

## Curfew imposed in Saudi Arabia's Dammam, Taif and Qatif governorates

A curfew in Saudi Arabia's Dammam, Taif and Qatif will start on Friday 3p.m. until further notice, state news agency SPA reported, citing Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior. An exception will be made to services and activities previously announced by the ministry. The decision is part of the country's efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus. The interior ministry implemented a 24-hour curfew in some districts in Jeddah and the two holy cities on Thursday to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Fonte: Arab News (05 Aprile 2020)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1652261/saudi-arabia>

## **Saudi ministry allocates \$4.5 billion to cushion impact of COVID-19 crisis on workers**

The Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has allocated SR17 billion (\$4.5 billion) to deal with the economic and jobs fallout from the coronavirus crisis.

Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al-Hazani, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, said that the outlay was in line with the Kingdom's efforts to contain the outbreak while supporting the private sector, economic growth and employment.

Under new ministry rules, expat workers whose residency permits (iqama) expire before June 30 will be exempt from financial fees and their permits extended for three months, he said.

He added that under the Saudi labor system employees cannot be forced to take unpaid leave without their consent.

Fonte : Arab News (02 Aprile 2020)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1651436/saudi-arabia>



## **Major Saudi energy firms pledge 525 million SAR (140 million \$) in fight against coronavirus**

Major Saudi energy companies have contributed a whopping 140 million \$ to the country's Health Endowment Fund, Saudi Press Agency reported on Wednesday.

The move follows the King Salman's call for support to the national health efforts being made to combat the pandemic and the directives of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, deputy premier and minister of defense, who is continuously monitoring the coordination and cooperation among various government agencies.

The Health Endowment Fund is a legal entity established by a decision of the Cabinet and aims to enhance the role of society in supporting government efforts in health development.

Out of the total 140 million dollars contribution to the fund, 54 million dollars came from Saudi Aramco.

In a separate announcement, the Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) and its partners pledged 8 million dollars contribution, while the company's contractors and suppliers vowed a contribution of 6.5 million dollars.

Fonte: Saudi Gazette (01 Aprile 2020)

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/591424>

## **Saudi Arabia orders lockdown in Makkah, Madinah, Riyadh**

An order issued by the King Salman on Wednesday prohibits people of all the 13 provinces of the Kingdom from leaving the region or moving to another region.

The order takes effect on Thursday 26th of March, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The royal order also bans people from entering or exiting the boundaries of Makkah, Madinah and Riyadh.

In a larger effort to contain the spread of the deadly coronavirus, the recently imposed curfew will begin at 3 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. in the cities of Makkah, Madinah and Riyadh.

The new directives will come into effect from Thursday afternoon until the end of the curfew period announced in an earlier order of the King.

Fonte: Saudi Gazette **(25 Marzo 2020)**  
<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/591212>

## **Partial Curfew For 21 Days In Saudi Arabia**



King Salman bin Abdulaziz has issued a curfew order from 7 pm until 6 am for a period of 21 days, effective from 23rd of March evening, to limit the spread of coronavirus in the Kingdom. Some workers will be exempt from the curfew. These include employees of the vital parts of the public and private sectors whose work requires continued performance during the prevention period, the government said. It also includes employees in the security, military and media sectors, and those in relevant health and service sectors. The ministry urged citizens to stay in their homes, especially during the curfew, and not to leave except in cases of necessity.

Kindly check the following link to get details of activities excluded from curfew:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/591136/SAUDI-ARABIA/King-Salman-orders-partial-curfew-for-21-days>

Besides, workers in diplomatic missions and international organizations and residents of the diplomatic quarter are allowed to move during the time of curfew from and to their workplaces.

Fonte: Saudi Gazette (23 Marzo 2020)

## **Saudi Arabia announces \$32 billion in emergency funds to mitigate oil, coronavirus impact**

Saudi Arabia's government unveiled stimulus measures amounting to 120 Saudi billion riyals (\$32 billion) on Friday to support an economy hit by the double blow of the coronavirus crisis and dramatically lower oil prices.



The sum includes Riyadh's 50 billion riyals package announced last week to support small and medium-sized businesses. Friday's announcement introduces a further 70 billion riyals to aid businesses, including the postponement of tax payments and exemptions of various government levies and fees.

Earlier this week, the kingdom cut its 2020 budget by almost 5%, a step that many economists predict will be the first of a series of cutbacks and potentially even austerity measures to keep its finances intact amid oil prices plunging by nearly 60% year-to-date. The relief measures in the new stimulus package include exemptions on expat levies, postponing some private sector fee payments to the government, and postponing the collection of customs duties on imports. It also allows employers to extend exit and re-entry visas free of charge for three months and enables businesses to postpone paying value-added tax, income tax and other levies for the next three months.

"Some budget appropriations will be reviewed and reallocated to the sectors most in need in the current situation, including allocating additional funds to the health sector as needed," the statement quoted Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan as saying.

"An emergency budget was also introduced to cover any costs that may arise during the developments of this global crisis."

Saudi Arabia has taken sweeping measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus, including suspending numerous flight routes and temporarily halting entries for religious pilgrims coming to the kingdom for Hajj, a journey taken by some two million Muslims annually.

Oil price plunge and hit to fiscal plans

Riyadh earlier this month set off an oil price war, slashing its prices to buyers, and plans to increase its oil production from a recent 9.7 million barrels per day (bpd) to 12.3 million bpd in a strategy to increase its market share. This, coupled with crushed demand from the coronavirus, could plunge crude prices into the teens, analysts say. International benchmark Brent crude was trading at \$28.28 a barrel on Friday at 12:40 p.m. ET.

Saudi Arabia needs oil priced at \$82 per barrel to balance its budget, according to the International Monetary Fund — "which means Riyadh's fiscal plans and the Saudi economy will suffer a big blow," a report from Energy Intelligence wrote this week. The analysis firm

predicts the kingdom's flagship Vision 2030 economic reform plan will suffer a significant setback as well.

Fonte: CNBC (20 Marzo 2020)

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/20/coronavirus-and-oil-saudi-arabia-announces-32-billion-stimulus.html>

## **Saudi Customs suspends export of medicines, pharmaceuticals, medical devices**

Export of medicines, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment has been suspended, Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday quoting an announcement made by the Saudi Customs in a circular.

The move, which comes into effect on Friday (March 20), follows the recommendations of the ministerial committee tasked to take precautionary measures to prevent the outbreak spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The temporary ban also includes what was announced earlier with regard to export of all medical and laboratory products, requirements and devices used in detecting or preventing infection with the virus, including protective clothing, medical face masks, protective medical suits covering the whole body, and protective medical goggles.

Fonte: Saudi Gazette (20 Marzo 2020)

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/591079>

## **Saudi Arabia suspending domestic flights, mass land transport in fight against COVID-19**

Saudi Arabia has suspended domestic flights, trains, buses and taxis for 14 days in a heightened effort to stop the spread of the COVID-19, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said on Friday. Quoting a directive from the Ministry of Interior, SPA said the new measure will take effect at 6 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Only flights related to humanitarian and necessary cases, medical evacuation aircraft and private aviation would be allowed, provided that they are covered by the necessary permits issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. Only flights related to humanitarian and necessary cases, medical evacuation aircraft and private aviation would be allowed, provided that they are covered by the necessary permits issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. Cargo ships will be allowed to continue with their usual program, provided that the crews take all precautions to limit the transmission of infection.

Transportation related to vital sectors such as health, services and basic commodities such as food, energy, water and communications, etc., air freight and necessary security transfers will not be affected by the temporary ban, said the SPA report.

(Fonte): Arab News (20 Marzo 2020)

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1644101/saudi-arabia>