



Kuwait regulates entry from 31 states



Kuwait International Airport began operations from Aug 1, 2020. Eight flights left Kuwait while nine flights arrived from Doha, Istanbul, London and Dubai on Aug 3, 2020. — See Page 4

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Opinion

King Mohammed VI ... my family's health is also health of my people

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THROUGHOUT the past 21 years, King Mohammed VI has been working on a plan for the modernization of his country. It is based on a simple formula – “Teach how to fish instead of giving out fish every day”.

Due to this, the Kingdom of Morocco has been witnessing great developments in the past two decades, which changed much of what was common, such that its movement began keeping pace with the requirements of the times, which mainly is the development of human resources.

On this basis, the speech of the Moroccan monarch during the 21st anniversary of his accession to the throne focused on completing the course of duty in the building of the nation.

Even during the global COVID-19 pandemic that affected Morocco, the construction process did not stop. In fact, the focus has been mainly on addressing the negative impacts, and at the same time utilizing the pandemic situation to develop capabilities for confronting challenges in the health, economic, services and social fields.

Also, the country worked on filling the gaps that emerged in the past months, and focused on transforming the threat into an opportunity, and seeking immediate remedies for the negative impacts through a special fund to cushion the economic and social repercussions.

Despite this major crisis, work was not only limited to confronting it, but there was an immediate endeavor from the royal palace to address its long-term repercussions from a futuristic perspective, drawing lessons and working on building a more robust system.

Since this crisis has confirmed the solidity of the social ties and the spirit of solidarity among the Moroccans, the most important aspect is dealing

with all members of the nation equally. In this regard, King Mohammed VI affirmed by saying, “The care I give about the health of the citizens and the safety of their families is the same care I give my children and my small family.”

There is no doubt that this statement expresses the distinctive relationship between the people and their leadership. It presents a typical picture of the cooperation in dealing with major crises. The pandemic does not differentiate between big and small or rich and poor; mutual support is the basis for combating it.

In his speech, King Mohammed VI drew the general lines for Morocco's future, placing everyone before their national responsibility. This is due to the fact that a successful state is the one that operates in harmony and without strife. This was felt by all in terms of the harmonious cooperation between all sectors that proved the effectiveness of the strategy adopted by the young king to navigate a country, which today has become more effective than others in its surroundings, whether on Arab or African spectrum. This would not have been possible if King Mohammed VI had not worked in the field and followed up on everything big and small in his country.

There is no doubt that the observers of the situation in Morocco know very well that the Kingdom after the COVID-19 pandemic is becoming stronger than before. This is because there is a developmental vision based on a royal resolve that does not accept bargaining over rights and duties. Also, there are people who know well how to translate those visions into an integrated system in the process of nation building.

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US expands Iran metals sanctions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has announced an expansion of the scope of Iran's metals-related sanctions targeting Iran's “nuclear, military and ballistic missile programs.”

“Iran's nuclear, ballistic missile, and military programs pose a grave threat to international peace and security,” Pompeo said in a statement.

He added that to address these threats, he is announcing “a major expansion of the scope of State Department-administered Iran metals-related sanctions.”

He indicated that the Department of State “is identifying 22 specific materials used in connection with Iran's nuclear, military, or ballistic missile programs.”

“Those who knowingly transfer such ma-

terials to Iran are now sanctionable pursuant to Section 1245 of the Iranian Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act,” he noted.

He stressed that “under the same provision of law, I am continuing my determination that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) controls Iran's construction sector.”

“The IRGC's construction firm and many of its subsidiaries remain sanctioned by the United Nations because they were directly involved in the construction of the uranium enrichment site at Fordow,” he remarked.

“As a result of this IRGC determination, any knowing transfer of certain materials, including graphite or raw or semi-finished metals to or from Iran to be used in connection with the construction sector of Iran remains sanctionable,” he said.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (Agencies): Kuwait's Civil Aviation body announced Sunday non-Kuwaiti passengers from 31 countries were not allowed to enter Kuwait whether flying directly or via transit from other countries.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the non-Kuwaiti passengers would be allowed to fly to Kuwait if they stayed in third countries for at least 14 days.

After 14 days, they must conduct a PCR test for (COVID-19) virus and provide an approval certificate proving a negative result and not being affected with the coronavirus, the DGCA added in a press statement.

New COVID cases at 388

It noted that the validity of such certificate should not exceed 72 hours between the test date and arriving date to Kuwait.

The directorate announced on Saturday a ban on all passengers coming from 31 countries from entering Kuwait until further notice.

It pointed out that the move was taken based on instructions by the Kuwaiti health authorities due to the situation and repercussions caused by the spread of the coronavirus regarding “high-risk” countries.

The list of those countries banned from entering Kuwait includes India, Iran, China, Brazil, Columbia, Armenia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Syria, Spain, Singapore, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iraq, Mexico, Indonesia, Chile, Pakistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Hong Kong, Italy, North Macedonia, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Montenegro, Dominican Republic and Kosovo.

Egypt's Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs Nabila Makram denied the statements attributed to her last Saturday that she requested the concerned authorities in Kuwait for clarifications on the decision to ban citizens of some countries from entering Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement issued by her ministry on Saturday evening, she affirmed that the statements attributed to her and circulated on social media of her demand for clarification from the Kuwaiti government about inclusion of Egypt among the countries whose citizens are banned from entering Kuwait is not true.

The minister urged the local and foreign media to ascertain the accuracy of any information or statements attributed to her or her ministry before publishing them.

She highlighted her rejection and denunciation of attempts on social media for seeking to fabricate incorrect statements, stressing that “malicious parties stand behind these abuses to target the good relations that exist between Egypt and Kuwait”.

Blended

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, affirmed the depth of fraternal relations between Egypt and Kuwait, saying their citizens “took part in common struggles in which their blood blended in solidarity with each other”.

The ministry added in a statement that it follows up “with a mixture of rejection and condemnation the recent attempts on social media networks seeking to drive a wedge between the two brotherly peoples”.

It noted that some bodies stand behind abuses made against officials of the two sides that target the good ties between them.

The ministry stressed that Kuwait respects, and is proud of the Egyptian community in Kuwait and Egypt appreciates and is proud of the Kuwaiti community on its soil.

It pointed out that the two communities respect each other, and maintain their rights and dignity.

The two sides have a positive role “in developing the societies where they live and contribute to the development of the bilateral ties, it said.

The Egyptian and Kuwaiti authorities are keen on developing the bilateral ties for wider horizons, it stated.

New COVID cases

Kuwait declared 388 new cases of coronavirus in the past 24 hours, raising the tally to 68,299, with four people succumbing to the pandemic as the death toll reached 461, a health ministry official said on Monday.

Kuwaiti nationals, with 282 cases, occupy 72.68 percent with non-Kuwaitis, 106, occupying 27.32 percent of the total caseload, Ministry Spokesman Abdullah Al-Sanad told KUNA.

The figures include people, who have come into contact with infected individuals, and others whose source of infection is currently being investigated.

In terms of health zones, 113 cases were reported in Al-Ahmadi, 86 in Farwaniya, 83 in Jahra, 63 in the Capital and 43 in Hawalli, added the spokesman.

He went on to reveal that 126 cases are currently in the intensive care unit, while the number of active cases stands at 8,099.

With regard to those under mandatory institutional quarantine, he said the total number of people who have ended their period reached 17.

Events planned

US envoy highlights ‘liberation’ program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina Romanowski on Sunday hailed US-Kuwait relations as having been steadfast since the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq's occupation in 1991, looking forward to more future partnership.

In an interview with KUNA marking the 30th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the ambassador said next year marks 60 years of US-Kuwaiti diplomatic relations, which reflects strong bonds between both countries.

She said that she was working at the US Department of Defense during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, recalling seeing the “devastating” impacts of the invasion during a visit she made later to Kuwait.

Citing his famous quote: “This will not stand, this aggression against Kuwait,” Romanowski said that it was a critical and sensitive stage when late US president George H.W. Bush addressed the US Congress to approve military intervention to free the Kuwaiti people, restore their territorial integrity and sovereignty and ensure the return of the then legitimate government of Kuwait.

In this regard, she cited a set of resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council (UNSC), including economic sanctions on Iraq, and then Resolution 678 in November 1990 giving the former Iraqi regime a deadline until Jan 15, 1991 to withdraw from the State of Kuwait otherwise “all necessary means” would be used to restore international peace and security.

Efforts

The US ambassador elaborated on UN efforts that enabled the US to send thousands of US troops to the region, to set up a US-led coalition of 35 countries, and prepare for the Operation Desert Storm with the participation of forces from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab and friendly countries.

She cited relevant UNSC resolutions and the international coalition as “clear demonstration of the international community's rejection of the principle of aggression and occupation of countries.”

She noted that the US and Kuwait had strengthened their military bonds by signing a formal Defense Cooperation Agreement, under which the United States maintains thousands of military personnel in country.

The top US diplomat in Kuwait went on to say that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait represented a defining moment in bilateral relations, adding that Kuwait has now flourished into a regional leader promoting peace and security.

She spoke highly of Kuwait's effective role during Operation Iraq Freedom in 2003, providing major logistical support for the US and other allied countries.

Romanowski also lauded the vital and main role of Kuwait in the Global Coalition to defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS or DAESH), citing the proclamation of Kuwait as a key non-NATO ally in 2004 as proof of deep US-Kuwaiti ties.

Meanwhile, she said, the US embassy in Kuwait is preparing for a six-month long program to mark the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait, which falls in February 2021.

She elaborated that the program includes collaboration between Kuwaiti and American artists to produce music videos and sculptures to honor the liberation, bearing in mind the current health conditions due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The embassy will also use technology and online communication to host some of those who lived during the invasion and liberation period to speak about their experience, role and sacrifices during the liberation of Kuwait, as well as producing testimonials by Kuwaitis and Americans about their experiences during the liberation.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday thanked all citizens inside and outside Kuwait and residents on their sincere congratulations and heartfelt sentiments on Eid Al-Adha feast.

His Highness the Deputy Amir wished Kuwait more security, prosperity and progress under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf wished His Highness Amir a speedy recovery and everlasting well-being. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Worshippers across Kuwait performed Eid Al-Adha prayers on Friday amid strict coronavirus guidelines.

These specific prayers usher in the day's festivities, and are held every year marking the joyous occasion.

This year, however, Muslims across the country flocked to mosques equipped and readied with the strictest health and safety standards. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY:

His Highness the Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah made a phone call Friday to Saudi Arabia Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud to congratulate him on the recovery of King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

During the phone call, His Highness the Deputy Amir expressed best wishes for the King after leaving the hospital, and conveyed greetings on the advent of Eid Al-Adha blessed occasion on the Arab and Islamic worlds. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY:

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent cables of congratulations to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In the cable, His Highness expressed the sincere congratulations of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his own congratulation on the success of UAE safe operations of Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant Unit 1, the first peaceful nuclear energy reactor in the Arab world. (KUNA)