

**Campbell, Marjan move to top of leaderboard**

England's Louis Campbell and Morocco's Ahmed Marjan head into final round of 13th King Hamad Trophy golf championship in tied-first place **P12**

WORLD **6** Ukraine leader alleges Russia-backed coup planned next week

THE DAILY **tribune**



Salma Hayek receives star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

**10** CELEBS

BUSINESS **5** Black Friday sales light up Bahrain markets

**More than 90 Houthis killed in 24 hours: Coalition**  
 TDT | agencies

The Arab Coalition said yesterday that its forces launched 16 attacks against the Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen's Marib in the last 24 hours.

The operations destroyed 12 military vehicles and killed more than 90 terrorists of the Houthi militia, said a Coalition statement.

**US says 'all options' on the table over Russian troop build-up near Ukraine**

Washington

All options are on the table in how to respond to Russia's 'large and unusual' troop build-up near Ukraine's border, and the NATO alliance will decide what the next move will be following consultations next week, the State Department's top US diplomat for European affairs said yesterday.

"As you can appreciate, all options are on the table and there's a toolkit that includes a whole range of options," Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried said.

"It's now for the alliance to decide what are the next moves that NATO wants to take," she said, speaking ahead of a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Latvia and Sweden next week to attend NATO and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe meetings, where she said Moscow's "large and unusual" troop build up would be topping the agenda.

**The Red list is back**

Bahrain tightens entry procedures over new variant detected in South Africa, six countries on Red list

● New variant has a protein dramatically different to original

● Epidemiologist wards travel cubs may be too late

● Israel on verge of a state of emergency

● Saudi suspends flights to and from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Eswatini

● UK bans flights from South Africa region, EU plans similar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has tightened its border controls in response to alarms raised by authorities over a new possible vaccine-resistant coronavirus variant detected in South Africa.

Bahrain's move comes as world nations, including the EU and Britain, are asking travellers returning from South Africa to quarantine, despite the World Health Organization cautions against hasty measures.

Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs said it is bringing back the Red list which it deactivated last week further easing quarantine measures.

The new red list has six new names - South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho



The Civil Aviation Affairs: The Kingdom's Red List will be reinstated, and six countries are added

Representative picture. (Courtesy of AlAyam)

**World Health Organisation names new variant omicron**

Reuters

The World Health Organisation yesterday classified the B.1.1.529 variant detected in South Africa as a SARS-CoV-2 "variant of concern," saying it may spread more quickly than other forms.

Preliminary evidence suggested there is an increased risk of reinfection and there had been a "detrimental change in

and Eswatini

**What does this mean?**

This means Bahrain is suspending entry of travellers from these countries on all flights, including those who had transited through Red List countries.

There, however, is an exception for citizens and holders of residence visas valid in the Kingdom.

For them, Bahrain also rein-

stated arrival procedures, including testing and quarantine.

Bahrain is maintaining all previously announced procedures for those coming from non-red-list countries. (<https://healthalert.gov.bh/en/category/entry-procedures-through-airport>)

The latest decision follows the recommendation of the National Task Force combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 epidemiology," it said in a statement after a closed meeting of independent experts who reviewed the data.

Infections in South Africa had risen steeply in recent weeks, coinciding with detection of the variant now designated as omicron, WHO said.

"This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection with this variant, as compared to other (variants of concern), it said. Omicron is the fifth variant to carry such a designation. "This variant has been detected at faster rates than previous surges in infection, suggesting that this variant may have a growth advantage," the WHO said. Current PCR tests continue to successfully detect the variant, it said.

**No hasty measures: WHO**

WHO had cautioned against hasty measures. "At this point, implementing travel measures is being cautioned against," Lindmeier told a UN briefing in Geneva.

"The WHO recommends that countries continue to apply a risk-based and scientific approach when implementing

**Too late for travel curbs?**

An epidemiologist in Hong Kong said it may be too late to tighten travel curbs. "I think we have to recognise that most likely this virus is already in other places. And so if we shut the door now, it's going to be probably too late," said Ben Cowling of the University of Hong Kong.

**What makes the new variant dangerous?**

According to scientists, the B.1.1.529 variant has a spike protein that is dramatically different to the one in the original coronavirus that COVID-19 vaccines. This raises fear about how current vaccines, successful against the more familiar Delta variant, will fare.

(curbs)."

But European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said the EU also aimed to halt air travel from the region.

Nearly 100 sequences of the variant have been reported and early analysis shows it has "a large number of mutations" requiring further study, Lindmeier said. British health minister Sajid Javid said the new variant had probably spread to other countries.

Israel barred its citizens from travelling to southern Africa as Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said a few cases of the variant had been reported there.

"We are currently on the verge of a state of emergency," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said, according to a statement from his office.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED

7332209

ACTIVE CASES

277

DEATHS

1394

DISCHARGED

275865

NEW CASES

26

CRITICAL

0

210 fils (includes VAT)



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**India issued an advisory to all states to test and screen international travellers from South Africa and other "at risk" countries.**



Japan tightened border controls for visitors from South Africa and five other African countries.

Italy imposed an entry ban on people who have visited southern African states in the last 14 days.

Germany will declare South Africa a virus variant area, a health ministry source said. France suspended all flights from southern Africa for 48 hours

**260m**

The coronavirus has swept the world in the two years since it was first identified in central China, infecting almost 260 million people and killing 5.4 million.

**Countering Iran**

**US threatens escalation with Iran at IAEA next month**

Reuters | Vienna

The United States threatened on Thursday to confront Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency next month if it does not cooperate more with the watchdog - an escalation that could undermine talks on reviving a 2015 big-power deal with Iran.



A cleaning staff works before a news conference attended by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi during an IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna

Tehran is locked in several standoffs with the IAEA, whose 35-nation Board of Governors is holding a quarterly meeting this week. Iran is denying the IAEA access to re-install surveillance cameras at a workshop at the TESA Karaj complex. The IAEA also wants answers on the origin of uranium particles found at apparently old but undeclared sites, and says Iran keeps sub-

jecting its inspectors to "excessively invasive physical searches". "If Iran's non-cooperation is not immediately remedied ... the Board will have no choice but to reconvene in extraordinary session before the end of this year in order to address the crisis," a US statement to the Board of Governors said.

It said it was referring "especially" to re-installing IAEA

cameras at the Karaj workshop, which makes parts for advanced centrifuges that enrich uranium.

That workshop was struck by apparent sabotage in June, which Iran says was an attack by its arch-enemy Israel.

One of four IAEA cameras installed there was destroyed and its footage was missing. Iran removed all the cameras after the incident.