

## Local

# Kuwait identifies 19 remains of POWs, missing persons

## Total number of identified POWs reaches 293

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait identified the remains of 19 Kuwaiti Prisoners of War (POWs) and missing persons upon DNA tests by the General Administration of Criminal Evidence, said head of the Committee of POWs and Missing Persons Affairs at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Rabie Al-Adsani yesterday. The remains belong to the following martyrs: Bader Mubarak Al-Buraisi, Bader Met'eb Al-Mutairi, Hussein Al-Shimmari, Khaled Duajj Al-Khaledi, Sa'ad Mansour Al-Ajmi, Saud Nayef Al-Dhahani, Saeed Awaadh Al-Rashidi, Salah Hussin Al-Enizi, Fares Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Fares Mohammad Al-Enizi, Fawaz Butaihan Al-Mutairi, Mohammad Humoud Al-Hula, Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Kharaz, Mekhled Jubairan Al-Dhahani, Mousa Sattar Al-Enizi, Nayef Khalaf Al-Enizi, Nayef Awaad Al-Rashidi, Nayef Mehmel Al-Mutairi, and Waleed Mekhled Al-Buraisi.

Adsani said that the prisoners had been arrested during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and their remains were included in the previous batches received in November 2020 as well as January and March of 2021. He also added that the foreign min-

istry informed the martyrs' families of the status of their loved ones. Adsani thanked the Iraqi authorities, the members of the tripartite and technical subcommittee, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for their efforts through the work of the subcommittee.

### 'Will not forget'

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Martyr's Office said that the State of Kuwait, including its leadership, government and people, would never forget the prisoners of war, missing persons and martyrs. The office's Director-General Salah Al-Awfan made the press remark immediately following the identification of the remains of 19 Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons. He added that the total number of identified POWs has thus reached 293. He said that

they had sacrificed themselves for the sake of Kuwait and set an awesome example for patriotism, self-sacrifice and valiance.

Awfan noted that this came in collaboration between the Kuwaiti General Administration of Criminal Evidence, the Foreign

and easing of the health restrictions, Kabsha said.

Meanwhile, Nassib Adnan, the deputy director of a travel agency, said the Kuwaiti Cabinet decision to re-operate the airport fully contributed to cutting the airfares by more than 50 percent to some destinations namely Turkey, Egypt, France, and Germany. The costs for traveling to some destinations such as the UAE, Britain, India, and the Philippines have remained high as compared to the airfares before the contagion outbreak. He predicted a gradual recovery of the sector in the foreseeable future. IATA, the International Air Transport Association, predicted in a recently issued report that the local travel demand would increase in phases and reach the pre-pandemic levels in 2022. It also foresaw a decline of the sector losses to \$51.8 billion in the end of 2021 and to \$12 billion in 2022, compared to \$137.7 billion in 2020, when the coronavirus was widely spread inflicting heavy casualties worldwide and paralyzing many sectors namely the air navigation. — KUNA



“ Kuwait will not forget its martyrs ”

## Air travel costs to some destinations from Kuwait drop

**KUWAIT:** Air travel fares have recently dropped by 50 to 200 percent to some destinations after resuming full-capacity operations at Kuwait International Airport as of October 24. According to tourism and travel experts, Kuwaiti citizens and residents are eager to travel amid receding repercussions of the coronavirus crisis locally and abroad, where many countries have reopened borders. Airfares had soared due to the limited number of offered tickets, the experts said, noting that the pandemic issue had resulted in closing most airports across the globe and impounding aircraft, thus travel companies suffered heavy losses forcing some to shut.

Fayez Al-Enezi, Head of Kuwait Airways' Media and Public Relations Department, said that the corporation increased flights after the cabinet decided to resume full-capacity operations at Kuwait International Airport, effective October 24. He expressed hope that air travel would be restored to the pre-coronavirus levels, affirming that Kuwait Airways is fully ready and prepared to service many passengers at Terminal 4.

Kamal Kabsha, a tourism expert, said that the tickets' prices dropped by more than 200 percent, namely for the departing flights, however, the fares for incoming ones remained high. Airfares are largely affected by demand and offer as well as costs of main operations, he said, also noting that booking increased by 20 percent before the full resumption of the airport operations. The path for full restoration of air aviation is not totally paved yet due to a set of reasons such as health constraints imposed by states, namely obligatory quarantines and PCR tests in addition to peoples' concerns of infection as well as uneasy measures at some airports. Full recovery of the travel and air navigation sectors is forecast late 2022 and early 2023, however, the prediction is conditional to vaccinations' capacity to quell the pandemic



Ministry's committee on the affairs of POWs and missing persons and reflects that the political leadership, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Minister of Amiri Diwan and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Martyr's Office Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, attaches much significance to the issue of Kuwaiti POWs and missing persons. — KUNA

## Visa trafficking returns: Report

**KUWAIT:** Following the crackdowns on visa traffickers since the coronavirus pandemic started during which thousands of residency violators were found in Kuwait, the illegal practice returned after related authorities resumed issuance of visas. Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday that a market for work permits and residency transfer appeared in social media, through which mandoubs offer services to process work permits and commercial visas, in addition to residency transfers, and each transaction has a price. The report notes that brokers noticeably rely on a new aspect to bring in laborers, which is the commercial visas with prices reaching KD 400 for a one-month non-transferable visa, while the price of the transferable visa reaches KD 1,000.

The price of the business visa varies between KD 1,500 and KD 1,700 as the buyers get a residency permit with a job description matching their academic qualification. Other mandoubs also promote services to transfer residencies between companies with government, private or vocational contracts. The transfer price varies between KD 500 to KD 650, while the visa price for a driver's job reaches up to KD 700. An official source at the Public Authority for Manpower said most bogus companies' brokers are active in Egypt and India to bring job seekers to Kuwait.

The source said that bogus companies and visa traffickers will be pursued, adding that the referral of around 2,000 bogus companies to the public prosecution since the start of the pandemic revealed many of those responsible for bringing in random laborers. He said the labor protection sector and inspection department are dealing with tens of complaints daily and investigations are being conducted in each complaint to find whether there is a link with visa trafficking or not.