**PM checks arrangements at medical facilities, factories**

The Prime Minister, during his visit, was briefed about the arrangements at the medical isolation complex and hospital in Umm Salal.

He met the doctors, paramedics and volunteers working on the front line and thanked them for their efforts.

The Umm Salal complex has a capacity of 12,500 beds and is equipped with all necessary amenities, safety, and health requirements.

Spokesperson for the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management H.E. Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khalifa, said yesterday that work had already begun on the plan for the gradual opening of closed region of the Industrial Area, in a way that ensures workers' and community's safety.

Addressing a press conference on the coronavirus situation in the country, H.E. Al Khalifa said that all commercial activities in stores and offices will be suspended on Friday and Saturday, except some activities.

The activities and entities exempt from this decision are: food and supply outlets, supermarkets, pharmacies, and greenhouses; vegetable sales outlets; restaurants; delivery services; bakeries, pharmacies, telecommunications companies, hypermarkets, and home maintenance companies (electricity, plumbing, and electronics).

Other exemptions include fuel stations, newsagents, contracting companies operating in the State's projects, companies operating in the hotel sector, logistic services companies, freight companies, businesses operating airports and airports, and customs services.


Committee for Crisis Management from the Ministry of Interior have made the latest decisions and actions taken by the State of Qatar within the framework of procedures and measures aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus, including the decision to stop commercial activities in stores and offices on Friday and Saturday and the latest developments related to the closed portion of the Industrial Area.

**QNA – Doha**

**Work underway on plan to gradually open closed part of Industrial Area: Al Khater**

Spokesperson for the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management H.E. Al Khater said that work had already begun on the plan for the gradual opening of closed region of the Industrial Area, in a way that ensures workers' and community's safety.

Addressing a press conference on the coronavirus situation in the country, H.E. Al Khater said that all commercial activities in stores and offices will be suspended on Friday and Saturday, except some activities.

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**QNA – Doha**

**MoPH: Total active COVID-19 cases at 2,164; over 43,000 tested**

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) yesterday announced 166 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, taking the total number of cases detected in the country to 2,376. With the recovery of 28 more patients, a total of 206 have recovered from the disease.

Some of the new cases are related to travellers who came to Qatar from COVID-19-hit countries, while others are related to contacts, including citizens and residents. Some other new cases were reported among expatriate workers, the Ministry said.

The new cases have been put in quarantine and are receiving the necessary medical care.

There are a total of 2,164 active COVID-19 cases under treatment in the country. The Ministry had conducted 43,144 COVID-19 tests until yesterday in Qatar. MoPH continues to urge all members of society to take the necessary precautions and maintain social and physical distancing to reduce the chances of contracting the virus.

The MoPH has established a dedicated website (www.moph.gov.qa) to provide the public with updates on the current situation as well as a number of resources on how to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

**QDB initiative to nurture ideas that address virus challenges**

Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has launched an online portal to register participants in an initiative to develop entrepreneurial ideas to contribute to reducing the repercussions of the global coronavirus-epidemic COVID-19.

This initiative will be accomplished through the launch of the “Hackathon”, which is an online platform that will open for four days.

It allows innovators to develop their entrepreneurial ideas that will help in dealing with the various problems and challenges posed by the spread of the epidemic.

QDB stated that all those interested in entrepreneurial ideas which can help in addressing the repercussions of the spread of the coronavirus in various fields, can participate in the hackathon initiative until Tuesday through the online portal www.hackathon.qa.

The hackathon initiative includes four challenges which are: challenge one; protect the elderly and at-risk members of our community from COVID-19 exposure; challenge two; ensure the safety and efficiency of our healthcare professionals against the COVID-19 outbreak, challenge three; strengthen our supply chain to facilitate the availability of medical supplies and mitigating COVID-19 limitations; and challenge four; maintain the productivity and well-being of our workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winning ideas will receive financing and support of QR500,000, to develop and implement their ideas.

The winning ideas will also benefit from several services, advice and incubation services that will help in implementation of the ideas.
MoPH intensifies inspection on food establishments

Prime Minister visits number of medical factories

The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Thani during his visit to the factories of medical products and supplies in the small and medium industries zone in the industrial Area, to see the progress of the production, yesterday. H E the Prime Minister also visited medical insulation complex — DOHA

MoPH intensifies inspection on food establishments

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has intensified health control campaigns on food establishments, especially consumer societies, and food and drinkable water factories, since the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) as part of precautionary measures to curb the virus, in coordination with the ministry of the municipality and concerned authorities, and the ministry of commerce and industry.

The MoPH’s Food Safety Department said that it is concerned with following up on the implementation of the health and safety requirements for food handling and drinkable water, and the MoPH’s inspectors tour about 60 consumer societies per week to ensure that they meet health requirements and the precautionary measures that have been declared to reduce the risk of an outbreak of infection with the coronavirus.

They also ensure that an alcoholic hand sanitizer is present in the entrances of the hypermarkets, in addition to sanitizing shopping bags by the hypermarket workers before handing them to the consumer, while ensuring the single use of paper bags and an approved disinfectant in compliance with health requirements.

The supervision of personal hygiene and health behavior of all workers at the hypermarkets temperature of workers working in societies and hypermarkets, assures their health condition before starting their work, and excludes any worker who has common symptoms such as coughing or sneezing in addition to making sure the doors of refrigerators and all common surfaces are sanitized, while taking into account that every employee must be in a state that complies with the personal hygiene and health behaviors set by the MoPH’s inspectors.

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Qatar & Italy: Example of friendship, human relationships in adversity

under the directives of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar has and continues to offer many humanitarian initiatives and gestures during the fierce global confrontation with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The successive Qatari humanitarian gestures and initiatives with which it maintains high-level strategic relations, despite the unjust siege it maintains high-level strategic relations, despite the unjust siege imposed on its people, and in the face of the global crisis that led to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Qatar Airways Cargo has shipped more than 650,000 masks to the COVID-19 hit areas, confirming its leadership of humanitarian initiatives in the field of education and knowledge, and offering many opportunities worldwide.

QF’s Equine Veterinary Medical Center signs MoU with Montreal University

The deal aims at enhancing equine veterinary learning experiences and develop the veterinary student engagement program at EVMC.

beIN Sports to air brand new program “Games Not to Forget”

As families across the region adjust to the new normal, beIN, the leader in sports entertainment network will bring a wide variety of blockbusters films, memorable sporting events and brand new programs for its viewers and fans from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) favorites from 20:00 to 20:30 Malick Talak Diallo starring Mamoudou Athie as Pierre in the film. H.E. star presenter Mohammed Al Khalifa praised this move into beIN Sports’ world-class line-up, and thanked all viewers and fans at home and abroad for their support and beliefs in their brand new project, “Games Not to Forget” – produced using the latest renowned technologies and designed to bring viewers the very best content with the highest quality. H.E. Al Khalifa said: “beIN Sports is always keen to entertain its fans and keep them updated with the latest news in the world of sports. beIN Sports, the leading digital platforms in sports entertainment that offers unparalleled matches and.setUser error: no matches found
**COVID-19: Lockdown in Muscat governorate from today; cases rise in six Arab countries**

**AGENCIES — PENNSULLY**

The Sultanate of Oman has locked down Muscat through the activities of Control Checkpoints, with effect from today, to withdraw in measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Morocco, Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia have confirmed new cases and deaths from the novel coronavirus yesterday.

In Morocco, two deaths linked to novel coronavirus have been recorded, taking the total number of fatalities to 1,346, while 101 people have recovered from the virus, according to the Kingdom's Health Ministry.

Iraq has also confirmed 71 new cases have raised the total number of infections to 3,555, new cases yesterday, taking the total to 950, including 30 recoveries.

“The number of patients in intensive care is now at 22. Eight of them are in critical condition, while the rest are stable,” a ministry statement said. In addition, the Health Ministry confirmed seven new COVID-19 deaths, raising the total 24 hours, bringing the total to 1,077.

In Mauritania, the Health Ministry confirmed a new case yesterday, pushing the total to seven. The ministry also reported two recoveries and one death.

According to Oman News Agency (ONA), the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling the developments of coronavirus pandemic held a meeting to follow up the situation in the Sultanate and undertake measures to curb the spread of the virus.

“The increase of cases of infection in different places in the Sultanate, most notably in the Wiladat of Mutrah bell, has been totally locked down since April 20. For their part, the committee decided to lock down the Government of Muscat through the activation of Control Checkpoints, with effect from Sunday, to be in force until April 30,” ONA said.

The Supreme Committee also decided to maintain the suspension of study in all educational institutions in the Sultanate till further notice while at the same time undertaking the significance of efforts to activate online education through educational portals and platforms.

The announcement of Dubai is preparing to hold hospital beds to handle any surge in cases of the new coronavirus, a health official said. The United Arab Emirates saw its infection count more than double in the last 24 hours.

The UAE confirmed 2,659 cases with 2,332 deaths, pushing the total to 7,410 highest among six Gulf Arab countries. The emirate of Dubai’s Ministry of Health and Prevention recorded 2,255 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 60,220.

The UAE health ministry confirmed that the health condition of 32 patients has improved and 266 others have recovered so far, bringing the total to 1,085 recoveries.

**Turkey’s death toll remains 308 with 42,282 total cases**

**BAGHDAD**

Turkey has confirmed 4,061 new cases of coronavirus yesterday, taking the death toll to 308 with 42,282 total cases. The total number of recovered cases stood at 2,142, with 296 recoveries. The Supreme Council for Combating the Coronavirus said. Morocco, Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia have confirmed new cases and deaths from the novel coronavirus yesterday.

Iraq’s Prime Minister Mustafa Al Kadhimi, 53, as prime minister-designate shortly after Zarrif’s resignation. Iraq is under a five-year war between the US military and insurgents, with US forces and Iran-backed militia on the ground.

Iraq’s Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, in a televised address, announced a five-week lockdown for the capital and other cities in the presence of the new coronavirus pandemic to curb the spread of the virus, with health officials requiring a strict lockdown to stop the spread of the virus. The decision to lockdown is due to the increase in infections in different places in the Sultanate, mostly notably in Wiladat of Mutrah bell.

According to OMAN News Agency, the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling the developments of coronavirous pandemic held a meeting to follow up the situation in the Sultanate and undertake measures to curb the spread of the virus.

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**Saudi truce takes effect in Yemen, Houthis suspect plot**

**CAIRO**

A cease-fire proposed by the United States, which would last for two weeks and be a ploy by the kingdom to boost its influence in the region, has been called into question by the Houthis.

The Houthis have promised a five-year truce, but the kingdom brought the truce to an end after five days.

The Houthis have called for a five-year truce, which Saudi Arabia and the United States have backed, saying it would help ease tensions between the two countries.

**Iran says virus deaths pass 4,000 but cases dropping**

**AFP — TIRANA**

Iran’s health ministry yesterday said 1,077 new deaths from the novel coronavirus took the total to 4,130 in one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic.

But ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said the latest figures showed there was a downward trend in the number of new coronavirus infections.

“This announcement does not imply a pause in our ongoing efforts to achieve peace,” Al Bukhaiti said. “The Saudis are still employing their air space and land forces to stop the spread of corona virus that would be a much needed respite for Yemen.”

**Iraq appoints third PM-designate**

**ABU DHABI**

Iraq’s intelligence chief was appointed yesterday the country’s third prime minister-designate in just over a month after the resignation of the most recent candidate amid political in-fighting, but the path to forming a government remains uncertain.

The deadline for a new government to be formed, set at the end of March by the UN, has been missed.

Iraq’s prime minister-designate, Mahdi Al-Kadhemi, has been given until April 30 to form a government and submit the new cabinet to parliament for a vote.

Mahdi Al-Kadhemi must contend with the onerous task of pulling the country out of a deep economic crisis and stopping the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

His coming to office would coincide with the imminent end of US-led military operations in the country, as US forces are scheduled to leave.

Meanwhile, the US-led coalition continues to withdraw from bases in Iraq and is planning to close its last two bases in the country in June.

The future of the US military presence is a key issue on the agenda for discussion in Baghdad, where Pompeo told reporters recently.
Success in a tough word

Success is a tough word. It hinders us at work, home and school. And like a beneficial medicine, it is not easy to swallow. The reality of success is that it is an anchor in the tangle. It is not a theoretical enterprise. But woe aye in the United States, ‘require one to stop on his heads’.

The Arabs understood this well, thus the word for success (lahd) is associated with the one who farms or harvests. Alaa Alahabahdk the latter cannot come without diligence and hard work. So, repentance is a sublime enterprise, afternot a struggle towards spiritual inventory. Caliph Umar b. Alaa Alahabahdk pleaded with Allah. ‘Ameen’ “Audit yourselves before you are audited.”

Hassan, the Prophet’s grandson asked from this concern. He said: “Those who have the earliest time in the hereafter are those who call to themselves in this life.”

Returning to Allah while struggling to move the deep soul of a difficult enterprise, one does not like to hear bad news about the themselves. But if we are able, during this blessed month, to move our souls by means of our spiritual principal; investigating our deeds and relating with Allah, family and others, we will have repudiated the blessed harvest; setting the stage for a new course in our relationship with the Most Merciful.

Once the Prophet (PBUH) ascended that mountain, each step he was heard saying. ‘Ameen’. Later the companion asked him about this statement upon which he responded that it was a prayer against three types of people, one was the people of Sha’aban during the month of Ramadan thereby failing to call themselves to account in this life.

Overcoming the obstacles

There are a number of obstacles that hinder the one who seeks repentance. Perhaps the greatest is the feeling of fear and dependence. Many feel it is so simple to change. ‘I’ve done this before and there is simply no way to get back on track.’

The month of Ramadan is a time of repentance of the Prophet (PBUH) mentioned in a hadith: “Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha’aban is my month and Ramadan is the month of the Nation.”

Prophet (PBUH) said in a hadith: “Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha’aban is my month and Ramadan is the month of the Nation.”

Prophet (PBUH) said in another hadith: “Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha’aban is my month and Ramadan is the month of the Nation.”

This happens due to the fact that during this month, the Prophet (PBUH) said: “Ameen”. Later the companion asked him about this statement upon which he responded that it was a prayer against three types of people, one was the people of Sha’aban during the month of Ramadan thereby failing to call themselves to account in this life.

For this reason Ibn Kathir reports that the Prophet (PBUH) said: “Repent to Allah, oh son of Adam, this month is given to you to come to Me with an earthful of sins and were you then to face Me without having associated anything with Me, I shall grant you an earthful of pardon.”

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

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In this Holy Month of Sha’aban addressed to Allah Almighty: “We obeyed your orders, we do more fasting in this month than he did in Shawar’ (Al-Bukhari).”

In another hadith Prophet (PBUH) said related to the significance of the month of Sha’aban in these words: ‘People neglect this month which is between Rajab and Ramadan in this month the actions of the people are presented to Allah, so like my deeds be presented to me while I am fasting.’ (Al-Darawesh)

The above-mentioned hadiths of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) give the importance of fasting in the month of Sha’aban.

In another hadith Prophet (PBUH) described the significance of fasting during the month of Sha’aban: “When the Middle Night of Sha’aban arrives, you should stand up praying in it and should fast in the day following it.” (Abu Dawood)

We came to know the importance of fasting in Sha’aban and work which is the night when Allah Almighty forgives whoever sadoaks forgiveness from Him. Fasting in the month of Sha’aban gives you a chance to start preparing for the month of Ramadan. For fasting you will have to wake up early on Fat time, and without eating and drinking, will give you a clear idea of what it would take in order to succeed in the month of Ramadan.

Furthermore, there is no sin greater than Allah’s ultimate mercy and forgiveness. The Prophet (PBUH) said: ‘Allah Almighty has said: ‘O son of Adam, you have something of me which you have not done, and I shall forgive for your sins. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds in the sky and you were then to ask to be forgiven, I shall forgive you. O son of Adam, when you come to Me with an earthful of sins and were you then to face Me without having associated anything with Me, I shall grant you an earthful of pardon.’”

The qualities of repentance

Scholars noted that repentance should be coupled with the following qualities:

Leaving the sin

Receiving never to return to the sin

The month of Ramadan is a time of repentance, forgiveness and sorrow with sins. All that we do in our lives is marked by forgiveness and salvation. Let us take advantage of this time to rework on our habits, repenting from our mistakes and sins from the past. Let us turn to the Most Merciful.
inmates are on remand and can be held awaiting trial for an official prison population vulnerable to the disease because virus — is seen as highly vulnerable to deaths from the novel coronavirus. The lockdown, ministry coronaviruses crisis. A thousand terrorists have been arrested a state official in Kef, punished. "war criminals", to be punished. Some African countries could see a peak in coronavirus cases in the coming weeks and testing should be urgently increased in the region. World Health Organization officials said yesterday. The numbers of recorded coronavirus infections in Africa have been relatively low so far — with nearly 6,000 cases and 562 deaths, according to a database maintained by the World Health Organization and presented daily by the World Health Organization. The WHO’s Africa chief, Mokgweetsi Masisi said: “An urgent call to action. We need more and better testing across the continent.”

Some African countries are feeling the economic impact. They are feeling the economic impact as members of its staff. Rutgers University, New Jersey, which has conducted surveys of 300,000 people in 26 countries, said 76% of those surveyed were feeling stressed. 9 out of 10 people who were surveyed said they had been affected by the pandemic, with 4 out of 10 reporting that their mental health had declined.

Key African countries have been facing a severe shortage of personal protective equipment, which has resulted in increased prices for goods and services. In several countries, the price of basic goods such as food and clothing have increased significantly.

In South Africa, the government has imposed a lockdown to try to stem the spread of the virus. The lockdown has been extended multiple times, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings.

In Uganda, the government has also imposed a lockdown, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings. The government has also announced a ban on public gatherings, including funerals and weddings.

President Museveni has called on Ugandans to stay at home and follow the rules. He has also urged people to wear face masks and practice good hygiene.

In Nigeria, the government has also imposed a lockdown, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings. The government has also announced a ban on public gatherings, including funerals and weddings.

President Buhari has called on Nigerians to stay at home and follow the rules. He has also urged people to wear face masks and practice good hygiene.

In Kenya, the government has also imposed a lockdown, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings. The government has also announced a ban on public gatherings, including funerals and weddings.

President Kenyatta has called on Kenyans to stay at home and follow the rules. He has also urged people to wear face masks and practice good hygiene.

In Botswana, the government has also imposed a lockdown, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings. The government has also announced a ban on public gatherings, including funerals and weddings.

President Masisi has called on Botswanans to stay at home and follow the rules. He has also urged people to wear face masks and practice good hygiene.

In Tunisia, the government has also imposed a lockdown, with restrictions on movement and social gatherings. The government has also announced a ban on public gatherings, including funerals and weddings.

President Saied has called on Tunisians to stay at home and follow the rules. He has also urged people to wear face masks and practice good hygiene.

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**Indian court order for free screening may hinder fight**

**REUTERS – NAGPUR**

A decision by the Supreme Court of India to make testing for coronavirus free places an unworkable burden on medical firms and could see a reduction in testing, already among the world’s lowest, said business leaders and health experts.

A concern is that private medical firms, like many businesses, may find it financially unviable to continue operating at a loss.

“Humanitarian services are impractical to implement – I fear going solvency will plummet,” Sharad said on twitter yesterday about the order.

“India is considered the world’s biggest medical hub, but even our hospitals are not sure how they will be able to operate on credit.”

**Australian police take ‘black box’ of cruise ship in coronavirus probe**

**REUTERS – SYDNEY**

Australian police yesterday said they had taken the “black box” of the cruise ship that docked in Sydney as part of a handsome package of infected passengers, guests and crew who were held since their sudden liberation.

The Ruby Princess cruise ship, owned by Carnival Corp, left the port of Sydney on Friday night after the authorities had granted the ship permission to disembark.

Two passengers with the virus, of the 681 passengers and crew who were quarantined after being aboard the ship for 16 days, were admitted to hospital with breathing problems.

But police decided to take off the block the tapes, or what some state distributors might call a “black box” of information, as part of the ongoing coronavirus investigation.

**Over 15,000 people linked to COVID-19 hotspot in Vietnam tested negative**

**REUTERS – HANOI**

Vietnamese authorities said Thursday they had tested 15,000 people linked to a coronavirus hotspot in the country’s north, without finding any infections.

While the country has been praised for containing the virus with fewer than 1,000 cases and no deaths, the authorities have said they are still on high alert.

The government has quarantined the entire city of Bac Ninh, home of the Vietnam National University, after a new cluster of cases was identified.

**Scenes of detained Rohingya freed in Myanmar**

**AFP – YANGON**

Cases against scores of Rohingya Muslims detained on charges of breaching immigration laws whilst trying to reach Australia have been dropped for now.

A military crackdown in 2017 forced 750,000 Rohingyas to escape to Bangladesh, where they face continued persecution.

Some Rohingyas were sent back to Rakhine state have been dropped as a group of potential coronavirus carriers in the country’s overcrowded prisons.

A military crackdown in 2017 forced 750,000 Rohingyas to escape to Bangladesh, where they face continued persecution.

While other decisions were connected to the latest outbreaks in the country, Vietnam’s health minister said the government had the power to make such decisions.

The government has quarantined the entire city of Bac Ninh, home of the Vietnam National University, after a new cluster of cases was identified.

A federal government executive chairperson of Biocon has branded “apartheid”. It was the second major case filed in India, with the first one involving the National University of Singapore.

“India is considered the world’s biggest medical hub, but even our hospitals are not sure how they will be able to operate on credit.”

**India says lockdown has spared it from overwhelming number of virus cases**

**REUTERS – NEW DELHI**

The Indian government yesterday claimed initial success in its fight against the coronavirus epidemic, saying it would have been hit with 820,000 cases next week had it not imposed a nationwide lockdown.

The number of people infected with the virus stood at 3,851 including 109 dead, far smaller than other countries such as the United States, China and Spain.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s decision to order 1.3 billion Indians in for the three weeks in the country’s biggest lockdown is expected to cost the economy and on its harmfulness of millions of lives.

By the middle of April, the country had endured one of the greatest lockdowns in the world’s second most populous country and the government was keen on maintaining the lockdown for the March 28 lockdown.

The hospital was declared in the capital, and now its facilities will be made available to those who need medical assistance.

A report of the government’s committee said the number of asymptomatic cases on Wednesday, 25 days after the first case.

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EDITORIAL

Leader in fight against COVID-19

AT a time when most governments are focused on dealing with the novel coronavirus pandemic within their borders, some nations have emerged as leaders in this global fight against the pathogen, reaching out to others, with much-needed medical supplies and expertise.

Qatar – which sits on one of the vital east-west corridor but also connects the global supply chains between Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and Africa – has reached in both directions, assisting its friends and some of the most vulnerable countries aside from the COVID-19 disease outbreak.

The State of Qatar has intensified its humanitarian work through Qatar Red Crescent Society and other Qatar institutions, working with host countries across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, to protect refugees and other vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 outbreak.

On the directions of Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar has dispatched its field hospitals with a capacity of 1,000 beds to Italy, which has suffered one of the highest fatalities from the virus. As the Qatari Red Cross Air Force delivered the aid and supplies to regions affected by the outbreak, the airline is prioritizing the transportation of vital medical equipment and aid as part of global efforts against the pandemic.

Apart from keeping the supply routes open, the airline has also repatriated thousands of stranded nationals via Doha, in addition to thousands of nationals of various countries, but also transporting thousands of tonnes of medical equipment and supplies from Qatar to Italy.

At the same time, Qatar Airways is playing a crucial role in keeping the skies open, delivering essential supplies to places where they are needed the most at this critical time.

While most airlines are grounded and international travel temporarily suspended, Qatar Airways has not been busy in only repatriating stranded citizens of various countries, but also transporting thousands of tonnes of essential supplies. Last month, Qatar Airways Cargo transported over 50,000 tonnes of medical supplies and equipment to regions affected by the outbreak. The airline is prioritizing the transportation of vital medical equipment and aid as part of global efforts against the pandemic.

Schools across the globe are closing their doors due to worries about the spread of COVID-19, affecting as many as 1 billion students. In Qatar, the majority of 12,000 students have shifted to online learning to continue their studies.

The move to digital learning has brought inevitable disruption for local teachers, parents, policymakers, and Qatar’s 350,000 students. But it is also an opportunity to rethink how we teach and assess learning, as well as how we lead schools.

As with other aspects of the economy and society, the health crisis is encouraging practitioners and decision-makers to consider the question of how to reorganize learning and schools for the short- and long-term.

Schools in Qatar – both private and public – have been making use of online teaching for several years. For instance, the private school my children attend, Qatar Academy Sidra, has regularly utilized platforms such as Isee360, Khan Academy, Scoore, Mathnasium, and Zoom. Public schools in Qatar, which have shifted entirely to online learning following their spring break, have used YouTube channels, and more recently Microsoft Teams and Learning Management System. Now these and other platforms will form the basis for student instruction in Qatar for the foreseeable future.

Home learning can be challenging for parents, schools, and learners. Finding the time and energy to support student schooling at home can be difficult for parents, particularly those who themselves are working from home. Parents may also find it difficult to navigate the massive number of online resources and disparate platforms used as learning tools.

Meanwhile, schools must handle challenges related to curriculum delivery and assessing content for different learning needs. Teachers require specialized training to deliver online lessons and to assess virtual learning development. Yet the sudden nature of the COVID-19 crisis has left little time for such preparation.

Final decision-makers must decide which home learning strategies to introduce and when, while facing pressure from the media and community. Despite these and other challenges, however, the need to reorganize schooling as a result of the global coronavirus pandemic presents a rare opportunity to reassess education models from the ground up, to rethink the goals and modes of learning expected of our current generation of K-12 students.

Introducing this type of learning will entail new responsibilities for parents, teachers, and policymakers.

As an educator, researcher, and mother of five children, I see am experiencing the stresses of the current situation first-hand. We must reflect on the type of learning that we need during this crisis. I am not suggesting adding new products or platforms, because the first days of transitioning to online learning is not a good time to try new products. I am suggesting that parents and educators need to set realistic expectations for home learning, and do that by enabling learners to produce content and be active in their education rather than receiving recorded information.

Teachers work together to design and implement rich learning experiences for students that balance screen time with creative hands-on experiences. This can be done by creating engagements that get students moving and thinking, then sharing on digital platforms.

There is a positive side to this crisis: to move from the traditional function of providing information into the role of facilitating, guiding learners and addressing crises and mental health for parents and learners.

The roles and responsibilities of the learning community – educators, parents, and students – are online in a way never before.

Collaboration: Global learning happens in groups. By working in groups through virtual spaces and co-creating, learners can strengthen their social and collaborative skills. Learning sessions need to be designed around the topic of interest, problem-solving, and divergent thinking. Collaboration should be the central focus for this type of learning because it is essential to any group.

Learning Design: We need to introduce learning sessions that are designed to engage learners through the use and creation of interactive tools. Each session can be structured through the provision of various interactive tasks, to fit specific concepts and learning goals. Students visible, cooperative, and communicative, go in-depth and explore themes and concepts during every session.

Parental Support: Parents have an important role to play. They need to create a realistic and manageable environment for children. They can also help children learn in a virtual setting.

Dr. Asmaa Alfaadul, Director of Research at Qatar Foundation's World Innovation Summit for Education (WIS), speaks about the newfound role of parents in virtual learning.
The new novel coronavirus (COVID-19) may be “reactivating” in cured patients, according to a study from Johns Hopkins University.

The researchers said that the virus may be reactivated in cured patients, leading to symptoms such as fever, cough, and fatigue. The study analyzed data from 27 patients who tested positive for the virus after being declared cured.

The researchers suggested that the reactivation of the virus could be due to the immune system not fully eliminating the virus or the virus entering a latent state. They recommended further studies to better understand the mechanism behind the reactivation and develop strategies to prevent it.

The findings were presented at the International Society for Infectious Diseases meeting in Seattle, Washington.
UK faces longer virus lockdown; Johnson moves out of ICU

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved out of intensive care as his condition appeared to improve on Tuesday, according to a Downing Street spokesman.

The Prime Minister has been moved from intensive care at St Thomas’ Hospital in central London to a ward where he will receive close monitoring during the early phase of his recovery, the spokesman said.

“He is in extremely good spirits,” the spokesman said.

Brussels braced yesterday for a wave of new cases of lockdown. Earlier, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who was standing in for Johnson while he’s ill, told Britons it was too early to ease restrictions on public activity imposed on March 23 to try to slow the spread of the virus.

Raab was too early to ease restrictions on public activity, compartirly, the coronavirus pandemic is still spreading quickly in the country, he said.

“The government will be publishing a pathway to recovery on Monday so that we can take a considered approach to the easing of restrictions,” he said.

The situation continues to be monitored in Spain as the lockdown continues.

Spain death rate drops, ‘fire’ coming under control: PM

The daily death toll from the COVID-19 pandemic fell to 638 on March 18 in Spain, according to preliminary figures released by the country’s health ministry.

The number of dead has dropped from a peak of 929 on March 17, but the country remains under lockdown.

The government has imposed restrictions on public gatherings and has advised citizens to stay at home.

“Spain has faced a crisis similar to the one in Italy, but we have managed to avoid the worst,” Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

Greece faces longer virus lockdown; Johnson moves out of ICU

The Greek government has announced that schools will remain closed for most of the month of April.

The government has imposed strict measures on social gatherings and public transport to combat the spread of the virus.

The much-loved Mediterranean country had experienced a resurgence of cases recently.

Greece must tackle cramped, unruly prisons: Rights body

The Council of Europe’s anti-torture body has criticized Greece’s prison system, saying it is too overcrowded and lacks proper facilities.

The Council of Europe’s Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) said in a report published on Monday that Greek prisons lack basic amenities such as proper medical care and rehabilitation programs.

The CPT also called for the release of political prisoners and the closure of overcrowded cells.

Greek government’s coronavirus curve gives reason for cautious hope, says Chancellor

Reuter's — BERLIN

Strict social distancing measures have helped Germany slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday, giving cautious hope some of the restrictions could be eased after Easter.

With about 100,000 cases and 2,000 deaths, Germany has been one of the pandemic’s better-hit European nations such as Italy and France.

“I can say that the latest numbers on the spread of the virus give reason for cautious hope,” Merkel said.

The curve is flattening slightly. And the number of those infected is going slightly down. We can be very happy about this,” Merkel said.

Merkel said the restrictions, which remain until April 19, too early could reverse the achievements so far.

German courts have seen support rise in opinion polls as a majority of the public approves of her approach to the crisis, her transparent communication strategy, and an unpaid experts package to support the economy.

Still, some senior conserv- atives have demanded an end to discussion about a plan to kick- off the economy.

Armin Laschet, conservative governor of Germany’s most populous state of North Rhine-Westphalia, said in an interview with business daily Handelsblatt that some sectors of the economy such as gas- tro- nomy and car dealerships should get back to business.

British police remained a “frequent cause of concern” at its prisons, Europe’s top human rights group said yesterday, warning that the country had failed to investigate or prosecute ill-treatment of inmates and failing to improve access to hygiene products or medical treatment.

The report, published alongside the report, revealed that the government had been slow to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, with some prisons in England and Wales reporting outbreaks.

Police officers have been accused of assisting Greek officials in the ill-treatment of prisoners, the report said.

Civil liberties group Big Brother Watch called those unmentioned “outrageous” and called for the re-introduction of national standards.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved out of intensive care on Tuesday, a Downing Street spokesman said.

Johnson’s government was slower than those in some European countries to impose restrictions on daily life in response to the pandemic, leading his critics to accuse him of complacency.

But he was one of the lowest numbers of hospital beds per capita in Western Europe before the pandemic, with only about 3,500 ‘active’ beds nationwide.

Greece’s huge thank you to you guys who worked for the NHS.

The much-loved Mediterranean country has experienced a resurgence of cases recently.

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The German government has been praised for its response to the crisis, with its handling of the pandemic being seen as a model for other countries, including those in the region.

It has the highest coronavirus death toll in the world, with 8,379 on May 25, 2020, but the country’s citizens have become one of the world’s most educated, a survey by the World Economic Forum found.

In an official response published alongside the report, Greece cited a string of measures it had taken, including increasing the use of non-contact technologies such as community service.

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EU presses Netherlands to unblock virus response deal

EUROPE / AMERICAS | 11

The 27-nation bloc is responding to help gov-
ernments, companies and individuals survive the
depth recession that the coronavirus is causing in
Europe this year.

The block’s envoy to the Netherlands, Veerle​
Dehousse, said at a news conference yesterday that
the Netherlands should follow several EU
blocks, including Poland and Hungary, and allow
individuals to vote by postal ballot because of the
coronavirus outbreak.

Dehousse emphasized that the increase in the
courthouse staff caused by the number of coron-
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“The number of coronavirus patients is one of the
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Dehousse
US cautiously optimistic as coronavirus curve appears to flatten

AP — WASHINGTON

US health officials made cautiously optimistic noises about America’s response to the coronavirus on Wednesday, with one saying it might be able to take summer holidays as “fogging” hospitalization rates recede. “Right now, it looks like we are in a period of relative stability,” said Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “I don’t think it’s time to go back to normal life, but we have turned a corner and are looking toward the future.”

Redfield’s comments came as the US reported 4,535 new deaths and 199,175 new cases on Wednesday, bringing the nation’s total deaths to over 100,000 and infections to over 6.3 million. The number of virus cases has been steadily declining since April, with hospitalizations and deaths falling sharply as the public adheres to social distancing measures, hospital officials said.

The US Navy said on Wednesday that the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt was to return to San Diego after a sailor tested positive for the coronavirus. The ship had been anchored off the coast of California since March 15, when it was ordered to return to port after 10,000 of its sailors were infected with the virus.

Theodore Roosevelt was one of 10 aircraft carriers operated by the US Navy and the only one with a confirmed case of coronavirus onboard. The other nine ships have been cleared to continue their missions.

Redfield said the country is “meeting the test of time” as cases continue to decline. “We’re seeing signs of progress,” he said. “We’re not out of the woods yet.”

Redfield warned that the virus could still spread rapidly in the US, especially in areas with high transmission rates. “If we don’t continue to follow the guidelines, we could see a resurgence of cases,” he said.

US sailor from virus-stricken aircraft carrier taken to ICU

THE DAILY TIMES

An armed group stormed a gold mine in northern Mexico and stole bars of gold and silver after breaching the security of a light aircraft, mine operator Minas de Oro Mine in Outagamie County, Wisconsin. The miner was killed and four others were injured in the attack.

The mine, located in the Huatabampo area, was operating normally before the attack. Authorities said the group used a small plane to breach the mine’s security perimeter.

The attack comes after a series of similar incidents in the region, including one in March that killed two miners.

The attack highlights the ongoing security challenges faced by miners in northern Mexico, where conflict is common.

Canada expects virus deaths to peak sooner

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday that Canada expects virus deaths to peak sooner than previously expected.

Trudeau said the country is preparing for a surge in cases and deaths in the coming weeks, and added that the government is working on a plan to support the health care system.

“Canada is now facing a new phase of the pandemic,” Trudeau said. “We are entering a period of higher hospitalization rates and more severe cases.”

Trudeau said that the government is working closely with provinces and territories to ensure that hospitals have the resources they need to care for COVID-19 patients.

He also announced that the government will provide $1.7 billion in emergency funding to help keep health care systems running.

Trump family loses bid to move marketing scam lawsuit against ACN

NEW YORK

A federal judge in Manhattan rejected an effort by US President Donald Trump and his adult children to appeal a decision by a state court that the Trumps were liable for $25 million in fines and penalties.

The Trumps had argued that the state court’s ruling against them was unconstitutional because it violated their free speech rights.

But US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected the Trumps’ appeal, saying the state court’s decision was a reasonable exercise of its power to enforce the anti-telemarketing laws.

The judge also sided with the state’s attorney general, who had accused the Trumps of engaging in a marketing scam.

The Trumps had tried to appeal the state court’s decision to the US Supreme Court, but the court declined to hear the case.

The judge’s decision is likely to be appealed by the Trumps, but it is not clear if they will succeed.

US quietly shuts down asylum at borders to fight spread of coronavirus

SAN DIEGO

A US Border Patrol agent said Wednesday that the agency is taking action to shut down the US-Mexico border to asylum seekers. The decision follows a request by the Trump administration to limit access to the border.

The move is part of the administration’s broader strategy to restrict migration to the US, as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

The Border Patrol said it would be limiting access to the border for asylum seekers, but that it would continue to process other types of travelers.

The move comes as the US-Mexico border has become a focal point of the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 200,000 confirmed cases in Mexico and thousands of deaths.

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