

Local

# Kuwait announces 987 new COVID-19 cases, five deaths

## Five more clinics opened to administer coronavirus vaccine

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday listed 987 new coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, bringing the caseload of contaminations to 173,983. MoH official spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said that there also were five new fatalities due to infection with the contagious virus registered during the same period, thus mortalities' toll rose to 980. Dr Sanad also revealed that the number of people who were receiving treatment at intensive care units reached 108 as of yesterday, while the whole count of confirmed infection cases and remained under medical care stood at 9,739. The ministry had earlier reported that 553 patients had recovered during the same period, putting the whole count of recoveries at 163,264. In the meantime, Dr Sanad pointed out that 10,812 swab tests were conducted in the same period, bringing the total number of such examinations to 1,629,388.

### COVID-19 vaccines

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced yesterday that five more health clinics were opened to administer the coronavirus vaccine. Dr Sanad said that the centers were opened in several health districts including North Ardiyah clinic,

Salwa specialized clinic, Musaad Hamad Al-Saleh clinic, East Al-Ahmadi clinic, and Jaber Al-Ahmad clinic 1. Dr Sanad had affirmed on Tuesday the necessity of cooperation in the society to fight the rise in coronavirus cases. "What we are facing in the State of Kuwait comes within the framework of the global and regional epidemiological sequence," he said.

He noted the ministry has taken proactive measures and doubled precautions to control the pandemic, indicating there are several factors through which the assessment of the epidemiological situation of any community is determined. Of these factors are the number of daily positive infections, the ratio of occupation of ICU beds and the proportion between the infected cases and the medical swabs conducted, he explained. He made clear that the ratio between the cases and medical swabs hit two percent last December, 8.9 percent last Tuesday and 11.2 per-

cent last Monday. The active cases still receiving treatment reached 3,361 last December compared to 9,310 on Monday, he said. The occupation at hospitals' wards hit seven percent last December, nine percent last January and 11 percent in the first week of February, he stated.

### ICUs occupation

Intensive care units (ICUs) occupation reached nine percent last December, 11 percent in second half of January and 15 percent in the first week of February, Dr Sanad added. The total infected cases last January hit 17,653, including 10,787 nationals, he said, noting the percentage of Kuwaitis' infections hit 61.1 percent. Those who are aged 16-44 are highly infected, registering a percentage of 67, 12 out of the total infections, following by those who aged 45-59 with 18.8 percent, he revealed. The infection of those aged one day-6 months is



61.1% of cases are Kuwaitis



Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad

0.06 percent, 1.9 percent for those aged 1-4, 4.28 percent for those aged 5-15, three percent for those 60-65 and 3.7 percent for those who are above 65 years, he elaborated. The ministry received 87,552 inquiries from people on vaccination, medical consultation, the new strain of coronavirus and others, he said. Regarding the global pandemic situation, he stressed that in light of the rise in the coronavirus cases all over the world the pandemic must be combated collectively. —KUNA

## Kuwait's Defense Minister lauds medical personnel



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Al-Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah visits the headquarters of the ministry's medical personnel. —Defense Ministry photos



KUWAIT: The minister of defense yesterday expressed deep gratitude to the services given by the medical personnel attached to the Ministry of Defense. The army said in a statement the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Hamad Al-Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, manifested admiration of the medical teams' work during an inspection visit to their headquarters. Labelling them, "the white army," the minister heaped praise upon the staff for working diligently round the clock for serving the military personnel and their families. He conveyed to the personnel greetings from His Highness the Amir, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister. He lauded their noticeable role amid the extraordinary conditions brought about by the novel coronavirus. —KUNA



## MPs propose bill to allow sessions without ministers

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Five opposition MPs yesterday submitted a draft law stipulating amendments to the Assembly's internal charter to allow the Assembly to convene sessions without the need for Cabinet ministers' attendance. Although MPs Musaed Al-Mutairi, Thamer Al-Suwait, Khaled Al-Otaibi, Bader Al-Dahoum and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said that the constitution and the law do not state that the government's presence is a precondition for convening Assembly sessions, they proposed to add a new article to the law clearly stating and clarifying this issue.

The amendment states that Assembly sessions can be held only after the attendance of more than half the members, without stating that the presence of ministers is essential. The Assembly has not held sessions for the past several weeks after the government resigned, and as the prime minister is taking time to form the new Cabinet. MP Ahmad Al-Hamad submitted a draft law yesterday calling to force foreign companies that have contracts with the government to employ Kuwaiti graduates.

### News in brief

#### 280 expats to lose jobs?

KUWAIT: Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Mohammad Al-Fares said 433 expats have been terminated at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) and the Ministry of Oil so far. He said the current number of expat employees in the said ministries is 915 in various capacities - most of them at MEW. Fares, who responded to a parliamentary question from MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah, said Kuwaitis are appointed according to need, with the replacement policy being observed. He insisted that no expats have been appointed at both ministries since the Civil Service Commission decision number 11/2017 was issued. —Al-Anbaa

#### Kuwait oil at \$61.13 pb

KUWAIT: Kuwait oil gained 74 cents during Tuesday's transactions to close at \$61.13 per barrel (pb) compared with \$60.39 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Benchmark Brent also rose by 53 cents to \$61.06 pb and West Texas Intermediate increased by 39 cents to \$58.36 pb. —KUNA

#### Kuwait's successful diplomacy

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu congratulated the State of Kuwait on its successful diplomacy for resolving the "Gulf crisis." The minister expressed the felicitations in tweeted remarks after meeting His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister in the Gulf country. "Owing to the State of Kuwait mediation, there is currently positive atmosphere in the Gulf region," said the minister, whose remarks were carried by the official Turkish news agency 'Anadolu'. Turkey will continue to work with the GCC countries for expanding cooperation in the health and economic sectors, he added. Ankara has maintained volume of trade exchanges with the State of Kuwait despite spread of the coronavirus, he added. —KUNA

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