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No more extensions for visit visas

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: All foreigners in Kuwait on visit visas should leave by August 31. Due to the closure of the airport in mid-March, the interior ministry extended the validity of visit visas first until May 31 and then again until August 31. But now with the airport reopened, it is unlikely there will be further extensions, a senior MoI official told Kuwait Times.

Brigadier Tawheed Al-Kandari, Director General for Public Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior, said the government provided enough time for people on visit visas to leave the country through the automatic extension of their visas for a total of six months. "This period is enough for people to leave the country without facing legal sanctions. It's not clear yet if any other extension will be given after the latest extension expires on August 31," he told Kuwait Times. Currently, no visit visas are being issued. "The ministry is not issuing any kind of entrance visa. But the situation is being reassessed regularly, and this may change in the future," Kandari added.

Foreign Minister receives phone call from WFP chief

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah Thursday received an audiovisual call from Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP) David Beasley. During the phone conversation, Beasley expressed appreciation and gratitude for Kuwait's humanitarian role in supporting Lebanon following the Beirut Port blast on August 4th. He also commended the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for contributing to the rebuilding of Lebanon's grain silo as a sign of support for the Lebanese people under these difficult circumstances. —KUNA

Listing of Shamal Az-Zour signifies confidence in Boursa Kuwait: Osaimi

'Boursa Kuwait plays an important part in creating opportunities'

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait announced the listing of Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula Power and Water Company KSPC in its 'Premier Market', and that trading of the company's stocks will commence from today's opening trading session under the ticker symbol 'AZNOULA'. The company is included in the Utilities sector, and its inclusion on the exchange brings the total number of listed companies to 173, while the "Premier Market" now includes 19 listed companies.

"The inclusion of Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula Power and Water Company on the Kuwaiti stock exchange signifies the first fruitful cooperation with the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects," said Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi, Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, adding that he hopes to see further significant listings including state-owned entities, after their initial public offerings to citizens in the coming years, and more specifically, those related to the oil and gas sector.

"Boursa Kuwait is committed to offering an efficient best-in-class listing platform that operates in line with international standards, and the exchange continuously develops its products and services for the benefit of issuers and investors alike. This listing reflects the confidence of market players in Boursa Kuwait, which in turn, will continue to work towards creating new opportunities and broadening horizons for all

its listed companies," he added.

Osaimi highlighted that the strategy adopted by the exchange is a flexible one that serves the public interest and aims to attract operational entities that will undoubtedly add value in the coming period. He also added that the exchange will spare no efforts in providing products and services that



Company listed on 'Premier Market'

keep pace with the aspirations of the local and foreign investment communities through its series of market development.

"Boursa Kuwait operates with the transparency and best-

authorities and in cooperation with Central Bank of Kuwait, in order to maintain a safe work environment.

He pointed out that the employees' Work Resumption Guide and Plan developed during the past months included detailed protocols for the measures taken by the bank, as well as a thorough sterilization process for different facilities, as well as applying health controls at all branches of the bank.

Ablani noted that social distancing and wearing masks always during official working hours are an essential part of the strict rules applied by the bank, since the early days of the pandemic. Additionally, the bank took precautionary actions by installing hand sanitization stations, frequent distribution of masks and sanitizers, measuring the temperature of employees, as well as sterilizing all floors on a daily and weekly basis, putting social distancing ground marks, and use of electronic forms and digital services to prevent any possible spreading of infection.

Ablani indicated that Human Resources Group is greatly intensifying awareness campaigns to keep employees continuously updated with all measures through the bank's social media platforms, which is witnessing noticeable interaction from employees.

On the other hand, Ablani stressed that the bank, in general, encourages its employees to lead a healthy life. To this end, the bank recently launched a 3-month



Emad Al-Ablani



special Health Care Program for its employees, as part of its continuous efforts to keep them in good mental and physical health during this exceptional period.

Ablani said that this pandemic demonstrated the bank's possession of highly professionally competent and responsible human cadre, as, despite these difficult circumstances, they were able to extend all kinds of support and assistance to the bank's customers to get through this crisis. Noting that the bank spares no effort to provide utmost support to and investment in its employees, which places it at the top of private sector institutions attracting talented, experienced and competent individuals.

NBK recognizes the importance of improving the health and safety of key stakeholders, including employees and customers, as an integral part of Sustainable Development Approach. Therefore, the bank works to update its Health and Safety Policy formalized according to the best regional and international practices related to health and safety issues.

Increase in NBK staff awareness of health measures

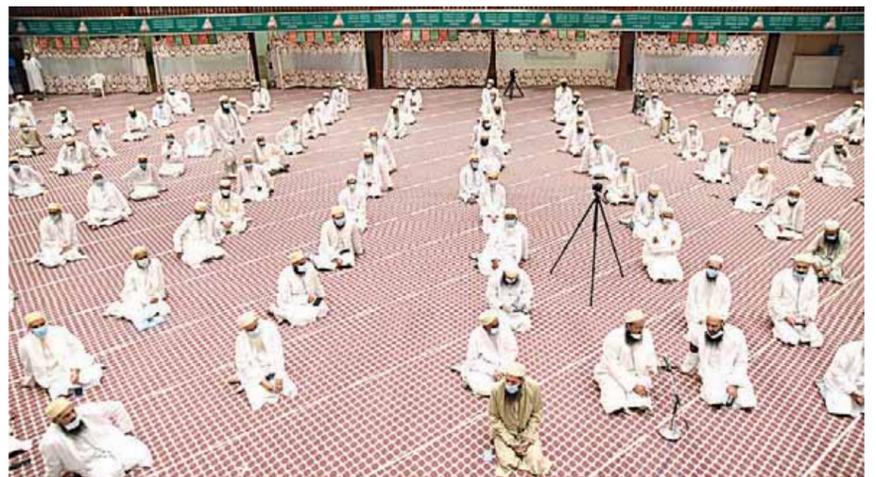
KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced that the results of its recent employees' survey showed high levels of awareness and confidence of its employees in the health and safety measures taken by the bank during Work Resumption Plan.

The survey conducted during the period from the end of July until the first week of August showed a significant increase in the level of employees' awareness of the health and safety measures taken by the bank to about 96 percent, which is higher than the score registered in the May survey, as well as an increase in the level of employees' confidence in the measures taken under Work Resumption Plan to 87 percent.

Commenting on the results of the survey, General Manager - Head of Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, Emad Al-Ablani said that the bank conducts many surveys periodically to measure the level of employees' adherence to and confidence in the measures implemented to contain the spread of coronavirus pandemic, in order to ensure their safety, as well as ensure smooth work flow.

Ablani added that the bank's Human Resources Group have exerted diligent and great efforts since the early days of COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that preventive and precautionary measures are in place at all the bank's facilities, in line with the guidelines of health

Bohra community prays for Amir's health



KUWAIT: A supplication session was held after Juma'a Prayer on Friday at the Burhan Center of the Bohra Community in Ardiya, beseeching Allah Almighty for the speedy recovery of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, praying for His safe return to Kuwait. The session was opened by reciting verses of the Holy Quran, and the Lauding Poem of the good traits of Our Prophet (PBUH). The worshippers then supplicated for the speedy recovery of His Highness the Amir. Representative of His Holiness Sultan of the Bohra Community, Sheikh Yahia Badri, gave a sermon started by praying for the blessings of Allah be upon Our Prophet, His Family, and All of His Companions. He reminded the Bohra Community of the necessity for taking all precautions to ward off the dangers of COVID-19, observing social distancing, and wearing facemasks.

He supplicated to Allah Almighty to bestow speedy recovery, long living, good health and safety from all evils on His Highness the Amir. Sheikh Yahia also expressed deep gratitude for the patronage of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and the government for the Bohra Community, who lives in peace on this kind land. "As a token of gratitude, we should thank Allah for His graces we enjoy in Kuwait. It is indeed that speaking of such graces is a token of thanking to Allah, Who promised a great reward for those who thank Him. Allah, the Almighty, says in the Munificent Quran, 'If you give thanks, I will give you more,'" he said.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Youssef Badri recalled that His Holiness the Bohra Sultan always advises his followers to live peacefully in peace on this kind land, strictly complying with all regulations, rules and laws of Kuwait, as well as sharing the responsibility for developing this country through various services and trading. He expressed his highest considerations and gratitude to the government, represented by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and his Cabinet members, for the relentless efforts they exert for containing COVID-19 and better protecting the health of locals



and expatriates on equal footing.

He also thanked the members of the National Assembly and the noble people of Kuwait, who are distinguished for their benevolence and good manners. "They also offer in-kind aids, exempting tenants of rentals, and paying salaries to their employees during the lockdown period," he said. He praised all societies and charitable organizations "for their huge efforts in helping people during such hard and harsh circumstances." The session ended by supplication for bestowing good health on His Highness the Amir and for his safe return to Kuwait sooner, and praying for His Highness the Crown Prince to enjoy permanent good health.

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