

# Zero Corona claims refuted

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● Works are continuing to limit the spread

● Bahrain's current recovery rate is 97.84pc, with a 0.39pc death rate

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Ministry of Health yesterday refuted claims of "zero" coronavirus quarantine patients in the Kingdom circulating on social media sites.

Ministry said the claims and pictures circulating are inaccurate and didn't come from any official sources or channels affiliated with the ministry concerned with updating COVID-19 information.

The ministry confirmed that it is continuing examinations, quarantines, isolations and treatment of patients at all facilities designed for the matter.

The ministry also explained that the number is still moving and it is yet to stabilise.

Works are continuing in association with all relevant authorities in implementing plans developed to limit the spread of the virus per well-established methodology and related developments, the ministry statement said.

## Adhere to COVID-19 protocols

The statement also called on all to continue adhering to coronavirus precautionary measures and instructions issued by the concerned authorities in line with the recommendations of the national medical team.



Picture courtesy of AlAyam



Commander of the Royal Medical Services Major General Prof. Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa during a visit yesterday to Sitra quarantine centre and its field Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to extend thanks to the healthcare providers there

The ministry also warned to remain careful and not to publish information other than that from official sources.

The National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) during a press conference Thursday said that the Kingdom had ordered more than one million vaccines since last August from several companies.

Bahrain, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Mane-

am, said, will be one of the first countries to receive the vaccines as soon as they are approved by the National Health Regulatory Authority and international health organisations.

## Two million PCR tests

He also announced conducting more than two million PCR tests in Bahrain so far, meaning more than 50 per cent of the Kingdom's population has been tested at least once.

"This strengthens the Kingdom's ranking in the rate of testing per 1000 people on a global level," he said.

Bahrain's current recovery rate is 97.84pc, with a 0.39pc death rate. Isolation centre capacity stands at 6pc, with 416 out of 6,346 beds occupied, and 1,094 asymptomatic cases under optional home self-isolation after meeting the requirements to do so. Dr Waleed emphasised the importance of continuing to follow all health and precautionary measures issued by the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and relative authorities, to eradicate the virus.

## Call 444

The Infectious Disease Consultant & Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Lt. Col. Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, said that regardless of the Rapid Antigen test results, any individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should immediately contact the hotline no. 444.

The list of pharmacies providing the Rapid Antigen Testing kit is regularly updated on the Ministry of Health's website: healthalert.gov.bh.

The Consultant of Infectious and Internal Diseases at Salmaniya Medical Complex and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Dr Jameela Salman, expressed confidence in Bahrain's capabilities of hosting the Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix and the Formula One Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix during the exceptional circumstances presented by COVID-19.

Dr Al Salman underlined the importance of continuing to responsibly follow all health and precautionary measures, including following social distancing measures and wearing a face mask when out in public at all times.

## BDF Inspection visit



The Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa during an inspection visit to a BDF unit. He stressed that all BDF weaponry and units are undergoing development and modernisation programmes based on well-studied military strategies.

## BDF Chief



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshall Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with the Commander of Royal Bahraini Naval Force (RBNF), Rear Admiral Mohammed Yousef Al Asam. Shaikh Khalifa lauded the efforts exerted by all participants in Al Manaa maritime manoeuvres and hailed the competence, aptitudes and high morale of the Bahrain Naval Force.

## Interior Minister



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa paid a visit yesterday to the Coast Guard Command. He was received by Chief of Public Security Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan and the Coast Guard Commander Major-General Alaa Siyadi. The minister was briefed about the "Sea Barrier" joint maritime exercise which was organised by the Bahrain Defence Force in association with the Interior Minister on November 24 and 25 to reinforce maritime security in regional and economic waters.

## Foreign Minister



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, arrived yesterday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he was received on arrival by the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah Al Saud. During the meeting, the two ministers affirmed the depth of the solid fraternal relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, based on solid foundations of joint cooperation and coordination.



President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, received at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Bahraini Charge D'Affaires, Advisor Badr Abbas Al-Halibi. He conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, and their wishes of good health and happiness to him. The Bahraini Charge D'Affaires affirmed Bahrain's keenness to boost friendly relations with Brazil

## Apartment fire in Hoora

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A fire broke out in an apartment in the Al Hoora area of the Capital Governorate yesterday.

No injuries reported.

Civil Defence forces who reached the scene doused the fire immediately.

Initial investigation indicates a gas leak from a stove as the cause of the fire.



The extent of the damage is not disclosed.

Competent authorities are the scene.

An investigation is ongoing.

## Alternative for Pantzol

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The Ministry of Health yesterday clarified that Bahrain has ample supplies of an effective and reliable alternative to Pantzol for treating Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

The ministry was responding to social media claims that the drug "Pantzol" is not available in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Health said

it is following up the issue and has placed orders for its some time ago and will arrive during December.

"Doctors are advised to dispense the alternative medicine until the arrival of this medicine in the next few days," the ministry said.

Communication has also been made with the supplier of Pantzol regarding the delay.

## Stop provoking public: Al-Nafiei to pension fund

TDT | Manama

A parliamentarian yesterday called on the Public Authority for Social Insurance (pension fund) to stop making provocation statement to citizens.

Citing a recent statement on stopping annual pension increment, Ibrahim Khaled Al-Nafiei, the head of the Parliamentary Investigation Committee on Pension Funds, said it is not the right thing to do.



The authority, he said, should invest its assets based on feasibility studies.

The public is fully aware of the authority's situation, which threatens the pension fund and rights of retirees.

The current situation he said is due to the mismanagement, which was confirmed by a parliamentary investigation committee and the office of the financial supervision.