renminbi adjust to external pressures. Among other measures, this included guiding banks to work with borrowers affected by the outbreak; incentivizing banks to lend to smaller firms via special funding from China's central bank; and providing targeted cuts to reserve requirements for banks. Larger firms, including state-owned en-

terprises, enjoyed relatively stable credit access throughout—in large part because China's large state banks continued to lend generously to them.

Of course, some of the relief tools come with their own problems. For example, allowing a broad range of debtors more time to meet their financial obligations can undermine financial soundness later on if it is not aimed at the problem at hand and time-limited; subsidized credit can be misallocated; and

Success in containing the virus comes at the price of slowing economic activity, no matter whether social distancing and reduced mobility are voluntary or enforced.

keeping already non-viable firms alive could hold back productivity growth later. Clearly, wherever possible, using well-targeted instruments is the way to go.

Not over

While there are reassuring signs of economic normalization in China—most larger firms have reported reopening their doors and many local employees are back at their jobs—stark risks remain. This includes new infections rising again as national and international travel resumes. Even in the absence of another outbreak in China, the ongoing pandemic is creating economic risks. For example, as more countries face outbreaks and global financial markets gyrate, consumers and firms may remain wary, depressing global demand for Chinese goods just as the economy is getting back to work. Therefore, Chinese policymakers will have to be ready to support growth and financial stability if needed. Given the global nature of the outbreak, many of these efforts will be most effective if coordinated internationally.

# ng and learning

From the outset, look for ways to establish routines that allow everyone to get organised and be engaged. This is about using your existing expertise as teachers to help organise, support and encourage learners to make the best of the situation.

physically together in a classroom, that doesn't mean they can't work together on a project. One of the most effective ways to support remote teaching and learning is to give every learner an opportunity to deliver a topic area.

For example, you could divide up the current areas of study and ask learners to teach the rest of the class. This may be as individuals or in small groups. You could ask learners to hold a seminar and include online tools to engage their audience. They might, for example, deliver a short, interactive presentation covering key information and then follow that up with an online challenge to gather feedback and assess understanding.

There are different ways of approaching this. A class could meet online one day, share their challenges and then

agree to meet a few days later to explore their findings. The role of the teacher is key to establish and drive the learning expectations. However, there is a huge opportunity to open up the work further to the learners themselves.

Have the right kit

No specific hardware or software is required beyond an internet connection. Standard office software tools are particularly effective to collate ideas online and develop collaborative responses. An online Word document or shared Google doc can be edited by many people at once. Try these ideas out, share with your learners when you would appreciate their help. Their response will astound you. Here learners will develop skills for their future working life at the same time as completing their school work.

Stay safe

The tools you choose should be in line with your school's eSafety policy. It's important to refer to your school procedures and discuss any concerns with colleagues.

To sum up, stretch your learners and ask for their suggestions and ideas. Keep classes talking, sharing and collaborating. And most importantly, remember that it may take time to get it right. This is a learning experience for everyone!

(Andrew is eLearning Manager at Cambridge Assessment International Education.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The Republican bill is very bad. Democrats can see that so long as their leaders are opposed to it. But I worry that once Pelosi and Schumer cut a deal, a substantial majority of Democrats will immediately support it, no matter what the actual terms are.

@zachdcarter

02



Congress must approve the deal, without all of the nonsense, today. The longer it takes, the harder it will be to start up our economy. Our workers will be hurt!

@realDonaldTrump

03



#Chloroquine has now been added to treatment guidelines for #Coronavirus for South Korea, China & Belgium. Successful treatments in France & Australia are powerful. Great Britain has now banned its export. We must ensure adequate supply for the USA!

@VanHipp

04



Korea takes the GPS data from an infected patient's phone and notifies everyone who was physically near that patient of that fact, for example. We won't do that. Hence we probably need at least double the penetration of testing (12k/1MM residents, or 4MM tests) to get there.

@Avik

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

## Online Learning in the Age of Disruption

PROF. ODEH AL-JAYYOUSI

In investment, it is always useful to diversify investment portfolios so as to secure sustainable economies. Besides, to ensure energy security, it is vital for nations to have an energy mix of both renewable and non-renewable energy. The same logic applies to education platforms and models. During the current disruptions due to Corona virus, nations worldwide are adopting social distancing, curfews, and limited gathering, hence, the adoption and diffusion of a variety of on-line learning platforms is not an option but a strategic resort to sustain education. Despite the fact that new technologies exist to support education and learning, the integration of technology in schools and universities are below expectation. We need to be mindful that new business models and innovation in education are likely to offer qualitative changes in terms of efficiency, quality and equity. It will be prudent for educational institutions and policy makers not to be risk averse and move from their comfort zone and embed digital technology in the education system at all levels.

There is immense pressure from policy makers and the public to keep our lives normal under disruption. Simply, policy makers are commissioned to ensure timely delivery of all products and services. Also, students do not want to miss an academic year. Parents are keen to see their kids graduate and businesses do not want to lose profits or to go out of business. Some people see their joy and energy by being outdoors and now they must adapt to new lifestyles and discipline. Families are faced with real challenges to stay home despite all the social media outlets and mass media.

Success factors for technology integration include strategy, leadership, appropriate technology and organizational culture. Specifically, to foster an innovation-friendly culture to integrate e-learning and to give it a meaning and a purpose, educators need to master new ways of delivering and preparing the educational content to enhance interaction, critical thinking and imagination. In theory, technology adoption models view that users need to perceive that the technology is useful and easy to apply. In many instances, the challenge for technology adoption stems in educators' resistance to apply technology in education since they are used to human interaction and that is why they are labelled as "digital refugees" compared with students who are technology savvy and "digital natives". Another challenge beyond technology acceptance from educators is the selection of adequate methods for students' assessment and evaluation. However, there are many digital platforms and educational learning systems like MOODLE which allows for attendance, discussion, and exams. Educators have to swim upstream and unlock the potential of digital technology. The key challenges for on-line learning is to ensure digital equity for the have nots and bridge the digital divide for communities who are off-line.

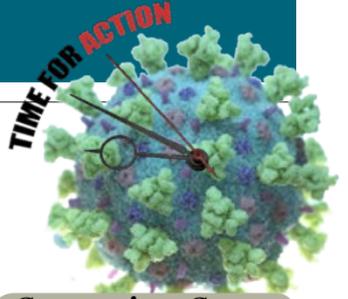
Digital technologies play a vital role in fostering global partnerships, introducing innovative pedagogic models and in harnessing simulation like gaming, virtual reality, virtual labs and real-time learning.

The model of learning at the Arab Open University is unique and disruptive. It proved to meet strict standards of quality and excellence in education. This is a result of sound investment in ICT infrastructure, capacity building and curriculum development. Many schools and universities worldwide realized the potential of digital technology which helped to transform the educational practice. During the pandemic of Corona virus, my house was transformed to a virtual university. My wife and my daughter both deliver their classes on-line. This compelled me to learn new digital tools to communicate with my students. The challenge is to choose a time where there is no noise to disrupt my lecture. This is an emerging model of crisis-driven innovation and co-creation.

Digital technologies play a vital role in fostering global partnerships, introducing innovative pedagogic models and in harnessing simulation like gaming, virtual reality, virtual labs and real-time learning. More importantly, the education industry has a window of opportunity to listen to customers and students and co-create appropriate educational technology. At the personal level, maintaining the right balance between work and life is the cornerstone for a resilient society. While working from home, students need to adopt new lifestyle including playing sport, going for a walk, playing Scrabble, Monopoly, and Master Mind, reading books on-line, taking free on-line courses. For researchers, this is an ideal time to publish or perish.

(Prof. Odeh Al-Jayyousi; Professor of Innovation and Technology Management, Arabian Gulf University; e-mail: odjayyousi@gmail.com)

# world



## India to go under total virus lockdown

AFP | New Delhi

India's 1.3 billion people will go under "total lockdown" for 21 days to combat the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday.

"From 12 midnight today (1830 GMT Tuesday), the entire country will be in lockdown, total lockdown," Modi said in a national television address to the world's second most-populous nation.

"To save India, to save its every citizen, you, your family... every street, every neighbourhood is being put under lockdown."

India has lagged behind other nations in the number of COVID-19 cases, but there has been a sharp increase in recent days to 519 infections, including 10

**“If these 21 days are not managed, the country and your family will go back 21 years... I am not saying this as your prime minister, I am saying it as your fellow citizen, family member.”**

NARENDRA MODI, INDIAN PRIME MINISTER



deaths, according to the government. A raft of lockdown measures has been brought in by individual states -- including sealing borders and restricting movement to only essential services -- to try and prevent an explosion of cases that could overwhelm the fragile public health system.

Modi warned that Indians had to observe the lockdown if they wanted to stop the spread of the deadly virus.

"This is a curfew... We will

have to pay economic cost of this, but to save every family member, this is the responsibility of everyone -- the biggest priority," the prime minister added.

"If these 21 days are not managed, the country and your family will go back 21 years... I am not saying this as your prime minister, I am saying it as your fellow citizen, family member."

India's government will soon announce a fiscal package to help the economy face the impact of the coronavirus, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Sitharaman relaxed a number of tax compliance rules for individuals and firms and also raised the threshold of triggering insolvency cases to 10 mln rupees from 100,000 rupees currently.

Coronavirus Cases:

**401,831**

Deaths

**17,501**

Recovered:

**103,820**

Active cases

**280,510**

Closed cases

**121,321**

### Russia has no 'clear picture' of extent of virus outbreak: official

Moscow

Russian authorities do not know the full extent of the coronavirus outbreak across the country and should step up measures to stem the pandemic, a top official said Tuesday.

Russia, which shares a border with China and has a population of 144 million, has officially reported 495 cases of the coronavirus but no confirmed fatalities.

"The problem is that the volume of testing is very low and no one has a clear picture" of the situation in Russia and the world, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin told President Vladimir Putin during a meeting.

"The picture that is unfolding is serious," said Sobyenin, who heads an anti-coronavirus task force at Russia's State Council.

He said the number of people infected with the coronavirus was "significantly" higher than official figures.

Taking the day to discuss the epidemic, Putin later visited Moscow's new infectious diseases clinic, where he donned a hazmat suit and met head doctor Denis Protsenko.

He warned the president that Russia may be headed for the Italian scenario of a spike in heavy cases and fatalities,



Putin visited Moscow's new infectious diseases clinic wearing a hazmat suit

particularly in Moscow.

"It is important to prepare for the 'Italian' scenario. If there is a big spike, and Moscow is headed there, our hospital is ready to transform," he said.

If new cases "suddenly" flatline, doctors will be overjoyed, but "we must still prepare for the worst," he told Putin.

Putin said last week that the coronavirus outbreak is under control in Russia.

The country has gradually tightened restrictions, halting cultural and sports events and closing schools and fitness clubs.

### Saudi reports first Covid-19 casualty

AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday reported its first death from the new coronavirus as the total number of infections spiked to 767, according to the health ministry.

An Afghan resident in the western city of Medina died from the virus, the ministry said, while reporting 205 new infections -- the biggest jump in the kingdom in a single day.

Saudi Arabia, which has reported the highest number of infections in the Gulf, began implementing a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew on Monday to limit the spread of the deadly COVID-19.

The Arab world's biggest economy has also closed down cinemas, malls and restaurants, halted flights and suspended the year-round umrah pilgrimage as it steps up efforts to contain the virus.

King Salman warned on Thursday of a "more difficult" fight ahead against the virus, as the kingdom faces the double blow of virus-led shutdowns and crashing oil prices.

Last week, the kingdom unveiled stimulus measures amounting to 120 billion riyals (\$32 billion) to support businesses and said it plans to



An empty road in the Saudi capital Riyadh after authorities imposed a curfew for 21 days to curb the spread of the coronavirus

raise borrowing to 50 percent of GDP.

Similar restrictions and stimulus measures have been reported by other countries in the Gulf, where more than 2,100 coronavirus infections have been reported so far.

Bahrain recorded its third death from the virus on Tuesday, while Oman said it would from March 29 suspend all passenger flights -- except to and from Musandam bordering the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's cabinet on Tuesday said anyone caught intentionally spreading the virus could face up to 10 years in jail, according to state media.

Kuwait -- which has recorded 191 cases so far -- has taken the strictest measures in the Gulf by largely locking down the country to combat the spread of COVID-19.

### South Africa's coronavirus cases surge past 500

Johannesburg

South Africa reported more than 150 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, taking the new tally to 554, the highest in Africa, a day after it ordered a three-week lockdown.

"As of today, there are 554 cases of coronavirus in South Africa," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, told a news conference.

"For the next week or two we still expect the numbers to go up. This is a disease pattern we cannot predict."

### Britain in lockdown

London

Britain was under lockdown Tuesday, its population joining around 1.7 billion people around the globe ordered to stay indoors to curb the "accelerating" spread of the coronavirus. Across Europe, Asia, North America, the Middle East and parts of Africa, governments have told their citizens to remain at home as they grapple with a disease that has claimed thousands of lives -- and shows no signs of slowing.

But in a sign of hope, China's central Hubei province, where the deadly coronavirus first emerged late last year, is to lift travel curbs after two months under lockdown.

The British government, which has faced accusations it dithered over the health crisis and needlessly allowed schools to remain open far longer than European counterparts, came into line on Monday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered a three-week shutdown of "non-essential" shops and services and banned gatherings of more than two people.

### Turks fight coronavirus with secret weapon: eau de cologne



Health Minister Fahrettin Koca urged Turks to use cologne as an alternative hand sanitiser

Istanbul

In Turkey, sprinkling hands with cologne has long been a ritual for a visit to the barber, a meal at a restaurant or even a trip on the bus.

It is seen as a symbol of hospitality, as well as an aid to hygiene, in a country that sets great store by both.

Now Turkish cologne -- found in almost every household, either in the fridge or a closet -- is seeing unprecedented demand as a weapon in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Many Turks believe cologne, which has a high alcohol content, is effective in keeping hands and faces clean and thus warding off the risk of COVID-19.

Long queues could be seen outside cologne shops in Istanbul's busy spice market, in the historic Eminonu district, in early March before Turkey announced its first confirmed case.

Now shops and pharmacies have put up signs reading "cologne sold out".

People are commonly seen sprinkling cologne into their hands in the middle of the street, while taxi drivers offer doses to their clients.

### Middle East

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Bahrain	389	+13	3	+1	164	212	2	229
Saudi Arabia	767	+205	1	+1	28	738		22
UAE	248	+50	2		45	201	2	25
Kuwait	191	+2			39	152	5	45
Oman	84	+18			17	67		16
Jordan	127				1	126		12
Iraq	316	+50	27	+4	75	214		8
Egypt	366		19		68	279		4

### Trump says 'not easy' to get face masks

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday acknowledged the difficulty of procuring crucial healthcare supplies amid the coronavirus pandemic as state and local officials raise alarms about a healthcare delivery system in danger of collapse.

In an early morning tweet, Trump said:



"The World market for face masks and ventilators is Crazy. We are helping the states to get equipment, but it is not easy."

# Loss of smell could reveal hidden virus cases: experts

AFP | Paris

From a mother unable to smell her baby's nappy to a lawmaker who suddenly could not taste food, some coronavirus patients have described a loss of olfactory senses -- and experts say this might be a new way to detect the virus.

Ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists in Britain, the United States and France have noted a growing number of patients in recent weeks with anosmia -- the abrupt loss of smell -- and have said this could be a sign of COVID-19 in people who otherwise appear well.

In Britain, ENT doctors have urged health authorities to advise people with a sudden loss of smell or taste to self-isolate even if they have no other symptoms.

"Anything we can do to delay transmission is absolutely vital," Claire Hopkins, the president of the British Rhinological Society, said.

Hopkins, who published an open letter on the issue on Friday with ENT UK chief Nirmal Kumar, said she was not surprised when she heard initial reports from Iran and France of COVID-19 patients reporting a loss of smell.

Around 40 per cent of cases of sudden loss of smell in adults are caused by post-viral anosmia, she said, and previously known coronaviruses are thought to account for up to 15 percent.

But she said the turning point came when an Italian colleague working in a hospital in the worst-hit north of the country mentioned he had observed a high incidence of loss of smell among frontline health workers.

This led to a flurry of posts on professional message boards.

"We all started to note an increase in patients who were



Anosmia is the abrupt loss of smell

**The World Health Organisation lists the most common signs of COVID-19 as fever, tiredness and dry cough**

young and otherwise completely asymptomatic presenting with new onset sense of smell loss," said Hopkins.

Nine out of the 20 patients she saw last week had recently lost their ability to smell.

"That's extremely unusual," she said, adding that several of these patients had called Britain's health authorities concerned about COVID-19 but were told there was no need to self-isolate because it was not a recognised symptom.

## 'Significant symptoms'

Experts in several countries have flagged anosmia as a potential sign of COVID-19.

In France the head of the health service, Jerome Salomon, on Friday said ENT specialists had observed a "surge" in anosmia cases and said while it was still relatively rare, it had been seen in younger patients with "mild" symptoms.

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery on Sunday noted growing anecdotal evidence that anosmia and dysgeusia -- taste disorder -- were "significant symptoms" of the virus.

In Germany, virologist Hendrik Streeck from the University of Bonn, went house to house in Heinsberg, where around 1000 people were put under a two-week quarantine in February because of a local outbreak.

He said some two thirds of infected people reported losing their sense of smell and taste for a few days.

"It went so far that one

mother could no longer smell her child's full nappy. Others couldn't smell their shampoo anymore and their food started to taste bland," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

## Help for health workers

A lack of testing in many countries means that often only those with the most severe symptoms are confirmed to have the virus.

But several high-profile patients with milder cases have reported a loss of olfactory senses.

Nadine Dorries, the first British politician to test positive, said she lost both her sense of smell and taste.

"Eating and drinking warm or cold that's all I can tell," she posted on Twitter last week.

French basketball player Rudy Gobert, 27, whose positive coronavirus test prompted the NBA to shut down its season, tweeted he had not "been able to smell anything for the last 4 days" on Sunday.

Absent, a UK charity that provides support and advice on olfactory training to a relatively small community of people who have lost their sense of smell, has seen interest "skyrocket", according to founder Chrissi Kelly.

Many people reported that close contacts and family members had also experienced anosmia symptoms within recent weeks.

She said the advice on sense of smell loss could be particularly useful as a sign for medical workers to get a test or self-isolate, even without other symptoms.

"A healthcare worker who is infected unknowingly and spreading infection around colleagues is a disaster because we need to keep the workforce as healthy as possible," she said.

## First patient recovers from new coronavirus, leaves makeshift Madrid facility



Medical staff at a makeshift medical facility in Madrid discharge their first patient to have recovered from the new coronavirus.

## For Moscow's quarantined, 100,000 cameras are watching

Moscow

A vast and contentious network of facial recognition cameras keeping watch over Moscow is now playing a key role in the battle against the spread of the coronavirus in Russia. The city rolled out the technology just before the epi-

demic reached Russia, ignoring protests and legal complaints over sophisticated state surveillance.

Since last month, thousands of Muscovites have been confined to their homes for 14 days of compulsory quarantine after returning from virus-hit countries.

The Russian capital already had a tight network of 170,000 security cameras, set up in streets and metro stations throughout the city over the past decade. Around 100,000 have now been linked to artificial intelligence systems that can identify people being filmed.

## Spanish soldiers find bodies in retirement homes

Madrid

Spanish soldiers deployed to help fight the new coronavirus outbreak have found elderly patients abandoned, and sometimes dead, at retirement homes, as an ice rink inside a Madrid shopping mall was turned into a temporary morgue to cope with a surge in cases.

The army has been charged with helping to disinfect retirement homes in Spain, one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic. Dozens of deaths from



The ice rink at the Palacio de Hielo, or Ice Palace, shopping centre in Madrid

COVID-19 have been recorded at facilities across the country.

"We are going to be strict and inflexible when dealing with the way old people are treated

in these residences," Defence Minister Margarita Robles said in an interview with private television channel Telecinco.

"The army, during certain visits, found some old people completely abandoned, sometimes even dead in their beds," she added.

An investigation has been launched, the general prosecutor announced.

The coronavirus death toll in Spain surged to 2,182 on Monday after 462 people died within 24 hours, according to health ministry figures.

## Pakistan suspends civil servants for corona patient selfie

Karachi

Pakistan has suspended six civil servants after they posed for a selfie with a coronavirus patient in a quarantine centre, an official said Tuesday.

The selfie -- widely shared on social media -- pictured a group of men around the apparent patient, several of them smiling broadly and none wearing face masks.

The picture was taken at a quarantine facility near Sukkur in virus-hit Sindh province, where 399 of the country's 892



Pakistan troops patrol wearing facemasks

COVID-19 cases have been recorded so far.

"Six of the government employees have been suspended and put into quarantine," Rana Adeel, deputy commissioner in

Sukkur, told AFP.

The commissioner added the six -- employees of the provincial land department -- were visiting a local politician who was in quarantine after contracting the novel coronavirus during a visit to Iran.

The suspension comes as Pakistan continued locking down large swathes of the country to battle the contagion.

Sindh police reported more than 700 people had been arrested in the bustling Karachi since Monday when the province announced its lockdown.

## Three-pronged distancing most effective at controlling COVID-19 - study

Reuters | London

A key modelling study from Singapore has found that putting multiple social lockdowns in place - including school closures - will have the biggest impact on curbing COVID-19, the pandemic disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Quarantining infected people and their family members, closing schools, and imposing workplace distancing and home-working can all limit the spread, the study found, but a combination of all three is most effective in reducing cases.

Singapore, which according to the latest World Health Organi-



High school English teacher, Fabiano da Silva Silveira, 41, from the Colegio Israelita Brasileiro or Brazilian Israeli High School leads an online class after regular classes were suspended due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Singapore, which according to the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) data had reported 455 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two deaths as of March 22, has imposed some social distancing recommendations but has not closed its schools.**

sation (WHO) data had reported 455 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two deaths as of March 22,

has imposed some social distancing recommendations but has not closed its schools.

Elsewhere, millions of children have seen their schools closed in the United States, across much of Europe and in many other countries as governments have imposed strict social lockdown measures to stop people meeting and mingling in groups.

Published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, the study, conducted by researchers from the National University of Singapore (NUS), looked at a simulated Singapore setting to analyse the potential impact of social distancing policies.

It found that while less effective than the combined three-pronged approach, quarantine plus workplace measures presented the next best option for reducing COVID-19 cases, followed by quarantine plus school closure, and then quarantine only.

"The results of this study provide policy makers in Singapore and other countries with evidence to begin the implementation of enhanced outbreak control measures that could mitigate or reduce local transmission rates if deployed effectively and in a timely manner," said Alex R Cook, an associate professor at NUS who co-led the work.

# celebs

Taylor Swift



## Taylor Swift: Kim Kardashian, Kanye West put me through hell

Los Angeles

Pop superstar Taylor Swift says rapper Kanye West's leaked video proves she was being framed, asserting that she was telling the truth.

Just days after the alleged full audio of her phone conversation with Kanye got leaked online, Swift has addressed and sent a message to her fans.

The pop superstar, 30, posted to her Instagram Story on Monday and revealed she feels vindicated, reports [dailymail.co.uk](#).

In an image posted as part of her Instagram Stories, the singer wrote: "Instead of answering those who are asking how I feel about the video footage that leaked,

proving that I was telling the truth the whole time about \*that call\*"

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian



(you know, the one that was illegally recorded, that somebody edited and manipulated in order to frame me and put me, my family, and fans through hell for 4 years)... SWIPE up to see what really matters."

She asked people to now move on from the headline-grabbing infamous feud between her and Kim and Kanye — which stemmed from the rapper's lyrics in his track "Famous".

The singer directed her followers to the Feeding America website, suggesting they donate to the non-profit organisation that operates a network of food banks helping people impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

## Ben Affleck, Ana de Armas quarantine together

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Ben Affleck and Spanish actress Ana de Armas have quarantined together after their getaway.

The rumoured couple got back to Los Angeles after a cost time together in scenic Costa Rica and Cuba and Costa Rica. Now, they have quarantined themselves together at home.

"Ana is very happy with Ben," a source told *Us Weekly*, according to a report in [aceshowbiz.com](#).

The source added: "She loves spending time with him and they have great chemistry and a lot of fun together."

The rumours of the two started when they were spotted together in her hometown of Havana, Cuba in early February. The pair, who met during the filming of their upcoming

ing psychological thriller movie "Deep Water", continued their romantic getaway in Costa Rica.

Onlookers watched as Affleck, known for his comic-book role of Batman in "Justice League", seemed to be "blissfully happy" in the company of Armas, the new Bond girl in the upcoming "No Time To Die".

The source added: "He can't stop smiling and laughing. He is clearly very into Ana."

The insider went on to explain that the pair "have been staying at their home on the beach relaxing" and "coming out for sunset walks each day and look very happy together."

Affleck has made no attempt to hide the relationship. When Armas, 31, posted photographs on social media, Affleck joked that he ought to get credits because some of the pictures were clicked by him.

Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas



## Akshay to those who won't take lockdown seriously: Have you lost it?

Mumbai

Akshay Kumar can't figure out why some people will not take the concept of lockdown seriously in the time of COVID-19 pandemic, as is apparent in a new video the Bollywood superstar has posted.

"Have some people lost it? Who all are not understanding the meaning of lockdown? Lockdown means you are supposed to stay at home,

with your family and not roaming around in the streets. Are you trying to show how brave you are by stepping out? It is not going to help. You will end up landing in the hospital and affect your family as well. Nobody will be safe if you behave in a careless manner. I'm requesting you with folded hands please use your brain," Akshay says in the video.



Akshay Kumar

## Chris Hemsworth offers his workout regimes for free amid COVID-19 lockdown

Los Angeles

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth is offering all of the workouts from his fitness app Centr for free, as gyms worldwide are shut down amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 36-year-old actor announced members will get free access to his health, fitness and wellbeing program Centr for six weeks, including at-home training, healthy recipes using easily-available ingredients, meditations, and sleep visualisations, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#)



Chris Hemsworth

"There's a lot of fear, anxiety and uncertainty in the world at the moment. You're probably stuck at home so I wanted to give everybody full access for free to my fitness app over the next six weeks," he said.

## Disha Patani and Tiger Shroff's sister make funny 'bored in a house' video

Mumbai

Actor Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna along with actress Disha Patani are getting bored at home — at least that's what they have expressed through their latest funny "bored in a house" video.

To kill their boredom, Disha and Krishna have made a Tik Tok video. The two were seen dancing to the tunes of an amusing track "I'm bored in a house".

Disha shared this fun video on Instagram and captioned: "This is how we do it #quarantinelifelife @kishushroff."

On the work front, Disha's performance in her last release, "Malang" was applauded, and the film did good business. She will soon be seen sharing screen space with superstar Salman Khan in the upcoming film "Radhe".



## Wells Adams jokes about splitting with Sarah Hyland

Los Angeles

Actor Wells Adams has joked that "it's over" between him and "Modern Family" star Sarah Hyland following a heated puzzle debacle.

While staying in, Adams had been working on an intricate puzzle with his fiancée — only to find that the last piece was missing, reports [online.com](#). Taking to social media, he shared a picture of the puzzle in his Instagram Stories and wrote, "The hits keep coming."

Much to his surprise, Hyland had hidden the piece.

"You stole the piece?" he yelled as he jokingly scolded Hyland in his next Story. He said: "What is wrong with you?! Why would you do that?"

Hyland tried to reason with Adams. Instead of hearing her out, he exclaimed: "You don't understand how much pain I've been in right now. That's it. We are broken up. It's over."



Wells Adams and Sarah Hyland

## Rajini, Suriya, Karthi, Vijay Sethupathi donate for daily wage workers

Chennai

Superstar Rajinikanth has donated Rs 50 lakh for the wellbeing of daily wage workers of South Indian film industry in the time of complete shutdown owing to the coronavirus pandemic, according to reports. Several other top star of southern cinema including Suriya, Karthi and Vijay



Rajini, Suriya, Karthi and Vijay Sethupathi

Sethupathi, besides many filmmakers have pitched in, too.

Given the recent outbreak of COVID-19, theatres across Tamil Nadu

have been closed, and shoot of films, television serials and advertisements are on hold as well. The Film Employees Federation of South India (FEFSI) president RK Selvamani earlier issued an appeal through a press release requesting the South Indian film fraternity to provide financial help to the daily wage members of the federation who don't have an income right now.

## Big B works out at home, asks fans to keep 'the gym going'

Mumbai

Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan has been inspiring fans to stay fit during self-quarantine in the time of the coronavirus outbreak.

On Tuesday, Big B posted a selfie from his gym.

"Keep the gym going... build resistance... fight fight fight," he captioned the image.

Amitabh's post has garnered a lot of praises. Actor Sidharth Malhotra commented: "Love and respect sir."

Actor Dino Morea wrote: "Terrific sir...keep it going."

On the film front, Big B will be seen in "Chehre" and "Gulabo Sitabo".



Amitabh Bachchan

### SUDOKU

			7		6			
6	2	7	5		9			1
3	8	4	9	6				7
	9			1		8	4	
			4		3			
	7	5		2			6	
5			9	8	4	7	6	
9	8			6	5	1	2	
	2		4					

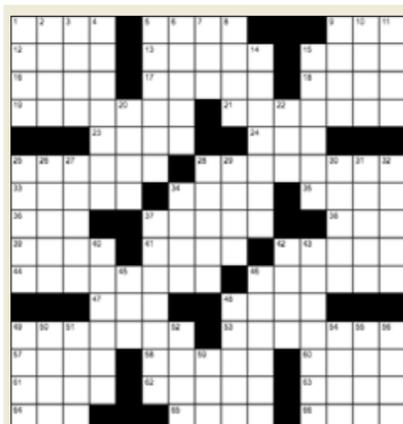
#### Yesterday's solution

1	3	7	5	9	4	8	6	2
8	2	9	6	1	7	5	4	3
4	5	6	8	2	3	7	1	9
5	6	2	1	4	8	9	3	7
9	7	4	3	6	2	1	5	8
3	1	8	9	7	5	4	2	6
7	9	5	2	3	1	6	8	4
2	4	1	7	8	6	3	9	5
6	8	3	4	5	9	2	7	1

#### How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### CROSSWORD



#### Across

1- Assignment; 5- Hick; 9- Grog ingredient; 12- Sewing case; 13- Rub out or remove from memory; 15- "The Farmer in the Dell" syllables; 16- \_\_\_ out a living (barely got by); 17- President Garfield's middle name; 18- Seth's son; 19- Cooking wine; 21- Tense; 23- Potter's oven; 24- Chang's twin; 25- Slovenly; 28- Terran; 33- Profits; 34- Other name for taro; 35- Edible corn; 36- Container cover; 37- Chad neighbor; 38- Thrive, in prescriptions; 39- Lendl of tennis; 41- Ticks off; 42- Diamond corners; 44- Chosen; 46- Separable component; 47- Where it's at; 48- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 49- Pocketbook; 53- Devise beforehand; 57- Dies \_\_\_; 58- Get to the point; 60- Author Morrison; 61- Rip apart; 62- Dicembre follower; 63- Bibliography abbr.; 64- Conductor \_\_\_; Pekka Salonen; 65- Chew on; 66- Confirmation, e.g.;

#### Down

1- Abound; 2- Aleutian island; 3- Plaintiff; 4- Skin of a young goat; 5- "It's true!"; 6- Living in a city; 7- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 8- Biblical birthright seller; 9- Circular band; 10- Oops!; 11- The majority of; 14- High ruler; 15- Stature; 20- Helps; 22- Explosive stuff; 25- Citrus hybrids; 26- Born yesterday, so to speak; 27- Wave-related; 28- Shoved aside; 29- Citrus drinks; 30- Island in the East China Sea; 31- Staggering; 32- Scandinavian; 34- Leprechaun land; 37- Potassium (salt peter); 40- Required; 42- Mother Hubbard's quest; 43- Power plug transformer; 45- Young bear; 46- Next day; 48- Musical drama; 49- Employ; 50- Bellicose deity; 51- "Peter Pan" dog; 52- Jets or Sharks; 54- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 55- Med school subj.; 56- The world's longest river; 59- Corral;

#### Yesterday's solution

A	L	A	R	N	A	R	C	A	S	T			
D	E	M	O	S	O	R	A	L	E	C	T	O	
D	E	I	C	E	J	L	N	A	S	C	A	N	
S	K	A	T	E	R	G	O	Y	E	A	R	L	Y
S	T	O	R	A	M	T	R	A	K				
H	A	T	C	H	E	T	M	O	A				
A	E	R	I	E	V	E	R	T	I	C	A	L	
T	R	I	O	P	I	N	E	N	A	P	E		
S	O	M	N	I	F	I	C		T	A	K	E	N
A	F	T	O	N	E	S	S						
F	O	R	G	E	T	R	E	N	E				
M	E	T	E	O	R	L	A	T	E	S	S	R	
E	L	H	I	N	I	T	R	I	T	E			
O	L	E	G	N	A	M	E	S	A	L	A	D	
W	A	R	N	G	T	O	S			H	O	G	S

## SPORTS

# Formula One expects shortened season

Formula One chairman Chase Carey “fully expects” the 2020 season with 15-18 races

Reuters | London

Formula One expects to run a shortened season of 15-18 grands prix once racing can resume after the coronavirus pandemic, hopefully during the European summer, chairman and chief executive Chase Carey said on Monday.

The original 2020 calendar had a record 22 races but the season has yet to start with the first eight postponed or cancelled and more likely to be called off.

Two, the opener in Australia and the showcase Monaco Grand Prix, have been cancelled while the others -- Bahrain, Vietnam, China, the Netherlands, Spain and Azerbaijan -- need rescheduling.

“We are all committed to bringing our fans a 2020 championship season,” Carey said in a statement.

“We recognise there is significant potential for additional postponements in currently scheduled events, nonetheless we and our partners fully expect the season to start at some point this summer, with a revised calendar of between 15-18 races.”

Formula One needs a minimum of eight races for the season to be a proper championship.

The next race that is still on is the June 14 Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal but that also



Members of the Ferrari team arrive to pack up their equipment after the Formula One Australian Grand Prix was cancelled in Melbourne

looks uncertain, as does France on June 28, and some are already questioning whether Formula One will race at all in 2020.

The coronavirus has laid waste to the sporting calendar, with the European Championship soccer tournament moved from June to next year and the Tokyo Summer Olympics in July-August set to be postponed.

## Revised calendar

Carey recognised that nobody

could be certain when the situation might improve but said the 10 teams would be ready to go racing when it did.

The revised calendar would be considerably shaken up from what was previously published, he added.

Formula One has already brought forward the traditional August break to three weeks in March and April so that it can create a space for rescheduling some of those races that had to

be postponed.

Carey said he expected the season, which was due to finish in Abu Dhabi on Nov 29, to run into December “with the actual sequence and schedule dates for races differing significantly from our original 2020 calendar.”

“It is not possible to provide a more specific calendar now due to the fluidity of the current situation,” added the American.

“But we expect to gain clearer insights to the situation in each

”  
We recognise there is significant potential for additional postponements in currently scheduled events, nonetheless we and our partners fully expect the season to start at some point this summer, with a revised calendar of between 15-18 races

CHASE CAREY

of our host countries, as well as the issues related to travel to these countries, in the coming month.”

He said the situation also offered an opportunity “to evolve the sport, experiment and try new things” through initiatives such as esports and developing more innovative content.

“We’re confident we’ll all get through this and see better days ahead, and, when we do, we’ll ensure that everyone invested in this sport at every level feels rewarded,” said Carey.

## Maldini expects to recover in a week



Ex-Italy captain Paolo Maldini reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | Milan

Former Italy football captain Paolo Maldini said Monday he expects to recover “within a week” after being diagnosed with the new coronavirus.

Maldini, 51, now the technical director at AC Milan, and his 18-year-old son Daniel, a youth team player, had been in self-isolation at home for two weeks.

The team announced on Saturday that they would “remain in quarantine until clinically recovered” from COVID-19.

“With this video I wanted to thank all those people who expressed on social media their love and concern for my and my son’s health,” Maldini said.

“We’re fine -- we should be able to get rid of this virus within a week.”

“Thanks for your continuing affection.”

“I wanted to thank all those doctors, nurses, health workers, civil protection and law enforcement officers who are facing this emergency with the utmost professionalism and enormous courage.”

## UEFA postpones Champions League, Europa League finals

AFP | Nyon, Switzerland

UEFA announced on Monday that it has postponed the Champions League, Europa League and women’s Champions League finals, originally scheduled for May, due to the coronavirus pandemic, with no new date given.

European football’s governing body had already postponed the competitions until further notice earlier this month.

UEFA said that “no decision has yet been made on rearranged dates”.

“The working group, established last week as a result of the conference call among the stakeholders of European football, which was chaired by UEFA president, Aleksander Ceferin, will analyse the options available,” UEFA said in a statement.

“The group has already begun



General view of the trophy before the Round of 16 draw (file photo)

its examination of the calendar. Announcements will be made in due course.”

The 2020 men’s Champions League final had been due to be played at Istanbul’s Ataturk Stadium on May 30, with the Eu-

ropa League final to have been staged in Polish city Gdansk three days before.

The women’s Champions League final was scheduled for May 24 in Vienna.

Four of the men’s Champi-

ons League last-16 second legs, originally slated for March 17 and 18, were delayed because of the new coronavirus outbreak, along with all of the Europa League last-16 return games.

Europe’s top leagues have all been postponed, while the 2020 European Championship has been put back until next year.

Atletico Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain, Atalanta and RB Leipzig are the four teams to have so far booked their places in the Champions League quarter-finals.

More financial pain for UEFA and Europe’s major clubs could be on the horizon if the Champions League cannot be completed.

Last season UEFA paid out 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) in prize money and TV revenue to clubs competing in the Champions League.

## Napoli, Lazio backtrack on return to training

AFP | Milan

Italian clubs Napoli and Lazio have both postponed their planned return to training this week due to the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 6,000 people in Italy.

Italian football has been on hold since March 9 because of the COVID-19 outbreak which has become the Mediterranean nation’s biggest disaster since World War II.

But some clubs had been thinking of resuming training behind closed doors.

“SSC Napoli announces that sports activities are suspended until a date to be decided,” the southerners said in a statement.

“The resumption of training



Napoli’s coach Carlo Ancelotti (C) leads a training session (file photo)

sessions will be established in relation to the evolution of the health emergency regarding the spread of Covid 19.”

Napoli are sixth in Serie A and last trained on March 12, before their Champions League last-16 second leg against Barcelona was postponed.

They had been planning to return to training on Wednesday.

## FIFA teams up with WHO to support fight against pandemic

Reuters | London

Soccer’s global governing body FIFA has joined with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic with the organisation’s president Gianni Infantino calling for teamwork to tackle the crisis.

Infantino joined WHO Direc-

tor-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a media conference on Monday to launch the “pass the message to kick out coronavirus” video campaign.

“We need teamwork to combat the coronavirus,” Infantino said. “FIFA has teamed up with WHO because health comes first.”

“I call upon the football com-

munity worldwide to join us in supporting this campaign to pass the message even further. Some of the greatest players to have played the beautiful game have put their names to the campaign and are united in their desire to pass the message to kick out COVID-19.”

Twenty eight players including Argentina forward Lionel



The logo of FIFA is seen in front of its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland

Messi, Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and Brazil keeper Alisson Becker have backed the initiative aimed at reinforcing five WHO guidelines in stemming the spread of the virus.

They are featured in video clips issuing reminders about washing hands, sneezing etiquette, distancing, face-touching

and what to do if you develop symptoms.

“This virus is a global problem and it has shown to all of us two things. One, is how vulnerable we are and the other is how global the world is. Exceptional situations require exceptional measures and global problems require global solutions,” said Infantino.

# Tokyo Games delayed to 2021

IOC and Japan agree to postpone Tokyo Olympics easing athletes' angst

● The decision came after swelling resistance from nations and athletes to holding the Games amid the coronavirus pandemic

● The games will most likely happen next summer and will not be postponed any later than that

Reuters | Tokyo

The Tokyo Olympics were postponed yesterday into 2021, the first such delay in the Games' 124-year modern history, as the coronavirus crisis wrecked the last international sporting showpiece still standing this year.

Though a huge blow to Japan, which invested \$12 billion in the run-up, the decision was a relief to thousands of athletes fretting over how to train as the world headed into lockdown over the disease that has claimed more than 16,500 lives.

Pressure had been building on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its powerful president Thomas Bach, with some athletes and sporting bodies critical of the time taken to make an inevitable decision.

After a call with Bach, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the July 24-Aug. 9 competition would be rescheduled for the



A woman walks past the Olympic rings in front of the Japan Olympics Museum in Tokyo

summer of 2021 at the latest as proof of victory over the virus.

"We asked President Bach to consider postponement of about one year to make it possible for athletes to play in the best condition," Abe said.

"President Bach said he is in agreement 100 percent."

The IOC confirmed that.

Though it was the first Olympics' postponement, they were cancelled outright several times during the two 20th century World Wars. Major Cold War boycotts also disrupted the Moscow and Los Angeles Games in

1980 and 1984.

## Athletes sad but relieved

Athletes were disappointed but broadly endorsed the delay, given health risks and disruption to their training as gyms, stadia and swimming pools shut down around the world.

"I compete in a little bike race, which is nothing compared to what is going on in the world right now," American Olympic BMX champion Connor Fields said, before the official announcement. "No sport is more important if it means more peo-

ple might potentially die from this."

Australia's two-time Olympic champion swimmer, Cate Campbell, said she was reeling but ready for the new challenge.

"The goal posts haven't disappeared - just shifted," she said, after her nation had announced it would not go to Tokyo 2020 if it went ahead.

U.S. skateboarder and gold medal hopeful Nyjah Huston was frustrated, though, especially given his sport was scheduled to make its debut at the Tokyo. "When skating finally makes it



Though this is the first Olympics' postponement, they were cancelled outright several times during the two 20th century World Wars. Major Cold War boycotts also disrupted the Moscow and Los Angeles Games in 1980 and 1984

in the Olympics then it gets postponed," the 25-year-old wrote on Instagram, after a delay had begun to look inevitable. "I was feelin' (sic) ready too ... now I'm going to have to be a year older for this!"

The coronavirus outbreak has raged around the world since early this year, infecting nearly 380,000 people and wrecking sports events from the soccer Euros to Formula One.

Despite their disappointment, not to mention the logistical headaches and financial losses coming, a poll showed about 70% of Japanese agreed with a delay.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike told reporters the delayed Games would still be branded "Tokyo 2020".

## Jumper with no sandpit

In a crowded sporting calendar, which will be making up for this year's cancellations, World Athletics said it would be willing to move the 2021 world championships, scheduled for Aug. 6-15 in Oregon to clear a path for the Olympics.

The Athletics Association said a survey of more than 4,000 track and field competitors showed 78% wanted the Games delayed.

The association's American founder, twice Olympic triple jump champion Christian Taylor, is among athletes unable to train due to social distancing and closure of facilities.

"There is no sandpit for me, I have not put on jump spikes for two weeks," he told Britain's Times newspaper.

Yesterday's decision came 122 days before the planned opening ceremony at Japan's newly built National Stadium, which was to usher in the 16-day carnival of sport featuring 11,000 athletes from 206 nations and territories.

It was not the first time a Japanese Olympics has run into problems. Both the 1940 Summer and Winter Olympic Games were due to be held in Japan but were canceled due to World War Two.

It was not yet clear whether the 57 percent of athletes who had already secured spots in Tokyo would need to qualify again for the re-arranged Olympics.

## Kooheji represents Bahrain in global awareness campaign against coronavirus

TDT | Manama

One of Bahrain's biggest sporting idols has joined the fight against Coronavirus. BRAVE Combat Federation Bantamweight fighter Hamza Kooheji has become one of the voices of the #BRAVECombats-Covid19 worldwide campaign, which is set to impact thousands of fans around the world with awareness over the dangers of the virus and how to better protect yourself and your loved ones.

BRAVE Combat Federation, Bahrain's premier sporting organization, has recruited fighters from around the world in the fight against Coronavirus, asking them to send videos and to make sure their own followers, fans, as well as their own communities, are aware of what's needed from them to make sure that the virus doesn't



Hamza Kooheji looks on before a bout

In the video posted to his social media profiles, "The Pride of Bahrain" urges his fans to only trust official guidelines put forth by the World Health Organization, as well as to not spread information that has not been verified by authorities. Kooheji also asks everyone to

be strong in this difficult moment, and thanks everyone that's working hard to contain the virus.

Hamza Kooheji was scheduled to fight Jaures Dea, from Cameroon, at BRAVE CF 37, in Sweden. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, his fight has been postponed and will be rescheduled soon, a decision Hamza says was "wise" on the part of BRAVE CF.

Under the KHK Heroes Foundation, BRAVE CF fighters are empowered by the strong platform of BRAVE CF to share a vital message, to educate, remind and gently guide their fans to work together in unity, to reach out to others and show compassion.

#UnitedWeFight #BRAVECombatsCovid19 is executed by KHK Heroes Foundation, under His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

## HH Shaikh Nasser directs to distribute prizes of his endurance race to stables

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has given directives to distribute the prizes of his endurance race, which was scheduled to be held this Friday to the stables that participated in this season's races.

The Representative of HM the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Honorary President of the Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) yesterday directed BREEF to cancel his endurance race, the last race of the 2019-2020 season.

HH Shaikh Nasser's directives to distribute the awards of the race to stables are in line with his pride in the key role they have played in enriching the Bahraini endurance sport



A participant in action during a race (file photo)

through their effective participation in this season's races.

HH Shaikh Nasser's initiative will reflect positively on the stables' preparations for next season, as it will support them in developing their administrative and technical staff, as well as in devising strategies that

meet their various needs.

Stable owners expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser for his distinguished initiative that affirms his constant keenness to support local stables, as well as develop the endurance sport in the Kingdom.

## Kane hopes to feature if Premier League returns after chaos

AFP | London

Harry Kane says he is on track to be fit when the Premier League returns as the Tottenham striker urged people to "stay safe" from the coronavirus.

Kane has been sidelined since suffering a torn hamstring tendon in Tottenham's New Year's Day defeat at Southampton.

The England captain needed surgery on the injury in January and Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho did not expect him back until the last games of the season.

But the enforced break due to the virus has given Kane an opportunity to play more matches if the Premier League is able to conclude the campaign eventually.

The 26-year-old has stepped up his rehabilitation and should be fit by the time the season can restart, with the top-flight schedule currently postponed until at least April 30.

"I'm not too far away, I'd normally hope to be back with the team in two or three

weeks' time," Kane told Tottenham's website yesterday.

"I'm at a good stage, pretty much doing everything, now it's about building up my fitness. So from my personal point of view, I'm in a good place."



Harry Kane

## Olympic athletes in impossible position: Canada

AFP | Montreal

Canadian Olympic chiefs said Monday the health and safety of athletes had prompted the country's decision to withdraw its team from the Tokyo Olympics amid the coronavirus pandemic.

A day after Canada became the first team to announce its withdrawal from the July 24-August 9 Games, Canadi-

an Olympic Committee (COC) chief David Shoemaker said athletes had been left in an "impossible position."

With public health authorities urging individuals to stay inside to curb the spread of COVID-19, athletes had been caught between a desire to heed health and safety advice while trying to minimize disruption to training programs.