



People wade through floodwaters after heavy rains



A vehicle drives through flood waters following heavy rains, in Dubai

Roads were flooded; Dubai's Emirates airline axed 13 flights

AFP | Dubai, UAE

UAE airport authorities cancelled or delayed dozens of flights and roads were flooded in major cities as the heaviest rainstorm in months lashed the desert nation yesterday.

Dubai's Emirates airline axed 13 flights yesterday and there were also delays and cancellations at neighbouring Sharjah's airport after the overnight downpour, which woke residents with lightning flashes and loud cracks of thunder.

Sharjah's main street was completely flooded early yesterday, with residents seen wading through it in bare feet. One man rode his bicycle through the water, which reached the top of its wheels.

The scenes evoked memories of April 2024, when record rains caused widespread flooding and forced the cancellation of more than 2,000 flights at Dubai's major international air hub.

Early yesterday, water-pumping trucks were seen around Dubai clearing blocked roads and large puddles in the streets.

The Dubai Airports website showed dozens of flights had been delayed on Friday, and some cancelled.

"Some flights... are cancelled or delayed due to adverse weather," a Dubai Airports spokesperson said.

Other Gulf states also experienced heavy rain, including Qatar where the Arab Cup football's third-place play-off between Saudi Arabia and UAE was cancelled on Thursday.

No leasing No transfer

MPs want fishing licences to be personal

● Amendments overhaul marine laws, farms oversight, licence inheritance.

● Government warns rules overlap, budget strain risks.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

There is something fishy in the current fishing laws — and lawmakers want it fixed fast.

Under the scanner is the long-criticised practice of leasing fishing licences, which MPs say must be banned. If the proposed changes go through, licences will be strictly tied to an individual's name and can no longer be leased or transferred. The issue will be put to a vote in Parliament this Tuesday.

Lawmakers are also weighing a ban on foreign vessels fishing in Bahraini waters, while keeping separate provisions for citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The move is part of a wider effort to amend Decree-Law No. 20 of 2002, which governs the regulation, exploitation and protection of marine resources.

Quarantine

If approved, the amendments would introduce mandatory veterinary quarantine for marine products before import or export, and sharply restrict entry into no-fishing zones, allowing access only in emergencies. These recommendations have already received in-principle backing from the Public Utilities and Environment Committee.

Foreign vessels

The draft further proposes barring foreign fishing vessels from selling or marketing marine products without a permit. Such vessels would also

be prohibited from anchoring in, or even passing through, restricted fishing areas except in emergencies related to weather, security threats, mechanical failure, or rescue operations to protect lives or property.

MPs are also calling on the ministry to step up technical support for operators of fish and marine-life farms. Land designated for such farms would not be allowed to be dried out or filled in, except in cases of public interest and only with ministerial approval.

For heirs

Another key change concerns the fate of a fishing vessel licence after the licence holder's death. While the original law allowed transfer to the wife and minor children — provided fishing was their sole income and the activity was carried out on their behalf by a Bahraini fisher — the committee has recommended expanding this to all

first-degree heirs, while retaining the same conditions on who may operate the licence.

Government opposes

The government, however, has urged Parliament to reconsider. It argues that many of the proposed objectives are already covered under existing legislations.

In a memorandum, the government warned that new grants and financial support for fishers could strain the public budget and require constitutional approval, noting existing aid such as diesel subsidies, Bahrain Development Bank loans, and aquaculture training programmes already in place.

The committee report added that the Ministry of Oil and Environment supports the legal observations outlined in the government's memorandum.

UN declares famine over in Gaza 'situation remains critical'

P6

A famine declared in Gaza in August is now over thanks to improved access for humanitarian aid, the United Nations said on Friday, but warned the food situation in the Palestinian territory remained dire.

More than 70 percent of the population are living in makeshift shelters, it said, with hunger exacerbated by winter floods and an increasing risk of hypothermia as temperatures plummet.

Alba contains an industrial fire

Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) swiftly contained an industrial fire that broke out at a power rectifier yesterday morning.

Thanks to the immediate response of Alba's dedicated teams supported by the General Directorate of Civil Defence and guided by strict adherence to rigorous safety protocols, no personnel were injured or harmed.

Operations remain uninterrupted and continue to be closely monitored as a precautionary measure, reflecting Alba's ongoing commitment to the highest safety standards.

