First batch of Iranian returnees discharged from quarantine

● No Metro, public bus this weekend; play areas in parks closed; QM, QF shut many facilities; Ashghal, Kahramaa urge customers to use e-services

EU and US clash over ‘unilateral’ travel ban

Agencies

Washington

The European Union sharply criticized the US decision to restrict travel from most European countries to the US due to the coronavirus crisis, arguing that the order required global cooperation and solidarity.

The ban applies to any foreign passenger, regardless of citizenship, who has been in a country identified by Washington over the past 14 days, hereinafter referred to as a “restricted area”.

The three-week rule was published in the US Federal Register before taking effect at 3am EST Wednesday (7pm GMT).

The ban is a response to the novel coronavirus pandemic that has swept the world in recent months, according to the White House proclamation.

The ban applies to any foreign passenger, regardless of citizenship, who has been in any of the 26 non-Schengen countries within 14 days of their planned arrival into the United States.

The ban is not focused on citizens of those countries, but anyone who has been physically present in them.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel said they planned to discuss the US decision at the Union’s next virtual summit on March 19.

Speaking to reporters in the White House alongside First Lady Melania Trump on Wednesday, he said the ban could be extended or shortened, and added that it had been made to consult with the US prior to announcing it on Wednesday evening in a televised address.

The ban is one of several measures put in place by countries around the world in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus. Other countries have imposed travel restrictions on non-citizens who have been in specific countries over the past 14 days.

The ban is intended to help contain the spread of the virus, but it is likely to have a significant economic impact on European countries and the US, as well as on the global economy.

Ministry issues advisory for mosques

The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs published an advisory to mosques and centers where Islamic prayer and call to prayer within the five daily prayers (Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha) can be reduced to two or three call(s) instead of 15 minutes and to open windows before and after each prayer.

The advisory also stresses the importance of providing masks and sanitizers among workers and customers and indicates that the numbers of people in mosques should be reduced as much as possible.

Cinemas, gyms and wedding halls to be shut from today

Qatar's authorities announced new preventative measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

This includes closing of cinemas, gyms and wedding halls, including halls in hotels and those used by events today.

The Ministry of Public Health has urged people to avoid crowded places and postpone holding social gatherings, especially for the time-being, for their own well-being and that of the community.

The Ministry has also advised elderly people, and people with chronic health conditions, to avoid going out unless absolutely necessary, as they are more susceptible to infections. It said it continues to take all necessary measures to limit the spread of the virus and called upon people to follow the preventive measures to protect against infection.

This includes washing hands often, or using hand sanitizers, and keeping a distance of at least 1m from people who have symp- toms of coronavirus. The initiative also urges to use their sleeves to cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing, or use tissue paper and dispose of it appropriately.

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic currently affects the Ministry of Public Health and those responsible for any reports or inquiries regarding the virus, on the toll-free phone number 944000.
Qatar Airways’ Privilege Club offers members tier status extension

Qatar Airways’ loyalty programme, Privilege Club, has announced a new commercial policy to allow all passengers that have booked or will book flights to travel up to June 30, that are impacted by travel restrictions and flight reductions resulting from Covid-19 (coronavirus).

The policy is one of the many steps that Qatar Airways is taking to ensure its customers can travel with confidence.

“With the current uncertainty and the unprecedented halt of flights and travel plans, it is natural to have questions regarding our current loyalty programme,” said Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways. “We want to make sure that our customers can feel reassured and remain engaged with our brand, regardless of travel plans. To this end, we have introduced new policies that will allow passengers to make the most of their membership regardless of their current tier status, which has been a highly valued loyalty programme benefit for many of our Privilege Club members. Members have always been our top priority and it is only natural that we would do everything in our power to protect their travel plans and to give them the same confidence we are giving to our staff on the ground.”

Qatar Airways’ Privilege Club recently announced an extension of their membership tier status for members who have booked or will book flights to travel up to June 30. This move allows passengers to retain their current tier status for an additional three months without the need to travel and to ensure they receive the benefits our customers have come to expect.

“I want to assure our members that we are here for them throughout this unprecedented time. We remain committed to bring our customers the cleanest in the skies, and we have introduced new policies to provide all customers with maximum flexibility to suit their travel plans,” the airline said.

Qatar Airways has also introduced new policies to ensure all passengers that have booked or will book flights to travel up to June 30 are able to change their travel plans when change orders do not change the duration of their booking or exchanging their ticket for a travel voucher if a flight or flights are cancelled due to force majeure. The policy includes additional flights for full details of the steps that Qatar Airways is taking in response to coronavirus, visit the dedicated new interactive web portal: qmiles.com/Qcovid-19

Qmiles are the most relevant to them.

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Qmiles are valid for five years and can be redeemed for a range of benefits in Qatar and in over 600 global destinations. Qmiles are redeemable with their own exclusive benefits.

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Qatar closes museums, cancels activities

By Irina Spengler


"The following initiatives are also cancelled: Qatar National Library (QNL), Museum of Islamic Art, Katara Cultural Village, Art and Design School, workshops, lectures, tours and educational programmes," the statement issued by the QM said.

"As a precautionary measure to avoid the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), it was announced yesterday that the Ashghal Museums (QM) also closed the Pearl Museum (formerly known as the Islamic Arts Museum) for a high alert, the Public Authority for Government Properties said yesterday.

"During this time, we will continue to review and follow our plan to re-open the Islamic Arts Museum in the near future," the statement added.

"We are also investigating the possibility of holding virtual exhibits in the meantime," a鸡蛋 said.

"When this is all over, we plan to bring back the in-person exhibits." The QM has not yet announced a date for the resumption of its services.

"We will continue to work with Qatar's Ministry of Health and的感受 on the situation on a daily basis," the statement said.

"Members of the public are encouraged to support the government's efforts to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus by following all of the directives put in place by the authorities," the QM said.

"This includes limiting the number of visitors to public places and facilities at Qatar and contributing to the public health and safety of all Qatari citizens and residents," the statement said.

"We are also working with Qatar's Ministry of Health to ensure that our visitors and staff are aware of the latest developments and are following all of the guidelines put in place by the authorities," the statement said.

"We are working with our partners to ensure that all of our facilities are following all of the guidelines put in place by the authorities," the statement said.

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Sanusi fall shows limits for Nigerian traditional rulers

Sanusi was born to the Nupe clan in Benue State in southern Niger and became the 12th Emir of Kano in August 2002, succeeding his father, Tanko Sanusi. He served as the Emir of Kano for 33 years, longer than any other member of the Sanusi dynasty. He was known for his outspoken and critical views on the state of Nigeria, often speaking out against corruption and what he perceived as the failings of the government.

The fall of Sanusi was seen as a significant moment in Nigerian politics, as it demonstrated the limits of the power of traditional rulers in the face of political pressure. Sanusi had been an advocate of modernization and reform in Nigeria, but his removal suggested that the traditional rulers were not inviolable and could be removed by the government if they were perceived as a political liability.

The move answered a call from animal welfare activists who argue the trivialization of cub interaction, we sometimes remove the cub interaction, we sometimes remove the public from the understanding of the complexity of these interactions.

The guidelines are non-binding, and the government recommends that animal breeders should develop their own guidelines to protect the welfare of the animals they rear. Additionally, the guidelines call for more education and training for staff who work with animals, as well as a reduction in the number of animals kept in captivity.

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Trudeau works from home as wife takes Covid-19 test

The statement does not mention whether her three children, ranging in age from high school to early grade school, are also in self-isolation. Trudeau’s announcement comes as the spread of the new coronavirus continues to bring governments around the world into lockdown. Officials have ordered millions of citizens to stay at home and businesses around the world to shut down to slow the spread of the virus.

Cancelling his trip, Trudeau said in a statement shared on Twitter Tuesday evening that Canada had confirmed one case of the novel coronavirus. The patient, a 48-year-old Liberal leader, arrived from a trip to Europe on Sunday night. The Canadian leader said he was self-isolating and his wife, Sophie Gregoire, was in self-quarantine. The couple were in self-quarantine for 14 days before the flight, according to an official statement from Trudeau’s office.

“We’ve known about this for weeks,” said the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, in an interview with Global News. “We’ve had a plan in place for weeks and months.”

Ford’s Children’s Hospital in Toronto said a 14-month-old girl, the first child in Canada to contract the virus, was being treated for a respiratory illness. The hospital did not confirm whether the child had travelled abroad.

Harper told reporters on Tuesday that he would join Trudeau and his wife in isolation for two weeks. His wife, Adrienne, was a nurse, and the couple would be self-isolating in their Ottawa home.

However, a few hours later, Ford’s press secretary, Amanda Simard, said the Premier had tested negative for coronavirus and would not be self-isolating.

Earlier Tuesday, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said at a press conference that he had tested positive for coronavirus.

Ford said he was self-isolating at home and that his wife, Renata, was also infected.

Cancer literals the Prize-winning Trounce has been sitting at home, with his wife, Sophie, in isolation.

Trudeau, who is in his early 40s, is the latest world leader to become infected with the virus, joining others such as the Spanish king and Italian prime minister. The virus has now spread to more than 160 countries, with more than 1,000 cases reported in Canada. The virus has caused more than 12,000 deaths around the world.

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Manila takes steps to contain Covid-19

Duterte threatens jail for officials who ignore orders on public disorder possible, urges co-operation; Cabinet members undergoing quarantine

AP

Filipinos will temporarily close some mosques for deep cleaning as authorities took their lead from Malaysia, which has banned communal prayers and other gatherings at places of worship. Authorities in Muslim-majority Malaysia adjourned communal prayers on Fridays for now although some expeditions have been allowed to continue. On Friday, authorities confirmed three new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the national total to 13. The virus has so far been detected in several Arab countries, Europe, and North America. The Philippines has so far reported 158 cases of Covid-19, with 11 confirmed in metropolitan Manila. The country's minister of health, Francisco Duque, has said that the pandemic is imminent, and authorities are working on measures to contain it. Duterte has warned that anyone who fails to comply with the government's orders will be held accountable. The president has also instructed the police and military to enforce the quarantine measures strictly. Duterte has said that the government will not tolerate any violations of the quarantine protocols.

SINGAPORE

Singapore to close mosques for cleaning

Dutch tourists quarantined in Vietnam as virus spreads

Reuters

As the virus spreads around the world, countries are implementing various measures to contain its spread. Singapore has announced that it will close mosques for deep cleaning beginning March 1. The government has confirmed 15 cases so far, with no deaths. The country has been praised for its early response to the outbreak, with strict quarantine measures and contact tracing efforts. In contrast, the Philippines has seen a significant rise in cases, with over 150 confirmed so far, and has implemented a lockdown in the National Capital Region. The government has also advised all citizens to avoid non-essential travel and contact.

China shuts down Everest over virus

Thousands of monkeys in Thai city clash in tribal warfare

The Nepal remains closed for foreign tourists, but the government is considering easing restrictions. Meanwhile, authorities in Thailand have imposed a lockdown in Bangkok, with schools and businesses closed, and public gatherings restricted. The government has also announced that it will increase testing and contact tracing efforts. In the Philippines, authorities have confirmed a total of 158 cases, with 11 deaths. The government has tightened quarantine measures, with a lockdown in the National Capital Region. The Duterte administration has also advised all citizens to avoid non-essential travel and contact.

China's decision to suspend tourism operations is likely to have a significant impact on the country's economy, which is heavily dependent on tourism. The government has announced that it will increase testing and contact tracing efforts, and has also advised all citizens to avoid non-essential travel and contact. In Vietnam, authorities have confirmed a total of 201 cases, with two deaths. The government has also tightened quarantine measures, with a lockdown in the Red River Delta region. The government has also advised all citizens to avoid non-essential travel and contact.
US lawmakers seek Xinjiang import ban over forced labour

**Asianews**

WASHINGTON

Labourers in Washington have proposed a ban on imports from China’s Xinjiang region, seeking to ban goods produced by Uighur forced labourers who were making their way into the state. The US move comes as pressure builds on Beijing and other governments, particularly in the European Union, to take steps to condemn and end the practice.

The legislation, introduced by US lawmakers on Monday, follows the news that the Chinese government was planning to bring in new rules to ban all imports from Xinjiang.

The legislation, if passed, would require the US government to ban all imports from Xinjiang, effectively shutting down all trade with the region.

The US move comes just days after the European Union announced it would impose sanctions on Chinese officials and companies over allegations of forced labour in Xinjiang.

The European Union also announced it would consider imposing sanctions on other countries, including Russia and Iran.

The move is seen as a major blow to China’s efforts to expand its influence in the region.

The US legislation, if passed, would also give the US government the power to ban all imports from China’s Xinjiang region.

The move comes as the US and its allies are increasingly concerned about China’s treatment of its ethnic minorities, particularly the Uighurs in Xinjiang.

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Ireland shuts schools and universities

Ireland will shut schools, universities and childcare facilities nationwide from Monday 23 March and won’t reopen them until at least March 30, the Irish prime minister, Leo Varadkar, said today.

“From midnight tonight, all schools, colleges and childcare facilities will be closed, and they will not reopen until at least March 30,” Varadkar said.

The government has also advise people to avoid non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people, including sports events. But the significantly increased restrictions come more than a week after the launch of the so-called “delay phase” to contain the spread of the virus.

The decision was made in response to three main factors: the significant increase in confirmed cases across the UK, the potential for increased local transmission in the Irish region which shares an open border with Britain, and the British government’s decision to shut schools and shut down mass gatherings in Britain, according to Britain’s foremost epidemiologist, Sir Chris Whitty.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews confirmed his state’s decision to shut schools and shut down mass gatherings early today. Andrews, who is now a father of three, was due to announce the measures this morning.

Andrews confirmed that the state’s decision to shut schools and shut down mass gatherings is based on a decision made in the British government.

It comes as the United Kingdom’s Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced his government would shut down schools and shut down mass gatherings from Monday.

Ireland confirmed its first death from coronavirus earlier today, bringing the total to 23.

Within an hour, long queues formed at supermarkets in central Dublin to buy toilet paper and baby formula, in a country where mass gatherings of more than 500 people should be cancelled. You need to continue to go to work if you can, but when possible you should work from home.

Virtually unrecognisable people toil around open doors and offices to stagger break times and hold socially-distant meetings.

While retailers can open, they should look at how to keep distances, the government said.

Public transport will continue to operate and shops will remain open with plans to increase supply and claim it will not interrupt transport.

The government said that if he had said “yes” to the rent, he would have gone back to the house and said to his mother: “Mom, let’s go to the house and look for a reason.”

The government said that if the rent is lower than it was before the past year, the price of the property will still be about 14% lower.

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EU says it will offer migrants money to go home

Italians adjust to coronavirus lockdown

E U and Greek officials have faced heavy criticism for the slow disbursement of aid to migrants on Greek islands who could not keep their businesses open because of the lockdown. Authorities failed to continue to house migrants in the overcrowded Moria camp in Lesbos, saying to the EU: “We are not able to do more”. Greece is facing increasing amounts of angry reactions from the EU. The UNHCR has called on the EU to find a solution for overcrowded camps. The paper’s late Christmas deadline has forced the cancellation of a number of planned stories. The deadline was extended for the following week, but the stories will not be filed until the following week.

Norwegian king and queen in bowlom isolation while Danish queen cancels birthday events

Norway is adjusting to its coronavirus lockdown, with the Norwegian king and queen in bowlom isolation and the Danish queen cancelling her birthday events. The Norwegian king and queen have been in bowlom isolation since March 12, when the country went into lockdown. The Danish queen had planned to celebrate her 70th birthday with a big party, but she has now decided to cancel the event.

The Dutch government has announced that it will offer migrants €500 to go home, in an effort to reduce the pressure on overcrowded camps.

EU officials are also discussing the possibility of offering migrants €500 to go home, as part of a broader package of measures to help migrants during the coronavirus crisis.

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Doctors stunned as amputee’s new lower limbs adapt to body

New Delhi

Doctors are stunned at how quickly an Indian amputee has grown accustomed to her new hands, which were transplanted onto her face. The 13-hour surgery for the rare 13-hour transplant, carried out on Shreya, a 25-year-old student, last week, was first of its kind in the US in 1999 on a man in India, who had lost both his hands and legs due to a freak accident.

Shreya was able to touch her nose for the first time on Sunday, when she woke up. She could also use her hands to take food, brush her teeth and even play with her dog, the doctors said.

“Her abilities have been so impressive that we have decided to keep her in hospital for a few more days, till she recovers completely,” said Dr. Arun Wal, a leading plastic surgeon in New Delhi.

On the day of the surgery, Shreya had been given two skin grafts on her hands, which were then treated with special medication. The skin had regrown within two weeks, and Shreya could now touch her face.

But the doctors were shocked at how quickly she adapted to her new hands. She was able to use them in just a few days, and could even feed herself.

“Shreya has even been able to tie her hair, and put on her own nail varnish,” said Dr. Wal.

The doctors are now considering sending her back to her family in Delhi, where she will continue to receive regular check-ups.

Shreya’s case has raised hope for other amputees, who have been waiting for a similar surgery.

“We have to keep on trying,” said Dr. Wal. “There is a lot of hope for amputees in the future.”

Shreya’s story is a testament to the resilience of the human body, and the power of medical science.

“Nobody can make out what her hands touch,” said Dr. Wal. “Shreya has even been able to eat with them.”

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Cuba urges citizens to make own masks

By Jackmemor Caball, Reuters

In this sun-baked homeland of castanets and salsa, Covid-19 is causing Cubans to question if they need masks at all.

While Cuba, which has been spared the worst of the coronavirus pandemic, has reported just 82 cases and no deaths, authorities have advised citizens to make face masks out of cloth to ward off the spread of the disease.

The advice has caught some Cubans by surprise, accustomed to wearing only disposable plastic masks.

“Why should we wear something that could get in the way when we dance?” said 33-year-old Yaimy Abreu, a salsa dancer at a Havana club.

Masks are widely used in Cuba to ward off the flu, and medical workers recommend them when caring for patients. But making them is a new idea.

“People say, ‘If you can make a mask, why buy one?’” said Marie Ines Maldonado, 56, a street vendor who makes tortillas.

With no factories to make cloth masks, the government has released instructions for mufflers and masks made from fabric and plexiglass.

“First we will reinforce the existing campaigns to encourage the use of face masks,” said Sharma Lomp, the health minister.

The government will also distribute masks in Havana, the capital.

Most European countries have reported hundreds of thousands of coronavirus cases, but Cuba has managed to keep its numbers low.

Health authorities have attributed the low number of cases to quick testing after the first 10 infections were recorded in early February.

On Thursday, Cuba reported one new case, a 27-year-old who had traveled to Europe.

On Monday, 155,000 children were vaccinated against measles.

With no confirmed cases of the disease all year, authorities said they decided to offer the shots free of charge.

The country is also trying to contain a mumps outbreak through vaccination.

By Alicia Galdor, Reuters

Argentina, Costa Rica and Peru said Monday they were halting all flights from China, Italy, Spain and France on Monday because of the new coronavirus, and France announced measures to prevent a major sports event.

Argentina said it would suspend university classes and large public events for two weeks, and on Wednesday asked FIFA to delay their World Cup 2022 qualifying match in the country.

Costa Rica has called off large-scale concerts and popular festivals, while also announcing the start of the new school year would be pushed back.

On Tuesday, Chile was the first Latin American country to announce a general prohibition of all events from Spain and Italy. Its president also urged citizens to avoid traveling from affected countries to place themselves in isolation for two weeks.

Meanwhile, in Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro said the country would suspend university classes to prevent the spread of the virus, which has caused 150 registered cases and two deaths.

Ohio health officials have confirmed the state's first coronavirus case. The patient is a 21-year-old woman who traveled to Spain.

In France, authorities confirmed two cases of the coronavirus, one of which is a 69-year-old man who returned from China over the weekend. The other is a 72-year-old man who recently returned from Italy, and whose sample is being analyzed.

In Brazil, a 69-year-old woman who recently returned from Italy tested positive for the virus, and authorities confirmed her husband also has the virus.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said he was “not at risk” after his chief of staff tested positive for the virus last week.

On Wednesday, it was reported that a student at a university in São Paulo, where President Bolsonaro is scheduled to give a speech later this week, has also tested positive for the virus.

Anger has mounted among international health experts, as well as officials of the World Health Organization, who have expressed concern about the response of authorities in several Latin American countries.
Pakistan passes child abuse law

Pakistani parliament approves a bill against child abuse on Wednesday, making the country the 194th member of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The bill, which was passed unanimously in the National Assembly, includes provisions that define child abuse in various forms, such as physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse. It also sets out penalties for offenders and mechanisms for reporting cases of abuse.

Media tycoon arrested on corruption charges

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested Iftikhar Ali Chaudhry, the chairman of the country's largest media conglomerate, on charges of embezzlement and money laundering. Chaudhry, who is also a member of the Senate, is accused of misusing a government contract awarded to his company to develop a highway in the province of Punjab.

Religious group to hold rally in support of virus risk

A group of Islamic missionaries in Pakistan has decided to hold a protest rally to raise awareness about the importance of following preventive measures against the coronavirus. The group, which includes members of the Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Hind, has called for a nationwide campaign to educate people about the need to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and get vaccinated.

Govt to table bill for the creation of south Punjab

The Pakistan government is set to introduce a bill in the National Assembly to create a new province in the country. The bill, which is expected to be tabled on Thursday, aims to carve out the southern part of Punjab, which includes the cities of Multan and Bahawalpur, into a separate province.

Supreme Court seeks record of military court cases

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has issued a notice to the government to produce the full list of cases tried by military courts. The court has asked for the records of more than 1,000 cases tried by military courts since the institution was set up in 1950, including over 1,600 cases involving sentences of death by hanging.

Holi day

People celebrate the Holi festival in Karachi on Monday evening. The Hindu spring festival, known as the Festival of Colors, is observed at the end of the winter season, on the last full moon of the lunar month.
Virtues of the Mothers of the Believers

"A’ishah bint Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

She was the daughter of a prophet, and the Prophet himself declared that she was the best of all women. He also said: "She is the best of all women, the equal of all the prophets and all their wives." She was born in Makkah in the year 4 AH. Her father was Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, one of the companions of the Prophet, and one of the noblest and best people. She was a daughter of the Messenger of Allah, upon him be peace and blessings. She was known for her intelligence, beauty, and wisdom. She was the first woman to accept Islam and the first to fast in Islam. She was also known for her piety and her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Asma bint Zaid

She was the daughter of the Prophet’s cousin, Zaid bin Thabit, and she was known for her beauty and intelligence. She was one of the Prophet’s favorite wives and was known for her obedience and submission. She was also known for her love and respect for the Prophet and his companions. She was one of the first women to accept Islam and was known for her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Sawdah bint Zaid

She was the daughter of the Prophet’s cousin, Zaid bin Thabit, and she was known for her beauty and intelligence. She was one of the Prophet’s favorite wives and was known for her obedience and submission. She was also known for her love and respect for the Prophet and his companions. She was one of the first women to accept Islam and was known for her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Khadijah bint Khuwaylid

She was the daughter of a wealthy man, Khuwaylid bin Khadij, and she was known for her beauty and intelligence. She was one of the Prophet’s favorite wives and was known for her obedience and submission. She was also known for her love and respect for the Prophet and his companions. She was one of the first women to accept Islam and was known for her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Umm Salama

She was the daughter of a wealthy man, Salama bin Umayyah, and she was known for her beauty and intelligence. She was one of the Prophet’s favorite wives and was known for her obedience and submission. She was also known for her love and respect for the Prophet and his companions. She was one of the first women to accept Islam and was known for her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Ummayyah bint Zaid

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Umm Habibah

She was the daughter of a wealthy man, Habib bin Lukman, and she was known for her beauty and intelligence. She was one of the Prophet’s favorite wives and was known for her obedience and submission. She was also known for her love and respect for the Prophet and his companions. She was one of the first women to accept Islam and was known for her deep knowledge of the Quran.

Katariya bint Naim

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May Allah bless and keep them all.
Will coronavirus make our own out of alcohol and aloe vera gel. The people we greet, while we can pick up their germs. We can control its spread. We may, indeed, need to keep people will stop making fun of the Hollywood air kiss, kissing greeting should be abandoned for now. Maybe The French have been advised that the familiar cheek-press, limp? How about a hug? Or a nod? )

President Mike Pence employed that technique on his hand itself. Or rather, its propensity for greeting to show that they were carrying no weapons. We clench our unclenched right hands toward each other in a physical connection with friends and often our hands to ourselves for the time being. But we're to control its spread. We may, indeed, need to keep people from our own eyes or noses when we have certain illnesses.

These days, it would seem, the potential weapon isn't the dustbin of history. Could this be the end of the day they decided to go to war.

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We're being drilled in handwashing techniques as if we were all second-graders. With liquid hand sanitizers out of stock everywhere, we've been counselling on how to make our own alcohol and aloe vera gel.

And lately, the Internet has been brimming with suggestions for socially acceptable ways to greet each other that don't involve passing virutes along blindly from one person to the next. Could this be the end of the handshake?

To come of think it, it wasn't such a habit, would we really miss a ritual so often with judgment and calculation? Too firm? Too limp? Oh, how quaint.

Last Monday, Germany's Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, who is married to Angela Merkel as she held the out her hand to him; she laughed and praised him for it, and no one seemed worse off. Also that day, US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams suggested the handshake was a far worse way to pass on friendly greetings; US Vice- President Mike Pence employed that technique on his hand itself. Or rather, its propensity for greeting to show that they were carrying no weapons. We clench our unclenched right hands toward each other in a physical connection with friends and often our hands to ourselves for the time being. But we're to control its spread. We may, indeed, need to keep people from our own eyes or noses when we have certain illnesses.

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Clean energy is also resilient energy

By John Kyrklund and Whitney Inouye

The Caribbean and its surrounding waters are among the most vulnerable places on Earth. This is due to a combination of factors: the region’s tropical location, its reliance on imported fossil fuels to power their economies, and its vulnerability to extreme weather, including the devastating impacts of strong hurricanes. The Bahamas is setting an example for how other countries can achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by becoming virtually impossible to deliver.

As a result, the 2015 Paris accord sets a global target of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The accord aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with the goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. To achieve these targets, countries need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

However, the transition to renewable energy is not without challenges. For example, the Caribbean region is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, which makes it vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply disruptions. Additionally, the region lacks the infrastructure and technology needed to support a transition to renewable energy.

One solution to this challenge is to develop resilient energy systems. These systems are designed to withstand and recover from disruptions, such as extreme weather events, without relying on imported fossil fuels. This not only reduces the region’s dependence on imported fuels, but also strengthens its energy security.

In 2015, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report highlighting the benefits of resilient energy systems in the Caribbean. The report noted that resilient energy systems can reduce the cost of energy, improve reliability, and enhance energy security. The report also emphasized the importance of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, in developing resilient energy systems.

The Bahamas, for example, has made significant progress in transitioning to renewable energy. The country has set a goal of achieving 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. The government has invested in wind and solar power projects, and has also implemented energy efficiency measures.

The Caribbean is not alone in its efforts to develop resilient energy systems. Other regions, such as the United States and Europe, are also moving towards renewable energy sources to improve energy security and reduce their dependence on imported fuels.

In conclusion, developing resilient energy systems is crucial for improving energy security and reducing dependence on imported fuels. The Bahamas and other regions in the Caribbean are leading the way in transitioning to renewable energy sources, and their efforts should serve as an example for other countries.

References


By Emtithal Mahmoud

Emtithal Mahmoud, named one of the 50 Most Influential Young Women, is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and author of Sisters’ Entrance.

Who should lead the fight for global justice?

As the world faces multiple and inter-related crises, the need for global leadership and accountability becomes more pressing than ever. The current system of global governance, which is largely dominated by powerful and wealthy nations, fails to address these challenges effectively. Therefore, it is crucial that we consider who should lead the fight for global justice.

For starters, any future leadership in this area needs to be inclusive and representative of diverse voices. This means considering the perspectives of people who have been historically marginalized or silenced. It also means taking into account the interests and needs of all communities, regardless of their wealth or power.

In terms of specific individuals, I believe that leaders like Jaha Dukureh, a medical doctor and SDG advocate, and Emad el-Husseini, a lawyer and human rights activist, are well-suited for this role. These leaders have a proven track record of advocating for justice and making a difference in the world.

In conclusion, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem of global justice. However, by considering the perspectives of diverse voices and recognizing the importance of inclusive leadership, we can work towards a more equitable and just world.

References

Women leaders of expatriate communities come together

By Joey Aguilar

Women leaders of expatriate communities from seven countries came together in Doha for an event marking International Women’s Day.

The participants represented mainly the construction, domestic work and hospitality sectors. Hailing from African, South East Asian and South Asian countries, they shared experiences on the issue of women’s participation and leadership in building communities of expatriates.

The ‘Women (Only) Night Out’, was organised for the first time by the Women Committee of Bayanihan ng Manggagawa sa Konstruksyon ng Qatar, the association of Filipino migrant workers in the construction sector of Qatar (BMKQ); and global union federation Building and Wood Workers’ International (BWI).

“Women members in our organisation continue to increase. This is a result of resolute action. Women will never be a part of the table unless we organise ourselves,” BMKQ’s Women Committee chairperson Mags Laja said.

“In most cases, as some would tell, women must create our own table. We are mainly on the side-line, not having the power to be a part of decision-making,” Laja encouraged participants to “continue the conversations on Convention 190, and deepen understanding of this international instrument as a tool to eliminate harassment and violence in the workplace.”

“Let us continue cooperating with the government of Qatar in order to get this convention translated into concrete policies and programmes,” she said.

“We are envisioning a training programme that will result in more active participation of women in migrant community organisations. We are also thinking of having elections into office and the institution of internal policies within our own organisations against gender discrimination and violence,” Laja added.

An African participant introduced herself as an “activist for women and I try to be a voice for the voiceless” while a participant from the Philippines stated “I am a solo parent to six children and I am strong as a parent and a leader of our community here in Qatar.”

Through a phone patch, BWI’s Global Campaigns director Jin Sook Lee conveyed her message of solidarity to the women leaders in attendance, sharing a few points on the work of BWI in Qatar and the initiative to galvanise the solidarity of women migrant workers in the construction and other sectors.

Qatar Charity distributes aid to displaced Syrians in Lebanon

Qatar Charity has distributed urgent aid to the displaced Syrians in northern Lebanon, as part of its “Sham Deserves” campaign. About 30,000 refugees will benefit from the campaign which aims to alleviate their suffering and help them in light of the difficult economic and social conditions in which they live in the areas of displacement.

The assistance aims to secure the basic winter needs which include heating fuel, blankets, food and coats for children, as it benefitted 3,252 families directly and 13,910 Syrian refugees indirectly. The focus was on families that have been severely affected by the cold waves where children are frequent and vary living expenses.

Qatar Charity, in partnership with the Qatar Media Corp (QMC), organized various activities as part of the “Sham Deserves” campaign, with the objective of raising awareness among the displaced and refugees by meeting their needs, raising awareness about their needs, and marketing winter and relief products for them. The “Sham Deserves” campaign aims to deliver assistance to 250,000 Syrian refugees and displaced persons in the areas of shelter, food, water, sanitation, and health. – QNA