

4th January 2021

Weekly Update from Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has lifted the temporary travel ban imposed last December as a precautionary measure following the detection of a mutated type of Covid-19 in several countries, the Ministry of Interior said early Sunday. In other news, Public Investment Fund (PIF), Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, said on Tuesday it had established a company to develop and expand the private security sector in the Kingdom.

1. Economy, Budgets and Finance

Arab News: Saudi Aramco announces alliance with SAP. [Read here](#)

The National: Acwa Power signs deal to develop \$300m wind plant in Azerbaijan. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi loan program supports 61 tourism projects. [Read here](#)

Arabian Business: ADNOC Distribution inks \$10m deal to buy Saudi service stations. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Lucid Motors to expand Saudi presence, scouting retail locations. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Integrated electricity markets within GCC, MENA support electricity sector liberalization. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Arab game developers seek greater inclusion in video game industry. [Read here](#)

2. Government & Royal Family

Saudi Gazette: Saudi Arabia resumes international flights, reopens land, sea borders. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Expats in Saudi Arabia welcome ministry move to study quarterly payment of levy. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Hajj portal and smart card launched. [Read here](#)

Argaam: Saudi Arabia endorses mining investment law regulations. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Najran governor inaugurates King Saud Road tunnel. [Read here](#)

Al Arabiya: Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi Arabia counting down to unveil partnerships in space sector. [Read here](#)

3. Defence & Security

3.1. External

The National: Saudi Arabia's PIF starts new firm to develop private security sector in the kingdom. [Read here](#)

4. Commercial

Arab News: Saudi mining firm seals fertilizer export deal with Bangladesh. [Read here](#)

Argaam: SAIB signs banking agency agreement with Virgin Mobile Saudi Arabia. [Read here](#)

Trade Arabia: Saudi Arabia seeks bids for major SWRO desalination plant. [Read here](#)

The National: STC to invest \$500m in cloud in partnership with eWTP Arabia Capital and Alibaba. [Read here](#)

Argaam: ROSHN awards SAR 1.9 bln contracts to Shapoorji Pallonji, Siemens. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Deal signed to strengthen Saudi art, cultural sectors. [Read here](#)

Social

Reuters: Rallying-Dakar racers ready for Saudi desert after COVID quarantine. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi Arabia's Ithra Downtown season launched in Dhahran. [Read here](#)