



Govt mulls locking down expat-dominated areas

11 new coronavirus cases in Kuwait, including 8 Indians

Private schools continue e-learning despite directive

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Cabinet's decision to suspend all public and private schools until the fall is not being fully applied in many private schools. Teachers continue teaching online and students are supposed to attend online classes and complete assigned work. Parents are left confused and uncertain. Will children in private schools graduate in June and start a new year in the fall? Will all the work being done now via e-learning be repeated? Will parents still be required to pay tuition for the spring semester and again in the fall?

The Cabinet directive made it clear that the academic year will be suspended and continue in August/October, so why e-learning is keeping on when students will relearn it all in August/October? There are many outstanding questions and no answers from the ministry of education or the private education department within the ministry.

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- Kuwaiti banks offer 6-month loan repayment relief (Page 3)
- Oil prices at 17-yr lows as virus ravages world (Page 9)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Authorities are seriously considering the possibility of imposing a lockdown on a number of residential areas dominated by expatriates amid a rise in the number of expatriate coronavirus cases and calls by MPs to isolate those areas, lawmakers said yesterday. Although the number of expats infected with COVID-19 remains a small portion of the cases announced, it has been on the rise for the past few days and the source of infection of a number of them is still under investigation, according to the health ministry.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said yesterday all options like a total curfew or lockdown of a number of residential areas are on the table of the Cabinet for a decision. Expanding restrictions has become a necessity, Dallal said, because of practices by some that clearly undermine the effectiveness of the partial curfew in place for the past several days. He said the focus is on

heavily populated expat areas like Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Shuwaikh Industrial Area, over fears they could become centers of spreading the deadly disease. The lawmaker said he will not blame the government for expanding its measures aimed at containing the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile, parliamentary sources said that a mini-Cabinet meeting was held late Sunday that studied recommendations calling to intensify measures to implement the partial curfew and make people stay at home and not venture out unless for extreme necessity. The recommendations called for searching for alternatives to force people to stay at home most of the time.

A number of MPs called for imposing a lockdown on several expat residential areas to prevent the spread of coronavirus. MP Safa Al-Hashem called for a lockdown on Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Mahboula and Khaitan, where at least

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MoI details amnesty procedures

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The interior ministry's PR and security media department announced that Deputy PM and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh has issued an amnesty decision allowing residency violators to leave the country without paying any fines or airfare with a chance to return to Kuwait later. The ministry added that this amnesty was issued in view of the circumstances the country is currently going through and as part of the precautionary measures taken to fight COVID-19, especially since fines had been accumulating against violators.

The decision explained that individuals desiring to procure valid residencies in Kuwait and are willing to pay the fines without being subjected to investigations will be allowed to pay the fines and legalize their status if they meet the required conditions. The decision explained that this exemption includes Kuwaiti citizens' spouses,

parents and children, widowed or divorced women who were married to Kuwaiti citizens with custody of children and domestic helpers who have been in Kuwait since March 1, 2020.

In addition, the decision explained that special sites have been allocated to accommodate violators who finalize their papers pending departure, and these sites will be provided with all living comforts and free means of sustenance. The decision notes that violators desiring to leave during the amnesty will be received in special centers in Farwaniya to file and register their applications in the period of April 1 to 30 as follows:

- Male violators will be received at Al-Muthanna primary school for boys, Farwaniya, block 1, street 122
- Female violators will be received at Farwaniya primary school for girls in Farwaniya, block 1, street 76.

• Violators will be received from 8 am till 2 pm according to the following dates and nationalities:

Philippines	April 1-5, 2020
Egypt	April 6-10, 2020
India	April 11-15, 2020
Bangladesh	April 16-20, 2020
Sri Lanka	April 21-25, 2020
Other nationalities	April 26-30, 2020

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