

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
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Kuwait COVID-19 cases rise by 616 to 101,299, deaths by two

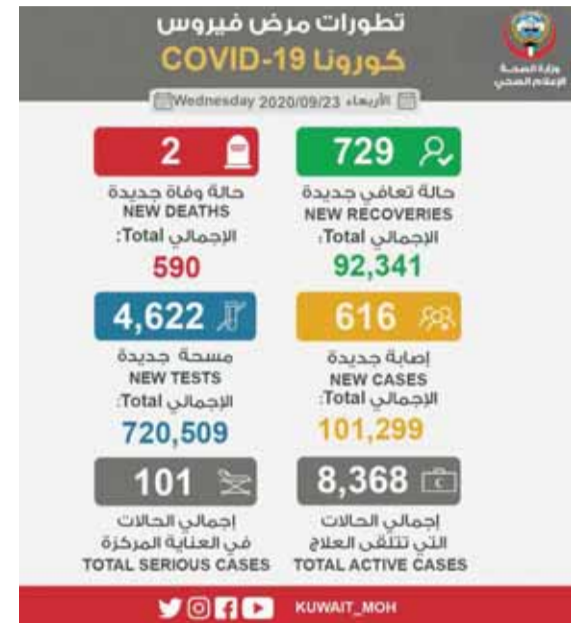
Kuwait registered 100,000 COVID-19 cases in 212 days

KUWAIT: Kuwait recorded 616 new coronavirus cases and two deaths in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Health said yesterday. The new figures raised the total number of cases to 101,299 and deaths to 580, ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a statement to the press. He noted that 152 cases were registered in Hawally governorate, 171 in Ahmadi, 91 in Farwaniya, 107 in the Capital and 95 in Jahra. There are currently 101 patients in ICUs, as the total number of patients still receiving medical care is 8,368, he added. The number of swabs tests conducted in the past 24 hours amounted to 4,622, raising the total number of tests to 720,509, he added. The ministry had announced earlier that 729 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of recoveries to 92,341.

Kuwait had breached the 100,000 COVID-19 infection barrier 212 days since the first case of a female citizen returning from Iran was detected on Feb. 24, followed by 1,000 infections within 72 hours, Al-Rai reported yesterday. Meanwhile, the 'Social Watcher' platform showed that reaching the first 10,000 infections took 79 days - on May 12. However, the second 10,000 cases were registered in only 11 days, on May 23, the third 10,000 cases were regis-

tered in 13 days on June 5, and the fourth 10,000 cases were registered within 17 days on June 22. The fifth 10,000 cases were registered in 15 days on July 6, the sixth 10,000 cases were registered within 15 days on July 21, and the seventh 10,000 cases were registered within 17 days on Aug 3. In the meantime, the eighth 10,000 cases were registered in 18 days on Aug 23, the ninth 10,000 cases were registered in 15 days on Sept 7 and the tenth 10,000 cases were registered in 15 days on Sept 22. This makes the average period of registering 10,000 infections almost 15 days.

Kuwait ranked eighth in the world's top 10 countries with the highest rates of COVID-19 infections compared to their population as of Tuesday. And after exceeding 100,000 infections, Kuwait is ranked 37th worldwide in the number of coronavirus cases in general. Starting July 16, 2020, the health ministry stopped providing data about the nationalities of infected cases and their distribution as per health zones or areas. The ministry also started obscuring data about the nationalities of infected non-Kuwaiti cases on June 17. On May 4, it stopped providing information about certain cases concerning the sources of infection, nationalities, age and gender of the dead or the period they spent in ICUs. The report added that as a result, data about 47,582



cases (47 percent of the total number) and about 548 fatalities (93 percent of the total number of 588) were obscured.

Crimes

Man sues wife over abortion

KUWAIT: An Indian man filed a case at Salmiya police station against his wife, accusing her of deliberately aborting their three-month-old fetus. The wife admitted to ingesting a large quantity of pills to get rid of the fetus. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Body found in tank

An unidentified male body was found in a water tank of a Fintas building, said security sources. The building's tenants had reported to the janitor that the water tasted strange and a foul odor was emanating from the tank. The janitor said on checking the water tank himself, he found the body. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Fatal accident

A five-year-old bedoon boy was killed when his uncle accidentally ran over him in Jahra, said security sources. The child sustained serious head injuries and various fractures, and died after being rushed to hospital for treatment, the sources added. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Fake degree

Kuwait Lawyers Association yesterday removed the name of a Kuwaiti lawyer who had been previously accused of breaking into the parliament and stealing the speaker's gavel from the board of Kuwait lawyers after a court proved that his law degree is fake, said security sources, noting that the association is still investigating all lawyers' degrees and will take legal action against any holders of fake degrees. —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Kuwait takes part in OPEC energy, IT online workshop

VIENNA: The OPEC Secretariat concluded the second Workshop on Energy and Information Technology on Tuesday, featuring lively discussions on latest developments in blue hydrogen and trends in digitalization. Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, acted as of the workshop's moderator. More than 200 participants representing OPEC Member Countries, industry, government and research institutions took part in the workshop.

The videoconference also focused on topical issues such as robotics, cyber security, artificial intelligence, and blockchain technology and how they can drive innovations in OPEC Member Countries and the industry in general. The event, a follow-up to a two-day workshop held in September 2019, provided a platform to examine timely techno-

logical developments with the participation of leading experts. Several speakers pointed to the critical contributions that Information Technology has played in providing stable and secure energy supply during the COVID-19 crisis, and in transforming the way people live and work.

In opening the event, OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo quoted Bill Gates, who once commented that "innovation is the reason our lives have improved over the last century." The Secretary General said, "I would like to expand upon these words of wisdom by noting that the oil industry, from its earliest days in the 19th century, has been a leader in developing and utilizing technologies to the benefit of global development and human progress. In the 21st century, technological innovation, coupled with an experienced and highly-skilled work force, are driving advances in the industry's operations across the value chain and contribute to its ever-improving environmental performance."

In their inputs, panelists noted that blue hydrogen has tremendous potential in the areas of transport, providing a buffering fuel and potentially for heating. Both Japan and Australia provide a potential model for how this technology has evolved and how OPEC can benefit from their valuable expertise, the

Secretary General noted. Another important takeaway, the Secretary General said in his remarks, is the transformative role that innovation and technology can play in meeting the rapid growth in energy demand in the future.

Robotics and other innovations, for example, can help improve productivity, maximize efficiency and safety, and drive efficiencies across the value chain. Barkindo also noted that COVID-19 crisis ushered in a digital era that has brought tremendous changes to ways of working. "Without IT, none of us would be participating in this workshop. Despite social distancing and other measures to contain the pandemic, we have been conducting business as usual thanks to innovations in remote communications and operations," he said.

"The miracles of technology," he continued, "allow us to carry on with decades of OPEC tradition in supporting dialogue, cooperation and the exchange of information to the benefit of producers, consumers and the global economy at large." The videoconference was part of the OPEC Secretariat's ongoing research program for its Member Countries, which includes workshops and technical meetings that act as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas on some of the energy industry's most important issues. —KUNA

Some influencers provide 'convincing evidence' to clear names in laundering cases

KUWAIT: Under its new directorship, the state security department is preparing to provide the public prosecution with new supplementary investigations in the money laundering and inflated accounts case involving a number of celebrities, informed sources told Al-Rai.

"A number of influencers referred for investigations managed to provide convincing evidence justifying, to a large extent, the inflation of their bank accounts, while others failed to do so and claimed losing the receipts and proofs because those went too far back and they did not keep

them," the sources explained.

"The investigations previously conducted by the state security department were not professional enough as they mainly tracked the accounts, interrogated some celebrities and referred their testimonies to the prosecution instead of proper investigations, which made it hard to prove whether they were guilty or innocent," the sources added. Moreover, legal sources stressed supplementary investigations currently underway will shift the course of investigations in some cases.

Responding to a question whether it would be likely to correlate the cases of the celebrities and inflated accounts with other cases, the sources said: "Let us not jump to conclusions, but everything is possible. Anyhow, there are indicators that another case might be related to one of the controversial celebrities." The sources noted that unusual transactions conducted through the concerned bank accounts synchronized with considerable activity in the fields of real estate, precious watches, yachts and remittances abroad.

Four hurt in Sabah Al-Salem fire

KUWAIT: Firemen battled a blaze reported in a Sabah Al-Salem building yesterday. Mishref and Qurain fire stations' men arrived to the scene shortly after the blaze was reported, and immediately evacuated the three-storey building before tackling the flames. Four persons suffered smoke inhalation and were treated on site, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) said in a statement. Meanwhile, Hawally firemen put out a blaze that started in a power transformer in the area yesterday, KFS said, adding that no injuries were reported. Investigations were opened in both cases.



A power transformer in Hawally seen after firemen put out a blaze reported there yesterday.



KUWAIT: Heavy damage left by a fire reported in a Sabah Al-Salem building yesterday.

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