**No second wave of COVID-19 in Qatar: Top health official**

Chairman of the National Pandemic Preparedness Committee, Dr. Abdulfattah Al Khal, says Qatar is stable and new cases steady.

Dr. Al Khal says broad testing and proactive early treatment limited the number of cases requiring hospitalisation or developing severe symptoms.

Weekly hospital admissions with COVID-19 fell to 259 last week, from 1,859 by the end of Eid Al Adha.

**Deputy PM inaugurates Al Doha QTS91 training ship**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, accompanied by Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey, H E Hulusi Akar inaugurated yesterday the training ship Al Doha QTS91, at Anadolu Shipyards in Istanbul.

Al Doha QTS91 ship is one of the largest training ships in the world, as it has high training capabilities that will contribute to enhancing the training capabilities of the Qatar Navy in general, and Mohammed bin Hamad Al Ghanim Maritime Academy and its members in particular.

The inauguration ceremony attended by Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Republic of Turkey, H E Emad Al Akhal, Commander of the State of Qatar Naval Forces, Major General (Navy) H E Abdullah Hassan Al Saadi, Qatar’s Military Attache in Turkey, Brigadier General (Navy) Mohamed Al Bachir, and a number of ministry officials. MME said the centre aims to improve the services provided to individuals and society, and to respond faster to emergencies.

Project Manager Eng. Fadi Shehata, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Emad Al Akhal, stated that the inauguration was in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 which aims to establish Qatar as a regional leader in the field of public health.

He noted that the project took six months to complete.

He said the centre will focus on managing emergencies and will ensure work flow is uninterrupted.

It will also improve coordination between different sectors and authorities.

**Office for non-Qatari real estate ownership launched**

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior launched yesterday an office for non-Qatari real estate ownership in the Pearl, to provide real estate ownership and utilisation services through one window for investors.

The office provides all the requirements for the sale and purchase of real estate, tenanted units and offices in the areas covered by Cabinet Resolution No. 28 of 2020, specifying the areas where non-Qatari may own and benefit from real estate and the conditions, controls, benefits and procedures for their ownership.

The office enables the beneficiaries to obtain the title deed in less than an hour.

The number of permits that the Ministry of Justice has issued for the real estate sector in 2020 is 7,000.

According to the ministry, it has issued more than 100,000 permits for tenanted units.

The office, named Office for Non-Qatari Real Estate Ownership, will operate in The Pearl-Qatar, near the Child Park and Al Ghalamor, to provide services in a single location.

It will provide services such as the sale of properties, the purchase of properties, the transfer of ownership, the agency of the owner, the legal advice of the owner, the sale of the property, and the purchase of the property.

The office will also handle the registration of the property, the payment of taxes, and the issuance of the title deed.

The office will be open from 9 am to 3 pm, and will be closed on Fridays.

The office will be staffed by experts in real estate, legal, and administrative matters.

The office will also have a computerised system that will allow investors to check the status of their applications online.

The office will be open to all investors, regardless of their nationality, and will provide services in English, Arabic, and French.

The office will also have a complaint system, and will be monitored by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior.

The launch of the office follows the announcement of the new law on real estate ownership, which was passed by the Shura Council and signed by the Emir.

The law allows non-Qatari to own real estate in Qatar, with certain restrictions.

The law also allows non-Qatari to benefit from real estate, such as renting, leasing, and managing.

The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate agency for non-Qatari, which will be supervised by the Ministry of Justice.

The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate tribunal, which will hear disputes between investors and the Ministry of Justice.

The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate council, which will advise the Ministry of Justice on real estate matters.

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The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate report, which will be prepared by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior.

The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate association, which will represent the interests of real estate investors.

The law also provides for the establishment of a real estate task force, which will be formed by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior.

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Prime Minister releases ‘Building Requirements Guide in Qatar’

The guide, which is available in electronic and paper versions, will make it easier for citizens and investors to know all transactions and procedures, and will help stimulate the economic environment for the construction sector.

Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalaal Al Thani released the guide.

Transport Minister holds talks with Ethiopian counterpart

Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassem Sallal Al Sulaiti said he discussed various topics with the Ethiopian Minister of Transport H E Dagmawit Moges, during a videoconference yesterday. They discussed several matters of interest including international air services and civil aviation.

No 2nd wave of COVID-19 in Qatar: Top health official

Dr. Al Khale also said that Qatar’s healthcare system was well prepared and equipped to handle similar or larger outbreaks in the future. He also said that the government is ready to initiate any necessary measures to combat the virus if needed.

Mol seminar creates awareness about holding community events

The event, which was organised in collaboration with the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Interior, highlighted functions and services provided by the Police, the Civil Defence and the Fire Department.

Qatar participates in OPCW Executive Council meetings

The State of Qatar participated in the meetings of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held in The Hague, which is one of the main conferences on the OPCW’s work.

McDonald’s Qatar celebrates founder’s day

McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc’s birthday was celebrated by McDonald’s staff at all of their restaurants in Qatar, yesterday. This year’s event was hosted by the restaurant’s manager, who expressed his gratitude to the customers who supported the restaurant.

Amir sends congratulations to Kuwait Amir

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Khaled Al Sabah, also sent a congratulatory message to his counterpart in Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

Amir congratulates Crown Prince of Kuwait

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Khaled Al Sabah, also sent a congratulatory message to his counterpart in Kuwait, Sheikh Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

OFFICIAL NEWS

QNA
The seminar aimed to raise the legal awareness among the Nepalese community and clarify the contractual relationship between the worker and the employer, in light of the recent changes in the law, especially with regard to the minimum wage.

Minister of Education and Higher Education, H E Dr. Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Hamad meet yesterday with a high-level education delegation that included the Minister of Higher Education of Afghanistan, H E Abas Basir and Minister of Education of Afghanistan, H E Ergone Harnish and their accompanying delegation. The meeting focused on areas of cooperation in the field of education and higher education and ways of strengthening them. The meeting also touched on issues of joint interest.

Minister of State for Defence Affairs inaugurates Al Doha QTS91 Ship

Dhafar, Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs H E Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey, H E Hulusi Akar, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Republic of Turkey, H E Salem bin Nasser Al Shaif and other officials during the inauguration of the training ship Al Doha QTS91, in Anadolu Shipyard in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday.

The seminar was also aimed to introduce the most important advantages of the recent amendments to the law and to raise awareness of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the National Human Rights Committee and the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.

NICRC Secretary-General, Advocate Anwar Al Jamaal said that his opening ceremony was a significant step towards the need for a further upgrade of its legislative system and institutional capacity. The seminar is an important milestone in the organization's development, as it educates the workers and protects their rights. He noted that the process of awareness and protection of workers is part of a national vision that depends on bringing about a qualitative change aimed at improving human rights conditions for the general, and the conditions of workers’ rights in particular. He said that the seminar aimed to provide a national vision that is focused on future thinking and expectations.

The seminar is an opportunity to raise awareness of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the National Human Rights Committee and the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.

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New Crown Prince of Kuwait pledges to work for prosperity

ONA — KHARTOUM

The Crown Prince of Kuwait H H Sheik Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said yesterday that Kuwait, under the leadership of the Amir H H Sheik Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, will continue its pioneering path calling for goodness and peace and being the driver for human progress.

The Crown Prince, addressing the parliament after taking constitutional oath, pledged his loyalty and that of the state to the Amir, emphasizing his faith in the future of the country and the people of Kuwait, rooted in their comprehensive trust in the Amir.

He said that he would continue to be the faithful citizen who works for prosperity of his nation, defending its interests, preserving national unity, upholding progress, committed to our religion and deep-rooted national principles, and keen on meeting aspirations and hopes of the nation and citizens.

Kuwait’s Prime Minister H H Sheik Sabah Al Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah during the parliament session dedicated for declaring allegiance to newly prominent leader, according to the Constitution, carrying out the measures in a few days, thus depicting the practice of the responsible and conscientious democracy of Sheik Sabah Al Khaled stated.

The Prime Minister called for adherence to "nationality and unity, placing all potentials for engaging in the battle of reforms, construction development and maintaining our economy’s security and stability."
Identity, self-esteem, and delusions

Do not speak about how you are going to be happy in the future. Speak about how you are happy right now. If you are happy with your spouse, your children, or your work, come out and admit it. Allah says in the Quran: “And as for the blessings of your Lord, proclaim them.” (Holy Quran 3:31)

Identity

The false delites of modernity

Divine laws provide human beings a clear code to guide every sphere of human life and interaction. Since the Creator alone knows best what is for His creation, His laws protect the human soul, body, and society from harm.

Courtesy: Islamreligion.com

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Fuel truck blast kills 5 in Lagos

Over 40 houses, 89 shops and many vehicles were burnt in the inferno.

The accident was caused by a fuel tanker that exploded in the town of Lagos, Nigeria. The tanker was carrying fuel for a nearby petrol station and exploded, setting fire to nearby buildings. The fire lasted for several hours and caused significant damage to the surrounding area. No official statement has been released yet regarding the cause of the accident.

18 to face trial over anti-government protest in Algeria

Eighteen people who participated in a protest against the government of Algeria have been arrested and will face trial.

The protest, which took place on October 14, was one of several that have occurred in Algeria in recent months. The protesters were calling for the government to resign and for political reform.

More than 60 people are currently facing charges related to protests in Algeria. The protests have been ongoing since February 2019 and have grown in size and intensity in recent months.

11 Cuban doctors freed after two years

Eleven Cuban doctors who were arrested in August 2018 have been freed after two years in custody.

The doctors were arrested as they were leaving the airport in Havana after a trip to Africa. They were charged with disturbing the public order and inciting people to commit crimes.

The doctors were part of a group of 127 Cuban doctors who had been sent to Africa to help with the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone.

Malé frees 11 figures arrested during August coup

The Maldives has released 11 people who were arrested during a coup in August.

The coup was led by President Yameen Abdul Gayoom and his ruling party, the Progressive Party of the Maldives. The coup resulted in the arrest of several opposition leaders, including the leader of the main opposition party, Mohamed Nasheed.

A year after Nobel, Abiy tries to beautify a divided Ethiopia

For the past year, Abiy Ahmed has been trying to transform Ethiopia, which has a long history of political conflict and ethnic tensions.

The government has made significant strides in improving the economy and reducing poverty, but ethnic conflicts continue to be a major challenge.

ECOWAS on Tuesday lifted sanctions on Mali after the transitional government led by Colonel Bah N'Daw agreed to the transition to civilian rule. The sanctions were imposed in March after the military coup in Mali.

Tunisia imposes night curfew to slow 2nd wave of pandemic

Tunisia has imposed a night curfew to help control the spread of coronavirus in the country.

The curfew, which started on October 14, runs from 9 pm to 5 am and is intended to limit movements and prevent the spread of the virus.

The number of confirmed cases in Tunisia has soared in recent weeks, with the country recording over 10,000 new cases in a single day.

Somalia government denounces Cuban doctors operation

The Somali government has denied allegations that it has detained Cuban doctors.

The government has called onCubeafrica to investigate the allegations and release any information about the Cuban doctors.

In recent months, there have been reports of a Cuban medical team working in Somalia, but the government has not confirmed this.

BP -- LAGOS

Ronald A. W. E. A 1988, has been inroduced on the summer Solent in the Solent, 2020.

AP -- HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

ECOWAS on Tuesday lifted sanctions on Mali after the transitional government led by Colonel Bah N'Daw agreed to the transition to civilian rule. The sanctions were imposed in March after the military coup in Mali.

The incident — the latest in a series of attacks by Boko Haram in recent months — came as the United Nations called for an immediate end to the violence.

An attack by Boko Haram killed at least 18 people in a Nigerian village near the Cameroonian border on Monday, according to local officials.

The attack, which was described as a suicide bombing, was the latest in a series of attacks by the militant group in the region. Boko Haram has been responsible for thousands of deaths and injuries in recent years.

The group has been active in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and has been accused of carrying out numerous attacks, including suicide bombings and other forms of violent terrorism.
A Sri Lankan minister said yesterday that India has no moral right to interfere in the country’s internal affairs by asserting its influence and seeking power-sharing arrangements under a 1987 agreement to dissolve Parliament and ensure an end to Sri Lanka’s civil war.

Provincial Councils Minister Nimal Perera told The Star that the report on the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, which called for the devolution of power to the provinces and resulted in the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lanka Constitution, which created provincial councils with a degree of decentralised power, had now been closed.

In a phone conversation on September 27, Modi asked Perera to review the appointment of Tamil people for the top post of the Provincial Councils Minister, over which the Tamil United National Alliance (TUNA) coalition, which controls the SL government, has no influence.

Ahmad Shah, who had agreed by Mahathir Mohamad — a reformist government headed by Mahathir Mohamad — to devolve a degree of power to the provinces and ensure an end to Sri Lanka’s civil war.

Mac Maharaj, a Malaysia opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who is seeking the prime minister’s seat for the general election, has expanded his team and will contest in the country’s general election in two months.

Malaysia has been in turmoil since a 61-year-old candidate for the prime minister’s seat for the general election called for power sharing with Tamil minority regions.

Police resist West Bengal protesters

Activists of the Bhartiya Janata Party try to block a police barricade as police use a water cannon during a protest march towards West Bengal Chief Minister’s office to protest against the “worsening” law and order situation in the state.

Sri Lanka’s consumer affairs minister Paswan dies after weeks in hospital

Former Indian parliamentarian Ram Vilas Paswan, a federal minister under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government, died at a hospital in Patna yesterday.

The 1News-Colmar Brunton poll showed support for Ardern’s Labour party in New Zealand’s upcoming general election in September 28.

Ardern’s popularity as New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s party is projected to be one short of being able to govern alone, and has a double-digit lead over its rival, with just over a 10 percent

In India’s consumer affairs minister Paswan dies after weeks in hospital

Modi wants prestigious foreign universities to open campuses in India

For the first time, India has asked prestigious foreign universities to open campuses in India, according to a senior government official.

Ardern, 40, has won support from the New Zealand public, with 60 percent saying they would prefer Prime Minister Ardern to lead the country.

In the 1News-Colmar Brunton poll, which showed support for Ardern’s Labour party in New Zealand’s upcoming general election in September 28.

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Anwar resistance to be prime minister is seeking a second term in office, at 47 percent, unchanged from the last poll on September 28.

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Qatar reiterates rejection, condemning of using terrorism to offend states and fabricate crises

The State of Qatar has reiterated its rejection and condemnation of using terrorism as an excuse to offend states and fabricate crises to achieve political goals that are inconsistent with the provisions of international law and constitute a violation of the United Nations Charter.

The State of Qatar has also reiterated its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, wherever and by whomever committed, and regardless of their motivation, stressing that terrorism constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

This came in a statement delivered by Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Ambassador H E Sheikha Alia Al-Thani at the during the Sixth Legal Committee of the UN General Assembly at its 75th session on the item entitled “Measures to eliminate terrorism.”

Sheikha Alia said that in line with its policy on the field of counter-terrorism, the State of Qatar has not hosted or provided support to the relevant UN institutions, noting that this support has always been a matter that is supported by the State of Qatar in accordance with international law.

Ambassador Sheikha Alia reviewed the most prominent initiatives of the State of Qatar in support of activities related to counter-terrorism, as she said that the State of Qatar has made a contribution of $75 million over a period from 2010 to 2023 in support of the core resources of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). She also referred to the signing of an agreement in December 2019 in Doha between the State of Qatar and UNOCT to establish the International Bank on Behavioural Insights to Counter Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Doha, as well as the signing of an agreement between the two sides, according to which the State of Qatar has provided a financial contribution of $5 million to support the Bank, which will be used in Doha in the near future.

The State of Qatar has also provided $310,000 to support the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCTC), she added.

The Ambassador said in the statement that the State of Qatar continues to work within the framework of international organizations and platforms related to counter-terrorism, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and it is an effective member of the Global Community in the fight against terrorism.

The State of Qatar, she said, is keen on combating terrorism and its financing, whether by asset freezing, travel bans or freezing financial resources, and it is working to support the Security Council’s committees concerned with combating terrorism, and also cooperation with the UNOCT’s expert teams and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and also cooperation and support to the efforts of those organs in carrying out their mandate.

Sheikha Alia also clarified that within the framework of the State of Qatar’s continuous efforts to protect and enhance the role of educational institutions in raising extremism and terrorism, the UN General Assembly unanimously approved on May 29 Resolution No. A/74/271 submitted by the State of Qatar to designate Sep. 9 as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack. In addition to this resolution, she said that the State of Qatar is one of the founders of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), which attaches special importance regarding the agenda of violent extremism and terrorism, pointing out that Qatar is considered one of the major contributors to this fund.

At the legislative level, she said that the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the 2016 Counterterrorism Act, which provides for collaboration between countries and new forms of cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, as well as strengthening national legislation related to combating terrorism have been approved.

The UK set plans in August to amend legislation and clarity in its powers so that an unlicensed Covid-19 vaccine, such as the Oxford unit’s AstraZeneca vaccine, could be made public and be used to “grip the world” as she warned of “serious risk” of a lack of vaccines. The US has said that it would not be “perceived as though this vaccine is the US vaccine.”

The vaccine is unlikely to be ready this year in EU

A Covid-19 vaccine is looking “unlikely” by year-end, according to some of the world’s leading drug regulators, even as the agency conducts two very high-profile reviews of its data to speed up approval—of jobs from AstraZeneca PLC and the University of Oxford, and from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE. In the US, getting a shot through the November election, President Donald Trump’s record deadlines, also looks increasingly unlikely.

The first vaccines will probably be geared toward smaller, more conditional marketing authorization, according to Rand. These are temporary, one-year approvals granted when the benefits of having a product immediately available outweigh the risk of less substantial data. Regulators would need to know the duration of immunization for a vaccine before granting a full marketing license, he said.

European Union countries could still use national emergency use of a vaccine before the EU authorizes it.
**Indonesia protests against labour law turn violent**

AP — JAKARTA

Protests in many Indonesian cities turned violent yesterday as thousands of college students and workers criticized a new law they say watered down labour rights and the environment. Clashes between rock-throwing demonstrators and riot police broke out near Jakarta's main railway station, as police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters, including workers and high school and university students.

President Joko Widodo is visiting Central Kalimantan province and was not in the capital, according to state media.

Police fired tear gas at the protesters who tried to storm the police command, turning roads into a chaotic battlefield.

The protesters fought back, hurling rocks and petrol bombs. An angry mob burned a traffic police post at an intersection near the police, while other protesters set fires to tyres and glass road barriers. As night fell, some protesters set fire to a subway shelter in downtown Jakarta, causing the area to turn an eerie orange.

**Pakistan police arrest two men on charges of terror financing**

AP — ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's counter-terrorism police on Thursday arrested two suspended militants on charges of collecting funds for outlawed charities of a radical cleric cleric who is wanted by Washington for his alleged role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

According to a statement from the Counter-Terrorism Department, the two men were arrested in a raid in a rural area in Muzafarabad in Pakistan's Punjab province.

The suspects were collecting funds for Hafiz Saeed's outlawed Jamia Difa and Falah-e-Insaniat charities, suspected of being fronts for the militant Laskhar-e-Talab group.

Saeed is the chief of the outlawed Laskhar-e-Talab, blamed by neighboring India for the Mumbai terror attacks that killed 166 people. He is serving a 13-year prison sentence since February, after being convicted of financing terrorism. He has denied sponsoring terrorism.

The development comes weeks after Pakistan's parliament passed bills to grant immunity to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif charged with financial crimes. The government has been accused of protecting Sharif by granting him immunity.

**Drug war fight not over, say Philippine activists**

AP — MANILA

The Afghan Taliban yesterday said in a statement released by President Donald Trump that "no deal" had been reached with the U.S. troops out of Afghanistan by Christmas. But that was not the case, and the sides agreed to continue discussions beyond Christmas.

The council on Wednesday approved a proposal to increase the use of out-of-country抔banks and then allow them to open more accounts in the country, especially in Jakarta, the centre of Indonesia's outbound tourism.

**American to avoid jail over review of Thai hotel**

AP — BANGKOK

An American cop in Thailand will avoid legal action and is set to leave the country after posting a negative TripAdvisor hotel review after he reached a settlement with the resort's owner, police said yesterday. Wesley Barnes wrote of a "horrible experience" and "unfriendly staff" who "left them on their own" and made the "whole hotel experience a living hell." Barnes said he agreed to comply with proposals from the hotel and to delete his review. Barnes, who has been in the country for 18 months, said he would return to the hotel to apologize to the owner and his staff.

**North Korea may show new missiles at weekend military parade**

AP — SEOUL

For months, North Korea has been quietly preparing to display its new weapon, with the country having fired several missiles this year. The question is whether the North will show off its new capability at the weekend military parade to mark the 70th birthday of its socialist government. In September 2018, Kim Jong-un, the country's leader, did not reveal any new weapons at the parade, which was held in honor of his late grandfather, Kim Il-sung, who ruled the country from 1948 until his death in 1994. But in a sign of the direction the country is taking, North Korea has consistently displayed its military capability at the parade.

The North Korean leader has said that the country's military is capable of striking any target in the world. But analysts have said that the country's military is not yet ready to strike the United States, which has a large military presence in the region.

For the past few years, the North has tried to demonstrate its military capability, and the country has shown off its new weapons at the annual parade. But it is unclear whether the country will show off its new capabilities at the weekend parade.

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**EU's potential COVID-19 vaccine doses top a billion with J&J deal**

**EUROPE**

The European Union has sealed a deal with Johnson & Johnson to supply up to 400 million doses of its potential COVID-19 vaccine, as the bloc builds up stocks amid a global scramble to secure shots.

The deal announced yesterday-between the EU and Janssen, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson—brings the bloc’s vaccine stockpile to more than 1 billion doses, with the potential to rise to up to 2 billion if all three vaccine deals are fulfilled.

The EU has already struck deals with Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca for a total of just over 2 billion doses.

The Janssen vaccine, based on a single-shot adenovirus vector technology, is expected to be delivered from early 2022.

The commission has reserved a potential maximum of up to 210 million doses in 2021 and another 210 million doses in 2022.

**Germany faces virus spread, Europe renews lockdowns**

**AP - BERLIN**

German health expert warned yesterday that the coronavirus could spread uncontrollably in the country if stricter measures are not imposed across Europe and government leaders are not more decisive in some key member states.

Hospitals in Bavaria, the country with the most confirmed virus cases, are filled to capacity with more than 1,000 patients currently in intensive care.

**EU parliament slams Bulgaria for rule of law deficiencies**

**AP - BRUSSELS**

The European Parliament yesterday chastised Bulgaria for failing in respects of law, combating intolerance and corruption and supporting media freedom, underlining the need for stronger reliance on defending the bloc’s democratic principles.

EU lawmakers voted 358 to 277 yesterday in favour of a resolution that characterizes the EU’s relations with the former communist state as a “distressed relationship.”

**Austria hits new virus high as tourism concerns mount**

**AP - VIENNA**

Austria yesterday recorded its highest-ever one-day total of COVID-19 cases, as measures taken in recent tourism hotspots to try to lower infection rates proved insufficient to bring down contagion.

The country’s health ministry reported today 665 new cases of coronavirus, bringing the national total to 3,246 and setting a new one-day record.

**Concerns as UK reports 17,540 new virus cases**

**AP - LONDON**

Health officials warned that there was a “definite and rising concern” over the 17,540 new COVID-19 cases in the United Kingdom yesterday. The number 17,540 new daily cases were recorded yesterday, up from 13,440 reported on Wednesday.

A further 777 people died yesterday, bringing the total number of virus-related deaths to 37,203 in the country.

**France showcases military capabilities**

French soldiers take part in a live mobility demonstration to present France’s military capabilities in Versailles, near Paris, yesterday.

**Russia contains fire at arms depot, 16 hurt**

**AP - MOSCOW**

Hundreds of Russian service personnel yesterday contained a blaze at an arms depot that left a Russian town and damaged homes in the area, the defense ministry said.

A wildfire broke out on Thursday afternoon on the outskirts of the town in the southern region of Stavropol, reportedly containing more than 7,000 tonnes of munitions.

**EU parliament demands tougher climate targets**

**AP - BRUSSELS**

The European Parliament has called on the EU to step up its effort in tackling the climate crisis by agree tougher climate targets.

Lawmakers voted late yesterday to adopt a resolution by a fraction of those in 2050. A bigger win than currently proposed by the European Commission, the EU’s executive body, to achieve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

The resolution demands that the European Commission, in consultation with the European Council and the European Parliament, assess internal targets by 2020 on how the bloc is doing with climate-related commitments.

The commission has promised to submit proposals for a new treaty or constitutional treaty for the European Union within 18 months, a source said.

Austria’s ski resorts came under scrutiny at the beginning of the past weekend as thousands of tourists travelled to the country.

The tourism season is now one of great concern for the government as it continues to manage the virus there.
Lithuania freezes EU funding programme for Belarus

AP — BRUSSELS

Presidential elections in Belarus are set to go ahead as scheduled despite major disarray caused by the detention and4 of opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanukova and her allies. The EU has imposed sanctions on Belarus that also include freezing funds for the country. The EU has said it will seek to impose a new round of sanctions in response to the situation in Belarus.EUROPE / AMERICAS 11

Bulgaria recalls ambassador from Belarus: Foreign minister

Bulgaria has recalled its ambassador to Belarus after the EU agreed to impose new sanctions on the country in response to the detention of opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanukova and her allies. The EU has imposed sanctions on Belarus that also include freezing funds for the country. The EU has said it will seek to impose a new round of sanctions in response to the situation in Belarus.

President Ilian Iliev said: “We are consistent in our solidarity and support to our EU partners – Malaysia and Poland. The situation in Belarus continues to develop in a worrying manner. This has led to the arrest of Sviatlana Tsikhanukova and the imposition of new sanctions on Belarus by the EU and the U.S. We are committed to supporting every EU country that has imposed sanctions on Belarus.”

Later, he referred to the EU’s decision to impose sanctions and the arrest of opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanukova and her allies. He said: “We are consistent in our solidarity and support to our EU partners – Malaysia and Poland. The situation in Belarus continues to develop in a worrying manner. This has led to the arrest of Sviatlana Tsikhanukova and the imposition of new sanctions on Belarus by the EU and the U.S. We are committed to supporting every EU country that has imposed sanctions on Belarus.”

Illinois man faces charges

A court in Madrid yesterday struck down a national government order that imposed a partial lockdown in the province of Madrid and its suburbs, ruling that such measures cannot be implemented without the approval of regional authorities.

The decision came two days after the Madrid regional government imposed a strict lockdown in the Spanish capital, citing the need to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The measure was challenged by a group of Madrid residents, who argued that it violated their constitutional rights.

The court said that the lockdown measures were not justified by the current state of emergency, as they went beyond the powers granted to the central government under the constitution.

It also ruled that the lockdown was not proportional to the level of risk posed by the pandemic, as there were other measures that could have been taken to control the spread of the virus.

The ruling was welcomed by opposition parties, who had strongly criticized the lockdown measure as being too strict and unnecessary.

In a statement, the president of the Madrid regional government, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, said that she respected the court’s decision and would appeal against it.

The appeal process will take several weeks, during which time the lockdown measures will remain in place.

The ruling is expected to set a precedent for other regions looking to impose lockdowns, as the constitutional court has the power to interpret and enforce constitutional rights.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen has criticized the Madrid lockdown and called for a more coordinated approach to managing the pandemic.

She said: “We need to be clear that lockdowns are a last resort and that they must be proportionate to the level of risk they are meant to address. We must also ensure that these measures are accompanied by measures to support businesses and workers.”

The ruling is likely to spark further debate on the appropriate measures to control the pandemic, as the European Union faces a rising number of cases and deaths.

The EU has so far avoided imposing national lockdowns, preferring to rely on regional measures and the use of face masks, social distancing, and other non-pharmaceutical interventions to control the spread of the virus.

However, there is growing pressure on EU leaders to take stronger action to contain the pandemic, as the number of cases continues to rise across the continent.

The ruling also raises questions about the role of the European Court of Human Rights, which has become embroiled in the debate over lockdown measures.

The court is currently considering a case brought by a group of Romanian nurses who were fined for violating lockdown restrictions.

They argued that the restrictions were too restrictive and went beyond the powers granted to the central government. The court is due to rule on the case in the coming weeks.

The ruling is likely to have implications for other countries in the EU, as the court’s decisions can set precedents that other countries may choose to follow.

The European Union has been criticized for its response to the pandemic, with some member states arguing that it has been too slow to react, while others have praised its efforts to coordinate a response.

The EU has so far imposed a range of measures to contain the pandemic, including travel bans, the closure of borders, and the restriction of public gatherings.

However, some countries have chosen to take stronger action, with some member states imposing national lockdowns and others choosing to rely on regional measures and the use of face masks, social distancing, and other non-pharmaceutical interventions.

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American poet Louise Glück wins Nobel literature prize

AP — STOCKHOLM

American poet Louise Glück won the Nobel Prize in Literature Wednesday for "describing the dark corners of the soul" with "incisive artistry.

Glück was among the 14 most prominent poets in American contemporary literature, the committee said.

Glück’s long record of hard work and dedication to her craft, as well as her commitment to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, is a testament to her passion for the craft of poetry.

Glück’s poetry has been published in more than 20 editions and translated into more than 30 languages.

Her most recent collection, "The Prague Waltz," was published in 2019 and received critical acclaim.


She has received numerous awards and honors, including the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Book Award for Poetry.

Glück was born in New York in 1943 and began writing poetry in her teens.

Her work has been celebrated for its complexity and its exploration of the human psyche.

The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded annually by the Swedish Academy to a writer who has "produced the most prominent works of literature in the English speaking world or in other literatures.

The award is considered one of the highest honors a writer can receive.

Glück has previously been shortlisted for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Nobel Prize in Literature is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish inventor and industrialist, in 1895.

The prizes are awarded annually by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.

The prize is awarded in the fields of chemistry, physics, literature, peace, and physiology or medicine.

The Nobel Prizes are awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in these fields.

The prizes are awarded on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death, which is December 10.

The prizes are announced on October 8 each year, with the laureates receiving their medals and diplomas at a ceremony in Stockholm on December 10.

The prizes are accompanied by a cash award of 9 million Swedish kronor (about $1 million).
Oil rises above $43 on supply losses, US stimulus hopes

REUTERS - LONDON

Oil rose above $43 a barrel on Wednesday supported by soaring shutdowns in the US Gulf of Mexico and the prospect of more supply losses in Norway, as well as hopes for some US unwinding of relief aid.

Oil and gas workers have withdrawn from offshore Gulf platforms and motorists in the state have halted protests at refineries over further outages in the North Sea because of a workers’ strike. The major producer in the US Gulf is shut until the strike ends by October 14.

Oil prices also lost $2.44 a barrel after falling 1.6 percent on Wednesday. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude added $1.13, or 2.8 percent, to $41.07 after falling 1.8 percent on Wednesday.

Assistant Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said on Wednesday that action was needed. “There really is a new kind of recognition that you get a society where capitalism is beginning to zero in and needs to be readied in order to make sure that what we’re doing is sustainable and the benefits are shared widely in a way that they haven’t been before,” she said in an interview on Wednesday.

“Any one of a number of challenges on the horizon. That climate change is a very serious concern and that action needs to occur,” she said. Biden’s campaign declined to comment. US oil spilled by vises at the first oil platform

Brent crude was up $1.16, or 2.8 percent, to $43.15 after falling 1.6 percent on Wednesday. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude added $1.13, or 2.8 percent, to $41.07 after falling 1.8 percent on Wednesday.

The coronavirus crisis, with Brent falling in a 2½-year low around $40 a barrel, is helping to stiffen the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies’ support for the proposal.

Some major oil exporters have started discussion on reducing output further and said they would move to phase out their current supply cuts if oil prices continued to slide. Saudi Arabia has said it would be willing to discuss an extension of current supply cuts.

Brent crude appeared by video at the first virtual meeting of the OPEC+ producers and allies, the group known as OPEC+.

“With the anticipated rebound in property prices, the business aspect of buy-to-let options would remain lucrative even with the current pandemic situation,” the report said.

Instead, they said that developments would also need funding and support for financial institutions and in order to make it affordable for the middle classes and upper middle class estate workers.

“With these financial considerations, investment and home buying confidence would certainly rise especially for those who see themselves living in Qatar for at least 5 or more years,” Rivera added.

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Does Amazon even care about Whole Foods anymore?

SARAH HALZACK
BUSINESS

Economists are predicting millions of people will return to offices in the fall, which could lead to a reduction in the number of workers continuing claims. The number of Americans filing initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose unexpectedly last week by 9,000 to a seasonally adjusted 840,000, the Labor Department said on Thursday. The April 26 report showed the number of people continuing to draw benefits after the initial claims peaked at 12.3 million in May 2020. This was a decline of about 11% from the previous week. The number has fallen for 13 consecutive weeks and has changed by less than 5,000 claims a week over that period.

The number of Americans filing initial claims for state unemployment benefits over the past 13 weeks is a close逊续臥录卧 recycled measure of layoffs. The number of continuing claims is a less volatile measure and is continually revised. The data show the economy may actually be improving, but many economists say they expect to see a second wave of the virus and a renewed surge in job losses.

While last week’s level of claims was down 2% from the previous week, the Labor Department said the number of people in continuing claims fell by 43,000, the largest decline since March. The number of people continuing to draw benefits after the initial claims peaked at 12.3 million in May 2020. This was a decline of about 11% from the previous week. The number has fallen for 13 consecutive weeks and has changed by less than 5,000 claims a week over that period.

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Al Sadd coach Xavi Hernandez yesterday moved to a warming to their Ooredoo Cup rivals Al Arabi, saying this team will be playing the title clash ‘to win’.

The defending arch-rivals play the Ooredoo Cup final tomorrow at Al Duhail Stadium.

At Al Sadd, all matches are important. Final is for winning, not for playing! We have enough players. We care to win. We are Al Sadd, we must be winning. Hopefully fans will go to see a very good game,” Xavi said during a press conference yesterday.

“We are very happy to be playing in this final. To be honest, I did not expect that we would qualify for this game. We have to play with a group of players who are not on national team duty,” the Spanish World Cup star said.

“Al Sadd has always been important opportunities for youngsters. And now we are doing well. For them, every minute is an opportunity. I am happy that we have many youngsters, such as Abdullah Al Mawla and Mohamed Waqar, on national duty,” he added.

Al Sadd coach Xavi Hernandez (right) and Al Arabi coach Heimer Hallgrimsson pose with the Ooredoo Cup trophy during a press conference in Doha, yesterday.

The Barcelona stalwart urged young players to give their best.

“Years players have to fight hard on the pitch. That is the best way to show their level. There is no room for sitting on the bench. They have to overcome pressure,” Xavi said.

“We have to think positively. I do not think negatively. We have the commitment. We have many competitors, like the league and Qatar Cup ahead of us. Football is not mathe- matics. It is about playing well, controlling the ball, creating opportunities. You have to give your best for Al Sadd until the last breath,” added.

Veteran striker Rodrigo Tabata, who switched from Al Rayyan at the start of the new season last month, said young players needed to deliver for the Doha giants.

“This final is a good chance for our young players in particular. We have plenty of expe- rienced players as well. I hope we will be successful and I hope us young players can show everyone like me to stay moti- vated for all games.

“I am in training and matches. I try to pass my experience to young players. It is natural that I am keen to help out young- ers and, in turn, the team,” Tabata added.

Al Arabi coach Heimer Hallgrimsson said his team has a chance to end their barren trophy run in this season’s final.

“The Ooredoo Cup is an good chance for our young players in particular. We have many expe- rienced players as well. I hope we will be successful and I hope us young players can show everyone like me to stay moti- vated for all games. It is about playing well, controlling the ball, creating opportunities. You have to give your best for Al Sadd until the last breath,” Tabata added.

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Fourth seed downs Kvitova; teenage beats Podoroska in semis

**French Open: Kenin to face Swiatek in final**

Sofia Kenin defeated Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 to reach the French Open final yet again and will attempt to capture a second Grand Slam title this year, following her Australian Open triumph.

Fourth seed Kenin will meet 19-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland in tomorrow’s title decider after downing two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova in her bid for a third major.

Swiatek became the first Polish woman in 45 years to reach the Roland Garros final as she demolished Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1.

“I knew I had to do my best and I am super happy and proud of myself,” said Kenin.

“I will need to be on a different level, the higher level, even though the Czech was really tough."

Before this season, Kenin had never gone as far as the semi-finals on clay. She lost her only match on the surface this year prior to Roland Garros, 6-6, 6-4 to Victoria Azarenka in Rome.

Kenin, who was taken to three sets in four of her five matches heading into the semi-finals here, surfaced 4-1 down in the first set against Kvitova with a double break.

The Czech immediately clawed one back and created another opening to level on serve, but Kenin held steady and wrapped up the set when Kvitova double-faulted long.

Kenin again struck with a break in game five of the second set, lording off four break points in the ensuing game to keep Kvitova at arm’s length.

Her frustration was clear as she blew her first chance to secure victory, but the tenacious Swiatek was on the prowl.

Kenin earned a second opportunity and sealed her seat in the final with a gritty service hold.

The championship match will be the first at the majors to feature two players aged 20 or under since Maria Sharapova faced fellow 20-year-old Ana Ivanovic at the 2008 Australian Open.

The 14th-seeded Swiatek has now dropped a set to the tournament, conceding just 23 games through six matches.

The last woman to capture the French Open title without losing a set was Justine Henin in 2007.

“It seems unreal,” said Swiatek. “I never thought at the start I would play to such high level but I always knew that it was going to be in the final of a Grand Slam and it would be at the French Open.

“Everything is a dream come true."

Swiatek has reached the run of compatriot Jelena Ostapenko who finished runner-up at Roland Garros in 2017.

She is only the second Polish woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era after Agnieszka Radwanska at Wimbledon in 2012.

Swiatek becomes the seventh unseeded women’s finalist at Roland Garros. Of the previous six, only Jelena Dokic in 2001 went on to lift the trophy.

“I didn’t really want to play this match as it was the first round. I didn’t want to think I was in the semi-finals because it would stress me,” said Swiatek.

She has not faced Kenin at your level but defeated her in straight sets at the Roland Garros in 2018.

“Really I have no expectations. I don’t care if I’m going to lose or win, I’m just going to play my best tennis.”

World number 131 Podoroska was the lowest-ranked semi-finalist in Paris in the modern era, and the first woman’s qualifier to reach the last four of the French Open.

“My roll has been a best of 4th after the tournament having won without a single Grand Slam main draw win to her name.

“Of course my ranking is going to change, and the tournaments that I’m going to play but not my life,” said Podoroska.

“I’m going to be the same person, I’m going to try to improve my game, like I’ve been doing in the past few years.”

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**Hamilton resumes record trail on Formula One’s Nurburgring return**

Lewis Hamilton will be seeking, at the second attempt, to equal Michael Schumacher’s record of 16 wins while the seven-time champion German’s son Mick is set to make his F1 debut in today’s opening practice with Alfa Romeo.

Schumacher’s haul of seven drivers’ championships

After his disappointing at the Russian Grand Prix, where he was handed two controversial five-second penalties on his way to a fighting third and a subsequent outburst, in which he claimed there was a conspiracy to slow him down, he was seeking to reclaim his dominance and dignity.

Hamilton triumphed in 2010 with McLaren, powered by a Mercedes engine, but he has not claimed victory in the Eifel mountains since joining the current Mercedes works team.

Hamilton goes into the race with a 44-point lead in the drivers’ title race ahead of team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who won in Sochi two weeks ago and remains determined to close the gap on the six-times champion.

“I won’t go up and we’ll keep pushing,” he said.

Schumacher 2.0 is being expected to make his debut on home German soil.

He leads off in the F2 title race and both will be vying to impress in the hope of landing an F1 seat next year.

Schumacher added, "It looks like it is going to be wet and cold again so I will be ready to go in the car."

For Hamilton, there is more at stake than a chance to claim another record as he progresses on in pursuit of equalling Schumacher’s haul of seven drivers’ championships.

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Schumacher 2.0 is being expected to make his debut on home German soil.

He leads off in the F2 title race and both will be vying to impress in the hope of landing an F1 seat next year.

Schumacher added, “It looks like it is going to be wet and cold again so I will be ready to go in the car.”

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