



COVID-19 takes one more life; 534 new cases

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The Ministry of Health announced yesterday the death of an 85-year-old female citizen from the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Her passing brought the overall number of coronavirus-related deaths in the Kingdom to 84, including 11 in just three days.

The Health Ministry expressed its condolences to the victim's family.

Meanwhile, it was announced early this morning that out of 8,609 COVID-19 tests conducted yesterday, 534 new cases were detected.

From these, 326 were expatriate workers, 200 were contacts of active cases, and eight were travel-related.

There were also 411 additional recoveries from the virus yesterday, the Health Ministry said. After confirming that the patients were free of COVID-19, they were released from their respective isolation and treatment centres, bringing the total number of discharged in Bahrain to 20,928.

The total number of current active cases went to 5,227, of which 79 are receiving treatment, with 43 in critical condition. The remaining 5,184 cases are stable.

The total tested increased to 545,125.



03 The Kingdom's business elite

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES

26,239

ACTIVE CASES

5,227

DEATHS

84

DISCHARGED

20,928

NEW CASES

534

CRITICAL

43

210 fils (includes VAT)



New stimulus package

Government approves additional measures to mitigate economic impacts of COVID-19

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The Cabinet approved yesterday a number of initiatives aimed at mitigating the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

They include paying 50 per cent of the salaries of insured Bahrainis in the most-affected private sector companies for three months, shouldering the electricity and water bills of all Bahraini subscribers for their primary residences for the same three-month period, and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) supporting the most-affected economic sectors.

These initiatives are in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to unify national efforts to confront the repercussions of the pandemic at the local level, and to protect the health and safety of citizens and residents, along with the continuity of the Kingdom's programmes to enhance the sustainable development march.

They are also in line with the decisions of the government, led by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the national efforts, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Pre-

mier, to combat COVID-19 in Bahrain.

The approvals came during the Cabinet's regular weekly session yesterday, chaired by HRH the Prime Minister and attended by HRH the Crown Prince.

Based on its consultations with the legislative branch and the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), and according to their visions, the government's decision to pay half of the salaries of insured Bahrainis in the most-affected private sector institutions, starting from July, is in accordance with terms and conditions to be set by the Labour and Social Development Ministry, and in coordination with relevant authorities.

The payment of electricity and water dues of all Bahraini subscribers from July for three months is based on their bill not exceeding that of the same period last year.

Tamkeen's support for the most-affected economic sectors in Bahrain is in accordance with the terms and conditions that will be approved by its Board of Directors.

Following the government's announcement of the new initiatives, Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa commented: "We review our necessary and targeted



HRH the Crown Prince attends the session



HRH the Prime Minister chairs yesterday's Cabinet session

Gratitude for HM the King's support

The Shura Council yesterday hailed the fatherly care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for Bahraini citizens, and his keenness to provide them with great support during the challenging times caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic across the world.

The Council said it valued the decisions taken by the Cabinet based on HM the King's directives. They added that they are proud of the efforts by the government, under the leadership of HRH the Prime Minister and with the support of HRH the Crown Prince, to set up programmes and launch initiatives to support citizens

and the establishments in the private sector.

The Council said it would remain supportive of all royal initiatives and directives that achieve the interests of Bahrain and citizens.

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bin Abdullah Zainal also expressed deep gratitude to the government for its new economic stimulus package.

The Speaker affirmed the Representative Council's keenness to provide full support for all decisions and measures aimed at enabling the country to overcome the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Until such time as we can return Bahrain to delivering strong and sustainable economic performance and

growth, the Government remains committed to early, targeted and effective economic intervention and support."

SECURITY CALL

'Arms embargo on Iran a must for stability and peace'

BY P UNNIKRISHNAN
TDT | Manama

An urgent call has gone out for the United Nations to extend an expiring weapons embargo on Iran to maintain peace and stability in the region.

This appeal was made by U.S. Special Representative for Iran and Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State, Brian Hook, who spoke at a Press conference last night alongside Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

"I stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with Bahrain, to call on the UN Security Council to extend the UN embargo on Iran," said Hook.

The U.S. Special Representative highlighted U.S. efforts in working with regional governments to maintain security and stability in the Middle East, while warning of drastic consequences with a failure to extend the arms embargo, which



Hook, left, with Dr. Al Zayani at yesterday's conference

expires in October.

"From maritime security to economic prosperity to religious freedom, we will continue to work together; but if our restrictions on Iran are permitted to expire, this work will become much harder," he said. "The world cannot allow this to happen."

Hook stressed that the U.S. partnership with Bahrain is strong, and that it is based on trust and will continue to grow. "We remain committed to Bahrain's security and to our deep

and effective partnerships to counter Iran-backed terror," he said.

He blamed Iran on spending major revenues for funding terrorism, and noted that the country is in big financial trouble while not being bothered to spend on its citizens' welfare

Hook called on the brotherly countries in the region to support extending the arms embargo.

"They are unanimous in their view that the last thing this region needs is more Irani weap-

ons," he said. "They must extend the embargo and give stability in the region a chance so that future generations can flourish."

Hook intends to visit countries who believe that the embargo is a must to maintain peace and stability. He has already been to the UAE and Saudi Arabia, and is planning to visit three more nations.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister mentioned that Hook held a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Dep-

"We remain committed to Bahrain's security and to our deep and effective partnerships to counter Iran-backed terror"

U.S. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRAN AND SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BRIAN HOOK

uty Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

He thanked the U.S. and Fifth Fleet for their continuous support to Bahrain.

The Foreign Minister accused Iran for funding nearly 29,000 attacks, which has disrupted civilian life in Bahrain, and also blamed Iran for being behind the Saudi Aramco attack.

On these circumstances, he demanded that the UN continue its arms embargo on Iran for peace and stability in this region.