

1st February 2021

Weekly Update from Saudi Arabia

It has been made mandatory for all Saudis and expatriates working in the government and private sectors in the Eastern Province to activate Tawakkalna application to prove their health status before entering their offices effective from Sunday. In other news, Saudi Arabia has postponed the end of a ban on travel for its citizens and the reopening of its ports from 31 March to 17 May.

1. Economy, Budgets and Finance

The National: Middle East's largest petrochemicals company posts \$10.7m net profit for 2020. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Real estate VAT exemption boosted 2020 market activity. [Read here](#)

Al Arabiya: Further privatization key to Kingdom's 2021 growth: Saudi Arabia Minister of Finance. [Read here](#)

The National: Saudi Arabia looks to become 'another Germany in renewables'. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi Arabia to pioneer producers of green, blue hydrogen: Energy minister. [Read here](#)

Al Arabiya: NEOM's THE LINE infrastructure spending to hit \$100-150 billion, says PIF Governor. [Read here](#)

Arab News: FII: Saudi Arabia eyes 20 free economic zones, six in Riyadh. [Read here](#)

2. Government & Royal Family

Saudi Gazette: Tawakkalna App made mandatory in offices and malls in EP. [Read here](#)

The National: Saudi Arabia postpones end of travel and port restrictions to May 17. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Jawazat: Expats who fail to return on re-entry can come back only after 3 years. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudi Arabia allows work-permit fees to be paid quarterly. [Read here](#)

Reuters: Saudi government to invest \$220 billion in Riyadh development over next 10 years. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Madinah governor witnesses deals for transport initiative. [Read here](#)

The National: Aramco may have second IPO and boost sovereign fund assets to \$1.1tn, Crown Prince says. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Crown Prince unveils plan to make Riyadh one of 10 largest city economies. [Read here](#)

3. Defence & Security

3.1. Internal

Arab News: Diplomatic Quarter: Foreign envoys visit 911 security center in Riyadh. [Read here](#)

3.2. External

Arab News: Saudi cybersecurity experts explain cookies, data and privacy infringement. [Read here](#)

4. Commercial

Arab News: Aramco's entrepreneurship arm Wa'ed invests \$500k in fitness app. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Saudi ports see 4.36% rise in transshipment in 2020. [Read here](#)

Arab News: Saudia launches \$1m campaign to promote AIUla. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: CITC plans to release more than 20 GHz of radio spectrum. [Read here](#)

Arab News: PIF launches Cruise Saudi to develop Kingdom's tourism industry. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: TRSDC completes first stage of LEED Platinum certification, a first for project in Middle East. [Read here](#)

Arab News: PIF buys stake in Red Sea terminal operator. [Read here](#)

5. Social

Arab News: First group of Saudi female football referees receive accreditation. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: Tabuk tourism ... the pleasure of exploration in "Saudi Winter". [Read here](#)

Arab News: Exploring the hidden treasures of Saudi Arabia's Mawan Valley. [Read here](#)

Saudi Gazette: 58 women players for monthly bowling championship. [Read here](#)