

## Gulf Air business continuity management drill test success

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For the first time in the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain's history, Gulf Air has successfully accomplished the longest business continuity drill test exercise seamlessly with no interruption to Gulf Air's operations.

The exercise was planned for a number of Gulf Air's critical business functions to measure the airline's recovery individual competencies and readiness to continue operations in the event of unforeseen situations or disasters.

After the successful completion of the drill test, Acting



Gulf Air's Acting CEO Captain Waleed Al Alawi with participants in the event

Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi received Business Continuity Committee headed by its chairperson and Chief Technical Officer of Gulf

Air Jamal Hashim, who submitted the final drill test report.

Al Alawi thanked the Business Continuity committee for a job well done and emphasised on

the importance of technology and digital transformation strategy for the airline's business.

The exercise was conducted on the actual airline oper-

ations last month by adopting the 'Work Remotely' model for three days.

The recovery teams assumed full control of operations, took

over from the headquarter team for continuous three days, and performed all the operational activities remotely including communication with live aircraft and global outstations.

Several major business functions were involved in this exercise, such as Integrated Operations Centre (IOC), aircraft Maintenance Control Centre (MCC), Aircraft Technical Planning, Crew Control, the Contact Centre, Flight Dispatch, Central Reservation Centre, Airport Support Unit (ASU), Finance, Revenue Accounting, Human Resources (HR) and Information Technology (IT) and Corporate Communication department (PR).

## Restaurant shut down due to COVID-19 protocol violations

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A restaurant in the Capital Governorate was closed for violating the COVID-19 precautionary measures, the Health Ministry announced.

Necessary measures were taken and the case was referred to the legal authorities.

This came during inspection visits that were carried out by Health Ministry personnel in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority.

It was part of the intensified campaign to ensure that the facilities adhere to the health requirements and procedures listed within the yellow alert level.

Inspectors monitored a number of violations during the inspection visits.

More than 160 restaurants and cafes were visited, and 18 of them had failed to follow precautionary measures. The



Serving a closure notice

necessary legal measures were taken against them.

Forty-seven inspection visits to women's salons and men's barbershops were carried out.

Twenty-two men's barbershops and three women's salons were found to have violated the required health requirements.

The Health Ministry called on everyone to continue to adhere and exercise high responsibility, and to immediately report any violations or abuses to protect public health against the virus.

## Stay apart and avoid COVID-19!

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Health authorities are constantly reminding the public to strictly follow health and safety protocols to protect oneself and the entire community from the coronavirus (COVID-19).

One of the most important precautionary measures that the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is asking us to do is to practise social distancing.

Indeed, one of the best ways to reduce the spread of the virus is by continuing to prac-

tise social distancing or what others call physical distancing.

What is social distancing and why is it important?

According to studies, the coronavirus spreads easily. Social distancing puts space between individuals.

The most common way COVID-19 spreads is through person-to-person contact. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, they produce respiratory droplets that can travel about six feet and can land in the mouths or noses of those nearby.

# Beggars 'on the rise'

Mainly women carrying children, these individuals are seen begging for alms across the streets, most often annoying the public

● Their proliferation is fast becoming a growing concern for the Kingdom

● This recent 'phenomenon' is not a crime but regarded as a social problem

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

The rising number of beggars are fast becoming an inconvenience to the citizens and residents across the streets of Manama and Gudaibiya.

Large number of beggars, mainly women carrying children, are seen begging for alms, most often annoying the public.

Sources said they even enter shops, asking money from shopkeepers as well as customers across Manama and Gudaibiya.

They added that the number of beggars would be increasingly found across the streets during the beginning of the month as it is the time when people receive their salaries.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mohammed Ibrahim, an expatriate, said: "I don't see begging as a crime but it is a social problem, which raises a lot of concerns."

"I always try to avoid giving alms to them since I don't want to promote it. But my family



A beggar knocking at car window

“Some of them look like those coming from reasonably good families. And one thing I am totally against is using children to gain sympathy. Why should the children suffer as their self-image is getting adversely affected by this act?”

- V KUMAR, AN EXPATRIATE

members, including my wife, insist on giving, and I end up contributing to the social problem."

V Kumar, another expatriate, said some of the beggars are even aggressive.

"They knock on car windows, refuse to leave even after we offer alms to them. Some of them

want more bucks, but we have our own limitations," he said.

A long-time resident in the Kingdom, Kumar said the increase in the number of beggars is a recent "phenomenon".

"I have been living in the Kingdom for over 20 years now. Earlier, I would see one or two beggars when I walked through the streets of Gudaibiya and I realised that they were mentally-ill people. But that is not the case now.

"Some of them look like those coming from reasonably good families. And one thing I am totally against is using children to gain sympathy. Why should the children suffer as their self-image is getting adversely affected by this act?"

Commenting on the matter, Dr Anna Mostafa, a leading psychologist in the Kingdom, said: "The assumption from a psychological standpoint would be that no one would want to beg, no one would want to be destitute. So let's gather the informa-

“There could be psychological factors for begging; perhaps the individual's mental and cognitive capacity may play a role. Perhaps, they are unaware of the resources available to them by charities and shelters set in place to support them.”

- DR ANNA MOSTAFA, A PSYCHOLOGIST

tion, advocate for the spread of available resources.

"There could be psychological factors for begging; perhaps the individual's mental and cognitive capacity may play a role. Perhaps, they are unaware of the resources available to them by charities and shelters set in place to support them."

Dr Mostafa also stressed on the significance of rehabilitation, saying: "Public awareness campaigns and increased efforts at disseminating information of available services to police, mosques, public transport and other areas where people aggregate could be beneficial."

## 'Women of technology' forum in Bahrain

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Bahrain will host the "Women of Technology in the Middle East and North Africa" forum on January 25 and 26.

The event is expected to attract more than 400 participants representing 20 countries from the Arab region, while more than 25 Arab women leaders and entrepreneurs will speak.

● Stranded in Kingdom for 23 years due to multiple travel bans

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

A key intervention from the apart of the Ministry of Justice, Bahrain Immigration authorities and the Indian Embassy has helped a stranded ex-

patriate fly home.

Indian national Siby Mathew yesterday took a flight to Bengaluru in India, where his son lives, after being stranded in the Kingdom for 23 years.

He had faced multiple travel bans following three cases filed against him. It is learnt that he owed BD3,500, BD1,500 and BD350 to three different parties respectively.

According to Sudheer Thirunilath, World NRI Council Humanitarian Director for



Mathew at Bahrain International Airport before his departure

the Middle East, the cases were dropped following a joint intervention by the Ministry of Justice, Bahrain Immigration authorities and the Indian Embassy.

"After holding frequent discussions, the plaintiffs agreed to withdraw the cases, paving way for Siby's return home," Sudheer told The Daily Tribune.

Adding to Mathew's plight was his health status. Both his kidneys had become dysfunctional after suffering acute dia-

betes. Mathew was undergoing treatment at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Mathew came to the Kingdom in 1991 and has been working with many companies here. His family members who live in India, include wife Sini, daughter Martina and son Martin.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, on the way to Bahrain International Airport, Mathew thanked Sudheer and Indian Embassy officials for the timely support.

## Expatriate returns home as support pours in