

Heavy rain lashes Saudi

Riyadh Saudi authorities have closed schools and universities after flooding in the kingdom's second-largest city, Jiddah, and the country's Red Sea coastal regions.

Residents were also warned by the Kingdom's weather authorities to expect more rain to fall.

"Rain will continue in Jeddah while heavy rain is expected in Makkah and Taif," the Saudi General Authority of Meteorology & Environmental Protection, said in its latest weather update posted on Twitter.

Videos shared on Twitter and other social media sites on Tuesday show people stranded in tunnels and on roads with cars engulfed by floodwater.

Schools have also been closed in the areas of Mecca and Taif. Saudi Civil Defense warns that heavy rainfall is expected to last until at least Wednesday morning.

The wet weather is expected to continue in Jeddah and Makkah through to Thursday, according to the General Authority of Meteorology and Environment Protection.

A report by national said that the several flights were delayed due to the rain.

"We value our esteemed guests and recognise that due to these weather conditions

they might want to change their travel plans or cancel, therefore it was decided to exempt all affected tickets that were issued with confirm bookings that are affected by the weather from all restrictions and penalties," the report quoted the Saudi Airlines as saying.

Flooding happens almost every year in Jiddah and other

western cities in Saudi Arabia. The most devastating flood in recent years was in 2009, when more than 100 people died.

An anti-corruption committee led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says a purge that began earlier this month is partly related to the 2009 Jiddah flooding. (Agencies)



Courtesy The National

Acon to open more branches

Manama

Acon Travels & Tours announced opening more branches in Bahrain as they kickstarted November holiday season with its first batch of travellers to Georgia.

Announcing the move, the company, in a statement, said its Dana Mall branch will open doors next month.

"Acon focuses chiefly on clients' demands and needs wherever they may choose their worldwide destinations, be it family medical, educational, leisure, business, Umra, vacations or holidays," said Naser Karukapadath, CEO & Executive Director.

The company further said it



Naser Karukapadath has several group departures scheduled for the month of December with a fixed departure on 13th December.

Acon said it has several fixed packages to different parts of the world scheduled for 2018.

Danat seminars in Jewellery Arabia



Peter Balogh

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DANAT, the Bahrain Institute for Pearls & Gemstones, is offering seminars on a wide range of topics by expert gemmologists on each day of the five-day event at its pavilion in the Al Fanar Hall.

Lectures will focus on topics including the new sapphire discoveries in Madagascar, ruby deposits in Asia as well as the history and exploitation of natural pearls in the Isle of Cubagua, in northeastern Venezuela and which was discovered by Christopher Columbus.

"Visitors, enthusiasts and clients are welcome to visit our stand in the Al Fanar Hall to enhance their knowledge of the history of precious stones while enjoying other complimentary offerings including a dazzling exhibit of exquisite jewels from different parts of the world," said Kenneth Scarratt, Chief Executive Officer of DANAT. The daily lectures will begin at 7 pm with the last talk scheduled to begin at 9 pm.

Peter Balogh from the Funda Prehistoria (Prehistoric Foundation) will be giving a public talk uncovering the



Vincent Pardieu

findings of an archaeological expedition on Cubagua island in the Caribbean in which a treasure of natural pearls dating to 15th Century was found buried in a clay jar. He will be joined by the globally renowned gemologist, Vincent Pardieu from VP Consulting.

Pardieu's daily lectures will focus on the latest discoveries of blue sapphires in Madagascar, a major sapphire supplier since the 1990s. More recently, new sapphire deposits in the northeast region, near Ambatondrazaka, were found to have produced exceptionally high quality 50 carat stones, the finest quality during the past three decades.

Pardieu gained comprehensive experience in key positions in the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS) and the Gübelin Gem Laboratory. He will also enlighten visitors and gemstone enthusiasts on newly found amphibole ruby deposits.

The international guest speakers will be joined by DANAT's team of experts who will also be talking about pearl testing in DANAT at different scheduled times every day.



A newly-built walkway in Tubli Bay was officially opened yesterday to the public. Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh inaugurated the infrastructure project which covers 8000 square metres. The opening ceremony was attended by MP Ali Al-Ateesh, Capital Trustees director-general Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa and other officials citizens. The first phase of the project, which cost BD500, 000, includes a 400-metre-long-walkway and green spaces covering an overall 8000 square metres, in addition to other family-oriented facilities.

