



Sheep sellers waiting for buyers during the Eid Al-Adha festival. (Inset): A sheep being delivered to the customer in a trolley.

Photos by Bassam Abu Shanab

'Each dept to have not more than 1 male, female teachers'

Teachers should not meet in common area: ministry



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Kuwait Red Crescent Society volunteers distributing sacrificial meat to families and needy persons in Kuwait.

KRCS distributes Eid meat to deprived families

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) on Friday distributed meat to disadvantaged families inside the country on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.

Speaking to KUNA, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said that the society attaches great importance to its projects and is keen to follow-up the humanitarian needs of families. Al-Barjas added that 3,000

kilograms of meat will be distributed to deprived families over a period of four days, providing assistance to widows, orphans and those with special needs.

She indicated that KRCS purchased Eid meat that conforms to the legal and health conditions, ensuring its delivery in a healthy condition, to arrive on the first day of Eid Al-Adha. KRCS yearly implements the

meat project locally and internationally, explaining that it contributes to offering the joy of the feast, she mentioned.

Meanwhile, some 1,230 impoverished families were the beneficiaries of a national endeavor to distribute meat to the local community, as per Islamic tradition amid the Eid holiday, Kuwait's Food Bank said on Monday. (KUNA)

'Postponement of some projects an inevitable option'

Exaggeration of govt agencies mars spending cuts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The implementation of Cabinet's decision issued in June, which aims to reduce 20 percent of the 2020/2021 budget, faces major problems that require an unprecedented cooperation from various government agencies, in light of overestimating expenditures, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily quoting government sources affirmed that the new budget was based on painstaking studies conducted by the Ministry of Finance with the aim of reducing expenses in the budget, and those efforts resulted in bringing expenses down to about 22.5 billion dinars, a reduction of 8.8 billion dinars.

They stressed the postponement of some projects is an inevitable option for rationalizing spending in the coming stage, noting the Ministry of Finance directed government agencies to consider the need to prioritize in relation to projects, according to a package of controls. They indicated that oil rev-

enues were estimated on the basis of an average price of \$55 a barrel and daily production of 2.7 million barrels of oil, according to the decisions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), pointing to serious repercussions of the collapse of oil prices on budgeting.

They added the estimated deficit of about 9.18 billion dinars is a projection, and not actual, noting it is the result of differences between the estimated general expenses and estimated revenues.

As for the book deficit, it is the true record of the actual implementation of budget based on the results of the final accounts of the state's public finances, sources added.

They stated results of the state's final accounts had registered real deficits over the past five years and all of them had been approved by the distinguished National Assembly. With regard to the retained

earnings of government agencies, sources said the Ministry of Finance had recovered most of the retained earnings without legal deed by independent authorities, while settlement was made to recover some amounts from agencies such as Kuwait Petroleum Corporation where 1.4 billion dinars has since been recovered for the state's general reserve.

It is noteworthy the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee had monitored government attempts to pass projects under the pretext of "Coronavirus Implications", which is unrelated to health status expenditures, contrary to the Cabinet decision issued in early June to reduce the budget for fiscal year 2020/2021.

These attempts were described as "indicating an early fall in the budget cut test by some government agencies", as the State Audit Bureau entered the project audit line at the request of the Budgets Committee.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Some school administrations of the secondary stage have issued several instructions in preparation for the resumption of schools from Tuesday, Aug 4 in order to control regularity in school hours, reports Al-Anba daily.

They sent instructions to male and female teachers, declaring that it is forbidden to have more than one male or female teacher in each department starting from the date of the first stage of resumption of schools for secondary school workers.

All male and female teachers shall be distributed to classes, as the classes are vacant due to the absence of students. These classes can be used in the interest of social distancing to ensure the safety of teachers. Head of departments are forbidden from convening physical meetings of teachers in a department, no matter how little their number. The meeting can be held via Zoom, WhatsApp or any other application.

Those suffering from chronic diseases and those who meet the exemption rules must prepare a report in advance, submit it to the administration and leave directly without staying in the school.

Assigned

Each male and female teacher will be assigned to a fixed class throughout the working hours. The main department shall be allocated to only the department head in order to prevent mixing and avoid spread of infection.

The teachers should not use a shared kitchen or eat food or drink in a common area. It is strictly forbidden to work without a mask, which should be worn throughout the working hours. Anyone who violates the regulations is subject to legal penalties.

The schools have warned their teachers not to use a computer lab or shared computers for teaching purposes, as this could contribute to the spread of infection.

They urged each teacher to use his/her laptop in the class they have been allocated, adding that in case of any malfunction, they can contact the technical support personnel available in the school.

The school administrations explained that the division of work days is currently being studied, such that each teacher will work on only the days when he/she has classes. As for the rest of the days, there is no need for them to work as a preventive measure. There are some things currently being studied including allowing teachers who have children from the first year to the fifth year primary stage to teach online from their homes.

Meanwhile, informed sources said electricity consumption in all school facilities will constitute a great pressure and increase the load on the electrical network. This is contrary to the instructions that recommend rationalization, especially during the very hot summer season.



KUNA photos
Red Crescent Society volunteers distributing masks and disinfectants for passengers at the Kuwait airport.

Accredited medical labs abroad okayed

'Health' says in no hurry to ink vaccine procurement contract

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Ministry of Health confirmed yesterday that its endeavor to secure medical vaccines that international research institutions are working to produce in order to confront the emerging coronavirus (Covid 19) does not mean signing the procurement contract before the vaccine is approved by international health organizations to ensure its safety and effectiveness, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry in a press statement said a continuous follow-up is carried out by the relevant departments and committees affiliated with the ministry in order to determine the results of the current vaccine experiments in order to obtain them at the required time if their success and efficacy are proven and also to ensure the safety of their use.

The sources pointed out the ministry is in "continuous communication" with research institutions and international organizations, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization

(Jaffe), which constitutes a global health partnership aimed at securing vaccines for all, explaining that "coordination with the (alliance) is a proactive step, especially as securing vaccines even in normal circumstances takes a lot from the time."

Accredited medical labs: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a circular specifying the accredited medical laboratories abroad for the mandatory PCR test of travelers coming to Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

The list includes 1,596 laboratories in nine countries - 1,310 in India, 136 in Turkey, 45 in Egypt, 48 in Lebanon, 15 in Switzerland, 24 in Pakistan, eight in Azerbaijan, two in Jordan, and eight in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to the circular, the PCR test results of travelers from other countries must be issued by laboratories accredited by the health authorities in these countries.

Bee3kw.com provides all facilities

SMEs launches online portal for creation of e-stores & payment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development and Agility Company launched an online portal for the creation of e-stores, as well as online payment and logistics services management, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a recent press statement, the fund announced the launching of the digital portal -Bee3kw.com - which provides all facilities for SMEs to establish e-stores in order to increase their sales by selling through the Internet. The portal provides more than 500 SMEs with advice and tools that will help them start their busi-

ness, the fund added. The fund also explained that Bee3kw.com aims to help SMEs move from traditional direct selling to electronic selling quickly, in cooperation with a number of regional e-commerce partners by linking entrepreneurs with resources, developers and platforms.

The fund pointed out that through the website, SMEs can obtain help in building e-stores, marketing, launching brands, starting e-commerce, managing payment services and developing smart phone applications.