

The Tokyo Olympics will begin on July 23 next year, organisers said yesterday, after the coronavirus forced the historic decision to postpone the Games until 2021.

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Legal action against rumour-mongers

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Legal action will be taken against those who circulate false news and information in light of the current situation combatting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This was declared yesterday by Captain Mohammed Abdullateef Al Abdullah from the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science.

Captain Abdullah highlighted close cooperation with the General Directorate of Media and Security Culture to tackle the circulation of rumours and the release of correct information.

He called upon citizens and residents to get information only from official sources.

He said that the Anti-Cyber Crime Directorate monitors all social media websites and legal steps will be taken against those who circulate false news and information. The department also evaluates the effects of those rumours on members of society.

He called upon anyone who has been affected to file a case by calling 992.

Repatriation flights continue

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The Ministry of Health announced yesterday the arrival of another group of citizens from the Islamic Republic of Iran, as part of the Kingdom's evacuation plan for Bahrainis stranded abroad.

Following their return, the passengers were required to test for the virus, the results of which determined whether they require treatment or quarantine, in accordance with recommendations outlined by the World Health Organisation.

The active cases of COVID-19 in Bahrain was 216 as of late last night, with two being critical.

A total of 295 patients have been discharged, while 33,290 have been tested.

National efforts hailed

HM the King voices appreciation for precautionary measures taken in COVID-19 fight

HM the King receives Representatives Council Speaker and Shura Council Chairman at Safriya Palace

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Bahrain will continue boosting the precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all people in the battle against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said yesterday.

His Majesty King Hamad said this as he received at Safriya Palace top government officials including Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh.

He discussed with them the current health condition and the requirements of the forthcoming phase.

HM the King also voiced his appreciation for the unrelenting national efforts taken to serve the nation and its citizens in safe-



HM the King speaks with officials at Safriya Palace

guarding them from the spread of the virus, and expressed hope that the pandemic will disappear soon.

HM the King gave thanks to the Representatives Council Speaker and Shura Council Chairman, as well as the council's members, for their national stances and dedicated efforts.

He lauded their full support to the government's evacuation plan of Bahraini nationals abroad, according to precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all.

HM the King voiced his keenness to ensure the quick return of

all Bahrainis from abroad, pledging to spare no effort for this purpose. He also praised constructive cooperation of the National Assembly with the executive branch, as part of the dedicated efforts of the National Taskforce to Combat COVID-19.

HM the King commended the efforts of the government, spearheaded by HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and praised the tireless work of Bahrain's taskforce under the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme

Commander and First Deputy Premier.

He also lauded the noble humanitarian efforts of the medical teams in Bahrain who are fulfilling their missions competently, professionally and courageously in these exceptional circumstances.

He thanked the people for complying with the preventative health measures, which shows awareness, civilisation and determination to overcome the crisis.

Meanwhile, the Council Speaker and Shura Chairman paid tribute to HM the King for his support

and keenness on serving citizens to relieve the impact of the current crisis on their lives.

They praised the decisions taken to support the national economy and back the private sector by launching a financial and development package to ensure their sustainability.

They pointed out that the meeting with HM the King cast light on the ability of the Kingdom of Bahrain to overcome challenges.

They also lauded the efforts of HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince the battle against the coronavirus.

NHRA grants licences to private hospitals for COVID-19 care

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Private hospitals are now being granted licences to provide medical care for active cases of COVID-19 for those who are asymptomatic and would like to be treated there.

This was announced last night by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), and it comes in line with the directives of the Government's Executive Committee, chaired

by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

The licence regulates the provision of private quarantine services for those arriving from abroad or for those who have been in contact with active cases and have not yet tested positive, based on individuals' preference and at their own expense.

The NHRA granted the Middle East Hospital (MEH) a licence to



HRH the Crown Prince

practice private medical services for active cases of COVID-19 who are asymptomatic at the Park Regis Hotel in Juffair, increasing treatment capacity by 172 beds.

Patients who are admitted will be supervised by a specialised medical team from MEH.

NHRA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mariam Adhbi Al Jalahma further highlighted that individuals arriving from coronavirus-affected countries, or those who have interacted with active COVID-19 cases and wish to be quarantined in a private facility, will be able to do so at Novotel Hotel, Muharraq. There, they will be monitored by a specialised medical team from Bahrain

Specialist Hospital, increasing quarantine capacity by 160 beds.

Dr. Al Jalahma went on to add that a specialised medical team from the MEH will temporarily convert the Best Western Hotel and Taj Plaza Hotel into private quarantine centres to provide another 260 private quarantine beds.

The NHRA chief noted that free COVID-19 care at centres run by the Ministry of Health remains available for all.

COVID-19 FIGHT GOES MOBILE

'BeAware Bahrain' app officially launched to help mitigate coronavirus spread

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The Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA), in collaboration with the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), yesterday launched the "BeAware Bahrain" application.

The app is available to download free of charge on iOS and Android from bahrain.bh/apps.

The application complements efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by advancing contact tracing efforts to swiftly identify and keep track of all active cases and their contacts.

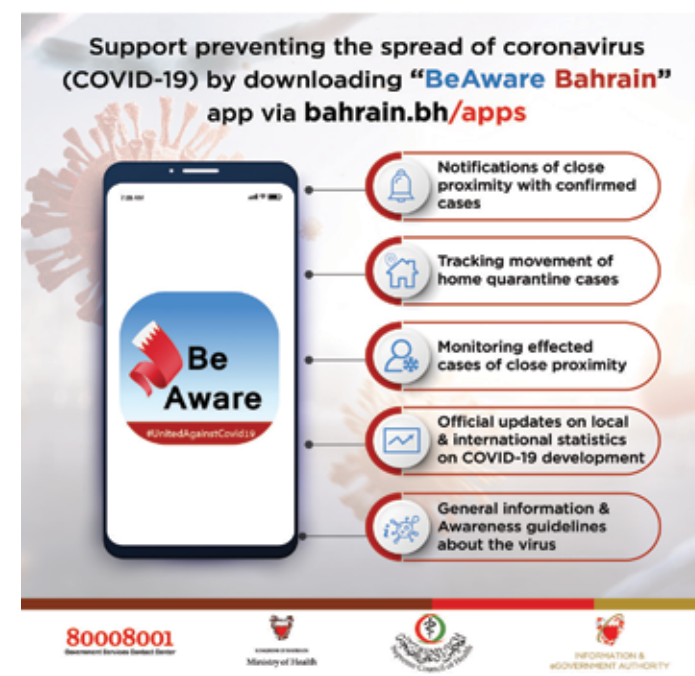
The application utilises location data to alert individuals in the event they approach an active case or a location an active case has visited, track move-

ment of quarantine cases for a duration of 14 days, as well as publish health recommendations and highlight global COVID-19 developments.

"Launching 'BeAware Bahrain' is in line with HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister's directives to unify national efforts against COVID-19," said IGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed.

"BeAware Bahrain' underwent BETA testing performed by real quarantine cases. Quarantined cases' registration is mandatory, while none-quarantined cases may choose to register by entering their ID card number or passport number."

Al Qaed added: "The appli-



An infographic of the 'BeAware Bahrain' app features

cation deploys a tamper-proof GPS Tracking Bracelet to share real-time tracking information with health workers. Health workers are notified when quarantine cases exit their pre-set area by 15 metres, in which case the team will respond by reminding individuals of the importance of following procedures to safeguard the well-being of citizens and residents."

Meanwhile, Al Qaed noted that the IGA is also collaborating with the National Taskforce to incorporate best global practices to mitigate the spread of the virus and minimise its impact. The IGA and the taskforce are benchmarking successful mitigation efforts, particularly the efforts of Singapore, China and Hong Kong, to tailor a response plan that meets the needs of Bahrain.



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04 A great learning opportunity

210 fils (includes VAT)

