



MUNICIPALITY SHUTS 175 SHOPS ... GUARD RUNS NUZHA CO-OP STORE

Six deaths... 841 cases on lockdown-8



This April 6, 2020 photo provided by Northwestern University shows discoloration on a teenage patient's toes three days after the onset of the condition informally called 'COVID toes'. The red, sore and sometimes itchy swellings on toes look like chilblains, something doctors normally see on the feet and hands of people who've spent a long time outdoors in the cold. (AP)

'Don't race to the emergency room'

COVID toes, rashes signal virus

WASHINGTON, May 18, (AP) - Skin doctors suddenly are looking at a lot of toes - whether by emailed picture or video visit - as concern grows that for some people, a sign of COVID-19 may pop up in an unusual spot. Boston dermatologist Esther Freeman expected to see skin complaints as the pandemic unfolded - various kinds of rashes occur when people get very ill from other viruses. "But I was not anticipating those would be toes," said Freeman of Massachusetts General Hospital, who has viewed via telemedicine more toes in the last several weeks than in her entire career. They're being called "COVID toes," red, sore and sometimes itchy swellings on toes that look like chilblains, something doctors normally see on the feet and hands of people who've spent a long time

outdoors in the cold. Don't race to the emergency room if toes are the only worry, said the American Academy of Dermatology. Earlier this month, it issued advice that a telemedicine check is the first step for people wondering if they have "COVID toes" and who have no other reason for urgent care. Doctors then should decide if the patient should stay in home isolation or get tested. The most common coronavirus symptoms are fever, a dry cough and shortness of breath -- and some people are contagious despite never experiencing symptoms. But as this bewildering virus continues to spread, less common symptoms are being reported including loss of smell, vomiting and diarrhea, and increasingly, a variety of skin problems.

Continued on Page 5

Economy seen co-existing with COVID

KUWAIT CITY, May 18, (Agencies): The Ministry of Health of Kuwait announced Monday that the lethal novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has claimed the lives of six people in the past 24 hours, raising the death toll up to 118.

In his daily coronavirus update, the Health Ministry Spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad stated that 841 people have tested positive for the highly contagious virus today, increasing the overall number of infections in the country to 15,691. He pointed out that 161 patients were in intensive care. Al-Sanad noted that the ministry has conducted 3,838 coronavirus tests in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of tests conducted up to 248,314. Earlier, the Health Ministry announced the recovery of 246 COVID-19 patients, bringing the total to 4,339 recoveries.

Municipality closes shops

Kuwait's Municipality has closed 175 shops in the Capital Governorate in April for violating coronavirus precautionary measures.

Municipality inspection teams issued 352 violations and had stumbled across 140,075 commercial establishments, including cafes, hair salons, restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and livestock and fish markets.

The efforts are being carried out in compliance with the Cabinet and the Ministry of Health decisions, read a statement.

The municipality's general cleaning and road works department sanitised and sterilized 52,560 containers.

It has also placed notices on 2,004 neglected vehicles and impounded another 95, in addition to the issuance of 80 violations on public cleanliness and waste transportation regulations.

Street vendors were handed 37 violations and 91 warnings, while shops were handed 92 violations.

Meanwhile, 13 notices for violations were issued to various real estate properties.

Guard runs Nuzha co-op

The National Guard have taken task of running Al-Nuzha cooperative store to ensure work continuity after its closure due to infections with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The National Guard said in a statement the personnel took charge of operating Al-Nuzha store after succeeding in managing branches of Al-Khaldiyah and Al-Mahboula cooperative societies.

Brigadier Riad Mohammad Tawari, the Guard Assistant for Financial Affairs and Resource Management, said the squad would manage and operate the store to secure basic needs and commodities for the district residents.

Customers can shop by using the telephone, the barcode system and the website. They will be able to get the purchased items at the parking lot. The bought goods can also be delivered at houses of the elderly and the incapable.

A team of the Guard chemical and radiation monitoring center has already sanitized Al-Nuzha shopping store.

Al-Nuzha district, situated in Al-Assima Governorate in the heart of the capital, is populated by some 10,000 people.

Economy seen co-existing

A report published by Al-Qabas daily about the return of normal life but with strict health controls has received positive feedback from the economic circles, all of which confirmed the logical solutions presented in the report and its responsible role in ensuring cohesion of sectors and preventing their collapse, as well as fully adhering to the requirements, health measures and social divergence, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The report highlighted the high costs of closures if the crisis lasts for longer, stressing that that the measures taken to cushion the economy, such as compensating the soft loans and issuing restrictive decisions, will not have any impact if the crisis continues for longer due to which it is inevitable that the community must coexist with the virus, as is the case in various countries in order for the circle of life to continue.

Head of Kuwait Economic Society (KES) Muhannad Al-Sanea said, "Not opening the economy and vital sectors can bring more harm than the coronavirus crisis itself."

He called for "a gradual and organized return to normal life, opening of the economy, and need to coexist with the crisis in a healthy manner, like in many countries of the world". Al-Sanea said, "After the total lockdown ends, we hope the economy will be gradually reopened. If we do not open the

Continued on Page 5



In this May 4, 2020 file photo, a man wears a mask as he waits in line outside the Warrensburg License Office in Warrensburg, Mo. (AP)

Me or We? - Page 2

Opinion

The only solution is to uproot Hezbollah

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

UNDOUBTEDLY, the world knows that Hassan Nasrallah is the de facto ruler of Lebanon, and that Michel Aoun is merely a front in the presidency of the Republic. The second presidency under the era of Hassan Diab era served as a malleable tool to realize the policies of Hezbollah, which suffers from a major crisis and renders it to openly seek changing the face and substance of the state, and threaten the rest of the Lebanese components if they fail to submit to it.

Hezbollah is not only suffocating locally due to the worsening living crisis, but also regionally and globally as it refuses to close the so-called "illegal crossings" that serve as arteries for smuggling diesel and flour that are subsidized in Lebanon.

This happens after its sources of funding in Iran have dried up, and the doors of illegal support were closed through prevention of entry of donations.

The latest of such reports came from Germany where the authorities discovered that Hezbollah's elements have been working on manufacturing weapons and explosives with the aim of carrying out a new wave of terrorist attacks similar to the previous ones executed by this terrorist group in several European cities.

On this basis, Hassan Nasrallah came out last week, confused and speaking the truth about the need to support the national economy, but with wicked intentions to restore relations with the Syrian regime in order to control the borders. However, he already knows that this will not be possible as long as his party controls the loopholes on both sides of the Syrian-Lebanese borders and prevents the Lebanese authorities from manning the borders.

In reality, Hezbollah's eyes are not only focused on controlling the borders that constitutes a temporary source of finance, but its actual objective is to legitimize its absolute rule in Lebanon. It is well aware of the fact that it will lose a lot of grounds, in the event of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as per the prepared plan, because this international organization will take control of seaports, airports, customs and border crossings as soon as the deal is through.

This is why Hezbollah seeks to control Lebanon's economic domains and impose its hand on the banks by cutting their numbers by half in order to facilitate better grip over them, and stand against the governor and senior employees of the Central Bank.

Continued on Page 5

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Calls for probe

WHO's bad?

GENEVA, May 18, (AP) - The European Union and other countries on Monday called for an independent evaluation of the World Health Organization's response to the coronavirus pandemic "to review experience gained and lessons learned."

The resolution has the support of more than half of WHO's member countries and will be discussed this week at the decision-making body of the U.N. health agency, being held virtually this year.

The proposal is intended to initiate "a stepwise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of WHO's efforts to coordinate the international response to COVID-19, including the functioning of international health law and its actions within the greater U.N. health system.

The move comes amid Australia's call for an independent inquiry into the origins of the pandemic and WHO's response to it - and after U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated accusations that WHO helped China cover up the extent of the initial COVID-19 outbreak. Trump has also called for an immediate halt to all U.S. funding to the U.N. health agency.

The EU resolution proposes that the independent evaluation should be initiated "at the earliest appropriate moment" and should, among other issues, examine "the actions of WHO and their timelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic." WHO announced the coronavirus outbreak to be a global health emergency on Jan. 30, its highest level of alert. In the following weeks, WHO warned countries there was a narrowing "window of opportunity" to prevent the virus from spreading globally.

WHO officials, however, repeatedly described the transmission of the virus as "limited" and said it wasn't as transmissible as flu; experts have since said COVID-19 spreads even faster. It declared the outbreak to be a pandemic on March 11, after the virus had killed thousands globally and sparked large epidemics in South Korea, Italy, Iran and elsewhere.

Support

Meanwhile, Australia's foreign minister on Monday welcomed international support for an independent coronavirus pandemic investigation, which has been condemned by China and blamed for a bilateral trade rift.

The European Union has drafted a resolution, cosponsored by dozens of countries including Australia, that has been gaining support and is expected to be approved in a vote at the World Health Assembly in Geneva this week. The resolution before the assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization, calls for an evaluation of the origins of the pandemic and responses to it.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said her government wants to ensure that the resolution stipulates the inquiry should be "impartial, independent and comprehensive."

"We're very encouraged by the growing levels of support for this comprehensive World Health Assembly motion," Payne told reporters. "We look forward to seeing hopefully a positive outcome later this week."

Australia is seen as a leader in rallying global support for an inquiry, attracting Chinese criticism that it is parroting the United States and inviting a Chinese boycott of exports and services. Australian government critics have argued that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative administration should have gathered allies before antagonizing Australia's most important trading partner.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said he hopes Australia will respect China's position, keep in mind Australia's own interests and "create a sound atmosphere for the two sides' pragmatic cooperation by improving ties and deepening mutual trust."

China is looking into trade issues between the sides "in accordance with related laws and World Trade Organization rules," Zhao said.

He said the international consensus is that "anti-epidemic cooperation remains a top priority, and it is not time to immediately activate the review and investigation into origins of the virus."

Payne did not see the level of international support for the inquiry as a victory for Australia.

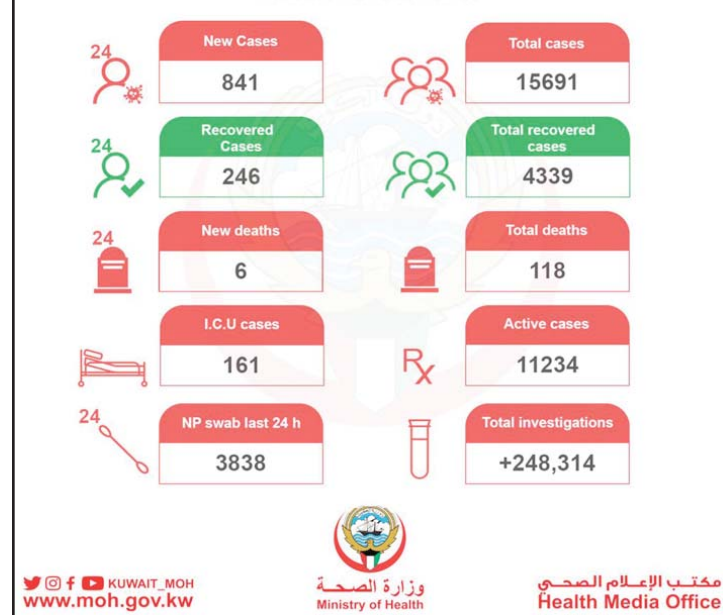
"It's a win for the international community and Australia as a strong and active part of that international community would certainly see it that way," Payne said.

The motion comes as Australian Trade Minister Simon Birmingham imports to resolve a dispute with China over shoppings of Australian beef.

Birmingham said Monday that he had filed for six days to arrange to speak with his Chinese counterpart about China's ban on meat from Australia's four largest abattoirs over labeling issues.

Continued on Page 5

Updates on COVID 19 Mon. 18/05/2020



Newswatch

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said that the number of coronavirus cases is "strongly trending downward throughout the United States, with few exceptions."

He hailed the development in a tweet as a "Very good news, indeed." Earlier in the day, Trump told reporters that "tremendous progress is being made on many fronts, including coming up with a cure for this horrible plague that has beset our country."

He also tweeted "doing really well, medically, on solving the Coronavirus situation (Plague!). It will happen!"

This comes as the state of Texas saw its highest single day increase in positive coronavirus cases since the outbreak of the pandemic.

At least 1,801 cases have been reported, bringing the total number of cases to 48,396 in the state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Texas is one of the states that has allowed some nonessential businesses to reopen. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Ministry of Health declared two new deaths from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) bringing fatalities' tally since outbreak of the contagion in the nation to 123.

The ministry said in a statement 144 new infection cases were recorded, thus the whole number of contamination cases climbed to 3,404 across the country including Iraq's Kurdistan.

So far, there have been 2,218 recoveries. (KUNA)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia declared recording 10 new deaths due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in addition to 2,735 new infection cases from the pandemic.

Official spokesperson of the ministry of health, Dr. Mohammad Abdulali, said in his regular daily briefing about status of the contagion in the kingdom that total number of fatalities from the virus climbed to 312 and infections to 54,752.

Number of recoveries increased to 25,722 after registering 2,056 new recuperation cases, he said, adding that 202 patients remained in intensive care wards. (KUNA)

MANAMA: Up to 183 cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in Bahrain in past hours, said health authorities Sunday.

There were also 12 people recovering from the virus, which put the tally at 2,774, affirmed the Bahraini Health Ministry.

Those still receiving treatment amount to 4,144 of which six are in intensive care. (KUNA)