

Over 2,300 tonnes of meat imported

Inspections stepped up to ensure food safety during festive season



- 2,349 tonnes of meat imported; 8,107 sheep and 385 cattle brought in

- 777 laboratory tests conducted, 112 import permits issued in March

- Strict checks enforced; public urged to use licensed abattoirs

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As part of intensified efforts, the Kingdom conducted 777 laboratory tests between March 1 and 15, while 112 import permits were issued

Bahrain imported 2,349 tonnes of chilled and frozen meat, along with 8,107 sheep and 385 cattle, to meet heightened demand during Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr, a senior official said.

The figures were revealed by Asim Abdullatif Abdullah, Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Wealth at the

Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, during an inspection visit to review food safety measures.

As part of intensified efforts, the Kingdom conducted 777 laboratory tests between March 1 and 15, while 112 import permits were issued, he said.

The official stressed that veterinary quarantine facilities

play a key role in ensuring the safety of meat imports and protecting food security and public health.

"All shipments must meet strict requirements, including official health certificates, certificates of origin and approved halal certification, with additional testing conducted upon arrival before market distribution," he added.

He also underscored the ministry's commitment to food safety, warning against unauthorised slaughter and urging the public to use licensed abattoirs to safeguard public health and the environment.

Man jailed for three years for smuggling tombak in onions

Mohammed Darwish
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A man in his forties has been sentenced to three years in prison for attempting to smuggle tombak into Bahrain by concealing it inside onions imported from an Asian country.

The High Criminal Court also ordered his deportation after serving the sentence and imposed a series of fines. The defendant was fined BD3,985, with an equivalent amount in value-added tax. Additional

A customs officer inspecting a shipment of onions noticed their unusually large size and sent the load through an X-ray scanner.

finest of BD19,925 were imposed on the value of the goods and evasion of customs duties, another BD19,925 in excise tax, and

a further BD19,925 fine.

The case began at the seaport when a customs officer inspecting a shipment of onions noticed their unusually large size and sent the load through an X-ray scanner. The scan revealed irregular contents inside the onions. Upon opening the sacks and cutting the onions, inspectors discovered they had been packed with tombak, a substance banned in Bahrain.

The search led to the seizure of 11,110 bags of tombak, weighing a total of 1,035 kilograms.

Authorities assessed the value of the seized goods at around BD19,925, after which the material was secured and handed over to the relevant customs department.

A customs clearance agent told the court that the defendant had contacted him regarding the onion shipment and asked about the required paperwork for import. The agent requested the shipment documents and customs authorisation, which were subsequently provided after the fees were paid.

Grand Imam of Al Azhar condemns Iranian aggression targeting Bahrain

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received a letter from His Eminence Dr. Ahmed Al Tayyeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif and Chairman of the Muslim Council of Elders.

His Eminence expressed his sorrow and strong condemnation of the continued hostile Iranian aggression targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain, de-

scribing them as treacherous acts that have terrorised civilians, caused damage to facilities, and resulted in innocent casualties.

His Eminence also conveyed to HRH his congratulations on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, expressing his confidence in the unity and resilience of the people of Bahrain and their steadfast support for the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Warning for Bahrain-Saudi travelers: Pregnant woman detained after taxi driver's liquor smuggling attempt

Pradeep Puravankara
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Expatriates traveling from Bahrain to their home countries via Dammam, Saudi Arabia, are urged to exercise extreme caution following a distressing incident involving a pregnant woman. The woman, along with another passenger, was recently detained by the Saudi authorities due to a

taxi driver's hidden smuggling attempt. The woman, who is three months pregnant, had decided to resign from her job and return to Kerala due to the current exceptional circumstances in the region. A private travel agency in Bahrain had arranged her visa, flight tickets from Dammam, and a private taxi to transport her across the King Fahd Causeway.

Unbeknownst to the passen-

gers, the taxi driver had hidden bottles of liquor in the vehicle. During a routine inspection at Saudi Customs, the contraband was discovered. Since Saudi Arabia maintains a zero-tolerance policy and strict legal framework against alcohol and drugs, the police immediately took the driver, the pregnant woman, and the fellow passenger into custody. Upon learning of the situation, prominent Bah-

rain-based social worker Fazal Ul Haq intervened. Through his timely coordination with the relevant authorities, he was able to prove the passengers' innocence.

passengers were released

Following the investigation, the passengers were released, while the driver remains in custody facing legal proceedings. Reports also indicate that the

vehicle used was a rental car from Bahrain, which is now likely to be confiscated by the authorities.

The travel agency has since arranged an alternative flight for the woman to return home via Dubai today. (21st March)

Social workers and community leaders have advised the expatriate community to remain vigilant. While it is natural for many to feel anxious

and seek a quick return home given the current regional tensions, travelers must ensure they use verified transport services.

"When traveling to countries like Saudi Arabia, where laws are extremely strict, one must be aware of thorough inspections. Do not fall into such traps by trusting unverified private transport," a spokesperson commented.