

Gulf Today

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Kvitava relishes return to action in all-Czech tournament
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Dubai businesses resume tomorrow from 6am-11pm



Under the directives of Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced the gradual resumption of business activities in Dubai from tomorrow (Monday) at 6am to 11pm.

Once the announcement comes into effect, there will be restrictions on movement between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm.

The announcement was made at a remote meeting of Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management chaired by Sheikh Hamdan.

Sheikh Hamdan said the decision was made following a comprehensive assessment of the Committee's reports, various health and socio-economic aspects and a thorough review of the COVID-19 situation. Interim guidelines for co-existing with COVID-19 were also taken into consideration before making the decision.

The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoH) said under the Ministry that additional 14,000 COVID-19 tests were performed, revealing 888 new cases, bringing the total number of cases to 33,032.

The total number of recovered cases of coronavirus in the UAE has reached 5,657 with 801 cases fully recovered on Monday after receiving treatment.

Ministry also announced that three people of different nationalities who tested positive for COVID-19 died due to complications. This brings the total death toll to 184.

Sheikhs try out a new face shield to fight the coronavirus pandemic at a school in Cologne, Germany, on Monday.

European tourists to parks, gyms and shops on Monday as those countries ease coronavirus restrictions, while Japan lifted its state of emergency but urged vigilance to avoid another wave of infections.

Sweden the virus, which has now infected more than 1.4 million people worldwide and is at almost 300,000, continued to rampage across Latin America, sparking a US travel ban from people coming from Brazil.

With the global economy stalled, governments are struggling to deal with businesses and citizens wearying of mass confinement.

In hard-hit Spain, Madrid and Barcelona cautiously emerged from one of the world's strictest lockdown with parks and cafes re-opening for the first time in more than two months.

Hundreds of people made the most of the morning's sunshine to enjoy a stroll or a run in Madrid's famous Retiro Park.

Elsewhere in the continent, Parisians got some exercise as gyms and pools opened earlier, while growing infection rates in Greece allowed cafes and restaurants to restart a week ahead of schedule - but only for outdoor service.

It's not all sunny for Beijing, as party people were looking forward to heading to nightclubs, but to respect in the evening.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel was locked in a power struggle with her cabinet eager

to ditch most of the coronavirus restrictions. The federal government however wants to extend anti-discrimination rules until at least July 5.

A political scandal erupted on in Britain when Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced fresh pressure to sack his top aide Dominic Cummings, who has been accused of breaching the government's own lockdown rules in March and April.

South Korea's health officials said they intend to return from July as one of Europe's strictest lockdown eased, but tourism businesses were sceptical about reopening the summer season.

In Asia, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ended a nationwide state of emergency after new cases slowed to a crawl.

The move will help the world's third-largest economy gradually pick up speed again, but it urged citizens to remain cautious to prevent further outbreaks.

India recorded yet another big spike in COVID-19 cases, taking the total to 1,01,845 including 7,702 active cases as of Monday morning.

India has that overcast 'rain to become the ICh biggest hot spot of the continent.

Meanwhile, the resumption of domestic air travel to India on Monday became chaotic as several airports saw congestion of flights that stranded thousands of passengers who had arrived at the airports.

Muslims in India celebrated Eid al-Fitr on Monday since the congregational prayer, traditional festivals, new clothes, handshakes, and warm hugs amid lockdown restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak.

DUBAI

822 new cases, 3 deaths in UAE; India marks sombre Eid; chaos as domestic Indian flights are cancelled without notice; big jump in cases across India; Europeans flock to parks and beaches after lockdown is eased.

The UAE recorded 822 new cases and three deaths on Monday, according to the Ministry of Health and Prevention.

Sheikh Mansour al-Jaber, UAE's Assistant Secretary-General for Health, said the country's health system is well-equipped to handle the current surge in cases.

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India marked the end of its 41-day nationwide lockdown on Monday with a sombre Eid al-Fitr celebration.

The country's health system is well-equipped to handle the current surge in cases, and that the country's health system is well-equipped to handle the current surge in cases.

Chaos erupted at several airports across India as airlines cancelled flights without notice, leaving thousands of passengers stranded.

There was a big jump in COVID-19 cases across India, with several states reporting record numbers of new infections.

Europeans flocked to parks and beaches after lockdown restrictions were eased, marking a return to some normalcy.

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UAE, UN call for united fight at virtual meeting with OIC

NEW YORK: Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, and Louise Mushikiwasa, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN, recently announced a virtual gathering of the Group of Member States with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group and senior UN officials to discuss and reflect on the current situation of coping with coronavirus and shared responsibility during the current health and humanitarian crises and the positive role Muslim communities are playing in responding to this global emergency.

As the Chair of the OIC Group, the UAE has headed the virtual gathering with Secretary-General Guterres, which, due to the pandemic, took place in lieu of the Secretary-General's annual visitation of visiting Muslim communities during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"I salute the efforts of the Higher Committee of Humanitarian Assistance for the Holy Month of Ramadan for humanity inspired by the interfaith solidarity of His Holiness Pope Francis, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb and many others."

This crisis is a reminder that today, more than ever, we need to stand together. In this context, it would be crucial to remain the timely appeal of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for global cooperation in a brave and a much-needed, inclusive, and all-inclusive response.

While uncertainty and economic hardship can be breeding ground for discrimination, it is important to remind ourselves that in a pandemic, no one is safe and everyone is safe.

In the face of such a far-reaching global health crisis, religion must not be used as an excuse to isolate and harm people but rather as a source of unity and solidarity.

Acting-governing (Iqbal Hussain) Bhatti, President of the 7th Session of the UN General Assembly, said, "Solidarity remains our first and foremost principle. Large the OIC and indeed all Member States to continue to reaffirm the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I trust that the OIC will continue to be a voice of reason and moderation for international peace and security, justice and sustainable development."

As we come to the end of Ramadan, I trust that the spirit of the end of the Holy Month and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations to practice tolerance and live together in peace will inspire us and our neighbours."

In addition to the Members of the OIC Group, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng, UN Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Human Rights High Commissioner, and UN Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia, Pacific and the Americas, were also in attendance.

The UAE assumed the chairmanship of the 44th Session of the Council of the World Leaders of the OIC in March 2020.

Around the COVID-19 pandemic, faith communities in the UAE and around the world are bringing public health and safety as well as religious practice.

During these new circumstances, technology has allowed for diplomacy and religious observation to continue connecting people from all around the world despite social distancing constraints.

Recently, Sheikh Mansour Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster

Management, said the proactive approach of the UAE's leadership has enabled the country to respond quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic and minimize its impact on the community.

Sheikh Mansour's comments came during his remote meeting with Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Centre to discuss the latest guidelines on the impact of the Centre's cooperation between local and federal entities, and global institutions like the World Health Organization (WHO).

During the meeting, Sheikh Mansour praised the UAE's scientific community for its response to the pandemic.

"The UAE's scientific sector is now experiencing its best phase. Scientists of the UAE have put the nation on the map of the world in terms of shaping the world's future. The Command and Control Centre plays a major role in the nation's efforts to combat COVID-19," he said.

Sheikh Mansour also highlighted the crucial role of Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Centre and its resolve efforts to combat the pandemic and prevent the spread of the virus.

"Today we are reaping the fruits of the vision of our wise leadership, which has been instrumental in the success of our efforts to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate its repercussions," Sheikh Mansour said.



Jacinda Ardern stays cool as quake hits mid-tier event
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Japanese PM lifts coronavirus emergency in all remaining areas
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Pandemic sees true sisterhood emerge: Rosanna Arquette
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China threatens US counter steps if penalised for Hong Kong law

HONG KONG: China on Monday threatened counter measures against the United States if the latter penalises Hong Kong for the business hub's security chief but it is unclear that would be the "worst case."

Beijing plans to pass a new security law for Hong Kong that bans treason, subversion and espionage after months of resistance, after a visit by pro-democracy activists last year.

But many Hong Kong, business groups and western nations fear the proposal could be death blow to the city's freedom traditions and thousands flock to the streets as Sunday despite a ban on mass gatherings introduced to combat coronavirus.

As police disrupted the crowds with tear gas and water cannon, Washington's national security adviser Robert O'Brien warned the new law could cost the city its preferred US trading status.

But China's foreign ministry said Beijing would react to any sanctions from Washington.

"If the US insists on hurting China's interests, China will have to take every necessary measure to counter and oppose this," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijia told reporters on Monday.

Hong Kong has become the latest flashpoint in soaring tensions between the world's two super powers which China has blamed to "the back of a new Cold War."

The refusal to grant Hong Kong democracy has prompted the city's protests as foreign-backed protesters push to destabilise the nation and stop other nations from having to interfere in how the international business hub is run.

Protesters, who have hit the streets in their millions, say they are motivated by years of Beijing chipping away at the city's freedoms since it was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

Hong Kong enjoys liberties unseen on the mainland, as well as its own legal system and trade status.

Campaigners view the security law proposal as the best chance to see a return to Hong Kong's past and the city's ability to make its own laws.

Of particular concern is a provision allowing Chinese law enforcement to arrest Hong Kong citizens if they could pose a risk to national security. Campaigners fear this would allow Chinese to conduct espionage, subversion and terrorism-related activities against the city.

Agnes Poon/Panorama

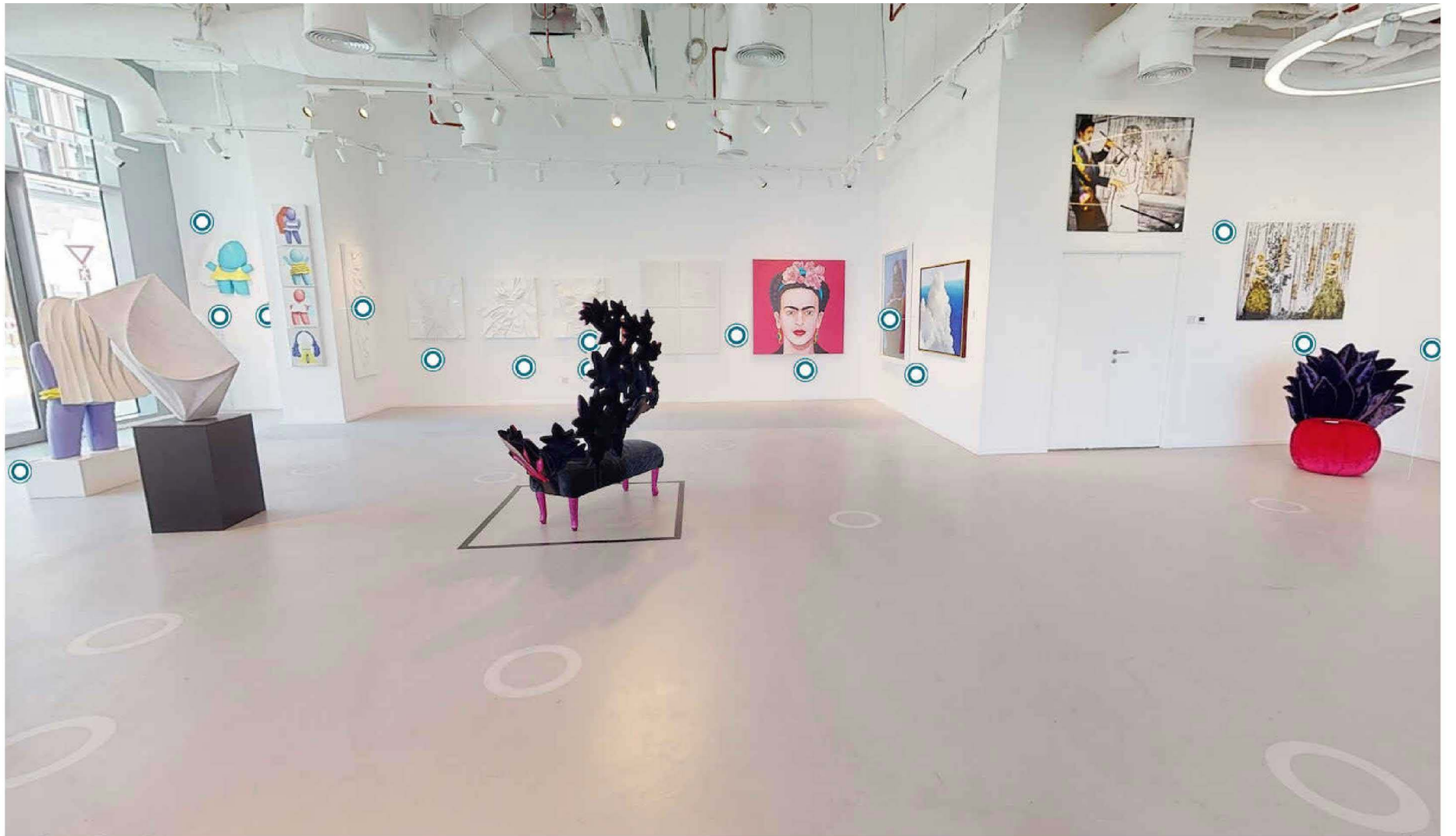
Arts & Culture

Virtual tour of Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery, Dubai, clicks with viewers

Italian Art Gallery Oblong Contemporary, Dubai, has launched an online virtual gallery tour at its space in Blue Waters island, using the market's latest video graphics and techniques to showcase the gallery and all of its artworks. "Being an Italian and having a corresponding branch in Forte de Marmi, Tuscany, where Oblong started, the fight against COVID-19 is something very close to my heart. We have set-up our Dubai branch virtually so art lovers can continue to enjoy our conceptual art and sculptures, no matter the scenario. It is important that whilst we fight the virus in every way possible, we also try and prevent it from stopping our lives and love for art", said Paola Marucci, Founding Partner of the gallery.

The virtual tour of Oblong Contemporary will allow users experience a spread of some outstanding artist work, all from different disciplines and backgrounds. Artists include Colombian minimalist marble sculptor Gustavo Velez, hyper-realistic photography painter Enrico Ghinato, conceptual animal sculptor Stefano Bombardieri, leading Latin American painter Julio Larraz and classical sculptor, Igor Mitoraj, who echoes old Roman and Greek cultures with a post-modern twist. "I believe that a virtual gallery is something that will not only be of benefit to our Dubai space now, but will also be a great platform to use going forward, for people to view our artists from abroad as well as from the comfort of their homes. The idea of such a mixture of beautiful works by such talented artists sitting in a space which is not accessible, is very saddening. Thankfully, we don't have to worry about that anymore!" said Emanuela Venturini, Founding Partner of Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery.

➔ [Oblong Contemporary Virtual Gallery.](#)



SHARJAH

Italian Art Gallery Oblong Contemporary, Dubai, has launched an online virtual gallery tour at its space in Blue Waters island, using the market's latest video graphics and techniques to showcase the gallery and all of its artworks

Throughout the virtual tour, one can freely explore the gallery and zoom in to more than 50 masterpieces. Each artwork is paired with information on the artist, details on the composition of the piece and its dimensions. The virtual tour of Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery on Blue Waters island, begins here: <https://oblongcontemporary.com/virtual-gallery/>. Other artists whose works can be seen include Mario Arlati, Pablo Atchugarry, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Stefano Bombardieri, Agostino Ferrari, Jorge Jimenez Deredia, Roberta Diazzi, Enzo Fiore, Enrico Ghinato, Robert Indiana, Julio Larraz, Tiziana Lorenzelli, Flavio Lucchini, Igor Mitoraj, Carla Tolomeo, Paolo Vegas, Manolo Valdes and Gustavo Velez.

Oblong is a Dubai based Art Gallery with a mission to create a successful global arena for culture and art. Primarily involved in promoting contemporary and modern art, operating both locally and on the international art platform, it is a place of cultural exchange, exhibiting some of the highest quality artworks and giving a platform to artists from the region. Additionally, Oblong hosts a strong programme of workshops, educational initiatives and cross-cultural art exchanges between Dubai and Pietrasanta, on the coast of northern Tuscany in Italy.

Muhammad Yusuf, Features Writer



Pandemic sees true sisterhood emerge, says Rosanna Arquette



➔ Rosanna Arquette poses for a portrait session during the luncheon honouring director Agnes Varda at the Residence de France, in Beverly Hills, California.

File/Agence France-Presse

LOS ANGELES: Rosanna Arquette, the US actress ("Desperately Seeking Susan," "Pulp Fiction") and #MeToo campaigner, spoke to AFP from her Los Angeles home about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. What is your favourite activity during this crisis? "I'm really getting into cooking, a lot — so cooking meals and not wasting anything... For some reason I have a pretty good knack of just throwing stuff together and it tastes pretty yummy. "It's kind of soothing and it feels good... I spent a lot of time in restaurants for years. Just to be able to just cook for my husband... it's really been good. "I'm washing a lot of dishes, cleaning the house, doing laundry, it's been great. I'm not complaining about it, it feels real and what you're supposed to do."

What has this pandemic taught you? "My impatience, learning that I'm really impatient. There's a lot of sadness that I have on many issues. And learning how to accept things within myself and with others, and patience with others and forgiveness, and letting go of resentment. All that. "I'm wearing this T-shirt today. It says 'Courage.' You know, the courage to change.

That's a spiritual aspect in life, the courage to change, which I think we all need right now." How has it changed us? "It's extraordinary how many people are coming together and helping others... Everybody making masks, sending them to people, we're seeing community come together, our communities coming together, in a true brother and sisterhood.

"I don't think this is ever going to be over. The

world is never going to be the same after this. America will never be the same after this. We're not going back to the old ways." What solutions would you like to see after the pandemic is over? "We're seeing that big money rules everything, and that very well may continue. But so many human beings are seeing that this is just not fair. It's unfair on every level. "And I believe that the young people that are coming up are going to

be voting. And we're going to get rid of these people that are so fascist (in) government." How will it affect the entertainment industry? "I think streaming will be the new way. As we had streaming for music, it's happening with movies and television. I know the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences just changed it so films that premiere on streaming... will be eligible to be voted for Oscars. That's starting to happen slowly but surely.

"I love seeing a movie in a movie theatre, and I'm sure a lot of people too, but do you feel safe?" Which leaders have handled the crisis best? "We've handled this so poorly in America, the pandemic — we didn't have an incredible president like (Prime Minister Jacinda) Ardern in New Zealand. We handled this in such a terrible way that now it will spread and kill, I think, millions. It's terrifying.

"Women are powerful. They're smart. And they're mothers. And so they have a natural instinct to protect, and immediately take care." How will it affect #MeToo? "You're seeing a huge (effort) to take it down, cast doubt. It's just

happening every minute. "But I will always listen to any survivor who feels that they have been wronged and raped. I believe in investigating it thoroughly and all that. And I'm voting for Biden. "People are threatened by the #MeToo movement. There's been a lot of good that has come from it, great good has come from it, where people are able to speak and be heard. "Let's hope that every single human being learns something from this and comes out better for it."

Arquette is an American actress, film director, and film producer. She was nominated for an Emmy Award for her performance in the TV film "The Executioner's Song" (1982), and won the BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for the film "Desperately Seeking Susan" (1985). Her other film roles include "After Hours" (also 1985), "The Big Blue" (1988), "Pulp Fiction" (1994), and "Crash" (1996). She also directed the documentary Searching for "Debra Winger" (2002), and starred from 2006 to 2007 in the ABC sitcom "What About Brian?"

Agencies