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E-learning to continue; MP proposes cut in school fees

Fish auctions halted • Govt insists on closures, panel demands compensation

Hotel booking on return must before departure

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: A new condition will be added to travel requirements starting from Feb 21. According to an official at the General Directorate for Civil Aviation, who spoke to Kuwait Times on the condition of anonymity, all departing passengers - citizens and expats - should have a hotel booking for seven days to remain under institutional quarantine after their return.

"This rule will be applied on all passengers leaving Kuwait, whether they have a round-trip ticket or even a one-way ticket. Even if the passenger is not sure about their exact return date, they should still have a hotel booking. The booking can later be modified according to their return date," the official told Kuwait Times. According to him, this rule will not apply to those who have canceled their residency in Kuwait and are leaving the country for good.

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Education Minister Ali Al-Mudhaf yesterday issued a ministerial resolution stipulating continuation of studies online for all educational levels for the 2020-2021 academic year's second semester. The ministry said in a press statement that the decision will be revised according to health conditions in the country, adding the ministry coordinates with the health ministry via a joint committee.

The decision is applicable on public schools, religious educational institutes, teaching centers for the elderly and private schools. Kuwait is adhering to internationally-accredited precautions against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), holding classes online and barring gatherings. MP Osama Al-Munawer submitted a proposal yesterday calling on the education ministry to reduce fees at private schools, universities and institutions after the adoption of distance learning.

Meanwhile, a decision was issued by the health ministry and the Municipality to stop auctions at fish markets and return to selling fish by quota to vendors, supermarkets and cooperatives, as part of preventive measures to fight the spread of COVID-19. A statement issued by the Kuwait Fishermen Union said the commerce ministry held a meeting with the union's board to inform it about the

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KUWAIT: Commerce ministry officials, supported by the police, stop fish auctions at the Souq Sharq fish market yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

News in brief

Saudi frees jailed activist

RIYADH: Saudi authorities yesterday released prominent women's rights activist Loujain Al-Hathloul, her siblings said, after nearly three years in detention. "Loujain is at home!!!!!!" her sister Lina al-Hathloul wrote on Twitter. Loujain was "at home after 1001 days in prison," she added along with a picture of the freed activist. — AFP



China probe enters Mars orbit

BEIJING: China's Tianwen-1 probe entered the orbit of the planet Mars yesterday, state media said, the latest step in the country's ambitious space program. "China's probe Tianwen-1 successfully entered the orbit around Mars on Wednesday after a nearly seven-month voyage from Earth," Xinhua said, after it launched from southern China last July. — AFP

Qatar minister meets Saudi envoy

DOHA: A Qatari minister met the newly-arrived Saudi envoy to Doha yesterday, as the neighbors continue to restore ties. "Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi met Wednesday with Acting Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ali Saad Ali Al-Qahtani in Qatar," Doha said. — AFP

PepsiCo renames 'Aunt Jemima'

WASHINGTON: PepsiCo has renamed the Aunt Jemima brand of pancake syrup and batter, fulfilling a promise made last year amid widespread protests in the US against racism. The new brand will be called Pearl Milling Company - after the business founded in 1888 which created the mix that became Aunt Jemima - and will hit store shelves in June. — AFP



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Times building is lit up in the colors of the national flag on the occasion of the national days. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Houthi attack leaves Saudi plane ablaze

RIYADH: A drone strike launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis yesterday left a civilian plane ablaze at a Saudi airport, days after the US moved to delist the rebels as terrorists. Saudi authorities did not immediately report any casualties from the attack, claimed by the Houthis, the latest in a series of rebel assaults on the kingdom despite a renewed American push to de-escalate Yemen's six-year conflict.

Pictures released by state media showed a blackened gash on the side of a passenger jet after the attack,

which occurred on the same day the new US special envoy for Yemen Timothy Lenderking met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan in Riyadh for talks. "A cowardly criminal terrorist attack launched against Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia by the Houthi militia," state-run Al-Ekhbariya television quoted the Riyadh-led military coalition battling the rebels as saying.

"A fire that engulfed a passenger plane due to the Houthi attack on Abha Airport is under control," it added. The coalition did not say how the attack was carried out, but earlier in the day reported that it had intercepted two "booby trapped" drones in the south. The Shiite Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, said they had struck Abha airport with four drones.

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ABHA, Saudi Arabia: This handout image shows a view of the damaged hull of a Flyadeal Airbus A320-214 aircraft on the tarmac at Abha International Airport. — AFP