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Dubai moves to develop plan for tackling weather emergencies

DXB EXPECTED TO RETURN TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND REGULAR SCHEDULE IN 24 HOURS

DUBAI
BY DHANUSHA GOKULAN
Chief Reporter

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, instructed government departments to develop a comprehensive proactive plan to deal with emergency weather conditions. Shaikh Hamdan issued the directives during a meeting with officials in charge of Dubai government departments yesterday.

Meanwhile, Majed Al Joker, Chief Operating Officer of Dubai Airports, announced that Dubai International Airport (DXB) will resume normal operations within 24 hours, signifying a return to its full capacity and regular schedule.

Gradual normalisation

Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 have already begun gradual normalisation, resulting in smoother movement, he said in a statement to the Emirates News Agency (WAM). Emphasising passenger safety as the top priority, Al Joker highlighted collaborative efforts among airport teams, partners, and airlines to



ON WAY TO RECOVERY

Passengers queue at a flight connection desk at the Dubai International Airport following flight disruptions.

1,244

flights were
cancelled at DXB
as of yesterday
morning

61

flights diverted
from DXB to nearby
airports as of
yesterday morning

ensure a swift return to normalcy and support affected travellers.

Regarding the efforts made over the past hours and days, Al Joker emphasised that the airport's response and emergency teams, various departments and strategic partners, and airlines have worked extensively

to coordinate efforts to return to normal on the one hand, and to support and assist affected passengers and guests on the other.

"While most airlines are operating, the situation remains dynamic, prompting travellers to contact their respective airlines for up-to-date information," he

said. Dubai Airports commended the dedicated staff for their tireless work in ensuring guest comfort and safety, expressing gratitude for travellers' understanding during this period.

In a separate interview with Al Arabiya, Al Joker said Dubai Airports will reach 60-70 per

cent operational capacity by the end of the day. He also confirmed that the storm did not affect Dubai Airports' buildings and systems. He added that the main runway of DXB was not affected by the rains either.

— with inputs from agencies
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UAE car owners start on water damage assessments

Many insurers allow claims only for stationary vehicles during waterlogging

DUBAI
BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

After unprecedented rains in the UAE caused widespread flooding, submerged streets, and diverted flights, car owners have started evaluating damages to their affected vehicles, while also assessing with their insurers on what the claims will be for the repairs that need to be done.

Based on initial assessments, the insurance claims will make an immediate

dent on the cash positions of not only the policy holders, but of insurers as well.

As for the car owners, they will have to face up to higher motor insurance premium payments when the next renewal is due.

UAE-based insurance experts weigh in that while some insurers have adapted their motor policies to cover water damage only when vehicles are stationary, and pay admissible claims, the disruption caused to the insured in the absence of their

Car owners will have to pay higher motor insurance premiums during renewals.

vehicles will be significant, regardless.

Delays in repairs

As workshops need to be able to manage the increased workload and availability of parts, it will mean that there will be delays in repairs, the experts add.

With the earlier round of heavy rains and water logging in the UAE, the repair costs then were said to have been quite sizeable.

Meanwhile, motor insurance premiums have already seen significant increases since January 2023 after the UAE regulator — Emirates Insurance Authority — disallowed insurers from offering up to 50 per cent discount for accident-free policies.

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