

11th January 2021

Weekly Update from Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has decided to lift the temporary travel ban and resume all international flights, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Friday citing a statement from the Ministry of Interior. In other news, The Saudi authorities have launched the digital versions of the national identity cards of Saudi citizens. It can be accessed through “Absher Individuals” service at the ministry’s Absher portal or through Absher app on smartphones.

1. Economy, Budgets and Finance

Arab News: Saudi Ministry of Finance signs \$3bn Korean financing agreement. [Read here](#)

The National: Surprise cut by Saudi Arabia keeps oil prices above \$50 per barrel. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Digital payments in Saudi Arabia surge by 75% amid pandemic. [Read here](#)

The National: Non-oil economies of Saudi and UAE improve in December as recovery continues. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi Arabia’s Qiddiya begins design of world’s fastest roller coaster. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Al-Zahrani: Cultural Development Fund aims to create 70,000 jobs by 2030. [Read here](#)

2. Government & Royal Family

Al Arabiya: Saudi Arabia to resume international travel, lift restrictions on March 31. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: AlUla summit marks a new beginning for GCC: Al-Hajraf. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Expats welcome end of ban on running Saudi firms. [Read here](#)

Al Arabiya: Saudi Arabia detects ten new COVID-19 variant infections. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Health passport not necessary for travel, government says. [Read here](#)

Argaam: Saudi Arabia launches ‘health passport’ for COVID-19 vaccinated people. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Minister Al-Mashari: Citizens and expats can enjoy Digital ID in all transactions. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Al-Baha governor launches housing project for Saudi citizens. [Read here](#)

3. Defence & Security

3.1. Internal

Arab News: Prince Khalid bin Salman meets US defense department official. [Read here](#)

3.2. External

Arab News: Saudi Civil Defense outlines camping safety as season peaks. [Read here](#)

4. Commercial

Arab News: Importers urged to register all products in 'Saber'. [Read here](#)

Trade Arabia: Aecom announces launch of Saudi schools PPP infrastructure work. [Read here](#)

Arab News: 63 Saudi and international firms vie to undertake Alkhobar's corniche project. [Read here](#)

The National: Construction starts on UAE railway link to Saudi border. [Read here](#)

Trade Arabia: Acwa Power secures \$125m Apicorp funding for future projects. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Red Sea airport contract awarded to Irish firm. [Read here](#)

Trade Arabia: Nokia, Zain KSA to roll out 5G-powered FWA and wi-fi 6. [Read here](#)

Social

Saudi Gazette: Saudi Winter Season promotes scientific tourism. [Read here](#)

Arab News: First Saudi female skating team aiming for international glory. [Read here](#)