



Kuwaitis and expatriates shopping at Souq Mubarakia recently during the evening time.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab



People waiting to donate blood at the Blood Bank.



Some of the people donating blood.

150 Kuwaitis and expatriates participate

Kuwaiti Banks Club holds blood donation campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Kuwaiti Banks Club organized a blood donation campaign, in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank at its headquarters in Jabriya region, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director-General of the Kuwaiti Banks Club, Abbas Al-Balushi, said, "We organize blood donation campaigns annually, and this campaign is the eighth in a row. This year has been very different, given the number of donors which is very big – 150 Kuwaitis and expatriates of all nationalities." However, this initiative comes within the framework of periodic social activities.

"Since the beginning of our announcement of organizing the campaign in the social media, we found a lot of support and solidarity, and we thank everyone who supported the campaign – the donors (citizens

and residents) and we also thank the Blood Bank for their hospitality and good reception," he said.

Al-Balushi went on to say, "On this occasion, I would like to express my condolences to our brothers, the Lebanese people, for their grave misfortune, and I say to them, 'May God bless and reward you, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery.'"

Al-Balushi pointed to the solidarity and praised everyone for support, including the employees, their families, their children, their relatives and many segments of society, and everyone who cooperated, stressing that the love of the homeland is a duty for everyone and our role is to answer what he called 'the call', and every human being who lives on this planet must be loyal and show love for the homeland.

Mol completes 1,377,582 e-transactions

MoE to hire teachers of 12 specialties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: In conjunction with the start of the first day of the second semester of the twelfth grade through 'distance learning', the Ministry of Education announced it needs teachers of 12 specialties for the next academic year 2020/2021 to be hired locally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily quoting education sources the priority will be for Kuwaiti teachers with the required specializations, the children of Kuwaiti women married to foreign men, the Bedoun and citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The ministry has set conditions for appointment which includes three years experience for all subjects, with the exception for music education and decoration (two years).

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi told the daily the renewal of the term of the Assistant Undersecretary for Special and Specific Education Dr Bader Al-Mutairi and the Assistant Undersecretary for the Legal Sector Dr Abdul-Mohsen Al-Huwaila are subject to evaluation and study before deciding to renew their tenure for another four years.

On the sidelines of an inspection tour of twelfth grade students on the first day of their study, accompanied by Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Faisal Al-Maqdis, Al-Harbi said, "We are in front of a historic and decisive opportunity to kick-start the education wheel and it is also an opportu-

nity for us to re-evaluate efforts and an opportunity for educators to deal with crises."

Al-Harbi pointed out that the second semester ends on September 17, and the 12th grade certificates will be distributed on September 20, 2020.

E-transactions: Since the launching of its online services at the beginning of March to avoid the repercussions of the corona pandemic, the Ministry of Interior completed 1,377,582 transactions through its website, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources from the ministry.

Sources revealed the number of completed transactions during the first week of August reached 48,307 including 6,523 for workers in the private sector, 2,057 for domestic workers, in addition to 4,668 procedures for renewing dependent visas.

Sources affirmed the ministry has prepared a mechanism that will be implemented in early September, which includes carrying out large-scale security campaigns, in coordination with security and government agencies, to control residency violators and deport them; noting that the ministry's estimated about 126,000 violators.

Sources added the proposed mechanism provides for raiding and prosecuting violators through the implementation of closures of the expatriate areas with the establishment of security points at their entrances, and the issuance of search and raid orders for some sites; especially those suspected of using marginal labor.

MEED sheds light on Kuwait efforts to contain COVID-19

Magazine divides measures into two parts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: In the context of following up on the developments of the coronavirus in the Gulf countries, 'MEED' magazine reviewed the repercussions of the epidemic in Kuwait until the first week of this month, saying the number of confirmed cases infections until Aug 3 was 67,911, while the number of people recovering from the epidemic reached 59,213 cases, reports Al-Anba daily quoting <https://www.meed.com>.

The magazine shed light on the efforts exerted by Kuwait in this regard which it divided into two parts -- the first measures taken to reduce the impact of the economic crisis in the country, while the second focuses on measures to confront the spread of the epidemic.

The magazine listed below the measures taken by Kuwait to minimize the impact of the economic crisis.

On August 1: Kuwait barred commercial flights from 31 countries deemed high-risk and banned them until further notice. The countries included India, Pakistan, Egypt, the Philippines, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, China, Iran, Brazil, Mexico, Italy and Iraq. Egypt Air is also halting flights to the country.

Tests

■ July 26: Free Covid-19 tests were offered at government hospitals for citizens and expatriates.

■ July 20: Cultural and art events by the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters were postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19. The organization was considering a virtual platform to host the Kuwait International Book Fair before the end of November.

■ June 18: Public sector employees were not allowed to return to work from offices following week due to growth in Covid-19 cases.

■ May 18: Kuwait made wearing masks in public mandatory, with jail time threatened for violators.

Measures were taken to minimize the economic crisis.

■ July 28: Directorate-General of Civil Aviation said airlines operating at Kuwait International airport will start commercial flights to 20 countries on August 1. The airlines that were to start operations were those of the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Lebanon, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the UK, Turkey, Iran, Nepal, Switzerland, Germany, Azerbaijan, the Philippines and India. DGCA's director of the air transport department, Abdullah al-Rajhi, said.

■ July 27: The Kuwaiti government prepared to reopen its airport for commercial flights on August 1. Travelers were told to register their flight details at www.kuwaitmosafir.com to schedule an appointment for their Covid-19 tests, which most countries are asking of their arriving passengers. Kuwait International airport was to reopen on August 1 at 30 percent capacity under the first of a three-phase plan.

■ July 23: Phase three of Kuwait's reopening to begin from July 28. Curfew hours were shortened to 9pm-3am and worshippers were allowed to attend Eid al-Adha prayers



Officials during the meeting.

Programs to allow users to monitor prices

UCCS discusses ongoing work on its online platform during joint meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 11: The Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Monday held a joint meeting to present the initial vision of the union's online platform, which is an important national project prepared by UCCS in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Social Affairs, and with the cooperation of the company called "Business Concept", which is one of market leaders in the field of information technology and software solutions in Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

The meeting was attended by UCCS officials and representatives from several concerned bodies led by the UCCS Chairman Fahad Al-Kashti, who applauded the online platform as it represents the first phase of the project, which includes the app and the website in addition to the supporting programs that will allow users to monitor prices instantly.

Among the objectives of this platform are portals linking UCCS and the suppliers as well as UCCS and

cooperative societies, price monitoring portal for the UCCS, and an interface for the consumers. The platform will also allow stock and financial management, human resources, sales, and media content control.

Al-Kashti explained that the platform is already being operated by employees and supervisors. All prices have been added to the application so that supervisors can verify the correct prices in all cooperative societies in Kuwait.

The union is currently preparing for the second phase of the project, which is to update the system in order to enable consumers to monitor prices in cooperative societies.

He stressed that such national projects are of interest to the public, and are important to strengthen the efforts of state agencies to activate the role of cooperative societies in the necessary oversight, to control violations and refer them to legal authorities, and to provide a more transparent commercial environment.

Al-Kashti indicated about a follow

up with the heads of cooperative societies to explain the work mechanism of the UCCS e-platform, and discuss all opinions and proposals of the heads of cooperative societies.

Others present at the meeting were the Assistant Undersecretary for the Cooperative Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs Salem Al-Rashidi, Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Al-Enezi, and Assistant Undersecretary for Supervision and Consumer Protection Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Eid Al-Rasheedi.

From USSC, Treasurer Khaled Hamid Al-Mutairi, Chairman of the Financial and Administrative Committee Muhammad Raghian Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Media and Public Relations Committee Salah Salman Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Group Import and Purchase Committee, and Chairman of the Price Follow-up and Control Committee, Abdullah Abdul-Redha Hassan were present at the meeting.

at select mosques.

■ July 21: Civil aviation authority released guidelines to ensure the safe resumption of air travel in August, with measures including random testing of passengers, mandatory use of face masks, and maintaining physical distance. Departing travelers are required to provide negative Covid-19 certificates before boarding and the manual checking of tickets will be replaced with digital scanning to avoid physical contact.

■ July 18: Public Authority for Industry (PAI) says it will establish a six-month stock of protective masks. The daily local production of masks was estimated at more than five million, with 522 tons of raw materials currently available at industrial facilities and 133 tons of imported raw materials to increase production capacity. The number of mask manufacturing factories since

the outbreak has increased from one to nine.

■ July 15: Kuwait University to begin new academic year online on August 9.

■ July 13: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to prepare a comprehensive plan to avoid overcrowding during slaughtering and distributing sacrifices around Eid al-Adha. Kuwait Oil Company confirms budgetary cut of 25 per cent and operating expense reduction of 18 per cent for the 2020/21 fiscal year as part of measures to boost "state financial stability".

The national oil company also confirmed projects had been cancelled as part of austerity measures.

■ July 8: Ministry of Finance approves disbursement of KD 240.5m to 70,000 Kuwaitis following a re-

quest submitted by the Public Authority for Manpower.

■ July 2: Kuwait International airport to reopen from August 1, and will operate at 30 per cent capacity for six months, capping out at 10,000 passengers and 100 daily flights. The country plans to raise capacity to 60 per cent in February 2021 and full capacity in August 2021.

■ June 25: Second of five-phase plan to restore normalcy by September to begin on June 30 and span three weeks; curfew hours reduced from 8pm – 5am. Public and private sectors will resume work with less than 30 per cent capacity, in addition to the resumption of work in the financial and construction sectors, malls and retail shops, parks, and pick-ups from restaurants and cafes. Lockdown of Farwaniya, Jleeb al-Shuyoukh and Mahboula to continue until further notice.