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## The legacy continues



From the editor's desk

By Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan  
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Sixty years is a long time for any business, but for the newspaper business, especially in today's climate, it is a lifetime. A remarkable lifetime. When my father, Yousuf Saleh Al-Alyan, started Kuwait Times in 1961, his mission was straightforward: Provide the English-speaking community with a reliable source of news and information about Kuwait.

He also understood that journalism, at its heart, is about bearing witness, and in the 60 years since Kuwait Times published its first issue, we have borne witness to historic developments, extraordinary achievements, and the darkest days. We survived and continue to survive and will bear witness to the brightest future of our beloved Kuwait.

On September 24, 1961, my father set out to record and report Kuwait's daily news, and in doing so, he and the newspaper became an important part of Kuwait's history. Sixty years later, I continue to uphold my father's mission – not only with Kuwait Times, but also with the Kuwait Journalists Association, of which he was a founding member.

Growing up, journalism was an important part of our family life, a great source of insight and information about Kuwait, the Arab region and the wider world, which shaped our daily discussions. I feel lucky and blessed to have grown up in a family for whom news was as important as our daily meals. There has never been a greater need than now for reliable journalism, and Kuwait Times strives to combat misinformation and false facts with its long-established practice of professionalism, dedication and hard work.

Looking back over Kuwait Times' long history, I feel proud to continue my father's legacy, serving Kuwait by chronicling its most important moments and recording its history.

## PCR test to cost KD 14, free for students, teachers



A classroom at a public school in Mansouriya is readied for the return of students next month. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By B Izzak and Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Assistant undersecretary for private medical services at the health ministry Fatima Al-Najjar told local media yesterday that the cost of PCR tests for COVID-19 will be reduced to a maximum of KD 14 per test from Sunday. She also said that the cost of coronavirus antigen tests will be reduced to only KD 3. Meanwhile, the PCR test will be free for all students and teachers at five public health centers, the health ministry announced yesterday.

Member of the consultative committee to contain the coronavirus pandemic Khaled Al-Saeed called for vaccinating children to protect them against the disease. He told local media that many cases have been registered among chil-

dren, including some deaths and admissions to intensive care units. Education Minister Ali Al-Mudhaf yesterday issued a decision calling on private Arabic schools to reopen for students on Oct 3, while foreign schools can reopen from Sept 26. The decision also reinstated the pre-pandemic fees at these schools after they were reduced by 25 percent last year.

The ministry has told unvaccinated teachers and students to bring a negative PCR test result every Sunday in order to be allowed to enter schools. Free PCR testing is available at Hamad Al-Humaidhi and Sheikha Al-Sdairawi centers in the Capital governorate, Zahra center in Hawally governorate, Mutab Obaid Al-Shallahi clinic in Farwaniya governorate, Sabah Al-Ahmad health center and

Qurain health center in Ahmadi governorate and Saad Al-Abdullah health center in Jahra governorate.

The PCR test has been free of charge at all government hospitals, but it is only conducted at the request of doctors when they suspect a patient is infected with the coronavirus. "From the beginning of pandemic, all PCR tests conducted by the ministry of health have been free of charge," Health Ministry Spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said.

Kuwait Times visited clinics in Riggae and Farwaniya, but found PCR testing is not available in these clinics. "There is no PCR testing here. We usually direct patients to private clinics or refer them to public hospitals, where the test is free for all," a nurse told Kuwait Times in Riggae.