

Local

Kuwait's Deputy Amir receives Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad

Bangladesh, Yemen prime ministers inquire about Amir's health

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince received on Monday a telephone call from Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who inquired about health of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing him life-long good health and wellbeing. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince expressed deep gratitude to her, appreciating the sincere gesture and wishing her good health and welfare.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Yemeni counterpart Maec Abdulmalik Saeed who inquired about the health of His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Yemeni official wished for the wellbeing of His Highness the Amir. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled thanked the Yemeni official for his sincere sentiments, wishing the best for the Yemeni people and government.

In other news, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed a cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Monarch of Saudi Arabia. In the cable, His Highness the Deputy Amir expressed, on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, his heartfelt condolences and solace over the demise of mother of Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent an identical cable to the Saudi Monarch. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Coronavirus in Kuwait: What we know so far

KUWAIT: Kuwait has recorded 65,149 cases infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as of yesterday, in addition to 442 deaths. With the exception of 124 cases in intensive care, all infected cases are in stable condition and are recovering in quarantined locations designated by the government for this purpose, while tens of thousands have been discharged from quarantine after exhibiting no symptoms during their 14-day quarantine period, the Ministry of Health confirmed. Meanwhile, 55,681 people have recovered completely after previously being infected with the virus, while there are 9,026 people receiving treatment.

Curfew

Kuwait moved into the third phase of a five-phase plan for a gradual return to normal life yesterday. The curfew is set from 9:00 pm to 3:00 am, government and private offices are able to operate with up to 50 percent capacity, mosques are allowed to host Friday prayers with strict social distancing and health precautions observed, malls can operate from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, taxis are allowed to resume operations but they are allowed to carry only one passenger, while resorts, hotels and furnished apartment businesses are allowed to reopen.

Phase four would see an increase in workforce, restaurants would be receiving customers but with restrictions, and public transportation resumed but with distancing. All activities would resume in phase five, the curfew would end, government and private sector would return to normal, families could gather, weddings and graduation ceremonies, health clubs and gyms to reopen, as well as cinemas and theaters.

The first phase included a total lockdown on Farwaniya, Khaitan, and Hawally, joining Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh which were put under lockdown earlier. The lockdown ended in Hawally and Khaitan on June 21, 2020, in Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on July 9, 2020, and in Farwaniya on July 26, 2020.

Commercial flights

Commercial flights are set to resume on August 1, while the airport will operate at 30 percent capacity during the six-month first phase of a three-stage airport reopening plan. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation presented a set of rules for the safe resumption of air travel. The new rules mandate all travelers to wear protective facemasks and keep a hand sanitizer in their possession, besides strictly abiding by social distancing guidelines and keeping hand luggage to a minimum. Departing passengers are required to register to the 'Kuwait Mosafer' app, and



provide negative COVID-19 test results before boarding their flights to destinations where such tests are required. Citizens are also required to obtain travel insurance that covers COVID-19 treatment. Manual checks of tickets have now been scaled back as a result of the pandemic in favor of the more popular digital e-tickets, whose scanning requires no physical contact. Passengers must be present at the airport no less than four hours before departure to ensure a smooth and convenient journey.

Meanwhile, arriving passengers must register to the 'Shlonik' app before boarding, and obtain an accredited PCR certificate showing negative COVID-19 test results valid for 96 hours from the test's date. Passengers will have their temperatures checked before boarding the plane and upon arrival, while a random PCR test will be conducted for 10 percent of passengers on each flight. All arriving passengers must home quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. Kuwait had earlier sent special flights to repatriate Kuwaitis back home from countries affected with the virus' spread. Meanwhile, the Cabinet announced on April 9 the operation of all airline flights for expats who are wishing to return back to their countries.

Kuwait suspended issuing entry permits and visas unless those issued through diplomatic missions.

School year ended

The Ministry of Education announced on July 17 ending the 2019-2020 school year, with the remaining part of the curriculum of the year's second half will be integrated into the first chapter of the next academic year 2020-2021 virtually effective as of October 4, after modifying the curriculum. Pre-school

pupils, students of elementary and intermediate levels will be promoted to the higher classes. As to the high school level, students who desire to improve their grades can re-enroll in the scholastic year. As to class 12, the remaining period of the second semester was set at six weeks, while curricula were amended in tandem with the complementary study period, due between August 9 and September 17, and that will be via electronic means. Students' assessment will be on weekly basis through interaction and virtual presence at the set educational website. The ministry is still expected to release regulations regarding the start of the 2020/2021 school year at foreign private schools. Earlier, the Ministry of Education had suspended classes at all public and private schools (for both students and teaching staffs); first from March 1 to March 12, and later extended it until March 29, before eventually suspending schools until August for grade 12 and October for other stages.

Hotlines

The Ministry of Health has set the following hotlines to receive inquiries about the coronavirus 24/7: 24970967 - 96049698 - 99048619.

The Education Ministry set the following hotlines to receive inquiries on school closures related to the anti-coronavirus measures:

- 24970967 (24/7 hotline)
- 51575591 (Capital Educational Zone)
- 51576117 (Hawally Educational Zone)
- 51576576 (Farwaniya Educational Zone)
- 51577055 (Jahra Educational Zone)
- 51577655 (Ahmadi Educational Zone)
- 51577951 (Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone)
- 51578171 (Religious Studies Department)
- 51588599 (Private Education Department)
- 51592515 (Services Department)
- 51594544 (Public Relations Department)

Medicine delivery

Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) launched a new medicine delivery service for people in Kuwait, which they can use to order medications to be delivered during curfew hours. The medications will be delivered within 72 hours after the order is submitted. To place an order, patients should send a WhatsApp to the numbers for the hospitals and medical centers as listed below. The patient should include their name, Civil ID number, hospital or clinic file number, mobile phone number and the medicine needed to the following numbers:

- Amiri Hospital: 50880699
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital: 50880755
- Farwaniya Hospital: 50880852

Adan Hospital: 50880908
Jahra Hospital: 50881066
Sabah Hospital: 97632660
Jaber Hospital: 96992079
Ibn Sina Hospital: 99613948
Chest Hospital: 99258749
Razi Hospital: 97633487
Kuwait Cancer Control Center: 96735242
Psychiatric Hospital: 97350113
Physiotherapy Hospital: 99824037
Maternity Hospital: 98559531
As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center: 98514508
Zain Hospital: 97552031
NBK Hospital: 96931761
Al-Rashed Allergy Hospital: 94162470
Infectious Diseases Hospital: 96989164
Palliative Care Hospital: 94024786
Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology Center: 90952469
KFH Addiction Treatment Center: 94169363
Meanwhile, all licensed pharmacies in Kuwait delivering medicine are allowed to continue their services 24 hours a day. The Ministry of Health is also asking doctors and nurses affiliated with the private medical sector to volunteer in order to contribute to the fight against the virus. Volunteering is available through the link: <http://volunteering.q8-ehealth.com>. The ministry had closed all private clinics and medical centers effective March 22, 2020 until further notice.

Mental health assistance

The Kuwait Center for Mental Health provides help through its suicide hotline: 24621770 (8 am - 5 pm). Meanwhile, the Kuwait Psychological Association (KPA) is providing consultation through the phone for people suffering from the psychological impacts of coronavirus. Different doctors are working on the hotline in different timings as follows:
Dr Rashed Al-Sahl: on Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Call 9797-6168.
Dr Fahad Al-Tasha: daily from 8:00 pm - 12:00 am. Call 9904-8258.
Dr Othman Al-Asfour: daily 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Call 9938-5350.
Dr Mohammed Al-Khaldi (head of this team): daily 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Call 9903-6470.
Dr Ahmad Al-Khaldi: daily 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 9910-7965.
Dr Muneera Al-Qattan: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Call 9953-3108.
Dr Zainab Al-Saffar: Sunday and Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 9954-9908.
Dr Sameera Al-Kandari: Tuesday 9:00 pm - 12:00 am. Call 6770-9434.
Dr Kawthar Al-Yaqout: Monday and Wednesday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 5521-0088.
For information and other concerns, call 9401-4283.

Virus forces animal sellers...

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as "007" from farms across India on his YouTube channel, which has more than 800,000 followers. "I shoot a slow-motion video with beautiful music, and I make them (goats) popular," said Zariwala, who is based in Mumbai. "They have a personality and are... mostly named after Bollywood movies and trending characters in Bollywood," he told AFP.

Zariwala has seen a huge increase in viewers from Australia, Britain, the United States and the Middle East, which all have large South Asian diasporas. One farm he promotes runs video beauty contests to tempt potential customers, who might buy the goats for their families in India, where there are 200 million Muslims. PashuBazaar, which sells thousands of goats for Indian farmers, said online sales had jumped from

a few dozen last year to more than 2,500 in the past three months. "We've even received online orders for thousands for next year," chief executive Sanjeev Kumar told AFP. The animals are delivered to buyers in open-air vehicles, which can carry 10 to 15 of them.

In Muslim-majority Pakistan, home to 215 million people, dozens of apps and websites have sprung up. Buyers can select an animal and have it delivered to their doorstep, slaughtered or donated to a charity. Qurbani App chief executive Muhammad Ali Chaudhry said "orders have gone through the roof". Islamabad goat farmer Muhammad Naeem, meanwhile, said his digital transactions had jumped from 20 percent of sales to almost half.

But the rise in online sales has been accompanied by plunging prices. Mumbai seller Walid Dawood Jat, who sold six goats online during India's lockdown, said they fetched just half their usual prices. "We used to sell goats at 500-600 rupees (\$6.70-\$8.00) per kilo," he said, adding the price had fallen by half. "Buyers haggle with us. They say they don't have money, their income is down." — AFP

Muwaizri files to grill Saleh...

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Muwaizri said policemen sometimes arrest people without following requirements under the law because they feel they have immunity, without being held to account by authorities. He said many people were victims of such illegal practices that the minister failed to stop.

In another issue, the lawmaker claimed that wide-ranging violations and irregularities have taken place

in the electoral rolls and the ministry of interior has failed to carry out its duties to prevent those violations. He said that the latest electoral rolls published in March and April contained grave violations that could impact the outcome of the parliamentary elections.

Citing examples, Muwaizri said that the interior ministry failed to delete the names of dead people, saying that some rolls included names of people who died eight years ago. He claimed that the new rolls contained massive transfers of large numbers of voters to other constituencies to influence the outcome by ensuring the success of certain candidates in the upcoming elections in November. The debate of the grilling is expected to take place in the same session where another grilling of Finance Minister Barrak Al-Sheetan is scheduled to be debated.

Najib handed 12 years in jail over...

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a coalition, which observers had feared could affect the outcome.

Najib is facing several IMDB-linked trials and the first, which began almost 16 months ago, centred on the transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$9.9 million) from a former unit of the fund into his bank accounts. The 67-year-old had vehemently denied wrongdoing. But Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali took apart all the arguments put forward by his defense, and found him guilty on the seven charges he faced.

"In conclusion, after considering all the evidence in this trial, I find the prosecution has successfully proven the case," the judge told the Kuala Lumpur High Court. Najib looked calm and bowed his head

after the verdict was read. Outside court, hundreds of angry supporters chanted "Long life".

The charges were one of abuse of power, three of criminal breach of trust and three of money-laundering. The counts of abuse of power and criminal breach of trust were punishable by up to 20 years in jail each, while the money-laundering charges were punishable by up to 15 years each. The 67-year-old will likely appeal and he may not be sent to jail immediately.

Najib had insisted he was ignorant of the transactions from the IMDB unit, SRC International. The defense team portrayed Najib as a victim and instead sought to paint financier Low Taek Jho, a key figure in the scandal who has been charged in the US and Malaysia, as the mastermind. Low, whose whereabouts are unknown, maintains his innocence. The judge however ruled that the idea Low had tricked Najib was "far-fetched", and also dismissed the argument the ex-leader believed the money in his account was a donation from Saudi royalty. — AFP

Trump bets on vaccine for...

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down as other nations have done through lockdowns and physical distancing.

Trump's latest comments confirmed that the administration believes that, in America's case, only a vaccine can help. "It's not masks. It's not shutting down the economy. Hopefully, it is American ingenuity that will allow for therapies and vaccines to ultimately conquer this," White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told ABC News on Sunday.

The virus has also repeatedly penetrated Trump's inner circle, with O'Brien the latest and most senior White House aide to test positive. He "has been self-isolating and working from a secure location off site," the White House said in a statement Monday, adding that there was "no risk of exposure to the president or the vice president". Others who have been previously infected include Vice President Mike Pence's spokeswoman Katie Miller, and Kimberly Guilfoyle, a top fundraiser for the Trump campaign and his elder son's girlfriend.

The US has spent more than \$6.3 billion since March to fund vaccine development efforts under Operation Warp Speed. The program is unabashed in its aims to procure vaccines for the American people first - unlike European leaders who have called for COVID-19 drugs to be a "global public good". — AFP