

Stimulus continues for private sector

Labour Ministry announces criteria for 50 per cent payment of Bahraini private-sector workers' salary

● The measures, which runs for three months, starts this month

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Salary payments of Bahrainis working in the private sector companies hard-hit by the coronavirus outbreak will continue as planned, confirmed Labour minister while announcing the required criteria.

The extension of stimulus measures, which runs for three more months, starting July, covers companies "wholly or partially disrupted by the pandemic", said Jameel Humaidan. The latest move, as approved by the Cabinet, will support 50 per cent of salaries for insured citizens employed in the private sector beginning this month.

The government had said it was spending BD 215 million (\$570 million) on paying salaries to all 100,000 of its citizens employed in the private sector from April to June to help soften the



Jameel Humaidan

economic blow from the coronavirus outbreak. Authorities also extended the three-month assistance to Bahraini citizens

by paying electricity and water bills.

Most adversely affected companies will be picked by the reviewing the list of employers who benefited from the first package as part of the BD4.3 billion stimulus, the minister said.

"This will then be referred to the SIO to transfer the payments," Humaidan said thanking His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the unified government response to COVID-19 and preventing liquidity strains.

A dynamic list of adversely affected companies which includes travel, aviation, hospitality real estate and local newspapers among 20 others have been prepared. Detailed list in the box.

Eligibility criteria

Payments, Humaidan said, will be credited to eligible Bahrainis' accounts during the fourth week of every month by Social Insurance Organisation using the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The programme will cover companies whose activities are "wholly or partially disrupted by the pandemic, impacting its ability to meet the wages of its employees, retained its Bahraini employees during the year 2020, and expressed commitment to paying the remaining portion of the salaries in full and without deduction, and on the date set for salary payments," the minister said.

To be eligible, Bahrainis workers should have "insured by end June 2020 or employed and insured through the National Employment Programme by the end of the month that precedes the date of disbursement".

Bahrain minister of finance and national economy Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa earlier said that the "additional package of measures will further reduce pressure on house-

THE SECTORS COVERED BY THE STIMULUS

Travel and aviation,
Hospitality and restaurants,
personal services (salons and gyms, games and entertainment halls),
Industrial, health, transportation,
Rehabilitation and training (including kindergartens),
Retail (other than food),
Administrative services (public relations, media, and event organization),
Real estate and contracting,
Engineering and technical offices,
Local newspapers and magazines,
Other affected sectors excluding those in financial, telecommunications, science, technical and professional activities, as well as universities and schools.

BD215

million stimulus package announced for April to June period covered the salaries of 100,000 citizens

holders and families across the Kingdom."

Minister Humaidan paid special tribute to the Cabinet, chaired by HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and the continued support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.



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Deadly restaurant blaze kills a woman, injures two in Sanabis



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A deadly blaze broke out at a restaurant in Sanabis claimed the life of a 44-year-old woman and injured two others.

The fire erupted as workers were carrying out maintenance works at one of the ceremony halls adjacent to the restaurant, eyewitnesses at the scene told Tribune.

Welding works were ongoing at the time of the accident to renovate the facilities of the hall.

The woman, reportedly, an African national, died of asphyxia -suffocation to inhalation of smoke- as she tried to take cover from the fire on the first floor.

Police who reached the scene immediately rescued many others who were trapped in the restaurant.

Eyewitnesses confirmed to



In pictures, firefighters at the scene of the blaze

Tribune that none of them suffered any injuries.

Ministry of Interior tweeted that nine fire vehicles, as well as 40 police officers, were sent

to the scene to put out the fire. The tweet confirmed that nine people were saved, including two with injuries. All others rescued from the scene are safe.

Zero deaths, 615 recoveries

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Bahrain yesterday reported zero coronavirus (COVID-19) deaths, the third such instance in four months without a fatality, with the number of deaths remaining at 104.

There are currently 53 COVID-19 patients in the Kingdom, who are in a critical condition, the ministry tweeted late night yesterday.

The number of patients currently receiving treatment at various facilities in the Kingdom is 83.

The ministry also said it conducted 7,639 COVID-19 tests yesterday, raising the total number of tests conducted to 656,659 since the Kingdom detected its first case in February.

Health authorities also detected 431 new cases yesterday, of which 228 are expatriate workers, 201 are contacts of active cases, and two others are travel related.

Besides, the ministry recorded 615 recoveries from COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the total recoveries to date to 27,828.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the Kingdom is 32,470, as of yesterday.

All over the globe, the number of virus cases has touched 12,807,189 at the time of writing this story. The number of deaths has reached over 566,457. There are also 7,461, 093 recoveries.

Globally new cases recorded almost touched 200,000 yesterday as new deaths also rose to more than 4,500.

GCC roundup

In Saudi Arabia, the health ministry there reported 30 deaths from COVID-19 yesterday, which is also the lowest daily rate in the Kingdom for a week.

The ministry also confirmed 2,994 new confirmed cases, with 10pc of all new cases recorded in Riyadh. Recoveries increased to 165,396 after 2,370



more patients were cured of the infection. A total of 2,181 people have succumbed to the virus in the Kingdom so far.

Two deaths in UAE

The UAE reported 473 new coronavirus cases yesterday after carrying out 47,000 additional tests. The country now has 54,050 infections to date, state news agency WAM reported.

Health minister there announced two death taking the total death toll to 330. The number of recoveries has risen to 43,969 after 399 patients were declared free of the virus.

1,083 new cases in Oman

The Oman health ministry yesterday reported 1,083 new cases of coronavirus, 1,030 recoveries and four new deaths. Out of the new cases, 784 were

nationals while 297 were expatriates.

With this, the total number of cases in the sultanate has touched 54,697, while total recoveries now stand at 35,225. Total deaths increased to 248.

Three deaths in Kuwait

Kuwait yesterday reported 478 new COVID-19 cases and three more deaths, raising the tally of infections to 54,058 and the death toll to 386, the health ministry said in a statement.

Currently, 9,711 patients are receiving treatment, including 150 in ICU, the statement added.

The ministry also announced the recovery of 747 more patients, raising the total recoveries in the country to 43,961.

Kuwait started on June 30 the second phase of restoring normal life, which will last three weeks.