

Local

Kuwait University to receive 36,000 students after halt due to COVID-19

Airport at full capacity as Kuwait transitions back to normal

KUWAIT: More than 36,000 enrolled students at Kuwait University (KU) will attend classes at facilities after a year and half break due to COVID-19 precautionary measures, said an official yesterday. The university has implemented all health requirements and precautionary measures recommended by the Ministry of Health (MoH) related to the return of students at the first semester of the academic year 2021/2022, added the Secretary-General of the University and the official spokesman Dr Mardi Obaid Al-Ayyash in a statement.

Ayyash stated those unvaccinated against COVID-19 need to submit a PCR test every week for them to enter KU facilities. As for unvaccinated visitors' they must submit PCR test within a period not exceeding 72 hours before entering the university campus, he noted. He stated that the Security and Safety Department has provided thermal cameras to detect temperatures before entering buildings, as well as nurse staff provided in all medical clinics.

Based on the directives and decisions of the health authorities, campus visitors must have Immune or Kuwait Mobile ID applications as well as virus free PCR on a weekly basis, Ayyash added. He further noted that the MoH allocated headquarters to conduct tests to detect COVID-19 for university employees on a regular basis, and provided vaccination. He pointed out that this comes within the university's preventive plan, which aims to secure the academic year of 2021/2022 environment and guarantees the safety of students and all.

Ayyash added that the university administrations represented by the Security and Safety,

Construction and Maintenance, the General Services and Nutrition departments have launched a service to communicate through emergency numbers in event of any emergencies in university.

Full capacity

Separately, Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced that it is ready to operate Kuwait International Airport at full capacity, starting today. Kuwait International Airport will gradually operate commercial flights for all aviation companies in accordance with the Cabinet's deci-

Mosques host first prayer without distancing



sion in this regard, DGCA Director General Yousif Al-Fozan said.

The directorate succeeded in operating under the challenges and requirements of the coronavirus pandemic crisis, calling on aviation companies and passengers to abide by the COVID-19 safety restrictions needed to enter Kuwait. The Cabinet had on Wednesday announced that Kuwait International Airport would return to operate in full capacity, as part of its plan to return to normal life



KUWAIT: Worshipper perform the Friday prayers in Kuwait City on Friday, after authorities eased measures put in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

after the coronavirus pandemic.

Mosques meanwhile hosted on Friday their first prayers without social distancing since the pandemic started, following a Cabinet decision to end social distancing restrictions between worshippers at mosques as of this past Friday. As part of the new instructions, Kuwait ends the mask mandate out-

doors as of today, while fully vaccinated people are allowed to attend conferences, weddings, and social gatherings as of today as well. Kuwait also reopens today issuing visas for those wishing to enter the country who already received two doses of COVID-19 vaccines certified by Kuwait's health ministry. — KUNA

Evangelical Church, Holy Family Cathedral to increase venue capacity within 'weeks'

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Social distancing has ended at all mosques in Kuwait, but churches in Kuwait, headed by the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (NECK) and the Catholic Church in Kuwait are still awaiting instructions to return to full capacity. "Months ago, we were only allowed a venue capacity of 20 percent; this was

then increased to 30 percent and later 50 percent. We will be increasing attendance in the coming weeks," said Bishop Jun Nones of NECK. "Church members are almost all vaccinated and few of us have already gotten third shots, so we are awaiting the advice of our church leadership to completely remove health restrictions," he added.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet asked the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to end social distancing in mosques from Friday, Oct 22, provided that worshippers are vaccinated, bring their own prayer mats and continue to wear facemasks. The government also announced a "cautious" return to pre-pandemic life, ending 20 months of closures. From today, the airport will resume operations at full capacity and all types of visas will be issued.

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah also announced the cancellation of almost all restrictions which the government began to impose in late February last year to contain the

spread of the coronavirus, which has claimed more than 2,400 lives in the country. The Cabinet also allowed the return of conferences and wedding parties, provided only vaccinated people are allowed to attend and should wear masks.

On Friday, Catholic worshippers heard from a priest about a return 'soon' to pre-pandemic attendance. "I was there on Friday. We still have to register online to attend church services, although the church is not very strict. We can come even without registration, but to get priority for reserved seats, we have to register," said Alice Mercado, a regular at the Holy Family Cathedral in Kuwait City. "Hopefully, we can see masses of churchgoers again. I miss the crowd of worshippers inside the church. It's been two years now - we cannot sit next to each other even if we are a family," she said.

Churches in Kuwait of all denominations and sects follow rules set by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

KOC eyes higher production capacity

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is actively working towards increasing crude production capacity, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Hashem Hashem said on Friday. In a statement to the press, Hashem said the information regarding Kuwait Oil Company's production capacity's decline doesn't provide a complete picture of the Kuwaiti oil sector's performance in general nor KOC's performance. He clarified that there are 500,000 barrels per day of potential capacity that is pending to be unlocked as associated capital projects and drilling and workover programs are completed in the coming two years.

The KPC CEO clarified that KOC is currently implementing numerous strategic projects that are directly linked to increasing sustainable production capacity to reach 3.2 million barrels per day gradually in 2025, where the Divided Zone capacity will contribute the additional 350,000 barrels per day to reach overall Kuwait production capacity of 3.5 million barrels per day. The main projects can be summarized as follows: Commissioning of two new gathering centers and complete revamp of several existing gathering centers; Building water handling facilities; Building water injection facilities to increase production and maintain reservoir pressure; Upgrading current Jurassic production facilities and establish two additional facilities to increase light crude production. This plan will be implemented in combination with an integrated drilling program of 500 wells per year annually on average and around 2,000 wells workover, he said, adding that this will be through 71 drilling rigs and 62 workover rigs working in the different areas.

Furthermore, Hashem pointed out that activities in the divided zone are progressing positively after the agreement between the partners, where it is expected to reach pre-ceasing the production level in 2022. The KPC CEO explained that KOC is exerting all efforts to achieve the targeted production capacity, where these efforts were recognized during the wide-spread of COVID-19 virus, as KOC has successfully commissioned Lower Fars Heavy Oil facilities and achieved its targeted production of 60,000 barrels. He concluded by saying that despite the close-down and the contractors' abilities to implement projects, GC-31 has recently commissioned with a design capacity of 100,000 barrels per day, while reiterating that the State of Kuwait is always committed to fulfilling its customers' needs and continuing its role as a secure and reliable crude and petroleum product supplier to the international markets. — KUNA

Defense Minister highlights collaboration for national security

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah stressed Friday cooperation between the personnel of both defense and interior ministries is essential to safeguard national security, stability and territorial integrity. The minister made the remark while making an inspection tour of various military and police sites in the northern part of the country, the Ministry of Defense said in a press release. He conveyed the greetings and appreciation of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness

the Prime Minister to the staff for their dedication, devotion and sacrifice for the sake of their homeland. During the tour, the defense minister listened to an articulate explanation on the personnel's duties, tasks and preparedness, and military-police joint coordination, cooperation and exercises. He appreciated the great role and sincere efforts of all military and security units in preserving the country's national security, stability and territorial integrity, while underlining that it is crucial to remain vigilant and prepared to defend the homeland. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah poses for a group photo during the tour. — Defense Ministry photo

Q8 delivers 1st SAF supply to Gatwick Airport

LONDON: Kuwait Petroleum International, known by its trademark Q8, said yesterday its marketing arm Q8Aviation has delivered the first sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) supply to Gatwick Airport in south London. In a statement to the press, the company said this important milestone marks the first time a departing flight at Gatwick has used sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The SAF supply will be used by the British easyJet company to operate 39 flights from Gatwick to Glasgow throughout the COP26 Climate Change Conference, which runs from October 31 to November 12, according to the statement.

The used fuel, which was developed by the Finnish

Neste company, is produced from 100 percent renewable and sustainable waste and residue raw materials, such as used cooking oil and animal fat waste, it said. In its neat form and over its life cycle, SAF can achieve a reduction of up to 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions compared to fossil jet fuel use.

Kuwait Petroleum International's CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah told KUNA that delivering the first SAF supply to Gatwick Airport reflected the company's commitment to meeting customers' low emission fuel and cutting carbon impacts. Sheikh Nawaf added that his company is proud of working with its partners in order to deliver various products, including traditional and renewable fuel, vowing that the company would continue backing the ultimate global goal of reducing hazardous gas emissions.

Meanwhile, the company's Vice CEO for Marketing Azzam Al-Mutawa said Q8Aviation has developed a strong partnership with easyJet, Neste and Gatwick over several years, and has become a fuel supplier to several easyJet sites in European airports. He commended

that delivering the first SAF supply to Gatwick Airport is considered one of several success stories that reflect the company's ability to build long-term relations with its partners. SAF is produced from sustainable feedstocks and is very similar in its chemistry to traditional fossil jet fuel. Using SAF results in a reduction in carbon emissions compared to the traditional jet fuel.

Kuwait Petroleum International, known by its trademark Q8, was established in 1983. Its main focus is to refine and market fuel, lubricants and other various petroleum derivatives globally. Q8 is the international subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, which combines elements of Kuwait oil sector under one corporate umbrella and is recognized as one of the world's top ten energy conglomerates. Q8Aviation is one of the world's leading jet fuel marketers, providing fuel to well over 200 airlines at more than 60 airports across Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. In addition to serving major international airports, Q8Aviation also has a presence at a growing network of smaller regional airports. — KUNA

Kuwaiti youth participate with space project at Expo Dubai 2020

DUBAI: A team of Kuwaiti youth participated in Expo Dubai 2020 with an ambitious space rocket project, as a step towards exploring space technology and proving their capabilities. "Our participation in this global event is to introduce the world to Kuwait's achievements and to represent it in an honorable way," founder of Kuwait Space Rocket (KSR) project Naser Ashknani said.

The KSR space rocket project is a Kuwaiti project to build and launch a

liquid-propellant rocket into space. Ashknani said, adding, it is "the first of its kind in the Arab world," expected to be launched at the end of this year. The launching of the rocket will be through three stages, starting with a trial stage (KSR-1A), which aims to confirm the rocket readiness without any problem with travel distance of about five kilometers, he said. The second stage is the construction of (KSR-1B) rocket with a new engine that aims to reach space, a step that also seeks to develop the first rocket over a distance of about 30 km, he added.

As for the last and future stage (KSR-2) the launch of the rocket will be with a range of 116 km, through which it will cross outer space and "achieve the dream," Ashknani said. The Kuwaiti Space Rocket project started in January 2018 by Kuwaiti youth Ashknani, engineers Sulieman Al-Fuhaid and Fahad



DUBAI: The team of Kuwaiti youth participating in Expo Dubai 2020 with their space rocket project. — KUNA

Al-Fahad. They devoted the first year of the project on the initial designs and in 2019, the team began manufacturing

KSR-1 and the project was fully completed in January 2020. — KUNA