

Gulf states reopen airspace

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 24 June, 2025



Dhaka: Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait have reopened their airspace after temporarily suspending flight operations in response to Iranian missile strikes targeting the U.S. Al-Udeid Air Base near Doha.

On Monday (June 23) evening, Iran launched a barrage of missiles toward the Al-Udeid Air Base, a key site for U.S. Central Command in the region.

According to officials from both the United States and Qatar, the majority of the missiles were intercepted, and no casualties or injuries were reported.

In a statement issued early Tuesday, Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority confirmed the resumption of regular air traffic operations, citing the stabilisation of the security situation.

The temporary closure was initially enforced to ensure the safety of

residents and travellers, following heightened tensions in the region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had earlier emphasised the move was precautionary in nature.

The U.S. embassy in Qatar, along with the British government, had issued advisories urging their citizens to shelter in place.

The alerts came ahead of Iran's strike, which Tehran described as a "clear and explicit" message to Washington, stating that any threats to its sovereignty and security would be met with decisive action.

The governments of Bahrain and Kuwait also took similar precautionary measures on Monday, suspending air traffic temporarily.

Bahrain's civil aviation affairs announced the full reopening of the kingdom's airspace shortly thereafter, while Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation confirmed the resumption of flights to and from Kuwait International Airport, in coordination with regional and international aviation bodies.

Iran's attack on Al-Udeid marked a significant escalation in the broader regional conflict, which has drawn international concern. In response, Qatar condemned the missile strike and noted that its air defence systems had successfully neutralised the threat.

In a statement, U.S. President Donald Trump described Iran's actions as a "very weak response," thanking Iranian authorities for reportedly providing early warning before the strike.

Hours later, he announced that Iran and Israel had reached a ceasefire agreement, calling it a "total and complete" end to what he termed the "12 Day War." However, official confirmation of such an agreement from either side remained pending.

The episode prompted renewed scrutiny of security in the Gulf, where nearly 40,000 U.S. troops are stationed across multiple countries. While air traffic across the region has now resumed, authorities continue to monitor the situation closely.

-B