

[UAE reports 1,096 coronavirus infections, two deaths](#)

Sun, 2020-10-11 18:53

DUBAI: The UAE on Sunday recorded 1,096 new COVID-19 cases and two deaths. The Ministry of Health and Prevention said the total number of cases since the pandemic began has reached 106,229, while the death toll rose to 445. The ministry also said 1,311 cases recovered from COVID-19 over the previous 24 hours, bringing the total to 97,284. Meanwhile, Dubai Health Authority met with police and education chiefs to discuss the impact of the pandemic and the level of intervention taken by the authority to stem its spread. Dubai Economy issued fines to six businesses and a warning to one shop for not adhering to anti-COVID-19 measures. Sharjah Police said they issued 5,432 fines in September to people violating the restrictions. "The most common violations were not wearing masks and failing to comply with social distancing in closed public places like shopping malls or in public transport," the police statement said. Elsewhere, Kuwait recorded 548 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 111,116. The death toll reached 658 after three new fatalities were registered.

تعلمن [#وزارة_الصحة](#) عن تأكيد إصابة 548 حالة جديدة، وتسجيل 546 حالة شفاء، و 3 حالات وفاة جديدة بـ [#فيروس_كورونا_المستجد](#) COVID-19 ، ليصبح إجمالي عدد الحالات 111,116 حالة pic.twitter.com/yYe5EnErLP

– وزارة الصحة – الكويت (@KUWAIT_MOH) [October 11, 2020](#)

Oman's health ministry said the total number of cases had reached 105,890 and the death toll stands at 1,038.

[#Statement](#) No. 202

October 11, 2020 pic.twitter.com/WLqZYBz0Ad

– عُمان – وزارة الصحة (@OmaniMOH) [October 11, 2020](#)

In Bahrain, two deaths were reported, bringing the death toll to 275, while 327 new infected cases were confirmed.

Out of 9086 COVID-19 tests carried out on 11 October 2020, 327 new cases have been detected among 104 expatriate workers, 214 new cases are contacts of active cases, and 9 are travel related. There

were 441 recoveries from [#COVID19](#), increasing total recoveries to 71249 pic.twitter.com/FYNBnyNq4s

– مملكة البحرين | وزارة الصحة (@MOH_Bahrain) [October 11, 2020](#)



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UAE company nears end of Chinese Covid-19 vaccine trial
Saudi Arabia records lowest number of new COVID-19 cases since April

[Turkish Cypriots vote for new leader](#)

amid east Med tensions

Sun, 2020-10-11 17:14

NICOSIA: Voters in the Turkish-held north of Cyprus, a breakaway state recognized only by Ankara, voted Sunday for a new leader amid charges of interference by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The presidential vote in the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was held amid heightened tensions on the divided island and in the wider eastern Mediterranean.

The election in the TRNC pits the incumbent and favorite, Mustafa Akinci, who supports the eventual reunification of Cyprus as an EU member, against nationalist Ersin Tatar, who is backed by Erdogan.

"This election is crucial for our destiny," Akinci said after casting his ballot, likening the effect of alleged Turkish political meddling to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on public health.

The vote comes three days after Turkish troops angered the Republic of Cyprus, an EU member, and many Turkish Cypriots by reopening public access to the fenced-off seaside ghost town of Varosha for the first time since Turkish forces invaded the north in 1974.

That move sparked demonstrations in the majority Greek-speaking Republic of Cyprus, which exercises its authority over the island's southern two thirds, separated from the north by a UN-patrolled buffer zone.

Almost 200,000 of the about 300,000 residents are registered to vote in the TRNC, which was established after the north of the island was occupied by Turkey in reaction to a coup to annex Cyprus to Greece.

One voter, Esat Tulek, aged 73 and a retired public servant, said the election was important because "we're actually choosing the president who will be negotiating with the Greek Cypriots about the future of Cyprus."

The election comes amid tensions in the eastern Mediterranean over the planned exploitation of hydrocarbons between Turkey on the one hand, and Greece as well as its close ally Cyprus on the other.

Erdogan announced on Tuesday, together with Tatar, the partial reopening of Varosha, a beachside resort that once drew Hollywood stars before it was abandoned by its Greek-Cypriot inhabitants during the Turkish invasion.

The move to allow visitors back into the abandoned and overgrown area was condemned by Akinci and other candidates, who saw it as Turkish interference in the election.

It was also heavily criticized by the Republic of Cyprus, the European Union and the United Nations, whose peacekeepers monitor the 180-kilometer (112-mile) buffer zone across the island.

Kemal Baykalli, founder of the non-government group Unite Cyprus Now, told AFP that "the main issue of this election is how we will define our relationship with Turkey."

Eleven candidates are in the running, and the front-runner is Akinci, 72, a Social Democrat who favors loosening ties with Ankara, which has earned him the hostility of Erdogan.

"There are two situations that are not normal," Akinci said after voting.

"One is about our health, there is a pandemic.

"And the second one is our political health, communal health, and I'm talking

here about the intervention of Turkey,” which he accused of using their facilities in TRNC “like an election office.”

The negotiations aimed at reunification stalled during Akinci’s term of office, notably on the question of the withdrawal of tens of thousands of Turkish soldiers stationed in the TRNC.

Turkey supports the nationalist Tatar, 60, currently “prime minister” of the breakaway north, who on Sunday insisted to reporters that “the TRNC and its people form a state.”

“We deserve to live on the basis of equal sovereignty,” Tatar said to applause from his supporters.

Yektan Turkyilmaz, a researcher at the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien, said many Turkish Cypriots felt “wounded in their honor and identity” by what they considered to be interference from Ankara.

Another voter, Aysin Demirag, a 59-year-old yoga teacher, said the Varosha reopening, “under pressure from Turkey, organized as a show with days to go before the elections, was really a bad decision.”

The election is being held amid an economic crisis, deepened by the pandemic, which has largely shuttered the tourism sector and led to the closure of Ercan airport in north Nicosia and the crossing points to the south of the island.

Voting at 738 polling stations, held with precautions against the spread of COVID-19, was to close at 6:00 p.m. (1500 GMT), with result due to be released in the evening.

If no candidate wins at least 50 percent of the vote, the two leading candidates will face off in a second round on October 18.





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Ghost town reopening upends Turkish Cypriot election
Turkish Cypriot FM quits in protest at move to reopen ghost resort

[Bahrain's King Hamad: Establishing just peace in region depends on activating Arab initiative](#)

Sun, 2020-10-11 17:20

LONDON: Establishing comprehensive and just peace in the region depends on

activating the Arab initiative, Bahrain's King Hamad said on Sunday.

Bahrain is working to support the initiative by all means with its allies to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported the king as saying.

King Hamad continued by saying that backing the initiative is the country's "declared and explicit position toward the Palestinian issue to reach a two-state solution that enhances world security and peace."

The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative offered normalisation of relations by the Arab world with Israel in return for a full withdrawal by Israel from the territories occupied since 1967, arrival at a just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.



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King Hamad: Bahrain committed to independent Palestinian state
Israel, Bahrain tourism ministers speak, discuss joint ventures with UAE

[UAE's Gargash says Turkey's army in Qatar is an element of instability in region](#)

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Sat, 2020-10-10 23:31

LONDON: The presence of Turkey's army in Qatar is an "element of instability in the region," the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs said on Saturday.

"The Turkish military presence in the Arab Gulf is an emergency... It reinforces polarization, and it does not take into account the sovereignty of states and the interests of the Gulf countries and its peoples," Anwar Gargash tweeted.

Commenting on a statement made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his recent visit to Qatar, Gargash said that Turkey's army is not working toward stability in the region as the President claimed.

"The statement of the Turkish President during his visit to Qatar, in which he indicates that his army is working toward the stability of all Gulf states, is inconsistent with Turkey's regional role, and the evidence (for this) is numerous," the minister said.

Gargash added that the statement is an attempt to divert attention away from the economic reasons for the president's visit.

Erdogan visited Qatar on Wednesday and met with the country's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.



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UAE's Gargash: Turkey sees strategic space for historical dreams in the Arab world
Qatar World Cup faces fresh scrutiny over virus 'cover-up'

[Iran short of 'significant quantity' of potential bomb material: IAEA boss](#)

Author:

Reuters

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1602358533489614400

Sat, 2020-10-10 17:49

ZURICH: Iran does not at this stage have enough enriched uranium to make one nuclear bomb under the UN atomic watchdog's official definition, the agency's head told an Austrian paper.

“The Iranians continue to enrich uranium, and to a much higher degree than they have committed themselves to. And this amount is growing by the month,” International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi told Die Presse in an interview published on its website on Saturday.

Asked about how long Iran would need to build a nuclear weapon – the so-called “breakout time,” he said:

“In the IAEA we do not talk about breakout time. We look at the significant quantity, the minimum amount of enriched uranium or plutonium needed to make an atomic bomb. Iran does not have this significant quantity at the moment.” Iran denies ever having had a nuclear weapons program, saying its nuclear program is purely for energy purposes.

The IAEA defines “significant quantity” as the approximate amount of nuclear material for which the possibility of manufacturing a nuclear explosive device cannot be excluded.

The most recent quarterly IAEA report on Iran last month said it had 2,105.4 kg of enriched uranium, far above the 202.8 kg limit in a 2015 deal with big powers but a fraction of the enriched uranium it had before the accord. It is also enriching to up to 4.5% purity, far below the 20% it achieved before the deal and the 90% that is considered weapons-grade.



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stop non-emergency treatment as COVID-19 crisis worsens