

Saudi suspends entry using CPRs

Bahrainis currently in GCC states should contact +973 17227555 to obtain alternate measures

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Bahrainis, currently in one of the Gulf Cooperation Council states, should contact the authorities here to facilitate their return home in light of Saudi restricting entry using "National Identity Card" or CPR.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a circular issued yesterday stated that Saudi Arabian authorities have suspended the use of "National Identity Card" as a travel document for Saudi and GCC nationals.

"Bahraini citizens who are now in one of the GCC States, and who travelled there through land ports using the national identity should contact the Follow-up Office on +97317227555," the statement reads.

Saudi Arabia, in an unprecedented move triggered by coronavirus (COVID-19), suspended visas for visits to Islam's holiest sites for the "umrah" pilgrimage.

The kingdom, which hosts millions of pilgrims every year in the cities of Mecca and Medina, also suspended visas for tourists from countries with reported infections as fears of a pandemic deepen.

Saudi Arabia, which so far has

BAC advises passengers to reconfirm flight timings

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All travellers are advised to reconfirm the status of their flights with their airlines before their departure times, announced Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) in a statement.

BAC, the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), warned that the "unstable situation occurring in the region because of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak" may result in changes to departing and arriving flight schedules.

Passengers may also contact the BIA call centre on 80007777 or the international number 80114444 to check the status of their flights.

Gulf Air sales office in Seef Mall

Manama

Gulf Air said will open its sales office in Seef Mall, Manama today from 0800 to 1500 to serve affected customers of the recent flight suspensions/changes.

Sickle Cell Anaemia chronic disease

Manama

The Council of Representatives Speaker, Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, and several members submitted a proposal to designate Sickle Cell Anaemia as a chronic disease.

Bahrain suspends Umrah trips until further notice

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Bahrain yesterday announced cancelling all Umrah trips, by land and by air, to Saudi Arabia, until further notice.

Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, in a statement on BNA, said, the decision was based on instructions from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of

Hajj and Umrah.

Saudi Arabia's Ministry earlier said it has suspended entry to the kingdom to perform Umrah and or to visit Medina until further notice.

Shaikh Khalid stressed that all Umrah operators should comply with the decision.

He said: The decision was among the "precautionary measures taken to ensure the safety of citizens and residents and to combat the coronavirus."

reported no cases of the virus but has expressed alarm over its spread in neighbouring countries, said the suspensions were temporary. It provided no timeframe for when they will be lifted.

"The kingdom's government has decided to take the following precautions: suspending entry to the kingdom for umrah and visit the Prophet's mosque temporarily," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Suspending entry into the kingdom with tourist visas for those coming from countries, in which the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is a danger."

The move comes as Gulf countries implement a raft of measures, including flight suspensions and school closures, to curb the spread of the disease from people returning from pilgrimages to Iran.

Cases in Bahrain

Bahrain's Ministry of Health, in a statement on BNA, earlier confirmed that the total cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Kingdom as 33, after registering seven new cases on Wednesday.

Infected individuals were transferred to Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Center for isolation and treatment following tests that con-



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firmly they were carrying COVID-19, upon arrival at Bahrain International Airport via indirect flights from Iran.

The Ministry also noted that one of the newly recorded cases is of a Bahraini citizen who had returned from Iran before the country announced the pandemic. The citizen, who called 444 having presented COVID-19 symptoms, was quickly transferred to isolation for treatment.

The ministry called upon all citizens and residents who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to isolate themselves, call 444, follow the instructions given by the medical team, and avoid close contact with others.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) in Bahrain announced on Wednesday suspending flights to and from Dubai International Airport have been suspended for an additional 48 hours.

Bahrain's ministry has also issued an entry ban to all foreign visitors arriving from Iran, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea.

Formula 1 Grand Prix race in Bahrain to go ahead as planned



Formula 1 chief executive Chase Carey Agency

Bahrain Grand Prix will go ahead as planned despite continuing concerns about coronavirus, BBC reported.

Chief executive Chase Carey said "all systems are go" for the race in Hanoi.

"The Vietnam Grand Prix will take place on 5 April in Hanoi. And to anticipate another question, we do plan to proceed with the race," Carey told BBC. Vietnam GP boss Le Ngoc Chi

said the country was "ready" for its inaugural race.

"We can't wait to welcome the world to Hanoi very soon," Chi said.

Carey added that the Bahrain Grand Prix, scheduled to be the second race of the season on 22 March, would also happen, a week after the first race in Australia.

"We're heading to Melbourne, heading to Bahrain and heading to Hanoi," Carey said.

What is Covid-19?

They are part of a large family of viruses known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to severe acute respiratory syndrome. Covid-19 is a new strain of the virus, whose source is currently unknown. However, infected animals are considered a potential source.

Person-to-person spread?

According to experts, the virus is transmitted through direct contact, respiratory droplets produced while talking, sneezing or coughing as well as breathing.

Any reason to panic?

No, says authorities based on the latest data as Covid-19 is less severe than other common respiratory diseases. However, individuals with weakened immunity systems are advised to take immediate measures to prevent serious complications.

Is there a vaccine for Covid-19?

No, says scientists. However, doctors may help patients fight the symptoms, while patients' immune system fight off the virus. Supportive care is proven effective all around the globe.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms are fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. Pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death reported in severe cases.

Preventive measures

Take protective measures by complying to standard health guidelines
Consider staying at home and avoid crowded places when possible
Wear a face mask at all times while in crowded places
Visit the nearest health care, upon experiencing any symptoms.

What should I do?

If you have travelled to one of the countries infected with the disease and have interacted with a person travelling from any of those locations, stay in your residence and call 444. A media team will be in touch with you to guide you through the preventive measures.

Avoid close contact with others. Courtesy of the Ministry of Health



Over 5,000 masks were distributed for free from BFC Manama branch to spread awareness and as a protective measure against the Corona outbreak.