

## Gulf Air brought home '1,164 Bahrainis' from Iraq

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, yesterday confirmed that it has completed its recovery flights from Najaf International Airport to Bahrain International Airport.

The airline brought home a total of 1,164 passengers on nine recovery flights between 16 to 21 January 2020.

"Gulf Air has worked closely with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Republic

of Iraq, and the Consulate of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Najaf to communicate with Gulf Air passengers," the airline said.

"Gulf Air continues to monitor the situation in Iraq very closely. The safety of passengers and crews remain the airline's utmost priority," it added.

Bahraini parliamentarians last week said that citizens stranded in Iraq were struggling to come back.

The lawmakers said that there were many Bahrainis caught in unsafe places in Iraq and are un-

able to return to the Kingdom.

They urged the government to speed up efforts to send all Bahrainis home as Iraq is moving to more instability.

The MPs who submitted the proposal include Ahmed Al Damistani, Zainab Amir, Fadhel Al Sawad, Ahmed Al Saloom and Hamad Al Kooheji.

The MPs stated that they have been contacted by families who said that their relatives are in Iraq, struggling to come back.

Earlier last week, Bahrain Embassy in Iraq said that it has been

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GULF AIR

receiving calls from citizens, who wanted to return to the Kingdom following escalation of clashes in the country.

The embassy stated that it is working with an airlines to ensure their safe return to the Kingdom as soon as possible.

"All Bahraini citizens in Iraq will receive required attention and support," the embassy stated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has warned citizens against travelling to Iraq amidst the recent developments.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is following the development of events in the brotherly Republic of Iraq that came as a result of

the condemned terrorist acts which the Kingdom previously denounced, stressing the need to de-escalate in order to overcome this period, and to address all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism," the ministry stated.

"The Kingdom also stresses the importance of immediate action to be taken by the international community, affirming the need to take all necessary measures to ensure security and stability in the region because of its vital and strategic importance for the whole world," it added.

● A special team from the Civil Defence instantly rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

● Four people died after a building collapsed following a gas cylinder blast in Salmaniya area in October 2018.

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Around ten employees at a local coffee shop have been injured, among which five are in critical condition, after two massive explosions occurred at the kitchen of the property on Friday.

None of the customers, who were inside the coffee shop, located in Maghaba, at the time of explosions were harmed, although our sister newspaper Al Ayam.

Customers who were smoking or having their lunch at the property described the explosions as "severe" and one of them told The Daily Tribune that they were lucky to have escaped alive and well.

"We heard blasts downstairs and we immediately ran away. I was on the second floor of the coffee shop and I saw many victims were seriously bleeding while others were severely burned," he said.

Luckily, there were only a few customers at the time of the incident, according to a source.



Civil Defence vehicle parked near the coffee shop.

A special team from the Civil Defence instantly rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

"Civil defence extinguished a

fire in a restaurant in Maghaba at Budaiya highway with eight vehicles and 40 personnel," the Interior Ministry said in a Twitter

message.

"Initial details indicate that injuries were reported. Rescue operation continues. Relevant

## Ten injured in Maghaba coffee shop explosions

Five victims in critical condition, say sources

### Human trafficking suspects sentenced

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The High Criminal Court has sentenced an Asian man and his girlfriend to five years behind bars each and ordered for them to be deported from the Kingdom after they were found guilty of human trafficking.

The defendants reportedly locked up a fellow national and forced her to have sex with strangers, although she came to Bahrain after she was offered an employment at a local restaurant.

They are said to have jailed her in a flat and told her that she would have to pay BD1,800 for her release.

According to prosecutors, the victim had no option, but to have sex with strangers.

"They threatened me that if I run away I will be killed," the woman told Prosecutors.

"I was told that I have to raise BD1800 if I want to be released, but I managed to contact my husband who directly got in touch with the embassy. Police officers then rescued me," she added.

The defendants were also fined BD3,000 each for their crime.

**Civil defence extinguished a fire in a restaurant in Maghaba at Budaiya highway with eight vehicles and 40 personnel.**

INTERIOR MINISTRY

procedures are being taken," the ministry added.

Four people died after a building collapsed following a gas cylinder blast in Salmaniya area in October 2018. Three bodies were recovered from the rubbles while the fourth man died at SMC, where he was transported along with other injured.

Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa immediately ordered an investigation into the collapse of the building and reports were submitted by the ministries of Interior, Labour and Social Development, Health, Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning.

### Kingdom to host conference on digital transformation

Manama

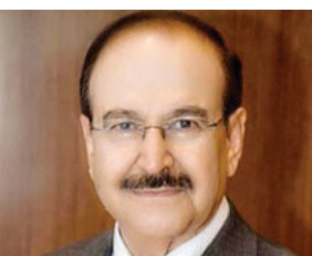
Under the patronage of the President of the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA), Dr Abdulhussain Ali Mirza, Bahrain will host a conference on artificial intelligence, FinTech and VAT.

Themed 'The Second Digital Transformation', the event will be held at the Gulf Hotel on January 29, in partnership with the UAE-based Smart SMB.

Commenting, the conference chairman, Dr Jassim Haji, said that Dr Mirza will be the key speaker during the opening ceremony, adding that the conference will focus on artificial intelligence, future sciences and role of women in the field of artificial intelligence.

Dr Haji expressed thanks and appreciation to SEA President for his constant support for all workers in the field of future sciences, especially artificial intelligence.

He affirmed keenness to attract international conferences and events related to artificial



Dr Mirza

intelligence to promote the kingdom's status as a regional centre in this field.

More than 30 individuals and companies in Bahrain will be honoured for their distinguished achievements in their categories.

The conference will attract more than 20 speakers from the Supreme Council for Health, Women in FinTech Bahrain, University of Bahrain, Bahrain Polytechnic, Derasat, GARMCO, the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), in addition to other experts.

The event is held annually in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Kenya, and attracts a great number of participants and exhibitors from mega companies.

### 'Partnership in humanitarian action remains primary objective'

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Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) paid a visit to the majlis of Al Awadhiya as part of the society's keenness to strengthen ties with charity bodies to boost Bahrain's presence in local and international relief assistance through the latest initiative "Bahraini Humanitarian Alliance" launched to share responsibility to take humanitarian action to the vulnerable and victims of disasters and conflicts in Bahrain and abroad.

In a view of partnership in humanitarian action, BRCS's General Secretary Dr Fawzi Amin, said that partnership in humanitarian action is a primary objective of the society.

He went on to note the partnership of Islamic associations that is involved in providing aids to the vulnerable Palestinians in Gaza, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, as well as co-operating with Bahraini associations and volunteer teams to raise health and environmental awareness.



Dr Amin along with other members of the society at the majlis.

Dr Amin also stated that the society has undergone a noticeable evolution in developing its financial resources and seeking sustainable sources of income to fulfil society's responsibility in providing humanitarian services.

Currently, BRCS is distributing Ramadan aid for about 4,000 families and allocating monthly assistance to more than 400 families.

Dr Amin further pointed out that BRCS is committed to provide new volunteers to join the society and expand their skills, integrating them into human-

**The society has undergone a noticeable evolution in developing its financial resources and seeking sustainable sources of income to fulfil its responsibility.**

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itarian projects and encouraging them to interact with their counterparts in the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement around the world through their

participation in conferences, camps and related courses outside Bahrain.

The first humanitarian aid by the society was provided to Turkey in 1971.

"It also paid aid to Philippines and Pakistan, rebuilt schools after Tsunami in Indonesia and Thailand, provide medical equipment to 20 health centres in Sudan, built schools for Syrian refugees in Gaza and Zaatari refugee camp and established eye hospital in Somalia in cooperation with the Royal Charity Organisation," Dr Amin commented.