

Local

# Kuwait receives 200,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

## Health Ministry lists 586 new COVID-19 cases, no deaths

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MoH) announced that 200,000 doses of the UK-based AstraZeneca with the University of Oxford vaccine against COVID-19 arrived in the country at dawn yesterday. In a press statement, Assistant Undersecretary for Drug and Food Control Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Bader has said that the ministry is closely monitoring international developments concerning the vaccines, adding that the department would cooperate with various producing companies to get the jabs after ensuring their safety and efficacy.

Meanwhile, Khaled Al-Saeed, member of the vaccine technical committee at the MoH, said the Oxford vaccine is safe for the age categories between 18 and 65. The ministry will begin, as of this week, giving dates to get the jab for a large number of nationals and residents at the Kuwait Vaccination Center in Kuwait International Fairground, halls 5 and 6. The vaccine is effective against medium and severe infections, he said, adding that it also averts deaths. The duration between the first and second doses will be four weeks, he further noted.



**545 new recoveries in 24 hours**

**586 cases**

In the meantime, the ministry yesterday listed 586 new coronavirus cases, bringing the caseload of infections to 165,843. MoH official spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said that no new fatalities with the contagious disease were registered during the same period, thus mortalities' toll steadied at 959. The ministry had earlier announced 545 new recoveries, bringing the total to 158,476. The ministry said in a statement that the percentage of recoveries from total infection cases amounted to 95.5 percent.

Informed sources said Kuwait University asked to discuss the issue during the meeting of the university council to approve the request based on the government universities law that was passed lately. The sector relies on law 76, article 11, item 31 for 2019 with regards to government universities which says that the university council will have the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission in academic faculty affairs or for those working on expert assistance contracts due to the university's dire need for allied technical workers to work on research projects. Meanwhile, informed sources at the Public Authority for Manpower said recruiting workers from abroad will be allowed for three activities only - government contracts, medical activities and educational activities - in addition to what concerned authorities see necessary for the market's needs.



**KUWAIT:** Workers of Kuwait's health ministry transport a crate containing a shipment of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine doses upon its arrival in Kuwait yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Dr Sanad added that the number of people receiving treatment at intensive care units has amounted to 54 as of yesterday, while the whole count of the confirmed infection cases and remained under medical care stood at 6,408. He pointed out that 8,681 swab tests were conducted during the same period, bringing the total number

of such examinations to 1,538,262. The percentage of infections compared to the number of swab tests during the same period stood at 6.7 percent, Dr Sanad explained. He re-appealed to the people of Kuwait to remain vigilant against the dreaded virus, maintain social distancing and avoid crowds.

## KU requests expert expats' assistance

**KUWAIT:** As the country is moving quickly towards Kuwaitization of jobs through the adoption of an urgent plan to terminate all expats in the government sector before the end of 2022 in three phases, the research sector of Kuwait University asked for approval to appoint expats for "expert assistance," Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported yesterday.

## Firemen rescue two workers

**KUWAIT:** Firemen rescued two workers who were stuck while working on a window cleaning scaffold at Shidadiya University yesterday. Jleeb and technical rescue men rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call. No injuries were reported, and a case was filed for investigations, Kuwait Fire Force said.



## Court 'electronic announcements' goes into effect

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** From February 1, 'electronic announcements' by the Ministry of Justice went into effect. The parties involved in a lawsuit will be informed about their case through three types of electronic announcements instead of the traditional method of the courier of the court delivering the announcement.

Based on ministry decree 26/2021 on the conditions and procedures of the electronic announcement, this announcement can be made through three electronic media. The first is through the Kuwait Mobile ID app, for which the receiver should register with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). The announcement comes in force when it's received by the server of this application. If the receiver rejects the notification or denies receiving it, the court will consider the certificate issued by PACI.

The second method is by email. The receiver's email should be registered at PACI, or an email that was reg-

istered at any stage of litigation. The announcement comes in force when it's received by the server of this email. If the receiver rejects the notification or denies receiving it, the court will consider the certificate issued by the electronic register of the ministry of justice based on the data of the server of the receiver's email.

The third and last method is through SMS (text messages) on mobile phones. The receiver's phone number should be registered at PACI or a number registered at any stage of the litigation. Here the announcement comes in force when the receiver receives the SMS. If the receiver rejects the notification or denies receiving it, the court will consider the certificate issued by the service provider (telecommunication company).

According to article 2 of this decree, the minister of justice can later issue a new means of electronic announcement. All electronic announcements should include full information about the case or contain a link to the data. In case the receiver of the electronic announcement considers the data or information in the announcement not clear or complete, they can submit an objection at the announcements department at the court within two days of receiving the announcement. In case the electronic announcement cannot be delivered, then the courier of the court or the execution officer should deliver the announcement in the traditional way.

News in brief

### Former official to prosecution

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) referred a former Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Public Works and others to the Public Prosecution on "misappropriation public funds" charges. In a statement yesterday, Nazaha said that this comes as a continuation of its efforts to combat corruption. It also expressed gratitude to everyone who helps the authority to access the necessary information on incidents of corruption, adding that it is committed at the same time to providing them with the utmost levels of protection and confidentiality required by law and the executive regulations. —KUNA

### Info Ministry sends three cases to Nazaha

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Information referred three profile cases related to a suspicion of violation to public funds to the Public Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), to take the necessary measures in this regard. The ministry's spokeswoman Anwar Murad revealed in a press statement, that ongoing coordination and cooperation with the regulatory authorities to monitor any violations or infringements to public funds. Murad emphasized that the ministry is keen to cooperate with all relative authorities in the country, to implement laws and preserve public funds. —KUNA

### Real estate scam suspect arrested

**KUWAIT:** The Interpol, in cooperation and coordination with a Gulf country, arrested a Kuwaiti suspect on Friday, who is accused of conning more than 50 citizens through bogus real estate deals. A security source said criminal detectives received several complaints about being defrauded by a Kuwaiti woman who made them believe she owned properties in a European country. After receiving a large amount of money, she cut contact with them. Investigations revealed the woman was in Europe and her details were given to Interpol. When the woman traveled to a Gulf country, she was arrested. —Al-Qabas

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