

# Kuwait: Zero COVID-19 deaths, 701 new cases

## Recoveries up to 66,099 with 648 more patients healed

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Health said yesterday 701 people tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 24 hours, but no death cases were registered. Total registered infections climbed to 74,486 while fatalities remained at 489, Ministry of Health (MoH) spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a press statement. The health ministry had reported earlier that 648 people recovered from the virus within the same period, taking the total of recoveries up to 66,099.

Dr Sanad said the new cases of infection include 500 Kuwaiti nationals, or 71.33 percent, and 201 non-Kuwaitis, or 28.67 percent. He further explained that the cases' distribution in medical zones was as follows: 209 in Ahmadi, 172 in Jahra, 127 in Farwaniya, 99 in Hawally and 94 in Capital. Furthermore, he revealed that 118 patients were in the intensive care units, while the total number of patients receiving treatment was 7,898. Moreover, Dr Sanad said health care workers conducted 4,147 swab tests in the past 24 hours, raising total swabs since the outbreak of the pandemic to 548,005. — KUNA



## Ministry announces 2020-2021 academic year's calendar

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education (MOE) on Wednesday approved the 2020-2021 academic year's calendar for staff and students in all educational stages at public and Arabic private schools, during which classes will remain online pending updates from the ministry. According to the calendar, the new year will begin on October 4, 2020 for all stages and end on May 6 for kindergarten, on June 13 for primary and intermediate stage and on June 24 for secondary stage.

The calendar also shows that the mid-term vacation will be in the period of February 14-24, 2021, whereas the final exams for grade 12 will be held in the period of June 13-24, 2021. Accordingly, MOE stated that all schools have been disinfected and cleaned before teachers start work on resuming the remaining period of the academic year 2019-2020 for the grade 12 stage, adding that all teachers underwent special training courses to provide e-learning using the 'Microsoft Teams' software. MOE also stressed that all precautionary measures are strictly followed in various schools in terms of wearing masks and gloves, social distancing and using sterilizers.

In other news, audit and control bodies in Kuwait are currently looking into the economic feasibility of the education ministry's decision to extend contracts to hire buses and drivers to transport school students despite the decision to opt to online learning for the coming period, a local daily reported yesterday. "This topic was brought to attention when the education ministry repeatedly asked to extend the contracts despite the precautionary measures taken to fight COVID-19 and the fact that transportation is not needed for the time being," Al-Rai daily reported quoting sources.

## Police investigates Jleeb woman's 'mysterious' death

**KUWAIT:** An Asian woman died and another person was hospitalized after suffering from severe suffocation inside an apartment in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on Wednesday, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said. Firemen from Jleeb Fire Station and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hazardous substances unit had rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of death, especially since no fire was involved in the incident.

### Fatal accident

Two people died and another was critically injured in an accident reported on Jahra Road on Wednesday. Firemen and paramedics rushed to the scene where the accident was reported, but found out after arriving that two of the victims had succumbed to their injuries, while the third was transported to Al-Sabah Hospital with severe injuries. An investigation was opened into the accident. Meanwhile, two motorists were injured when their vehicles collided with each other on Seventh Ring Road on Wednesday. The victims, Kuwaiti and Arab national, were hospitalized with mild injuries. A case was filed to investigate the cause of the accident.

### Suicide

An Asian woman was found dead in her Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh apartment in a case that was classified as suicide according to pre-



**KUWAIT:** A firefighter is seen inside the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh apartment where a woman was found dead and another person seriously injured.

liminary investigations. Firefighters who reported to the scene in response to an emergency call found the victim's body hanging from the ceiling of one of the rooms in her apartment, KFSD said. A case was filed for further investigations.

### Landmine explosion

A shepherd from Mali died in an explosion that happened when he stepped on a landmine near Ahmad Al-Jaber Base, said security sources. A case was filed for investigations.

### Drug possession

Hawalli detectives arrested a citizen who violated the partial curfew while being under the influence of drugs. Police also found drugs in his possession. Case papers indicate that Hawalli patrol officers suspected a vehicle that was driving during the curfew



**A heavily damaged vehicle seen after an accident reported on Jahra Road.**

hours, and ordered the driver to pull over. They searched him after noticing that he was acting strangely, and placed him under arrest after finding the drugs. The man was referred to relevant authorities pending further legal action.