

Local

# Kuwait reports zero COVID-19 deaths for first time since Feb

## Nine patients in ICUs; 33 new cases lowest since April 2020

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait listed zero COVID-19 deaths yesterday for the first time since February 6, 2021, and 33 new COVID-19 cases; the lowest daily rate registered since April 2, 2020. Meanwhile, the number of patients in intensive care units has witnessed a significant drop, reaching only nine patients as of yesterday; the lowest number since March 26, 2020. The total number of hospitalized patients in COVID-19 wards reached 39, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday. The total number of infections increased to 411,605 while deaths remained unchanged at 2,448, the ministry said, adding that total recoveries reached 408,499 as 40 fresh recoveries were announced yesterday. Some 16,506 swab tests were conducted over the last 24 hours out of a total of 4,232,071, ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said.

The Health Ministry had meanwhile reaffirmed the need to continue following health restrictions and measures in different activities and facilities, especially closed places including mosques, to fight the spread of the coronavirus. In a press statement

yesterday, the ministry noted that the coronavirus situation had improved in Kuwait recently due to the public's compliance with health restrictions. It added that maintaining social distancing, washing hands



**Only 39 patients in hospitals**

and wearing masks do not get in the way of engaging in activities, and play a key role in returning to normal life. Kuwait fatwa authority announced earlier today that it will continue to follow the ministry of

health's restrictions by maintain social distancing in mosques. It added that it has agreed during an urgent meeting late Tuesday to call for maintaining physical distancing at mosques, which combine both vaccinated and unvaccinated worshippers.

Kuwait's Public Authority for Sport had decided in the meantime to deny football fans access to stadiums until a fleshed-out blueprint is put in place in line with relevant health guidelines. The move came in the aftermath of a recent local match between Qadsiya and Arabi in the Amir Cup's semifinals, during which fans had failed to follow health guidelines pertinent to physical distancing at the stadium, the authority said in a press statement. It warned that it would not be lenient in applying all health precautions and requirements in order to fend off the spreading of COVID-19 in the country. The authority noted that it will hold a meeting with the football association on Sunday to mull a clear-cut plan aiming at ensuring that all health guidelines would be respected at all stadiums.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah (right) and his Canadian counterpart Singh Sajjan.

## Canada thanks Kuwait for helping with evacuation

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received on Wednesday a phone call from his Canadian counterpart Singh Sajjan, who expressed gratitude for supporting evacuation of Canadian citizens from Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister expressed appreciation for this call which reflects the deep bilateral ties between the two countries, said the Chief of Staff in a statement. In addition, several matters of common interests and latest regional and international developments were discussed. —KUNA

## China lauds Kuwait's 'balanced' foreign policy

**BEIJING:** A senior Chinese official said yesterday the State of Kuwait maintains "a wise and balanced" policy vis-a-vis regional and international issues, as shown in its relations with all countries. Kuwait plays a great role in preserving peace and security inside and outside the region, Deputy Minister of Central Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhu Rui said during his meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador in Beijing Sameh Jowhar Hayat.

The Chinese official reaffirmed the significance of the bilateral strategic relationship with Kuwait and the need to push forward the relations in all areas, according to a statement from Kuwait Embassy.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Hayat said the meeting explored ways to further enhance the bilateral strategic relations and strengthen the partnership in all fields. "The cordial meeting took place in the framework of the exemplary relations both countries maintained over the past five decades," he said, noting that both sides aspire for more progress in all domains. Ambassador Hayat congratulated the People's Republic of China on its 72nd National Day, to



**BEIJING:** Kuwait's Ambassador to China Sameh Jowhar Hayat meets Deputy Minister of Central Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Zhu Rui. —KUNA

be marked on October 1, saying, "this is an occasion to recall the great role China plays on the global scale in all domains." He noted that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers promis-

ing chances to take the bilateral relations to a new height, adding that Kuwait has been among the first countries that worked with China to revive the ancient Silk Road. —KUNA

## Foreign Minister receives new ambassadors



**KUWAIT:** Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets the Czech Ambassador to Kuwait Jaroslav Siro. —KUNA photos



**KUWAIT:** Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Belgium's Ambassador to Kuwait Marc Trenteseau.



**KUWAIT:** Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Ghana's Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Haj Abubaker Sadeq Abdullah.

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday a copy of credentials of the newly appointed Czech Ambassador to Kuwait Jaroslav Siro. Sheikh Dr Ahmad also received copies of credentials of the newly appointed Belgium's Ambassador to Kuwait Marc Trenteseau, as well as the new Ghana

Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Haj Abubaker Sadeq Abdullah.

The Foreign Minister wished the new ambassadors success during their tenures, and hoped that they would pursue means to further progress and strengthen bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad also received copy of credentials of Romania's Ambassador to Kuwait. During the meeting, the minister reit-

erated Kuwait's demands to the Romanian government to exert further efforts on the file of missing Kuwaiti citizen Mohammad Al-Baghli, who has been unaccounted for since 2015. Baghli's issue is continuously discussed during every Kuwaiti-Romanian talks, while many Kuwaiti security delegations had visited the Romanian capital Bucharest to discuss the issue. — KUNA

The sources said the issue was sent to the ministerial economic committee to give urgent recommendations to resolve the fee issue to be as before or KD 500, and keep the condition of having private health insurance.

### Frontliners' rewards

In other news, Al-Rai Arabic daily reported yesterday quoting informed sources that a commerce and industry ministry move to distribute rations to workers on the frontlines of confronting the coronavirus pandemic at the health and interior ministries is not linked to cash rewards. They added the ministry has allocated a budget of KD 50 million and is waiting for some logistical work to be completed. The ministry has completed all requirements of distributing the free rations to all deserving recipients for six months, according to the number of family members, adding that concerned authorities are waiting for ration distribution centers to be ready to serve deserving residents. They said citizens will receive their rations from their regular centers.

## Two arrested with 13 kg of hashish

**KUWAIT:** The Drugs Control General Department arrested two people with 13 kg of hashish. The department received information the two, a bedoon and a Gulf national, were dealing in drugs, so investigations were carried out and confirmed. A warrant was obtained and a farm in Jahra was raided, where the drugs were found along with a sensitive scale and cutting tools. The suspects and drugs were sent to concerned authorities.

In other news, the criminal court sentenced a man who claimed insanity to 15 years in jail after convicting him of attempting to rape a woman in Salwa. The public prosecution charged the Kuwaiti citizen with attempting to have sex with the victim, Russian, against her will, as he beat and restricted her movement, causing her several injuries, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported yesterday. The prosecution said the suspect was handed a final jail sentence of five years on Feb 12, 2017 in a different case.

## Prime Minister meets authority chief on 60+ visas

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah received Director General of Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Ahmad Al-Mousa to discuss the issue of not renewing residency permits of residents without a university degree who reach 60 years of age, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported yesterday, quoting informed sources. The decision does not ban residency renewal for this category of workers, but stipulates a payment of KD 2,000 if employers wish to renew their employees' residencies, the source said. They added that there are several reasons behind PAM's insistence on going ahead with the decision, including amending the population structure and earning revenue for the state treasury.

## Stop food loss and waste, for the people, for the planet

**KUWAIT:** The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is an opportunity to call to action both the public (national or local authorities) and the private sector (businesses and individuals), to prioritize actions and move ahead with innovation to reduce food loss and waste towards restoring and building back better and resilient-ready, food systems. Dr Tarek Elsheikh, Representative of the UN Secretary-General and United Nations Coordinator in State of Kuwait said: "Reducing food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons of edible food is lost and/or wasted every day. Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, five percent in the food service and two percent in retail)."

Dr Elsheikh added, "Kuwait government, private sector, activists, and NGOs voiced their challenges and suggested solutions regarding the food loss and waste in the recent United Nations Food Systems Summit talk series in Kuwait - many of the participants have their own initiatives in managing food waste to elevate their lifestyle and livelihood. The local farmers in Kuwait grow their organic foods and vegetables throughout the year and created agricultural studies in which they have an expectation of their crop volume throughout the year. This act falls under the core of the SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and the responsibility for the sustainability for future generation. The United Nations look into ways of merging positive impact on people to have full awareness of the importance of production, consumption, and managing the food waste. In Kuwait, a growing interest amongst many individuals, companies, and even governmental organizations started initiatives such as recycling food waste to use as fertilizers and filtering sewage water and these small actions have a significant impact on the whole words, and Kuwait's efforts have been visible through the series of national dialogues in collaboration with the public, private sectors and youth groups who are invested in improving the food chain supplies leading to their involvement in the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021".

Food loss and waste undermine the sustainability of our food systems. When food is lost or wasted, all the resources that were used to produce this food - including water, land, energy, labor and capital - go to waste. In addition, the disposal of food loss and waste in landfills, leads to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change. Food loss and waste can also negatively impact food security and food availability and contribute to increasing the cost of food.

"We are committed to supporting countries in scaling up initiatives related to food waste, especially after our office launched State of Food Waste in West Asia report on the 21st of July this year which shed light on Food Waste in West Asia. And today is a significant day to raise awareness on this crucial matter and its possible solutions at all levels, where everyone could play a role in addressing Food Waste at home, at school, at work, far and wide to help in achieving SDG 12 collectively," said, Sami Dimassi, UNEP Representative and Regional Director for West Asia.