

Local

E-platform facilitates domestic workers' return to Kuwait from 'high-risk' nations

Step-by-step explainer of helpers' return, quarantine, PCR test process

KUWAIT: 'BelSalamah' is an electronic platform aims to facilitate return of domestic workers from the 'high-risk' countries, with which travel is banned, to Kuwait, in line with specific procedures and mechanisms that take into account the required health measures. The project prepared by the National Aviation Services (NAS), which operates at Kuwait International Airport, aims to decrease the cost of return that the sponsor will pay, in addition to relocating the 14-day quarantine to be in Kuwait instead of a transit country. The program return costs KD 270 (\$980) for every worker registered under Article 20 of the residency law, which applies to domestic helpers. The cost includes a 14-day quarantine, according to health requirements, meals, security and three PCR tests. The tickets are not included in the return program, as they are different depending on destination. Additional flights of the return of passengers will be organized, in cooperation of Kuwait Airways, Al-Jazeera Airways and the other companies working at Kuwait International Airport, in line with the common agreements and the standard rates approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

NAS' Director General Mansour Al-Khozaym said in an interview that all domestic workers must hold a document from a laboratory accredited by their countries showing they tested negative, adding that it will appear through the 'BelSalamah.com' platform to help them travel at the time and the date specified via the platform. When arriving in Kuwait, the passengers will be subjected to another PCR test, he added. He noted that if the tests' results are negative, the workers will be transferred directly to the designated places for a 14-day quarantine, in line with the health requirements. By the end of the 14-day quarantine, the workers will undergo a third PCR test, and can go with their sponsors' homes if the results are negative, he noted. Those who have positive results, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health (MoH) will be responsible for transferring them to another quarantine facilities, he stated. The platform seeks to help the sponsor bring back the worker to Kuwait rapidly and safely, and at a less price, Khozaym stressed.

Through this platform, other travelers, airport employees and citizens can be protected, he said, adding that it also helps meet travel requirements

during the (COVID-19) pandemic while reducing waiting times and travel restrictions. He expected the return of thousands of domestic workers to Kuwait, stressing the importance of operating the airport, in line with the health standards in collaboration with the State's institutions to ensure a safe return. The NAS developed the system to ensure the validity and reliability of the PCR certificate, and its compatibility with the laboratory issued it and the health protocols set by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health, he made clear. Khozaym noted that the company would follow up the passengers in the country of departure, guide them to the laboratories close to them, and help them book flights. After the passenger's arrival, the company will transfer them to the place of quarantine, he said, and the third stage is related to the follow-up of the worker inside the quarantine until they are handed over to the sponsor. He stressed that the sponsor can receive the worker after being fully assured of their safety.

Khozaym affirmed that the company offers full facilitations for workers coming to Kuwait that include logistical matters, security, daily meals



and all their needs. This will be through 30 hotels and hotel apartments that the company has booked to provide those services. The 'Bel-Salamah' platform was proposed on December 7, with the aim of registering data of domestic worker's return, and technical and financial matters pertaining to the quarantine and services since the worker's arrival at the airport until their transfer to the places of the quarantine. —KUNA

News in brief

KPA chief meets Turkish envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) Director General Sheikh Yusuf Abdullah Al-Sabah said yesterday KPA seeks to provide finest services through its ports in accordance with the New Kuwait 2035 Vision. During the visit of the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Aisha Hilal to KPA, the Director General pointed out the contribution of specialized international companies with expertise to developing Kuwaiti ports, including Turkish firms. Meanwhile, Turkish ambassador said the commercial and economic relations between the two countries have developed such as trade exchange and Turkish products sent to Kuwaiti ports. —KUNA

Charity launches new campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charity Society new campaign "Nawaf Al-Ahmad Humanitarian Trucks" to help the Syrian and Yemeni people will kick off today and will last until February 20. In a statement, the Society's Director-General, Dr Nabil Al-Aoun, said that this campaign comes to complete the "Sabah Al-Ahmad Humanitarian Trucks" campaign, which started in the past years. More than 1,800 camps in Syria and about 1,000 camps in Yemen will benefit from the campaign, he added. —KUNA

Kuwait oil price up

KUWAIT: The price of the Kuwaiti crude oil rose 71 cents to \$56.65 per barrel Wednesday against \$55.94 the day before, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In international markets, Brent oil went down 52 cents to stand at \$56.06 pb, while Texas crude dropped 30 cents to reach \$52.91. —KUNA

Pakistan ready to meet Kuwait labor market demands

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower Ahmad Al-Mousa met with the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider and Pakistan's Deputy Head of Mission Tahreem Ilyas yesterday to discuss issues related to the Pakistani workers in Kuwait, in addition to other topics of common interest. Syed Sajjad Haider hoped that the number of Pakistani laborers in Kuwait would increase in the future.

"Pakistan is ready to provide experienced and skilled manpower according to



the demands of the Kuwaiti labor market," he noted. The meeting was attended by officials from the Public Authority for

Manpower including Dr Mubarak Al-Azmi, Jaber Al-Ali, Mohammad Al-Muzeini and Khaled Al-Sabah.

Company charged in KD 1.8 million money laundering case

KUWAIT: The public prosecution pressed charges in a case that was filed based on a complaint from a group of individuals who claim that they were conned by real estate fraudsters. The prosecutor's report indicated that the company in question committed money laundering crimes that amount to around KD 1.8 million. The accused company officials reportedly obtained the money by tricking victims into believing that they own residential and touristic housing units, which is contrary to the truth. The public prosecution said that the first accused, an expatriate, used his authorization to manage and sign at two local banks on behalf of the company, to obtain the money and

transfer it from the company's account to his own, and then to bank accounts he owns in Germany and Turkey, in an attempt to cover up the illegal activity. "The funds were deposited in personal accounts of the accused after they made victims believe they owned licensed projects that were promoted during real estate exhibitions held between 2014 and 2019," Coordinator of the plaintiff group Hassan Al-Bahrani said. He added that the court, during its first session, charged the company officials; an expat and a Kuwaiti with money laundering, scam and embezzling a total of KD 1.860 million.

Bahrani said that the group he represents contributed largely by helping the victims to formulate and present the complaint to the prosecution and commerce ministry, so the prosecution could carry out its investigations, during which it found the amount of money deposited in the accused's personal accounts at 17 million Qatari Riyals, 139,000 Kuwaiti Dinars, 615,000 Euros, and 24,000 Bahraini Dinars. He said with this case, the number of companies that are sent to the criminal court on money laundering charges reached is seven, with a total embezzled amount of more than half a billion dinars, while the number of affected persons reached more than 10,000 citizens and expats. —Al-Qabas