

Govt ready to implement rules as Kuwait sets new record



KUWAIT: Members of the government's committee tasked with following up the implementation of COVID-related regulations meet yesterday. —KUNA

KUWAIT: As Kuwait registered a new record in daily infections yesterday, a government committee tasked with following up the implementation of regulations related to fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Kuwait met to discuss the mechanism of implementing the Cabinet's recent decision to ban indoor social gatherings starting from Sunday. Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality launched an intensive campaign to inspect commitment to health regulations at shopping malls and markets around the country.

Kuwait reported 2,246 new COVID-19 cases yesterday; a new record in daily cases and the first time the country surpasses the 2,000 daily cases' threshold since the start of the pandemic. The previous record was 1,993 recorded on July 6, 2021. Health authorities also reported one death, seven patients in the ICU, 40 patients in hospital and 8,088 active cases in total. The percentage of daily new cases to new deaths reached 8.8 percent, while the percentage of recovery reached 97.5 percent according to the health ministry's bulletin.

Kuwait Municipality launched yesterday its campaign in various governorates to inspect the implementation of health regulation aimed at controlling the spread of the coronavirus. In the presence of Security Director in Salmiya Command, Major General Abdullah Al-Ali, health teams started their intensive tours to make sure that all shopping malls and shops were committed to health requirements,

said Head of Hawally emergency team Ibrahim Al-Sabaan in a press statement. In Kuwait City, Head of the Violations Removal Department at the Municipality's Capital branch Abdullah Jaber said that field teams in various governorates began intensive tours to ensure the adherence to health requirements to limit the spread of COVID-19. Fixed and mobile teams will be working around the clock in various malls, markets, major commercial complexes, and Souq Mubarakia, he explained.

The teams will check the compliance of the shops, complexes and parallel markets with the health requirements that were issued previous decisions. These requirements include the non-entry of unvaccinated people to major complexes, temperature measurement, wearing masks, physical distancing, and other requirements to ensure the safety of people, he noted. He said that checking the vaccination status will be through the Immune or Kuwait Mobile ID applications, to identify the status of vaccination and only allow vaccinated persons, in case of discovering the existence of non-vaccinated cases inside the complex, legal measures will be taken.

On Tuesday, administrative decision 43/2022, issued by Director-General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmed Al-Manfouhi stated that all social events in closed places would be suspended from January 9 to February 28 in implementation of the decisions of the Council of Ministers in this regard. —KUNA

News in brief

Crown Prince receives former justice Minister

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha (integrity) Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi. His Highness the Crown Prince praised the performance of the former minister and commended his efforts in carrying out his responsibilities with integrity and commitment, wishing him the best in future endeavors.

Kuwait, France hold strategic dialogue

KUWAIT: The first round of Kuwait-France Strategic Dialogue opened in Paris on Tuesday with Deputy Foreign Minister Majdi Al-Dhafiri leading the Kuwaiti side and Minister-Delegate for Foreign Trade Franck Riester leading the French one. The meeting reviewed the multifaceted strategic relationship, the achievements of cooperation and action plans for cementing the friendly relations in the future. The Strategic Dialogue, being held on a semiannual basis in Kuwait City and Paris alternately, aims to open new horizons for cooperation in various fields given the exemplary political relationship between both countries. The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting includes Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman, and assistants to the Foreign Minister Ayham Al-Omr and Nasser Al-Hain.

In my view

Kuwait for all

By Nejouad Al-Yagout



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It is no secret that Kuwait is an oil welfare state. Our government takes good care of us. Even those of us who must work for a living, even those of us who do not belong to the rich in Kuwait, even those of us who financially struggle, still enjoy certain privileges. And it's not a crime to be grateful for abundance; however, when it affects people who are not Kuwaiti, it can border on injustice, as we have seen in the last several years.

Residents suffer when we flash our Kuwaiti card. In a country where nationalism is on the rise - thanks to a member of Parliament who made it trendy to mock expatriates by taxing them for the air they breathe, thanks to a proposal to charge an exorbitant amount for residents without a university degree who want to renew their residency, thanks to companies that deprive people of their severance pay, or even take advantage of residents' fear of us by not paying them for months, and thanks to the exploitation of domestic workers - it is the residents who suffer here. And when residents suffer, we suffer. Because we are one.

And it is also the stateless who suffer when we flash our Kuwaiti card. Because even while they live and blend in as Kuwaitis, they can never say they are from Kuwait. The stateless, like our forefathers, came here for a better life, a new life; and many of them are our cousins, having originated from the same tribes that migrated here alongside us. Imagine having a cousin, who shares your DNA, but cannot vote, cannot travel to some countries, and is treated with disregard or apprehension. Or imagine a stateless person, not related to you, whose family escaped traumatic circumstances, but who is ostracized because they do not have documents to prove their origins. Add to that a narrative that all stateless people have intentionally burned their documents. Or another narrative which suggests that due to security reasons, the stateless should not be given citizenship. If the case is one of security, why are the stateless employed in the military? Why are they hired to serve in the police force, to guard dignitaries? Perhaps it's time we admit these narratives are outdated. Perhaps it's time to acknowledge that this issue can be solved through compassion and integration, by reintroducing the principles of our ancestors, by allowing ourselves to welcome so-called others.

Borders are man-made. And humans can dissolve them. At least within ourselves. We can recognize that anyone who lives in our country and serves our country is one of us. We can establish humanitarian laws which consider citizenship to both the stateless and expatriates who have lived and worked here for generations. In case we need to be reminded, Kuwaitis are a melting pot. We are originally from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, and other countries. So, there is no template for being Kuwaiti, even though some people would beg to differ.

This current model is not working for anyone. Don't we want to be remembered for our hospitality, our generosity, the legacy left behind by the founders of Kuwait? Why are we, instead, creating resentment and divisiveness? Kuwait can be an ideal model of human beings working together to create an inclusive community, regardless of nationality or origin. Charity and humility are in our DNA. It is time to reintegrate these aspects of our tradition into our society.

We are all guilty of flashing the "I am Kuwaiti" card. It's part of our conditioning. But guess what? We can outgrow our conditioning. Some of us have. We can give up pride for humility at this very moment. After all, in Kuwait, we are a minority. If that's not a nudge to open our hearts (and minds), then what is? If that is not a prompt to be humble and grateful, then what is?

Let's start with ourselves, one by one, and remove every ounce of prejudice and sense of superiority that lurks within us. Let's bid adieu to our roles in an ego paradigm. Then, we can extend the sentiment to our community. And Kuwait can become a haven on the planet. Love is always ready. Love is always a possibility. It can transform our lives in a millisecond. All we have to do is say yes. Yes, to love.

Countries come and go. Power comes and goes. We know that from history. It's time we befriend the other, for we are the other. Residents, Stateless, Kuwaitis. We are all one. Let's imbibe this notion again and again, ad nauseam, until it registers in our hearts and we manifest it in our country. Let's imbibe this. Now.

Worker must attend in person for final cancellation request

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) issued yesterday ministerial circular no. 1/2022 on final cancellation requests for traveling, or canceling and transferring to other sectors. "According to this circular, a final cancellation request for traveling will only be accepted if the employee attends in person at the work relations department.

The staff at this department will check whether this employee has received their full indemnities. The staff will also check whether the final cancellation for traveling or cancellation for transferring to another sector was requested by the employee," said Aseel Al-Mazyad, Director of Public Relations and Official Spokesperson of PAM.

The employee filing the request also has to sign a statement, according to procedures followed in these cases. "The work departments in charge will carefully check this statement, and any procedure in conflict with this circular will be voided," added Mazyad. Transferring to another sector means changing the visa type, for instance from article 18 (private sector) to article 20 (domestic labor), article 22 (dependent), article 17 (public sector) or other articles.



Aseel Al-Mazyad

Motorist killed in Seventh Ring Road crash

KUWAIT: A woman died in an accident reported on Seventh Ring Road Tuesday night. Firemen and paramedics rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call reporting an accident where a vehicle crashed into a lamp post. Firemen had to use hydraulic equipment to free the body of a driver, which was then taken to the coroner. An investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident. Kuwait Fire Force said in a statement.

Meanwhile, firemen battled a blaze reported in two warehouses containing used tires, furniture and power generators in Sabahiya yesterday. Mangaf and Fahheel fire stations' men headed to the scene in response to the emergency call reporting the fire. No injuries were reported, KFF said, adding that an investigation was opened.



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