

## BUSINESS

## India rejigs energy exploration rules

India on Thursday revamped rules for future exploration and production of oil and gas blocks in its efforts to attract private investment and increase domestic production.

India imports four out of every five barrels of crude oil it consumes and is likely to shell out more than \$100 billion on oil purchases in 2018/19.

"The emphasis of the new rules is for raising hydrocarbon produc-

tion," Dharmendra Pradhan, India's oil minister said in New Delhi.

Under the new rules, producers will be given pricing and marketing freedom that is currently non-existent in natural gas blocks in India. Explorers will also be given financial incentives for early production from their blocks, Pradhan said.

"Fiscal incentive is also provided on additional gas production from domestic fields over

and above normal production," a government statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is seeking re-election in a few months, has targeted a 10 percent reduction to India's dependence on imported crude by 2022.

However, India's dependence has increased from 78 percent in 2014/15 to an estimated 84 percent in 2018/19, government data shows. (RTRS)

## Kuwait index wraps up week with modest rise

Commercial Bank up 22 fils, Ooredoo dips

By John Mathews  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 21:** Kuwait stocks pulled higher on Thursday to wind up the week on a firm note. The All Shares Index climbed 18.96 pts in a slightly volatile session to 5,251.07 points paced by heavyweights even as investors toed a cautiously positive stance.

The Prime Market rose 21.18 pts to 5,502.33 points while Main Market scaled 14.55 pts to end at 4,791.09 points. The volume turnover meanwhile shrank following the two-day rise. Over 116 million shares changed hands – a 34.38 pct drop from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in the green turf. Banks outshone the rest with 0.59 percent gain whereas oil and gas slid 2 pct, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, banks accounted for the highest market share of 51.6 pct and financial services trailed with 22.9 percent contribution.

Among the stand out performers, National Bank of Kuwait rose 5 fils to 885 fils on back of 2.6 million shares and Burgan Bank climbed 11 fils with brisk trading. Commercial Bank jumped 20 fils and KIPCO added 5 fils.

Zain dialed up 2 fils with a volume of 1.8 million and Ooredoo slid 25 fils to 725 fils taking the month's losses to 13 fils. Kuwait Telecommunications Co (VIVA) took in 1 fils and Agility was up 5 fils at 810 fils.

The market opened firm and ticked up in early trade. The main index sagged slightly to bottomed at 5,231 pts and see sawed well past the mid-session. It revved up in the final hour to close with modest gains.

Top gainer of the day, Warba Insurance Co rallied 7.3 pct to 66 fils while KFIC climbed 6.5 percent to stand next. Amwal skidded 6.61 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and Burgan Bank topped the volume with over 21 million shares.

Mirroring the day's upswing, the winners outnumbered the losers. 61 stocks advanced whereas 43 closed lower. Of the 120 counters active on Thursday, 16 closed flat, 4,331 deals worth KD 25.4 million were transacted – down 18.4 pct in value from the day before.

National Industries Group ticked 1 fil higher to 169 fils and Mezzan Holding dialed up 2 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co fell 3 fils to 927 fils and Al Qurain Petrochemical Co scaled 4 fils to 378 fils. Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Co took in 2 fils.

Jazeera Airways rose 4 fils to 734 fils trimming the month's losses to 6 fils and ALAFCO scaled 6 fils to end at 290 fils. Combined Group Contracting Co and YIACO paused at 302 fils and 85 fils respectively while UPAC gave up 5 fils before settling at 85 fils.

Kuwait Portland Cement rose 5 fils to KD 1.235 and Hilal Cement followed suit to end at 87 fils. ACICO Industries slipped 8 fils to 164 fils and Equipment Holding ticked 0.9 fil into green.

Salbocoh fell 1.8 fils and Warbacap took in 1 fil to end at 75 fils. Al Rai Media Group closed flat at 60 fils. Gulf Cable fell 3 fils to 373 fils and Independent Petroleum Group shed 10 fils.

## French business survey surprises to the upside

**LONDON, Feb 21, (RTRS):** Eurozone government bond yields rose after surveys showed business activity was surprisingly firm in February, particularly in France, and on news that British lawmakers could vote on a new Brexit deal as soon as next week.

French business activity rose more than expected as manufacturing growth helped offset slack in services that has dogged firms in the wake of anti-government protests, the French purchasing managers' index (PMI) showed.

Corresponding surveys for Germany and the eurozone as a whole showed more of a mixed picture, overshooting expectations but at the same time cementing concerns around the manufacturing sector.

"Evidence of a decent February for the eurozone is mounting... In an economy close to stagnation, this is a welcome sign and suggests continued, albeit slow, growth in the first quarter," said Bert Collijn, an economist at ING.

However, Germany's manufacturing sector continued to be a cause for concern, he added.

Yields were pushed even higher after UK finance minister Philip Hammond said British lawmakers could be given a vote on a revised Brexit deal as soon as next week, raising hopes a disorderly exit from the European Union can be avoided.

"The assumption in the market is that the new agreement will be solid enough legally to alleviate concerns that some members of parliament had, and the deal would get approved," said Mizuho strategist Antoine Bouvet.

Eurozone government bond yields, which have compressed partly because of concerns around what effect a no-deal Brexit would have on the European economy, rose 2-4 basis points across the board.

Germany's 10-year government bond, the benchmark for the region, was up 3 bps to a one-week high of 0.135 percent.

Economic growth in Europe has slowed considerably in recent months, with Italy falling into recession and Germany narrowly escaping a recession,

## Top lender weighs in Egypt

**Qatar lifted by blue-chips climb**

**DUBAI, Feb 21, (RTRS):** Qatar's stock market rose sharply on Thursday as its blue-chip shares gained after a spate of selling, while Egypt's index was driven lower partly by its top lender.

The Qatari index rose 1.1 percent, with 15 out of 20 stocks advancing. Heavyweights Qatar National Bank and Industries Qatar gained 2 percent and 1.9 percent respectively.

Qatar was the best performing Gulf market in 2018 after a limit on foreign ownership of stocks was raised. It continued last year's performance into January but began a downward trend in February.

The index is still 5.5 percent lower this month, but the latest rise suggests it has become attractive again to investors on cheaper evaluations. Its listed companies are due to split their shares from one to 10 to satisfy a regulatory requirement, which will make the stocks even more affordable to buy, especially for smaller investors. Mesaieed Petrochemical surged 7.

1 percent to reach its highest since October 2018. The company had reported a 27 percent rise in annual profit and a hike in its dividend to 0.8 riyals (\$0.2198) per share from 0.7 riyals. Egypt's blue-chip index fell 0.4 percent as profit-hunting pulled Commercial International Bank down 1.4 percent.

The index has gained 16.3 percent so far this year, led by COMI, which has risen nearly 25 percent. A heavyweight stock, Egypt's biggest lender has been a pull-and-push factor for the index, which fell in three sessions of February, all led by the bank which has had four days of losses this month.

Telecom Egypt dropped 4.5 percent after its full-year profit fell below expectations. It reported a net profit attributable to shareholders of \$3.48 billion Egyptian pounds (\$198.97 million), against forecasts for \$3.66 billion pounds.

The Abu Dhabi index increased 0.7 percent with the country's largest lender First Abu Dhabi Bank ris-

ing 1.1 percent. International Holding Co jumped 5.1 percent after it signed a deal to acquire PAL Cooling Holding. IHC earlier said it will issue 1.31 billion ordinary shares in return at 1.41 dirham per share.

Saudi Arabia's index dropped 0.2 percent, with National Commercial Bank sliding 1.1 percent. Saudi Arabian Amiant it Co slid 9.8 percent after its board recommended a decrease in capital to 640.6 million riyals (\$170.82 million) from 1.16 billion riyals as part of its plan to restructure some financially troubled group companies.

The company said in a subsequent announcement that it had closed Ameron Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia Concrete Products Company. Dubai's index traded roughly flat, but real estate firms continued their gains with Emaar Properties rising 1.3 percent.

## Saudi Arabia

■ The index fell 0.2 pct to 8,547 points

## Dubai

■ The index was up 0.1 pct at 2,634 points

## Abu Dhabi

■ The index rose 0.7 pct to 5,098 points

## Qatar

■ The index increased 1.1 pct to 10,192 points

## Egypt

■ The index fell 0.4 pct to 15,147 points

## Kuwait

■ The index gained 0.4 pct to 5,502 points

## Bahrain

■ The index was flat at 1,405 points

## Oman

■ The index was also flat at 4,056 points

75.3 fils while Bayan Investment and Al Mal Investment stood pat at 45.4 fils and 18.6 fils respectively. Unicap added 2.8 fils and Arzan edged 0.9 fil into red. Madar dialed up 2 fils.

Noor Financial Investment rose 4.3 fils to 82.5 fils and Tamdeen Investment slipped 10 fils to 309 fils. Ektittab Holding eased 0.1 fil to 19.3 fils and Al Imitaz took in 1 fil. Alola inched 0.4 fil down to 37.1 fils.

Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) was unchanged at 99 fils and Madar dialed up 2 fils. Ahleia Insurance tripped 1 fil and Warba Insurance climbed 4.5 fils to 66 fils.

Mabaneq Co 8 fils to 590 fils and Kuwait Real Estate ticked 0.1 fil into red. United Real Estate Co added 2 fils and National Real Estate Co stood pat at 78 fils. Mazaya Holding trimmed 0.8 fil and Remal clipped 1.1 fils.

The bourse has been largely upbeat during the week. The main index closed higher in three of the five sessions gaining 51 points week on-week and has added 35 points so far during the month. Boursa Kuwait, with 176 listed stocks, is the second largest market in the region.

KAMCO Boursa Kuwait Daily Report												
Prepared by KAMCO Investment Research Department												
21-Feb-2019												
Index Returns & Market Capitalization	Value	Daily Point Change	Percentage Change			Trading Indicators	Value	Daily Point Change	Daily Percent Change	YTD Daily Average	YTD Daily Average	
			DTD	MTD	YTD						Volume (000 shares)	Value (000 KWD)
Premier Market Index	5,502.3	21.18	0.39%	1.33%	4.46%	116,285	-61,354	-34.54%	169,934	25,432	-18.43%	27,992
Main Market Index	4,791.1	14.55	0.30%	-0.15%	1.11%	4,338	-974	-18.34%	5,463			
All Share Market Index	5,251.1	18.96	0.36%	0.87%	3.38%							
Market Cap (KWD Million)	30,046.9	110.41	0.37%	1.01%	3.56%							
	Close	Vol Traded (000%)	Trades	Traded KWD	Change in Price	Beta	Dividend Yield	P/E	P/BV	52 Week Price	Low	High
	KWD			000	YTD (%)							
ENERGY	0.402	20	5	0.6	-0.30	4.5%	1.48	0.00%	11.7	0.43	0.38	0.24
SPEC	0.155	202	12	82.3	-10.00	-1.2%	0.32	7.00%	8.8	0.63	0.50	0.35
KICEM	0.402	202	12	82.3	-10.00	-1.2%	0.32	7.00%	8.8	0.63	0.50	0.35
NAPESCO	1.010	16	6	16.7	-30.00	9.8%	0.20	5.76%	9.9	1.10	1.090	7.02
ENERGYH	0.036	0	1	0.0	-0.50	-0.8%	0.85	0.00%	NM	1.02	0.051	0.022
GPI	0.033	1,314	29	42.6	0.10	10.2%	1.30	0.00%	NM	0.46	0.033	0.022
ABAR	0.110	0	0	0.0	0.00	15.8%	NA	0.00%	17.7	0.42	0.123	0.072
Oil & Gas	1,552	53	142.3			6.7%	4.19%	14.2	0.87			10,156
KFOUC	0.248	111	10	27.6	-2.00	29.8%	0.45	12.10%	NM	0.90	0.280	0.175
BPOC	0.927	66	14	61.0	-3.00	-4.9%	0.76	4.72%	NM	1.71	1.090	0.690
ALKOUT	0.840	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	0.05	5.95%	14.9	2.83	0.840	0.371
ALQURAIN	0.378	90	18	33.9	4.00	5.0%	0.73	3.51%	12.2	1.07	0.415	0.321
Basic Materials	268	42	122.5			0.3%	4.61%	22.8	1.38			812
SPEC	0.072	101	23	7.2	0.10	5.3%	0.33	0.00%	NM	0.40	0.078	0.050
KICEM	0.246	0	0	0.0	0.00	-8.7%	0.50	6.62%	20.0	1.27	0.484	0.327
CABLE	0.373	10	6	3.9	-3.00	6.3%	1.06	6.70%	9.2	0.51	0.448	0.346
SHIP	0.390	180	39	69.6	2.00	-9.7%	0.50	5.13%	8.1	1.31	0.538	0.198
PCEM	1.235	134	9	165.0	5.00	8.5%	0.54	7.29%	14.0	1.86	1.249	0.990
PAPER	0.184	0	0	0.0	0.00	-2.1%	0.21	9.11%	14.5	1.02	0.250	0.040
MRC	0.147	0	1	0.0	7.00	-25.4%	0.44	0.00%	NM	0.29	0.075	0.012
ACICO	0.064	190	9	31.2	-8.00	-1.8%	0.47	6.07%	30.8	5.2	0.260	0.150
HCC	0.087	75	14	6.4	5.00	-22.3%	0.05	0.00%	NM	0.61	0.120	0.056
NICBM	0.189	0	0	0.0	0.00	-5.5%	0.15	4.22%	14.3	0.76	0.202	0.144
EQUIPMENT	0.029	87	13	2.4	0.90	5.6%	1.41	0.00%	NM	0.55	0.037	0.025
NCCI	0.039	0	0	0.0	0.00	-1.9%	NA	0.00%	NM	0.33	0.095	0.035
SALBOKH	0.040	3	1	0.1	-1.80	-1.0%	0.78	0.00%	NM	0.44	0.054	0.038
AGLY	0.810	1,563	270	1,258.4	5.00	1.0%	1.47	1.75%	15.9	1.25	0.913	0.730
EDU	0.338	0	0	0.0	0.00	9.0%	0.19	4.44%	NM	2.19	0.340	0.060
CLEANING	0.063	106	9	6.6	-0.30	10.5%	0.97	0.00%	11.3	0.44	0.079	0.047
KGL	0.092	46	8	4.2	0.10	-4.0%	1.02	5.44%	2.1	0.36	0.130	0.090
KPCP	0.235	0	1	0.0	6.00	2.2%	0.35	4.11%	5.4	1.02	0.260	0.148
HUMANSOFT	3.130	126	32	394.2	-20.00	-4.6%	0.41	5.09%	12.2	6.82	4.258	2.996
GFC	0.070	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	NA	0.00%	NM	0.75	0.250	0.015
SHOOTING	0.016	0	0	0.0	0.00	1.9%	1.83	0.00%	NM	0.22	0.021	0.015
CGC	0.302	70	10	21.2	0.00	-5.6%	NA	5.61%	8.0	1.10	0.474	0.295
MTCC	0.056	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	0.91	0.00%	18.3	0.42	N/A	N/A
UPAC	0.540	0	2	0.1	-0.90	-1.9%	0.78	0.00%	NM	0.33	0.029	0.013
ALAFCO	0.290	160	27	46.1	6.00	-16.9%	0.42	3.45%	5.8	0.92	0.385	0.073
MUBARRAD	0.075	412	13	30.7	1.20	15.2%	0.86	6.56%	32.0	0.62	0.077	0.041
LOGISTICS	0.040	337	23	13.8	0.10	1.7%	0.85	0.00%	5.5	0.30	0.055	0.040
INTEGRATED	0.771	439	55	336.2	18.00	-8.3%	0.69	0.00%	9.2	2.55	0.970	0.720
SCEM	0.085	0	0	0.0	0.00	-2.2%	0.46	9.41%	17.7	0.44	0.090	0.063
GCEM	0.067	0	1	0.0	-0.50	-1.5%	0.56	11.96%	NM	0.05	0.090	0.061
QIC	0.069	0	0	0.0	0.00	4.1%	0.20	10.12%	18.3	0.43	0.082	0.055
FCEM	0.057	6	2	0.3	-0.10	-10.1%	0.54	10.51%	11.1	0.24	0.080	0.055
RKWC	0.080	0	0	0.0	0.00	6.8%	0.16	6.25%	17.4	0.65	0.087	0.059
Industrials	4,043	568	2,397.7			2.8%	14.2	0.89	14.2			8,015
PAPCO	0.040	0	0	0.0	0.00	-33.3%	0.19	2.80%	NM	0.28	0.080	0.025