

# 10-day quarantine for Bahrain-UK travellers

● UK closing travel corridors starting Monday

● Closures to remain until 15 February

● Britain is closing down all its travel corridors from Monday

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Picture courtesy of AlAyam



Anyone flying into the United Kingdom, including from Bahrain, will have to remain in quarantine for up to 10 days, tweeted Bahrain embassy to the UK.

Britain is closing down all its travel corridors from Monday to "protect against the risk of as yet unidentified new strains" of Covid.

Travel corridors allowed people from countries with low numbers of Covid cases to come to the UK without having to quarantine on arrival.

As per the new guidelines, Bahrainis will have to show

proof of a negative COVID (PCR) test before setting off. The test may be taken up to 72 hours before the journey begins.

The UK had made clear that it will accept any test with at least 97% specificity and 80% sensitivity.

Those failing to comply will face a fine of a 500 pounds (around BD256), with border force officials carrying out spot checks.

However, BBC in a statement said, children under 11 are ex-

empted from checking. Bahraini embassy requires all travellers to fill out a "passenger locator form" through a dedicated website of the British government.

"Filling out the form is mandatory for all visitors and residents of the United Kingdom," the embassy tweeted.

Reportedly all travellers are required to provide their contact details and their UK address.

However, people arriving in England can reduce their quar-



More than two million people around the world have now died with the virus since the pandemic began, according to figures from Johns Hopkins University.

A ban on travellers from South America, Portugal and Cape Verde entering the UK came into force on Friday morning as a result of a new, potentially more infectious variant of coronavirus linked to Brazil.

five full days of self-isolation.

Tests cost between £65 and £120, and results are normally received within 24 to 48 hours. To check the list, use this link:

<https://bit.ly/3oQkJXm>.

British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has said the new rules would be in place until at least 15 February 2021.

## Do not disclose banking data: Bahrain Association of Banks



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ADNAN AHMED YOUSIF



**“One of the most crucial things that the users must avoid is responding to phone calls and messages received through smartphone applications that claim to represent a bank and ask for any personal data”**

DR WAHEED AL QASSIM

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Consumers should never disclose their personal or banking data in any way except when necessary and through reliable channels, said the Bahrain Association of Banks.

All should "realize the significance of preserving their personal and banking data" to avoid falling prey to cyber-attacks, said BAB.

The association further stressed the need to educate elderly-people who are not familiar with modern technologies on this critical issue and called on financial and banking institutions to employ the latest electronic data protection systems.

"We are coordinating with the banking and relevant bodies such as the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to prevent fraud and impersonation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, in light of the increasing use of digital communication."

Adnan Ahmed Yousif, the Chairman of the Board of Direc-

tors of the Bahrain Association of Banks, said the association is taking up the responsibility of holding awareness campaigns on preserving privacy.

"But it's natural for cyber-attacks to increase, especially in light of the increasing reliance on digital channels to transfer money. Cybercriminals constantly develop their tools and fraudulent methods, in exchange for banks increasing layers of protection for their

networks and electronic systems," Yousif warned.

Dr Waheed Al Qassim, the CEO of BAB, said they investigate complaints claiming that bank accounts were compromised. "But investigation finds that the user was lenient on preserving his data, or that he committed a mistake during transferring money or paying to another party."

"One of the most crucial things that the users must avoid

is responding to phone calls and messages received through smartphone applications that claim to represent a bank and ask for any personal data," he said.

"No bank will request any personal data through phone calls."

Dr Al Qassim said the association is all set to launch a campaign to enhance awareness on data-confidentiality and secure financial transactions.



## Bahraini students take top ranks in Arab Calligraphy competition



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Bahraini students came out with flying colours in the Arabic Calligraphy competition organised by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

Making Bahrain proud was Ali Hussain Al Muharraqi from Sanabis Primary School for Boys and Muhammad Ishaq from Riffa Preparatory School for Boys.

Ali Hussain Al Muharraqi took first place for the primary stage, and Muhammad Ishaq bagged third place for the preparatory stage.

They beat 60 students from various Arab states to grab the titles.

Overall, five students from Bahraini schools took part in the competition. Preparations were under the supervision of the Student Services Department at the Ministry of Education.

Students were prepared for the competition by specialists in the field through a virtual platform.

This competition comes within the framework of the cultural and media activities and programmes organised by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

The event aims at developing interest in Arabic calligraphy- which is one of the aspects of Arab identity - and preserve its artistic aesthetics, ancient past, and writing techniques.