

Temporary closures of different roads around Khalifa International Stadium



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the temporary closures of different roads around Khalifa International Stadium during the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup, which begins today and will continue until December 8. The closures will be implemented during the match days only from noon to midnight. The closures, which will be implemented in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, are aimed at facilitating the entry and exit of fans to and from the stadium, Ashghal has tweeted.

Kuwaiti youth minister praises Qatar's efforts to make Gulf Cup a success

Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohamed al-Jabri praised the efforts and arrangements made by the concerned authorities in Qatar in order to successfully organise the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup and show it in a

remarkable and distinctive way. In a press statement ahead of his departure to Doha to attend the opening of Gulf Cup which kicks off today, al-Jabri said that this tournament enjoys wide public and media attention in the region in general and Kuwait

in particular. He said that the Arabian Gulf Cup has always been the most prestigious sports competition in the region since its inception in 1970, expressing the hope that the Kuwaiti team would win the title of the championship, which will

certainly see hard competitions. The Gulf Cup will continue until December 8. Group A of the championship consists of Qatar, the UAE, Yemen and Iraq, while Group B consists of Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. —QNA

Saudi, UAE teams arrive for Gulf Cup

From Page 1

Saudi Arabia will play in Group B alongside Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. The UAE team starts its first game in the first round today against the Yemeni team. Qatar face Iraq today at 7.30pm in their first match at the Khalifa International Stadium.

The final list of the team will include 24 players: Ali Khasif, Sa-

lem Rashid, Khalfan Mubarak, Ali Mabkhout, Mohammed al-Attas, Waleed Hussein, Mohamed Marzouk, Yousef Jaber, Ismail al-Hammadi, Ahmed Khalil, Khalid Issa, Ahmad Burman, Bandar al-Ahbabi, Mohamed Barghash, Hamdan al-Kamali, Khalil al-Hammadi, Mohamed al-Shamsi, Adel al-Hosani, Al Hassan Saleh, Majid Sorour, Shaheen Abdulrahman, Tariq Ahmed, Jassim

Yacoub and Ali Saleh. The team will play in Group A alongside Qatar, Iraq and Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain announced earlier this month they would contest the 24th Arabian Gulf title. Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen will also vie for the cup. Leading Emirati politics professor Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, an authority on the UAE's po-

litical thinking, tweeted that the end of the GCC crisis could be in sight following the Gulf Cup announcement. Abdulla called the trio's decision "as political as it is sporting". "Football... may open the door for the travel of sports fans to Qatar to support their teams, which means necessarily lifting the travel ban to Qatar and the return of Gulf cohesion," he wrote after the announcement.

Free Metro access

Any spectator holding a valid ticket for any of the Arabian Gulf Cup matches is entitled to collect a free Day Pass on the day of the match from any Doha Metro station Gold Club office, Qatar Rail said in a tweet yesterday.

Ashghal works round the clock to ensure success of Gulf Cup

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has stressed that it is working round the clock to facilitate public access to the stadiums hosting the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup from today until December 8.

In a press statement yesterday, Ashghal said it raised "its performance level to the fullest, executing all the tasks required to ensure the safety of road users and spectators and to ensure smooth traffic flow on the road network around Khalifa International Stadium, Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium (Al Duhail) and Al Janoub Stadium. Ashghal is co-ordinating with all related entities to execute the required work and also monitoring the road and drainage network to ensure full success of the tournament, the statement notes.

Khalifa International Stadium

Operational and maintenance works around the stadium: Ashghal's Roads Operation and Maintenance (ROM) team is working round the clock to facilitate the traffic management on the roads surrounding Khalifa International Stadium, and the main entrances and exits by installing more than 100 directional signs to guide the public to the parking lots based on their categories. In addition, Ashghal is using dynamic signs to inform road users about the roads status and event updates.

Moreover, Ashghal has worked in co-ordination with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) on a number of maps to be published on social media to guide road users and spectators to the designated parking lots for each stadium, with the help of directional signs for the public coming from different destinations, such as Salwa Road, Muaitheer or Al Huwar.

Through the Roads Management Centre, Ashghal continues to monitor the road network round the clock to ensure that the roads surrounding the stadium are free of obstacles and to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Green fencing has been installed on Al Waab Street to encourage pedestrians to use the pedestrian tunnel of the Sport City Metro station and cross the main road safely. This has been done to ensure the safety of pedestrians. A study has been carried out



Signage leading to Khalifa International Stadium.



Arab League Street



Al Furosiya Street works completion.

on road closures, traffic diversions and alternative road plans to facilitate the movement of individuals and vehicles during the tournament. Accordingly, all necessary operational and emergency response plans have been completed and four teams are ready and equipped with the necessary machinery. In addition, emergency test scenarios have been carried out and rapid intervention plans put in place.

Since August, the ROM department has started to survey, study and test all available road assets around the stadium such as asphalt condition, directional signs, safety barriers, drainage assets, street lighting, pedestrian crossing, tunnels and traffic signals. All the road projects being implemented around the stadium have been inspected, surveyed and refurbished to ensure their readiness to use during the event. This is done in full co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic, Qatar Football Association and the SC.

In addition, a series of routine explorations and tests have been carried out at various locations round the clock on the days before the event to monitor the work developments required to ensure the success of the tournament.

Al Furosiya Street works completion

Ashghal opened Al Furosiya Street to traffic a few weeks before the kick-off of the Arabian Gulf Cup, to facilitate the commuting of fans heading to Khalifa International Stadium. The street is also connected to some of the most vital roads in the country such as Salwa Road, Al Waab Street, Muaitheer Street, Al Rayyan Al

The enhancement works also comprised the upgrading of the lighting system and the installation of 233 lighting poles as well as the construction of pedestrian and cycle paths with 5m width, to encourage a healthy lifestyle

Jadeed Street, Huwar Street, etc. The completion of upgrade works on Al Furosiya Street has significantly enhanced the traffic flow and reduced congestion in the area, especially that the project is aimed at improving the vehicular capacity of the street by increasing its lanes from three to four in each direction, upgrading exits and entrances of the surrounding streets as well as providing service roads, Ashghal explains.

The scope of works included road and infrastructure works in addition to the installation of road signs and the planting of 900 trees covering 73,000sqm of green areas along Al Furosiya Street.

The enhancement works also comprised the upgrading of the lighting system and the installation of 233 lighting poles as well as the construction of pedestrian and cycle paths with 5m width, to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Sports City Street:

Ashghal has implemented upgrading works on Sports City Street, which facilitates access from and to Khalifa International Stadium through its direct connection to Al Waab Street.

Works included the development and expansion of Sports Street Intersection with Osama Bin Zaid Street and its intersection with Ammar Bin Yasser

Street. The two intersections were equipped with traffic signals and Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) to improve traffic flow and increase capacity on Sports City Street and the surrounding areas.

Main roads leading to the stadium:

Ashghal announced the opening of the 1,500m Umm Al Jama'im Street in Murraikh to traffic to provide direct movement between Furosiya Street and Al Waab Street through Al Khufos Street, which will be used during the Arabian Gulf Cup as a main access to the parking lots.

Umm Al Jama'im Street enhances traffic in the area after its major development. The street, which consisted of a lane in each direction, has been revamped into a two-lane road in each direction to accommodate about 8,000 vehicles per hour, saving travel time by more than 60%.

The Public Works Authority is still working on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor that will extend for approximately 25km from Hamad International Airport to Umm Lekhba Interchange (known as Landmark Interchange) on Doha Expressway. The project includes

The Al Waab intersection is one of the vital intersections within

the project. It will be transformed into a three-level intersection and include a bridge providing free traffic along the corridor, as well as two overhead bridges to link traffic between Al Waab Street and the corridor, which will reduce congestion at the Al Waab intersection.

Preparation to deal with rain:

Ashghal continues monitoring the drainage network around the stadium to ensure its continuous and efficient operation, including cleaning of drainage manholes in and around the stadium to ensure that the stadium and its surroundings are free of rain accumulations during the event. Teams have been recruited to provide support in case of rain and the department will continuously monitor and respond to customer feedback in areas around Khalifa International Stadium.

Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium (Al Duhail Stadium)

During the week before the start of the Arabian Gulf Cup, Ashghal installed more than 60 directional signs on the roads surrounding Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium (known as Duhail Stadium) to direct fans from different destinations to the stadium's parking lots.

Developed intersections to reach the stadium:

Converting Al Tarfa Roundabout project (known as Golf Club Roundabout) into a signal-controlled intersection has improved traffic flow and increased the capacity of the intersection, while providing easy access to Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium.

Moreover, the signalised Izghawa intersection now pro-

vides an ideal route to the stadium for the masses coming from Doha or the north. The intersection also provides better access to local roads as well as alleviates traffic congestion on the northern side of Doha Golf Club, West Bay, Legtaifiya, Al Khor Expressway and the northwestern side of the Lusail development project, in addition to providing local roads access to the area surrounding the stadium.

Main and local roads developed to facilitate access to Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium:

Arab League Street now allows the residential suburbs of Leabaib, Al Ebb, Wadi Al Banat, Al Kheesa and Jeryan Jenaihat to commute easily to Duhail Sports Club and Doha City. It also allows commuters to easily exit/enter Al Shamal Road. The benefits of completing this project was reducing traffic congestion, cutting down on travelling distances and times and providing safer commuting.

In addition, the development and expansion of Al Khafi Street also contributed to enhancing the capacity of the road and increasing traffic flow. The project included the conversion of three roundabouts, namely Jelaiah roundabout, Al Markhiya roundabout and the Environment roundabout into signal-controlled intersections, and increasing the number of lanes from three to four on parts of Al Khafi Street. This has enhanced the capacity of the road network around Al Duhail Club. Improvements also included installing the ITS, street lighting, developing drainage systems and pedestrian and cycle paths.

Al Janoub Stadium

Ashghal has delivered a number of local roads, expressways and various infrastructure projects that serve Al Janoub Stadium facilities, in addition to developing new roads and upgrading existing roads to facilitate access to the stadium and its facilities.

The Southern Part of the Doha Express Highway project is considered one of the most important roads that directly connect to the stadium through Al Wukair Interchange, as it connects with Doha Expressway, Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor and G-Ring Road on the one end, and with Al Wukair Road, Mesaieed Road and Al Wakrah Main Road on the other end.

This is in addition to the development of part of Al Wukair Road, which included an increase in the number of lanes from two to four lanes and the installation of traffic signals in the area between Al Wakra Hospital and Al Wukair Road's intersection with Doha Expressway.

The works done on the road facilitates the movement of traffic in the area and provides additional exits and entrances to the stadium.

In order to facilitate the fan commute from the Al Wakra Metro station to Al Janoub Stadium, Ashghal has implemented 3.5km-long pedestrian and cycling tracks extending from the Al Wakra Metro station to the stadium, starting from Al Wakrah Street and passing through the Najma Street extension and Al Wukair Road. The implementation of these tracks aims to enhance the movement and transportation of visitors and fans during the event.

QU's Sesri conducts survey to gauge views on Gulf Cup

Responses to a short telephone survey by the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (Sesri) at Qatar University (QU) revealed that both Qataris and white-collar expatriates are quite aware of the Gulf Cup and positive about its potential impacts.

Also, the vast majority of Qatar's citizens and white-collar residents are aware of the participation of Bahrain, Saudi Ara-

bia and the UAE in the event, the survey findings show.

From November 19 to 22, Sesri surveyed nationally representative samples of Qatari citizens (695) and white-collar residents (721) on the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup, which begins today and continues until December 8.

Overall, the vast majority of Qatari nationals (92%) and white-collar expatriates (84%) reported being aware of the Gulf

Cup. Moreover, 95% of Qatari nationals and 87% of white-collar expatriates are aware of the participation of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the games.

Also, Qatari nationals and white-collar resident expatriates in large numbers said they welcome the participation of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the 2019 Arabian Gulf Cup. The majority of white-collar expatriates and about half of Qa-

taris think that the participation of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup in Doha is likely to lead to the end of the blockade of Qatar, the survey shows.

The survey indicates that Qatari nationals and white-collar residents hope that the games will lead to an end of the blockade of Qatar. About half (48%) of Qatari nationals and slightly more than three-quarters (76%)

of white-collar expatriates think the participation of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE is either very likely (12% of Qataris) or somewhat likely (36% of Qataris) to lead to the end of the blockade.

These percentages are significantly higher among white-collar expatriates (at 34% and 42%, respectively). The remainder of both groups were neutral or said they did not know. In terms of

public awareness of the games, the Internet, social media and the television were most commonly cited by Qataris and expatriates as their initial source of news about the Gulf Cup.

A total of 1,416 Qatari nationals and white-collar expatriates completed the survey, yielding a response rate of 48.6% and a maximum sampling error for a percentage at the 95% confidence level of +/- 3.02 percent-

age points. The calculation of this sampling error takes into account design effects.

The final dataset was weighted to adjust for probability of selection and non-response. The results of the survey were announced at a press conference attended by Dr Hassan al-Sayed, director of Sesri; Dr Abdoulaye Diop, research associate professor and head of the Research Department at Sesri, and others.