

Local

Kuwaiti police arrest man who aided quarantine zone breach

Health ministry denies discharging COVID-19 patient

KUWAIT: A man who smuggled an individual out of the quarantined area of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh has been apprehended by police, Kuwaiti authorities said on Sunday. The search and arrest of the suspect, an Arab national, was carried out after a video was leaked on social media showing a man leading another on a motorcycle out of the area, an Interior Ministry statement read. The suspect, who has since confessed to the charges, is employed at a co-operative society supermarket in the southern Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Meanwhile, an Egyptian man was found stabbed to death in Kuwait, Al-Rai reported on Sunday. "A pedestrian found the dead body of the Egyptian national in an under-construction house in Dasma," the newspaper said, adding that police launched an investigation and the dead body was sent to the forensic department. The Egyptian laborers in Kuwait occupied the second rank in the number of foreign workers with 10,000 workers, constituting 20.8 percent of the total expatriate labor force. Egypt comes after India, whose nationals form 917,000 Indian workers, according to a report by Al Shall, Financial and Economic Consulting company in April 2020.

In other news, the Ministry of Health (MOH) commented on a video that recently circulated on social media showing two men who, according to the person who recorded the video, were tested positive for COVID-19 at a local polyclinic and that one was hospitalized while the other was discharged. MOH explained that, when tested at the clinic, both patients showed respiratory disorder symptoms but none was confirmed as a positive COVID-19 case. The ministry added that both patients were referred to the area hospital for further tests. Further, MOH noted that the expat referred to in the video was fully tested at the hospital, has initially tested negative, and is currently quarantined.

Accordingly, MOH urges the public to be more ac-



curate prior to publication of unconfirmed reports, to convey complaints and remarks only through the rightful accredited channels and avoid spreading stories that would cause panic, warning that all needed legal actions would be taken against whomever spreads false allegations.



Man stabbed in Dasma

governorate. He has been referred to the public prosecutor's office as a search is underway for the other runaway individual. The Ministry of Interior warned that it would not be dissuaded from applying the law on those caught in violation of isolation measures set by authorities in the public interest.

NORKA begins registration: India plans evacuation

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: As the Indian government braces for a mammoth exercise of repatriating non-resident Indians from aboard on a 'priority basis', some Indian states are seeking repatriation of their communities without any further delays. India's ministry of external affairs has reportedly prepared an evacuation plan and is waiting for the clearance from the government to put the plan into action.

States like Kerala, Punjab, Goa, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tamil Nadu with larger overseas communities have expressed keenness in starting repatriations as soon as possible in strict compliance with COVID-19 safety and security protocols. While the state of Kerala announced that it is fully prepared to receive non-resident Keralites who wish to come back from overseas, NORKA (Non-Resident Keralites Affairs) has started registration of people who are stranded abroad fol-

lowing the outbreak of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns.

"The repatriation will be on a priority basis," said N. Ajithkumar, Director of Kerala Pravasi Welfare Board. "Pregnant women, senior citizens, people affected with diseases other than COVID-19, people whose visas have expired, those who went abroad on visit visas and got stuck and people who are facing various difficulties will be given priority," he pointed out. However, he clarified that people need not hurry as no priority will be given to those who register first. NRIs have to register on the website www.norkaroots.org.

Ajithkumar said repatriation will commence as soon as the India government opens its airspace to airlines. According to initial reports, more than 150,000 Indians in various countries have already registered in 24 hours of the opening of registration. Out of 900,000 Indian residents in Kuwait, approximately 450,000 are from Kerala.

According to reports from New Delhi, India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla has prepared an elaborate evacuation plan on how the ministry plans to bring home Indians from abroad, with an exact count of who is where and how many flights it would take from each country to various states in India. Indians stuck in foreign countries will be brought home on chartered flights. The report said the survey of those who want to return is under progress.

India's ministry of external affairs has opened control rooms for repatriating expats and has sought opinions from state governments on the exercise of bringing back those who are stranded abroad. However, it is insisting that people should come back with COVID-19 negative certificates to help the administration. Indian missions abroad were reportedly asked to prepare lists and prioritize the evacuation of all Indian nationals per flight that would take off from their respective stations.

Three stores sealed for violating health precautions

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry said yesterday its teams have sealed three stores for violating the preventive measures relating to combat against the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Teams from the ministry have inspected 182 consumer cooperatives, shopping malls and vegetables stores to verify their commitment to

the pricing rules, the ministry said in a statement, noting that seven stores were booked for violating the rules. The teams checked the orderliness of delivery of food rations to eligible recipients at 64 rationing centers. The emergency center of the ministry received 231 complaints via its hotline 135 and 30 complaints via the supervision centers, the statement said, adding that 127 ration cards have been renewed. — KUNA

Kuwait commends historic ties with India

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najem Sunday commended the historic relationship between Kuwait and New Delhi, and the two countries always seek to develop them in political and economic domains. Najem, in a press statement, said Kuwait and India were cooperating and coordinating to step up the fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-

19). Kuwait and India share many principles in their foreign policies, like respecting UN Charter, non-interference in other countries' affairs and respecting sovereignty of nations, he said. Kuwait and India, said Najem, were looking forward for the joint committee meeting during the first quarter this year but the coronavirus forced postponement of the meeting. — KUNA

Kuwait embassy in Rome flies Italian flag in solidarity



ROME: Kuwaiti diplomatic mission raises the Italian flag. — KUNA

ROME: The Kuwaiti diplomatic mission has raised the Italian flag marking the European country national day, as part of an Arab gesture of solidarity with the Italians in their fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Kuwait Embassy said in a statement on Sunday the symbolic gesture was part of an initiative, adopted by the council of Arab ministers in Italy for offering medical and humanitarian aid to the Italian government while it fights the contagion and its hard impact on the friendly Italian people. The statement said Arab em-

bassies' buildings were adorned with the Italian flag as of April 25, demonstrating the missions' participation in the national celebrations marking liberation of the country from the Nazi occupation. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah said the gesture constitutes a form of solidarity with Italy to affirm depth of the Arab-Italian historic and cultural bonds and as a salute to the Italian people for their will against the coronavirus as well as for sake of expressing solace with the afflicted and the medics. — KUNA

IN MY VIEW

Women's rights



By Abdellatif Sharaa

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As the world began to get more open and societies started to get closer to each other by various means, something started to develop slowly, and turned from being local into something universal. Many started to speak about human rights until it became an issue taken up by the United Nations, which issued the Declaration of Human Rights, which was considered by many as a milestone in the history of human rights.

It was then the turn of women to demand their rights and suffrage movements began to surface not only in the West, but also in many of the countries on this side of the hemisphere. It is unfortunate that Islam was and is still being criticized for being anti-woman, of oppressing her and depriving her of most of her basic rights, and the fact is it is to the contrary.

Women in the pre-Islam (jahiliya) era were under extreme oppression, ill-treated and disrespected, until the arrival of Islam 1,442 years ago, which liberated women from all types of slavery and restored her status. Arabs during jahiliya used to be very ashamed when a girl was born, to the point that it was mentioned in the Holy Quran: "And when one of them is informed of [the birth of] a female, his face became dark, and he suppresses grief * He hides himself from people because of the ill of which he has been informed. Should he keep it in humiliation or bury it in the ground? Unquestionably, evil is what they decide." (16:58, 16:59).

Fathers used to bury their daughters alive out of shame and to avoid any bad things that may occur later in life. Women in pre-Islam jahiliya used to be considered as property like anything in the house, to the point that her husband could gamble her away and worse, it used to be that the eldest son could inherit his father's wife. That is how bad things were, until the arrival of Islam, which abolished all of the above and restored women to their deserved status.

Islam aims at having justice among people - all people - including religious justice between men and women in most aspects of life. Their duties and accountability in front of Allah (God) is equal without any discrimination, as Almighty Allah said in the Holy Quran: "Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the beat of what they used to do." (16:97)

In fact Islam guaranteed to the woman her right to marry if she chooses to do so, and cannot be prevented from it if she is able to meet her duties as required. Meanwhile, Islam allowed the wife to ask for divorce if her husband cannot give her due rights or cause her any harm. Islam gave women the right to get into business in any legal form, while allowing her to use her own money the way she wants and forbade others including her husband or other relatives to force her to spend on certain things and not on others.

Now, we really do not have the right to blame Islam for any behavior that does not respect women's rights or deprives them of their freedoms, as many are the ignorant who are still among us.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed

