



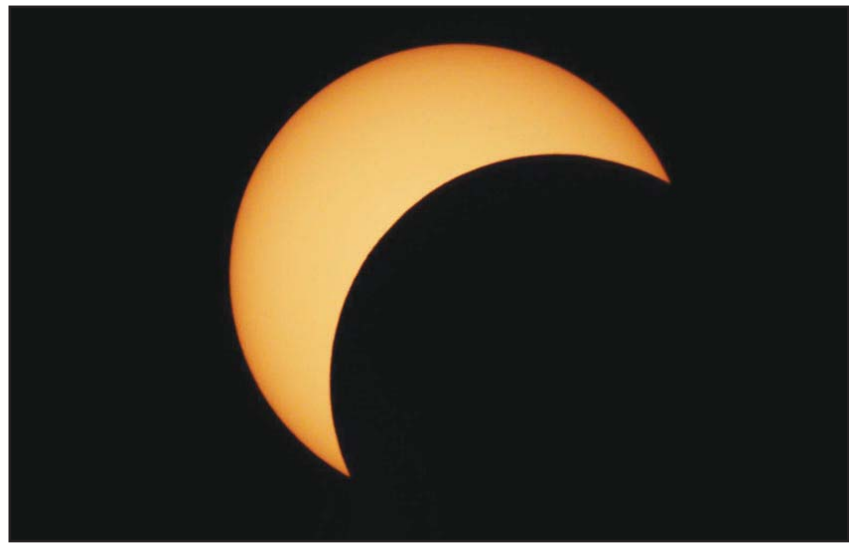
Photo by Rizk Taufiq  
Road dividers and barbed wires being removed in Hawalli on the last day of the lifting of the total lockdown.

# PAM sets up work teams to complete transactions

Return of business to be postponed: official

**KUWAIT CITY, June 22:** While the Ministry of Social Affairs has postponed the return of its employees to work based on the decision of the Council of Ministers to extend the activity of the first stage of

the plan to return to normal life, Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) continues its work through inspection tours and completing transactions (remotely) from homes, reports Al-Rai daily.



KUNA photo  
The Solar Eclipse – an annular event visible from much of Asia, Africa, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, parts of Europe and Australia – was visible on Sunday in Kuwait at 7:19:26 hours when the moon touched the edge of the sun at 78 degrees and the moon came closest to the centre of the sun at 8:33:20 and left the sun's edge at 9:56:35. Based on the alignment, there are three kinds of solar eclipses – total, partial, and annular – along with the addition of a rare hybrid of an annular and a total solar eclipse.

## 'Speed test' website releases report

# Kuwait ranks fifth in Arab world, 37th globally for internet speed

**KUWAIT CITY, June 22:** Kuwait ranked 37th globally and 5th in the Arab world on internet speed with an average speed of 42.44 Mbps, according to the monthly report issued by the "speed test" website released last month, reports Al-Anba daily.

Report added that UAE ranked second in the world and first in the Arab world with an internet speed of 99.67 MB per second, and Qatar came fourth globally and second in the Arab world with Internet speed of 89.11 MB per second.

In this context, Information Technology expert Engineer Qusay Al-Shatti stressed in a special statement that Kuwait, in its current position, finds itself in a gap between the three frontline Gulf states that precede it at the speed of the Internet due to a major difference in speeds, which is up to almost a double, pointing out that Kuwait has made good steps in developing its infrastructure by defining 5G service at the level of the three telecom operators in Kuwait.

Al-Shatti added the 5G service does not cover all regions in Kuwait until now and needs further development, which is normal, especially as the service has not completed two years since its entry to Kuwait. He pointed out that the link for home internet service is still through copper networks, es-

pecially in the old areas. It does not depend on the optical fiber system except in the new areas negatively impact the available capacities and contributes to slowing down the Internet speed compared to the modern system in the new regions.

He pointed out that Kuwait is the least expensive country in terms of internet services compared to other Gulf countries. Nevertheless, the services are almost equal, whether in the business sector or individuals. He stressed that Kuwait is considered in the advanced quarter and ranks among countries with excellent infrastructure and similar to the countries that precede it in ranking. "I recommend concerned officials in the sector to continue working to develop the services provided and try to cover the entire Kuwait with modern services as much as possible."

Returning to the report of the "speed test" website, Saudi Arabia ranked tenth globally and third in the Arab world with speed of 62.33 MB per second, Lebanon came fourth in the Arab world and 34th globally with an internet speed of 44.65 megabytes per second.

It is worth noting that South Korea ranked first with internet speed of 100.22 MB per second, followed by the UAE, then China ranked third globally with speed of 97.10 MB per second.

An official source in the Ministry of Social Affairs said, "According to directives of the Council of Ministers, the return of business will be postponed until a decision is made on the return, provided that the work of some departments that are still in operation since the beginning of the crisis - including the cooperative and social welfare sectors, will continue with the same percentage of the workforce."

In PAM, the official spokesperson for the authority and Director of Public Relations Department Aseel Al-Mazyad confirmed that the resumption of working hours depends on the directives of the Council of Ministers to extend the first stage of the plan for the gradual return to normal life, including official working hours. She added that "in the interest of the authority not to disrupt the work of its visitors with regard to disbursing graduate benefits and allowances for the national workforce and other services provided by the authority to employers and expatriate workers since the beginning of the new coronavirus crisis, many work teams have been established to complete the transactions, whether through groups that work at the authority's headquarters or who work online from their homes".

And, on the departments assigned to work during the period of delay in official working hours, it indicated that work is continuing in about 16 departments in the authority, including the public relations department that works to raise awareness and publish procedures issued by the authority. Others include the departments for the disbursement of benefits, financial and legal affairs, human resources, financial management and services management.

"This is to supervise the buildings to ensure their readiness for work, then manage need assessment, in addition to information systems, automated services and the Shelter Center, in addition to managing government contracts and working on projects related to the final cancellation of travel for government contracts workers and managing recruiting domestic workers, which receives complaints," she added.

She noted that inspection teams will continue to work around the clock during the disruption period to ensure the extent to which business owners and expatriate workers comply with laws and regulations related to labor law, especially those related to occupational health and safety. She stated the authority, through the Department of Guidance and Employment, receives alumni transactions, inquiries and their completion through the "WhatsApp Service" by the authority's employees through working from home.

# DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Social media attacks uncalled for'

# 'Who's responsible for expat influx?'

"THE term 'expatriate' means a person residing in a country other than his own, that is, by his choice he went to reside in another country, either for work or for a family circumstance or for his love for the country that he chose or for another reason," columnist *Dr Balgees Al-Najjar* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The expatriates have always been part of the fabric of Kuwaiti society, in which individuals co-exist in harmony. So why is this social media attack on all expats? Why do voices rise in sharp tones against all expats? Of course, there is understandable deep dissatisfaction with the increasing numbers of marginal workers, and there is also deeper dissatisfaction with the appointment of some expatriates in important and sensitive positions in various state facilities although the Kuwaiti expertise available.

"But the question here is: Who caused it? Who brought these enormous numbers into the country? Who hired them these important posts? And who left some expatriates wandering the streets and practicing a new profession every day, entering our homes and learning carpentry, construction, electrical work, health works, and others?"

"All of these individuals entered the country legally, and the government should have followed up these individuals and made sure they left the country after the expiry of their residence permits since this does not require tremendous efforts. All countries do this and they have more numbers and in millions than we have.

"The media and government attack on expatriates in this random manner will not reduce the bulk of the violating employment, because they are originally violators and will not rush to leave as long as the government does not force them to do so.

"But those who leave the country are the honest expatriates, who have made Kuwait a home for them, and they may have lived among us more than they lived in their country and their families, and some of them were born, raised and raised their families, and their children were born on the land of Kuwait. This is not a small percentage.

"Therefore, I was struck when I heard proposals being circulated for fifteen years of residence, as many expatriates and their families lived in Kuwait for forty or fifty years and did not see themselves in another country. Most of these families who are settled in Kuwait spend their money in Kuwait and have influence in the local economy.

"And such a decision threatens the stability of the expatriate and his family and pushes him to leave the country, and we lose the honest loyal expatriates.

"Indeed the demographics will change so that the expatriates become a group of bachelors who will collect wealth and leave and others come after them without any interest or consideration for the country, as long as this country and its laws did not treat them as humans and can feel love and belonging to this land, but have treated them as robots that do the job and leave.

"We must be aware that the newcomers are part of society, and the government should amend and apply the laws firmly and gradually, without fiery statements and media flair to balance the demographics, and to protect the society so that everyone feels safe and stable."

### Also:

"The attack against the expatriates these days has become a prominent feature for a majority of the people -- officials or from those who are looking forward to occupy their green chair at the National Assembly and even from the ordinary citizens on the pretext that Kuwaitis should be given priority over an expatriate and the citizens must enjoy all their rights, while others refuse to use foreign advisors on the pretext there are efficient Kuwaitis who can do the jobs of foreigners," columnist *Abdulaziz Al-Kandari* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Personally, I support the idea of employing efficient Kuwaitis and believe in putting the right man in the right place, why we deal recklessly and irresponsibly when the issue of squandering or embezzling public money shows its ugly hood every now and then irrespective of the nationality of the suspect.

"And when we open small projects, we try to develop the project and bring in talents without looking at the nationality. As for the public job, we often look at the monthly salary which we want in our pocket without any effort or little effort, and this is something unacceptable. In this context, we say that the best of the international firms are managed by Asians and this means the owners of these firms are focusing on efficiency far away from any other criterion.

"However, today, we would like hereby to make it clear and say obviously that the expatriate represents the weak circle in terms of dealing with any problem that surface in our country. In other words, we always hold the expatriate accountable for any problem, because the expatriate is not allowed to vote during the elections, let alone he/she has no impact in the result of these elections and this means that the MP feels that he/she will not lose any vote, as such some MPs hold the expatriates responsible for any problem that may occur in the country.

"Anyway, we would like to ask those who talk about Kuwaitization of the jobs, have you dealt with the problem related to the visa traders who have taken money from the poor expatriates and left them stranded in the street without any control?"

"As a matter of fact, the expatriates are not of a single color and shape, rather there are expatriates who work sincerely and as such we are still in an imperative need of them such as the physicians, teachers and those who work for the judiciary.

"Given the above, we have to protect sincere expatriates irrespective whether they work for the government or in the private sector because they represent the basic element in the development of the country, but with regard to the bad elements, the inefficient, the careless and the uncommitted and the troublemakers, should be actually punished by they expatriates or citizens.

"Meanwhile, most countries of the world seek to attract talent and provide them with comfort and stability, so that they can perform their work efficiently.

"Yes, there may be problems caused by some expatriates and they must be held accountable, and this is the right of the state to pursue the violators but must not look at all expatriates from the same angle.

"We must know that an expatriate does not come except through a Kuwaiti sponsor, and regulating the labor market again needs a serious pause and reading the topic from all its aspects, not to direct the arrows of accusation at the expatriate workers on every occasion, and the problem must be solved away from the media and good dealing with the sensitive issue. Dispensing with expatriates in this way causes many problems for citizens in the form of project delays and price increases.

"The negative perception of migrant workers led to some negative measures being taken towards them, especially through a media focus on some individual cases or increasing financial burdens on them, and the

issue must be dealt with fairly and impartially because they are a basic partner in the Kuwaiti society, and imagine if these countries from the expatriates come stop sending labor to us, then how we shall manage?"

"Today we are paying the price for neglecting important files for many years, such as financial waste and food security as a result of random distribution of farms, e-learning and parachute appointments, but the question remains, will we learn from the lesson or will we accuse the weakest link of all our problems?"

"Therefore, we would like to say enough is enough of racism and negative talk about the expatriates, especially since at the moment they are in the front rows and sacrifice their lives for the sake of their commitment to the noble humanitarian duty irrespective whether these expatriates are from India, the Philippines or Egypt ... we pray to Almighty Allah to bestow his mercy upon all of them."

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"One honest truth is that I am afraid of envy and the eye. Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim had previously been appointed the Minister of Electricity, then Minister of Municipality, then Minister of Works, then member of the Supreme Petroleum Council, then Chairman of the Silk City Authority, and finally, two days ago he was appointed the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Public Authority for Anti-Corruption "Nazaha", although his specialty as an engineer is not related, as the nature of work of the agency necessarily requires its chairman and members to be judges!" *Saud Al-Samak* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Anas Al-Saleh, who said "Kuwait is not a raft," had previously been appointed the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, which includes hundreds of departments. He then became the Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Finance, then again Minister of State, and currently, the Minister of Interior.

"Nayef Al-Hajraf, the Minister of Education who became Minister of Finance, was later nominated for General Secretariat of the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council post.

"Oh God, there is no envy and the eye is cold on them but there is a worthy question the people deliberately ask, which is: What are these exceptional abilities and talents that distinguish these three. What kind of geniuses are the two from the rest of God's creation. Have Kuwaiti women sterilized their wombs from carrying competencies from both male and female?"

"Yes, there must be a hidden secret that only God Almighty knows, and those who are firmly rooted in science are "our governments" in such a matter. Otherwise, Kuwait by nature of birth, has elements that have reached the global level with their various specializations and become references that can be found in many world reputable opinion centers and universities. Why not open the way for them to take their opportunity for public service. Why do they not play a role in building their homeland, as their credentials are among the highest certificates from the most prestigious universities, which are original certificates and not fake or gift of this time amid experiences in managing responsibilities, even if they don't beat these lucky ones?"

"Why don't you open the doors for them to serve their country, considering public service administration is a commissioning work and not an honorary responsibility that is supposed to be a deliberative job? No one has the right to pretend to monopolize it in any way or distribute it in the way of "I will appoint you if I love you", such that public service becomes a national issue when it's assumed that the service is available to all on the basis of integrity and competence. Therefore it is not reasonable for positions of the country to be allocated for the sake of risks without warding off risks.

"The country today, thanks to God, abounds in the competencies of both sexes, which are characterized by the best of competence in managing responsibility in every craftsmanship. The circulation of responsibility is a universal thing and ideology imposed by the requirements of development and culture of creativity. Therefore, there is no place for backward view of public action Greetings."

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"Good news to the people of Kuwait this time, as the charge has fallen on the head of a Bangladeshi! And the implementation covers Kuwait Municipality's cleaning contract for the first time. It involves high class people who facilitated the Bangladeshi corruption," columnist *Dr Moudi Abdulaziz Al-Hammoud* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Unfortunately, it is a comedy which leaves a stinging taste in the mouth every morning. Every morning, we hear news of corruption being repeated with its episodes involving the ruling family members, MPs, leaders and officials from various state institutions such as the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Manpower and others. Every day we hear news and see fingers being pointed at the corrupt people while we count their inflated assets. We closely monitor the signs of wealth on the people we know for certain were living a humble life not too long ago but now stay in palaces built with thriving farms and state-of-the-art chalets. Whenever we ask about the sources of their suspicious wealth, we are told to show evidence. However, those who have the decision-making capability, we believe they see evidence that even the blind can capture.

"We got the good news about the referral of money laundering files to the prosecution. We were glad when we heard about the change in the management of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha). O gentlemen, were you not aware of all of this before the global pressures fell on you from left and right?"

"Praise be to God who is the only one to thank whenever something untoward happens! We have become accustomed to the government's embrace and the indulgence of the corrupt. However, our children and the young people at the age of roses despair as we despair of the bad conditions and the spread of the corruption virus. They ask - Will we see real seriousness in dealing with corruption and corrupt issues? Or should we lose hope and recognize that there are hidden and profound powers - as is rumored - that are managing affairs of the country in accordance to their interests and the interests of their agents?!"

"We do not know what to answer and we have nothing but optimism about the seriousness of His Highness the Prime Minister and the cleanliness of his hand. However, we cannot seriously vouch for others who are in charge of the files, especially the money-laundering file for many years, and did not move a finger. We fear retreat; we see the whirlwind of interpellations and the emergence of scandals. The papers are mixed and the reformers are pushed with asceticism in office, leaving the scene for those who used to tamper with it and the capabilities of the country.

"To God we complain, and to those whose in whose hands is the government's decision, we urge them to stand firm against this situation. We hope to see the law take away the great corrupters, even if it is one of them, over what his hands have done against Kuwait. God is the helper!"

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Kuwait Today

MUGHAL MAHAL

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LEND A HELPING HAND FOR OUR FELLOW INDIANS

Lend a helping hand for our fellow Indians. As we continue to struggle with Coronavirus in Kuwait, we must remind ourselves of how blessed we are to conveniently survive amidst the crisis. But at the same time some of our dear Indian brothers and sisters are striving for basic necessities like ration.

Al Najat Charity Society along with Indian Relief Society is helping those people with food baskets. Our team will ensure your donation provides food provisions so that nobody sleeps hungry in this great country of humanity.

Please donate followed by the mentioned link. <http://alnajat/CommunityOfIndians>