

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:53	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	05:16	Maghrib ..	18:17
Zohr	11:48	Isha	19:38

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night: Fair and partly cloudy

Weather

with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-24 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	38	28	
Kuwait Airport	39	21	
Abdaly	40	21	

Bubyan	-	-
Jahra	40	23
Salmiyah	35	28
Ahmadi	37	27
Nuwaisib	41	21
Wafra	40	20
Salmiyah	39	21

VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE: https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx

KFH rallies 7 fils, Humansoft Holding retreats

Kuwait's All Shares Index breaches 6,000 mark, volume soars

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: Kuwait stocks breached the 6,000 pts benchmark on Tuesday after registering an uptick in the previous session. The All Shares Index gained momentum with a 43 points jump to 6,021.20 points driven mostly by blue chips.

The Premier Market soared 52.7 points to 6,594.71 pts lifted the month's gains to 270 points while Main Market scaled 21.80 pts. The BK Main 50 was up 26.88 points at 5,060.56 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile continued to swell to hit the month's highest level. Over 453 million shares changed hands - a 16 pct surge from the day before.

The sectors however closed mixed. Insurance outperformed the rest with 2.32 pct gain whereas Technology shed 0.82 pct, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 141.8 million shares while Banking sector was ahead in value with KD 22.9 million.

Among the prime movers, Kuwait Finance House rallied 7 fils on back of 10.9 million shares to close at 730 fils and Boubyan Bank extended last session's gains with a 10 fils jump to 645

fils. National Investment Co rose 4 fils to 189 fils and KIPCO paced 3 fils with a volume of 5.6 million to end at 165 fils. Tamdeen Investment climbed 8 fils to 224 fils and Kuwait Reinsurance Co soared 38 fils with thin trading.

Zain rose 5 fils to 610 fils after pushing over 3 million shares whereas Ooredoo stood pat at 647 fils. stc eased 1 fil to 898 fils and logistics major Agility sprinted 10 fils to 779 fils taking the month's gains to 53 fils. Humansoft Holding dialed down 2 fils whereas Boursa Kuwait Securities was up 5 fils at KD 1,111. Integrated Holding darted 11 fils to 423 fils. Mabaneer slipped 5 fils.

National Industries Group climbed 5 fils to 210 fils and Gulf Cable followed suit. Boubyan Petrochemical extended Monday's robust gains with a 26 fils sprint to 950 fils and Al Qurain Petrochemical added 3 fils. Jazeera Airways gave up 2 fils whereas ALAFCO took in 2 fils. Aznour paused at 267 fils and United Projects Co paced 10 fils to close at 228 fils. Combined Group Contracting Co gained 11 fils.

The market opened firm and moved sideways briefly before heading higher. The main index stalled again ahead of the mid-session before resuming its ascent amid strong buy-

ing in some of the heavyweights and mid-caps and closed with hefty gains.

Top gainer of the day, Kuwait Reinsurance Co spiked 9.84 percent to 424 fils and Mubarrad scaled 9.24 pct to stand close behind. Marakez skidded 12.79 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and Gulf Petroleum Investment topped the volume with 60.6 million shares.

Mirroring the day's upswing, the winners outnumbered the losers. 78 stocks advanced whereas 50 closed lower. Of the 142 counters active on Tuesday, 14 closed flat, 13,946 deals worth over KD 55 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, National Bank of Kuwait took in 1 fil on back of 3.6 million shares whereas Gulf Bank gave up 3 fils before ending at 207 fils and the counter saw 23.4 million shares change hands. Kuwait International Bank and Burgan Bank gained 3 fils each to close at 208 fils and 227 fils respectively.

Ahli United Bank BSC added 3 fils with brisk trading and Warba Bank was up 4 fils at 250 fils. Commercial Bank continued to stagnate at 500 fils and Al Ahli Bank tripped 1 fil. Ahli United Bank Kuwait dialed down 2 fils.

Kuwait Investment Co slipped 5 fils to 162

fils and International Financial Advisors retreated 3 fils. Coast Investment ticked 1.6 fils up and KMEFIC climbed 5 fils to 144 fils. First Investment gave up 2.1 fils after trading 18.2 million shares whereas Arzan Financial stood pat at 106 fils.

Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) rose 3.3 fils to 91 fils with heavy trading whereas KFIC dialed down 2 fils. Al Deera Holding dipped 10 fils to 200 fils whereas Noor Financial Investment closed 3 fils in red. KAMCO tripped 1.8 fils and Unicap added 2.4 fils.

Gulf Insurance Group and Warba Insurance paced 4 fils each whereas Al Ahleia Insurance took in 2 fils. United Real Estate closed 2.4 fils in green and NREC sprinted 7 fils to 106 fils. Sahlia Real Estate clipped 2 fils and Tamdeen Real Estate added 2 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co fell 3 fils to 232 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement and Kuwait Foundry Co took in 1 fils each. Educational Holding shed 22 fils and Automated Systems Co paused at 97 fils.

The market has been largely upbeat so far during the week gaining 67 pts in last three sessions. It has rallied 244 points from start of the month and is up 474 points year-to-date.

▼	US\$/KD 0.30105/15
▲	Euro/KD 0.3634
■	Yen/KD 0.0027
▲	British £/KD 0.4214
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0040
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0062
▼	FTSE -57.62 pts at 13:05 hr, April 20
▼	Nikkei -584.99 pts at closing April 20
▲	Gold 1774.50 per oz (London)
▲	NYMEX crude \$64.02 per barrel
▲	Brent crude \$67.69 per barrel
▲	LIBOR rate 0.18825%



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. Various issues were discussed.

HH Crown Prince receives HH Sheikh Nasser

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad

Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Chairman of Kuwait Municipal

Council Osama Al-Otaibi, where he presented the reports of the council's second session for the twelfth legislative term 2019/2020. (KUNA)

Of visa trade victims in time of pandemic

Sold out ... for jobs that aren't

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: More than a year has passed since the visa-trading scandal was exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, its repercussions still create more problems and reveal thousands of victims who lost their savings and became victims of the traffickers trading on the sweat of the poor, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to official sources within the Egyptian government, conflicts recently erupted between tribes in Upper Egypt and a visa agent working for some companies in Kuwait because he sold thousands of visas to the residents of Sohag Governorate who came to Kuwait only to discover that these companies were fake.

Visa agent

This broker collected about 100 million pounds from thousands of people looking for work opportunities in Kuwait. The victims left Kuwait when residencies were arranged for them, and they demanded the return of the money they paid to him. However, he has since disappeared.

The families of the victims are now up in arms against the visa agent who used to bring workers from the governorates of Upper Egypt to Kuwait but the victims discovered that they bought fake residencies from companies that do not carry out any real activity.

During the period from 2018 to 2020, the visa trader sold 2,000 fake visas in Sohag Governorate at about KD 2,000 per visa. This adds up to about KD 4 million, which is more than 100 million Egyptian pounds, for fake visas related to small projects, farms and others.

The visa trader, whose headquarters is in the Al-Balina Center in Sohag, is wealthy and possesses houses, real estate and other properties which he acquired through the fictitious visa trading in Kuwait. He also has "wasta" (influence) and relations with agents in Kuwait who facilitate all procedures for him. He also has influence in Egypt through which his activities are facilitated.

During the past weeks, hundreds of victims of the visa-trade gathered and launched a campaign on social media to expose his activities. A number of them filed cases against him, and others lodged complaints at the Embassy of Kuwait in Cairo.

Campaign

Kamel Ahmed, one of the victims who launched a campaign on social media to hold the visa broker accountable, said, "This quorum has a network of agents in Kuwait and deals with Kuwaiti small business owners. Each company has dozens of workers in its file. The visa broker recruits manpower from Egypt, especially from the governorates of Upper Egypt, in return for very large sums of money."

The culprit used to sell entry visas to Kuwait with fake work contracts for tens of people every month, by virtue of his relationships, influence, and possession of power of attorney and other relevant relationships that helped him work in trading fake residency."

In addition, Ali Anwar, another victim, revealed a clear intention from the security authorities in Sohag to take care of this issue and provide justice to the victims.

He said he had informed the Kuwait embassy and was preparing to submit a request to the public funds investigation to look into the inflation of the suspect's bank balances, and to prove the existence of bank transactions related to the visa trade.

State bodies have ignored us: residents



Delivering 'iftar' meals at one of the correctional institutions. Mol photo

Minister pays for inmates meals

The Directorate General of Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Interior Ministry stated in the spirit of social solidarity in the security establishment and humanitarian initiative Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali has given instructions that the iftar meals for inmates at correctional institutions will be at his personal expense on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan,

reports Al-Seyassah daily. The administration added this step comes within the framework of the strategy of the Minister Thamer Al-Ali to promote human values with the prisons inmates, the consolidation of social relations and building trust with them to achieve their integration into society and returning them as good citizens who contribute to building society.

Fasting duration varies

N. Pole longest, Comoros shortest

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: Although the holy month of Ramadan unites Muslims and Arabs in various parts of the world, the number of fasting hours remains a characteristic that distinguishes each country from the other; as the fasting hours differ from one country to another according to geographical location, such that the closer a country to the North Pole is, the longer it takes to fast compared to those near the South Pole, reports Al-Rai daily.

Algerians and Tunisians are fasting the longest among Arabs this year -- number of hours of abstinence from food and drink. On the first day of Ramadan, their fasting period lasted 14 hours and 39 minutes; while it will be 15 hours and 50 minutes on the last day.

On the other hand, Muslims in Comoros have the shortest fasting hours. The number

of fasting hours in its capital -- Moroni -- was about 13 hours and 12 minutes on the first day of Ramadan; while it will be 12 hours and 59 minutes on the last day.

In Kuwait, the fasting period lasted 14 hours and 17 minutes on the first day; while it will be 15 hours and 19 minutes on the last day.

In the Sultanate of Oman, the number of fasting hours reached 14 hours and one minute on the first day and it will be 14 hours and 41 minutes on the last day. The Kingdom of Bahrain recorded 14 hours and nine minutes of fasting on the first day, compared to 14 hours and 45 minutes on the last day.

In Saudi Arabia, the fasting period on the first day was 14 hours and two minutes; while it will be 14 hours and 44 minutes on the last day.

'Projects lagging'

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: The head of the Sabah Al-Ahmad City Residents Voluntary Committee, Turki Al-Osaimi, regrets that officials in various government institutions have ignored the problems and disasters that afflict the residents of Sabah Al-Ahmad area.

In an exclusive interview Al-Osaimi told the Al-Seyassah daily, that it is necessary to implement the road project -- the Wafra Road, which is called the 'Road of Death' due to the accumulation of sand dunes and add to this the collection of construction waste spread all over the area which adds insult to injury.

He mentioned the Sabah Al-Ahmad region will be transformed into a seventh governorate in the event the university project is implemented, as the officials have promised to do so.

He went on to say, the committee has called on the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) on the necessity of the investment projects in the region completing on time, but unfortunately, on an average it takes about five years to complete one project.

Speaking of the projects, he said the most important projects that are needed are residential buildings, markets, malls, parks and restaurants for the development of the area. He went on to say, "We demand the expansion of restaurants in the area, especially since the Sabah Al-Ahmad area has six residential areas, and each area is equivalent to 1,700 plots of land."

Speaking of the roads project, he spoke of linking Al-Wafra Road with the Seventh Ring Road 'Al-Maqwa' and branch out from Al-Wafra, crossing the oil-prohibited zone through the Burgan field and the oil fields, reaching Al-Maqwa, the G-Ring intersection with the airport. This road will also connect the south to the governorates of Kuwait.

Speaking of this road network, he referred to the Council of Ministers and said the former oil minister was very cooperative. Moreover, he said this road network will eliminate traffic congestion, as the Sabah Al-Ahmad area and the surrounding new areas are all somehow connected to the Wafra Road, and for this "we ask for more than one road in the area. For example when the rains hit the area in 2018, the people of the area were cut off from the rest of Kuwait and people were unable to go to work 3 days."

He said the Sabah Al-Ahmad area has a population of about 45 thousand people, and the vast majority of them are citizens, and due to the increasing number of the region, more than one 'mercy' road must be built for students and employees.

The regional road, consisting of 3 contracts, connects 3 roads to each other, of which one contract has been executed and the rest have yet to see the light of day. It exits Nuwaiseeb and connects the south with the north and west of Kuwait. The problem is that the Ministry of Public Works and the Roads Authority has put this project on the shelves and pretends that there is no budget.

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