

Causeway opens for truck movement

Bahraini trucks given green light to cross King Fahd causeway

● The roadway linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was shut on March 7

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Bahrain has shown the green light for goods movements through King Fahd Causeway as both Saudi and Bahrain continue to ease COVID-19 restrictions.

As per the new order, starting today, trucks from the Bahraini side will be allowed to resume their trips to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd Causeway.

“The reopening of the causeway was coordinated with the Saudi Customs Authorities”,



Representative picture (Courtesy of AlAyam)

said Mohammed Hassan Al-Isa, the Exits Customs director at the Customs Affairs. The roadway linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was shut on March 7 this year as part of pre-

cautionary measures to curb the spread of the deadly pandemic.

Following which, on July 23, Saudi announced opening the sea-link for Saudi citizens wishing to return without prior permission.

The 25-kilometre long causeway, a series of bridges and causeways, connects al-Khour of Khobar in Saudi Arabia to Al Jasra in Bahrain.

One of the embankments knows as the ‘middle island’ houses the customs and immigration facilities, besides a mosque, gardens and restaurants. Last year Bahrain received a total of 11.1 million visitors, with 88 per cent are coming through the King Fahd causeway, accounting for 9.7 million visitors.

A digital boost to COVID-19 fight

Municipal payments gone cashless



Payment service page of mun.gov.bh

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Municipal payments in the Kingdom had gone completely cashless, since April, in a move strengthening Bahrain battle against COVID-19 outbreak.

The system, in place since last April, effectively reduced the need for a personal presence in completing municipal services, Esam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, said.

The digital move also fell in conformity with the measures implemented by the Government of Bahrain to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing.

Which means, municipalities in the Kingdom hadn't accepted any cash payments since April.

Payments were completed either through iGA's National Payment Aggregator (NPA) or payment channel SADAD.

Thus, the number of transactions made through the national payment platform rose to 6,572 and SADAD to 6,878, since its introduction.

“One of the most important goals of this project was to reduce the need of physical presence for availing municipal services,” said Khalaf.

“Customers can now complete their transactions from anywhere, at any given time, and receive payment proof digitally.”

To make a payment, log on to <https://www.mun.gov.bh/>, create an account, and use a credit or a debit card to complete the transaction.

Payments can also be made through Sadad Kiosks, Sadad website, Sadad App, Benefit Pay or STC Pay.

Capital governorate holds sterilisation drive

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The Capital Governorate yesterday conducted a campaign to sterilise the streets and alleyways in Juffair as part of a drive to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the Kingdom.

The campaign was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Capital Governorate Police Directorate.

Sheikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, the Capital Governor, Brigadier Ibrahim Saif Bakheet Al-Najran,



In pictures, the capital governorate officials sterilising shops

Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police Direc-

torate and Director-General of the Capital Governorate Police Directorate, Brigadier Ibrahim Al-Najran and 30 volunteers from the Al-Naeem Volunteer Youth Team took part in the sterilisation drive.

Sheikh Hisham praised the directorate for enhancing community cooperation and growing awareness among people on coronavirus preventing measures.

“Peoples awareness to the risks of the virus outbreak is crucial in overcoming the cri-

sis,” Sheikh said, urging all to adhere strictly to the preventive measures put forward by competent authorities.

Volunteers who took part in the sterilisation drive attended training sessions held by the governorate in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Besides Juffair, the volunteers and civil society organisation also contributed in the sterilisation of Jid Ali, Umm Al Hassam, and Complex 388 in Adliya, while also inspecting barber-shops and beauty salons there to ensure preventive measures.



Gulf Air lands in Kuwait



Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, yesterday resumed its Kuwait services after being suspended for a few months amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Gulf Air said it's continuously working closely with government authorities throughout the destinations on its network to resume operations as soon as airports open. In pictures, a Gulf Air aircraft after landing into the state of Kuwait.

Coffee shop in capital shut over COVID-19 violations

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Authorities here yesterday shut down one of the coffee shops in the Manama for violating coronavirus (COVID-19) preventive measures.

The raid was conducted jointly by Department of Food Control in cooperation with the Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

The cafe, officers said, violated laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom banning the internal food services in the restaurants and cafes, except in those authorised by BTEA.

The cafe was closed immediately and legal measures are taken.

As per a circular issued on 28 July 2020, restaurants approved by BTEA and those located in 4 and 5-star hotels are allowed to operate by taking reservations for special occasions that do not exceed 20 people per group and provided that reservations do not exceed one at each time.

The move was as directed by the Government Executive Committee chaired by the HRH the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme



Picture courtesy of @MOH_Bahrain

Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

However, outdoor dining at restaurants and coffee-shops are



banned until 3 September 2020, as of now.

The phased reopening will be dependent on several indicators including the total number of positive results against the total number of daily COVID-19 tests, number of cases requiring intensive care, and the occupancy rate in isolation and treatment facilities.