



# Call to halt loans, recruitment from states refusing returnees

2 deaths, 168 new virus cases • Report on all virus-related contracts sought

## No last goodbye for Gulf workers lost to pandemic

DUBAI: The body of the Indian migrant who died from coronavirus far from home was kept inside the ambulance in front of the crematorium in case a friend came by for a last goodbye. But nearly an hour later no one had appeared, and the workers in protective suits had to carry out their grim task. In silence, the four men carefully moved the body, wrapped in a white plastic bag, to a furnace where it was reduced to ashes that were placed in a silver box.

Millions of foreigners work in the United Arab Emirates and across the other wealthy Gulf nations, providing the backbone of the workforce in hospitals and banks, as well as on construction sites and in factories. Many have spent decades toiling to provide for their families, with the hope of returning one day to open a business or build a house.

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By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari yesterday called on the government to order Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development to stop giving loans to countries that have refused to take back their workers who have been living illegally in the country. Kandari, who heads the National Assembly's foreign relations panel, said the government should adopt a tougher policy by also threatening to stop recruiting workers from these countries. At least Egypt and India have refused to allow the return of thousands of their workers living illegally in Kuwait but pardoned by the Kuwaiti government, which also will pay their airfare.

The health ministry yesterday reported 168 new coronavirus infections in the last 24 hours, bringing the tally to 2,248 cases, while two deaths were reported. The total numbers of deaths have reached 13. During a daily briefing, Health Ministry Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said 50 patients are in intensive care, 21 of them in crit-

ical condition. Those currently receiving treatment at hospitals have reached 1,792 patients, he added. The new death cases are of two Indians aged 75 and 57 - both were receiving treatment in intensive care units. Earlier yesterday, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced the recovery of 31 patients, taking total recoveries to 443.

The Assembly budgets committee has asked the Audit Bureau to prepare a comprehensive report on all expenditures made with relation to the coronavirus, member of the panel MIP Riyadh Al-Adasani said. He said the panel requested that the report should include details about every contract approved by the bureau and the total costs of the contracts, Adasani said.

It also asked for the bureau's technical opinion if each contract is related to the coronavirus and it is necessary to carry out government activities amid a major shutdown of businesses, or if some of the contracts could have been delayed until after

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Wed, 22/04/2020

### Updates on COVID 19

Total cases	New cases	Active cases	ICU	Recovered	Deaths
2248	168	1792	50	443	13

Related to travel: 6  
5 cases of Kuwaiti nationals related to travel to United Kingdom, 1 case of Kuwaiti national related to travel to U.A.E.

Cases in contact: 145  
5 cases of Kuwaiti nationals, 80 cases of Indian residents, 10 cases of Bangladeshi residents, 21 cases of Egyptian residents, 5 cases of Nepali residents, 6 cases of Pakistani residents, 4 cases of Syrian residents, 3 cases of Filipino residents, 3 cases of N.K residents, 2 cases of Sri Lankan residents, One case from each country: ( K.S.A, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran, Benin, Jordan).

Other cases: 17  
4 cases of Kuwaiti nationals, 1 case of Jordanian resident, 1 case of Pakistani resident.

I.C.U  
21 cases critical, 29 cases stable.  
last 24 hours:  
2 deaths and 7 cases transferred to I.C.U, 4 cases transferred to ward.

Deaths  
Indian resident, 75 years old.  
Indian resident, 57 years old.

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