

## New mechanism goes hand in hand with automated system

## PAM's IT dept to activate May 30 salary certificate request

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: The Information Technology Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) will activate on May 30 the salary certificate request on the new automated system, through which the work permit renewal transactions are accepted, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources from the authority.

Sources explained that in July last year, PAM allowed the renewal of work permits for employees registered in the files of employers without the need to submit a salary certificate. The

employers are only required to submit an undertaking (acknowledgment and pledge to pay the workers' salaries) with an agreement to submit the salary statement when requested by the authority, along with the possibility of obtaining the acknowledgment on the website, sources added.

Last October, the authority launched the service for entering deficiencies and then stopped it for some time. By the end of this month, it will be re-activated; so the employers can enter deficiencies related to certificates once

they are re-activated on May 30, sources disclosed.

Sources said: "The new mechanism for issuing certificates goes hand in hand with the automated system launched by the authority recently. It will not be burdensome for the employers as all that is required for them to do is to transfer salaries through a bank and then enter any deficiencies in this regard, in the event that the percentage of salaries falls below the rate specified by the Labor Inspection Department.

"Once entered, the employer can complete the renewal procedure; unless there is any suspension in the file that prevents him from doing so. He must know the reason behind the suspension and try to avoid it. The certificate will be approved in all government agencies," sources added.

Sources emphasized that PAM endeavors to ease procedures for employers without prejudice to the obligations imposed on the production parties as stipulated in the Labor Law and its implementing decisions.

# PAM team monitors health decisions implementation

Minister opens Al-Naseem, Al-Masayel centers for vaccination

By Faris Al-Abdan and Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: The occupational safety specialist at the Public Authority for Manpower, Eng Hanan Al-Muhammad, giving the statistics of the tours carried out by the field team in charge of following up and monitoring the implementation of health requirements for women's activities from August 2020 until last Saturday, said the team made 21,449 visits, during which 3,860 warnings were issued, 407 citations were issued, and two women's salons were closed



PAM team members during the inspection tour.



Kuwait's FM meets with Yemen's Dr Ahmad bin Mubarak and Jordan's Aymad Safadi.

## FM meets Yemeni, Jordanian counterparts

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah met with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad Awadh bin Mubarak, on fringes of an extraordinary Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting due in the Cairo-based

Arab League on Monday. The two top officials discussed ways of boosting bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Dr Ahmad also met

with his Jordanian counterpart Aymad Safadi and discussed means of further promoting relations between the two countries, in addition to a host of regional and global matters of mutual interest. (KUNA)

## Al-Mutairi submits bill to amend Handicapped Affairs Law

'Several MPs call for special session to check govt readiness to tackle various strains of coronavirus'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim has confirmed receiving the proposal of several MPs, including MP Osama Al-Menawer, to hold a special session for deliberation on the government's readiness to deal with various strains of coronavirus; as well as the related decisions and regulations.

Al-Ghanim told the journalists that he informed the interim government about the proposal and he is now waiting for its response. He thanked Al-Menawer and his colleagues for not specifying a date for the special session; thereby, giving the interim government enough time to edit the relevant bills and fully prepare for the session.

Asked what could be the opinion of the interim government regarding the special session considering it has already resigned and it is currently serving in acting capacity, Al-Ghanim pointed out it is up to the interim government to decide whether the proposed special session is urgent or not. He affirmed that he will inform the proponents of the special session once he receives the response of the interim government.

In another development, MP Saleh Ziyab Al-Mutairi submitted a bill to amend Handicapped Affairs Law No. 73/2020 to add the fourth category of handicapped - total disability. The current law stipulates only three categories - minor, medium and severe disabilities. The bill changes the phrase 'servant allowance' to 'nursing service allowance' for those taking care of persons with disabilities. It stipulates offering training courses and qualification programs for the parents and relatives of the handicapped.

### Privileges

The bill stipulates granting privileges to women who are taking care of a handicapped child without the need to obtain a certificate from the Ministry of Interior stating that they are treated like Kuwaitis. This is in addition to increasing the loan amount granted to the handicapped for the construction or repair of their houses. It allows male and female employees to retire early in order to take care of a handicapped family member, provided they have been in service for 15 years.

MP Soud Bu Sleeb has proposed amending Housing Welfare Law No. 47/1993, specifying KD100 as monthly installment for housing loans granted to citizens. He explained that he submitted the proposal after noticing the monthly installment for housing loans sometimes eats up almost half of the citizens' salary.

He also submitted a bill on cancelling Cybercrimes Law No. 63/2015 as it violates the citizens' freedom of speech.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary Budgets and Final Accounts Committee discussed Monday the budget of the Ministry of Electricity and Water for fiscal 2021/2020.

Committee Chairman MP Badr Al-Mullah confirmed the attendance of the representatives of the Ministry of Electricity

and Water, Ministry of Finance, State Audit Bureau (SAB), Financial Controllers Bureau (FCB) and Civil Service Commission (CSC). He revealed the total revenues of the ministry reached KD311 million, while the expenditures totaled KD2.6 billion; hence, the deficit is almost KD2.3 billion. He said 65 percent of the expenditures were on power and distillation plants, indicating the ministry failed to implement its plan for five years which ended in March 2020.

He added the target power production was 21,000 megawatts, while the actual production was 19,500 thousand megawatts. He went on to say that no funds were allotted for the provision of main power plants in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port and Buobyan Island although this item was included in the budget of the ministry for the last three fiscal years. He revealed the committee asked the ministry to refrain from transferring any money from one item to another in the budget for fiscal 2021/2022.

### Supply

He disclosed the State allotted around KD5 billion for Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) to supply the Ministry of Electricity and Water with the oil it needs for power and water production.

He said the decree issued on January 1, 1980 concerning the accounting system between KNPC and the ministry needs revision; indicating SAB highlighted an agreement that the two parties signed in 2015 in this regard. He pointed out the Ministry of Electricity and Water disclosed that it voiced objection to the agreement in 2017, then the dispute was referred to the Council of Ministers for settlement. The Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee on Monday tackled several bills, which were referred to the concerned committees.

Committee Chairman MP Khalid Ayed confirmed the unanimous approval of bills on general amnesty, indicating the relevant report has been completed and it will be included in the agenda of the upcoming session.

Ayed revealed the committee rejected the request to lift the immunity of MP Badr Al-Dahoum, because it found out that the case filed against the latter is malicious.

The committee approved one bill on granting social support to the elderly and two bills on granting more support to citizens working in the private sector. These three bills were referred to the concerned committees, he added. He continued saying that the report on the proposal to expand the scope of freedom of speech will be referred to the Assembly soon to pave way for its inclusion in the agenda of the next session. Furthermore, MP Osama Al-Shaheen forwarded queries to interim Minister of Justice Nawaf Al-Yasseen about the number of individuals who benefited from Article 153 of the Penal Code in the last five years. He said this article stipulates commutation of death penalty to three years imprisonment for whoever killed his sister or daughter in what is known as 'honor crimes'.

for not complying with the directives issued by the Council of Ministers and the health authorities.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah daily she said the team paid surprise visits to eight hotels in the Hawalli Governorate during this week to ensure compliance with health procedures and other requirements.

She pointed out there is a good level of awareness and cooperation from hotels, as the tour focuses on ensuring social distancing between individuals, providing sterilizers and disinfectants, checking temperature and wearing masks. She added there are some people who do not have awareness of wearing masks, and this is what we suffer most from, especially since we need at this stage awareness, cooperation, and a move away from complacency.

She explained the team consists of members from the Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Public Authority for Manpower, and recently the Council of Ministers have added Interior Ministry personnel to the team.

Al-Muhammad confirmed that if hotels do not comply with health procedures and requirements, they will be first warned before issuing a citation and then if the establishment fails to abide by the decisions and instructions it will be closed administratively.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health opened the Al-Naseem and Al-Masayel Health Centers to expand the areas for vaccination against Covid-19 pandemic to help the Kuwait Vaccination Center at the Mishref Fairgrounds to cope with the rush, which is part of the 35 preventive health centers in the country which will go into service after the arrival of sufficient amounts of vaccines.

### Sufficiently

Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basil Al-Sabah, during his visit to Al-Masayel Center, said if the required number of vaccines is sufficiently available, the ministry will finish vaccinating everyone this year, and it is expected that a big number of citizens who are registered with the ministry's online platform will be vaccinated by next September, if sufficient vaccinations are available.

He added the current studies show the vaccination capacity ranges between 250 to 300 thousand doses per month if vaccines are available, pointing out that the number of Kuwaitis eligible for the vaccine is about 850,000 and it is assumed that they will be vaccinated within 3 months, but all this necessarily depends on the availability of the vaccine.

Dr Al-Sabah added there is a global problem to supply vaccines, and according to what international news reports show 10 countries have access to vaccines and the rest of the world is deprived of the vaccine. However, he said he is optimistic about the availability of large batches of vaccines in the country within a month from now, explaining that the supply of the Pfizer vaccine is happening in a weekly manner, while the Oxford vaccine is supplied in large quantities infrequently.

Al-Sabah pointed out that although the daily capacity for vaccination at the Mishref center reaches 10,000 per day, by opening the two clinics it will reach 20,000 per day, but the lack of availability of vaccines is the stumbling block for the ministry to reach the maximum number per day.

He pointed to the launch of mobile units for home vaccination in a limited manner at present but will gradually increase because of the current pressure on vaccination centers and the need for more safety measures to be taken.

This is in addition to providing, an integrated medical team of doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians and called on all citizens and medical staff to adhere to appointments and not rush to the vaccination centers before the specified dates to avoid crowding.

He added the Military Hospital began vaccinating the front rows of its members and their families yesterday at the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the National Guard, the Fire Department, and the KOC Hospital as well, pointing to the continuous communication with them to vaccinate workers in the oil sectors, as well as in care homes and indicated the vaccination process has begun inside the prisons.



HH the Amir (right) with HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak.

## HH Amir receives Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak

HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace, Monday, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

## HH the Amir 'condoles' Indian president on avalanche victims

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8. (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind over the victims of an avalanche that took place in northern India.

His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow solace on

families of the victims, and that officials in India would overcome impacts of this natural disaster.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah met with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riadh Al-Malki on fringes of an extraordinary Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting in the Cairo-based Arab League, Monday. The two top officials discussed ways of boosting bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. (KUNA)

## Meet aims to develop panel's work plan

## Responsibility of each body over ozone layer emissions discussed

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: The Executive Committee for the Protection of the Ozone Layer held its first meeting this year at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) with the aim of developing the committee's work plan for the current year, reports Al-Anba daily quoting reliable sources.

They explained that the committee discussed in its meeting the responsibility of each body regarding the effects of the harmful emissions on the ozone layer and their conformity with international standards, as well as attempts to reduce them in line with Kuwait's obligations in terms of the international treaties.

During the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Public Authority for

Industry and the General Customs Department, the steps taken by these entities were discussed along with their contributions in this regard and the necessary steps to be taken to reduce their emissions.

EPA had agreed with the Ministry of Electricity and Water to install emissions measurement devices in its stations which would be directly connected with the EPA system in order for the authority to monitor emissions based on the fuel used, as the ministry will rely a lot on clean fuel in the next stage, as it will contribute to reducing the plant emissions significantly.

The sources said the issue of factory emissions, the standards and procedures used to reduce them, and the specifications that must be followed, on the basis of which licenses are granted to factories, were also discussed.

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

Monday 2021/02/08

<p>996</p> <p>إصابة جديدة</p> <p>NEW CASES</p> <p>الإجمالي: 171,994</p>	<p>3</p> <p>حالة وفاة جديدة</p> <p>NEW DEATHS</p> <p>الإجمالي: 969</p>	<p>582</p> <p>حالة تعافى جديدة</p> <p>NEW RECOVERIES</p> <p>الإجمالي: 162,120</p>
<p>90</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات في العناية المركزة</p> <p>TOTAL SERIOUS CASES</p>	<p>8,905</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات التي تتلقى العلاج</p> <p>TOTAL ACTIVE CASES</p>	<p>8,864</p> <p>مسحة جديدة</p> <p>NEW TESTS</p> <p>الإجمالي: 1,608,305</p>

يرجى الالتزام بالإجراءات الصحية من لبس الكمام، وغسل اليدين والتباعد الاجتماعي

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