

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:40	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:08	Maghrib ..	18:40
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:04

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind changing to south easterly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather

relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 45 36
 Kuwait Airport 48 30

Abdaly	49	32
Jahra	50	35
Salmiyah	39	36
Ahmadi	45	36
Wafra	49	32
Salmiyah	47	31
Jal Aliyah	48	32

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

Right of Response

STATEMENT OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN THE STATE OF KUWAIT ON THE PUBLICATION OF AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH 'TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE' SEPARATIST IN THE ARAB TIMES

'There is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory'

'China committed to promote peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and China's reunification'

On 1st August 2021, the Arab Times 2nd and 3rd page published an exclusive interview with the stubborn "Taiwan independence" separatist Joseph Wu. We strongly condemn the despicable acts of "Taiwan independence" separatists to deliberately distort the history of Taiwan, viciously attack the Chinese government, and mislead public opinion. We hereby declare that:

1. There is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. This is a basic fact universally recognized by the international community. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution No.2758 adopted in 1971 officially restored the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. That same year, China

and Kuwait established diplomatic relations. The Kuwait side always recognizes that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and adheres to the "one-China" principle. We highly appreciate this.

2. The Chinese government is committed to promote peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and China's reunification. Over the years, the Chinese government has rolled out multiple measures and policies to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and safeguard the wellbeing of people across the Taiwan Strait. Thanks to these measures and policies, people across the Taiwan Strait enjoy ever closer ties. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities in Taiwan, however, ob-

stinately adheres to the separatist position of "Taiwan independence", instigates separatism, and solicits foreign support, which has caused a serious setback for cross-Strait relations and may even result in unpredictable severe consequences. China must be and will be reunited. No individual and no force should underestimate the resolve, the will and the ability of the Chinese people to defend their national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

3. We demand that the media in Kuwait should stay alert to attempts of the "Taiwan independence" forces and refuse to do anything that hurts the feelings of 1.4 billion Chinese people or the friendship between China and Kuwait.

Boubyan Bank drops 20 fils, Humansoft Holding soars

Kuwait stock index heads south amid selling pressure

Decline in remittances seen

COVID-19 repercussions



Mural and sculpture of the Kuwaiti martyrs.

KUNA photo

'Invasion' martyrs remembered

The Martyr's Office commemorates the martyrs of Kuwait coinciding with the anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait by erecting a mural and a statue of the 1,303 martyrs of Kuwait who were martyred in defense of their homeland during the Iraqi invasion.

The mural will continue to be displayed in the Avenues and 360 Malls on Monday and Tuesday from ten in the morning until ten in the evening, with the aim of recalling the sacrifices of the Kuwaiti martyrs and celebrating their generation after generation.

'Bumpy road ahead for teachers'

MoE & MoH discuss mechanisms of students safe return to schools

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shimmari
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Minister of Education, Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, discussed during a meeting with assistant undersecretaries, directors of educational zones, observers and mentors the preparations made by each sector of the ministry for the next academic year, and put in place a plan that includes support mechanisms and communication with parents and the civil institutions and defined the role of schools administrations to ensure the safe return of students during the 2021-2022 scholastic year.

During the meeting directors of the educational zones gave a detailed explanation of the mechanism -- comprehensive or gradual, whether it is integrated or traditional -- determining the school timing, the tasks of the rapid intervention team, the status of schools from the structural side, the necessary equipment to return to school and determining the needs to prepare schools to receive students safely.

The Minister also discussed during the meeting a number of operational requirements, the evaluation mechanism and the perceptions set for the training plan, discussing the construction requirements and the readiness of schools, as well as requirements related to vaccination and giving priority to all school workers, discussing the precautionary measures and health requirements, in addition to the school plan and the guideline for schools.

The assistant undersecretaries and directors of educational zones touched on

the readiness of each sector and educational zone for the next academic year, and reviewed a number of issues that dealt with the application of social distancing in light of student density at some schools and issue of sterilization particularly during entry times in the morning and at school canteens.

The attendees discussed the plan of the Social and Psychological Service Department to deal with the students when they return to the classrooms, in addition to the training plan, especially for new teachers, and achieving community partnership between the Ministry, civil society institutions and those concerned with the educational process.

Al-Mudhaf also chaired a meeting of the Joint Higher Committee comprising members from the ministries of Education and Health to discuss the issue of schools opening for the 2021/2022 scholastic year and to agree on the most important points related to health requirements and procedures that ensure the safety of all.

The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ali Al-Yaqoub, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Osama Al-Sultan, the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Institutions Eng Yassin Al-Yassin, the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Raja Bouarki, the Assistant Undersecretary for Private and Qualitative Education Dr. Abdulmohsen Al-Huwailah, and the President of the Foreign Schools Association Dr. Noura Al-Ghanim.

Firemen tackle Hawally, Jleeb fires

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: When different types of material caught fire on an open ground between two residential buildings in Hawally, fire engines from Hawally and Salmiya fire centers rushed to the area and put out the fire without causing any casualties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said in a press release as a precautionary measure residents of both the building were evacuated when the fire spread

to the two floors of a neighboring building.

The DGFD said an investigation has been opened into the incident to know the cause of the fire.

Meanwhile, firefighting teams were able to control a fire that broke out in an Arab house in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. One expatriate was injured as a result of the fire.

DGFD said the fire was put out by firemen from the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Al-Ardhiya fire centers.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: A decline in remittances from expatriates in Kuwait during the current year can be expected despite the opening of activities and the return of those stranded abroad, compared to the significant increase in remittances during 2020, which had jumped by 18.4 percent to KD 5.2 billion. The decline can be attributed to the repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to sources in the exchange (forex) sector, with the reopening of activities and allowing the return of about 280,000 expatriates who are stranded abroad, it is expected that the remittances of expatriates will gradually return to normal after they return to their work.

The dominant feature of the remittances of expatriates last year was a decrease in their number and an increase in their value, due to various reasons such as concerns that prompted some expatriates to transfer all their savings in Kuwait, and transfer end-of-service benefits to others, as well as an increase in the value of remittances for those who remained in their jobs.

This is due to the high requirements of their families or the increase in the number of individuals who support them as a result of the interruption of their livelihoods in their countries, taking into account that 250,000 expatriates lost their residences in 2020.

Opposite

The sources indicated that the opposite could happen this year due to an increase in the number of transfers and a gradual decline in their value, with the return of activities to normal working hours before the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the regularity of transfers around their normal rates.

On the other hand, the sources said they expect the exchange companies' revenues to continue to grow in 2021, despite the gradual return of remittances to their normal rates, as a result of developments in the market that contributed to the growth of their revenues, led by the increase in the profit margin on transfers to most currencies.

They revealed that the exchange companies added a fixed percentage to remittances above the cost of buying currencies from banks, which contributed to increasing their revenues during the past year, in addition to an increase in the sale of currencies on the impact of the increase in the value of remittances.

It is worth highlighting that the revenues of forex companies jumped by 29.4 percent to KD 79.6 million in 2020, and their revenues increased by 37 percent in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the same period last year, before the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

Blood donation drive marks Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): The Blood Transfusion Services Department of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health launched Monday a national blood donation campaign under the slogan "Together Forever" under the auspices of the Minister of Health Sheikh Dr. Basil Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah, coinciding with the 31st anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

The medical director and acting director of the blood transfusion services department at the ministry, Dr. Hanan Al-Awadi, said in a statement to reporters that the campaign, which was launched Monday and continues until 8:30 in the evening, aims to symbolically recall the role of Kuwait's martyrs and their bloodshed in order to preserve the country.

Al-Awadi added that this campaign comes for the sixth year in a row within the framework of joint cooperation between the Ministry of Health represented by the Central Blood Bank, the ministries of state and the civil and civil sectors, in a way that embodies and enhances joint social responsibility.

She stated that the campaign was launched in the Central Blood Bank in the Jabriya area and branches distributed to the health areas, indicating that there are two blood donation branches in the Al-Sabah health area, one next to the New Maternity Hospital and the other behind the Heart Hospital, in addition to a branch in Jahra Hospital, another in Al-Adan Hospital, a branch in Al-Farwaniyah Hospital and a branch in Al-Humaidhi Center Shuwaikh residential area.

She stated that the donor should consult the doctor inside the blood bank or its branches before donating. She indicated that the need to donate blood continues as long as there are patients, stressing that the ministry has a strategic stockpile to maintain, but that there is daily consumption by hospitals.

By John Mathews

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Kuwait stocks headed south on Monday, extending last session's pullback. The All Shares Index dropped 27.52 points to 6547.70 points weighed by some fresh selling in some of the blue chips and mid-caps.

The Premier Market dipped 27.88 points to 7130 pts after scaling 228 points during whole of July and Main Market shed 27.60 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile dropped for the second straight session. Over 349 million shares changed hands - down 15 pct from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in red. Insurance outshone the rest with 0.74 pct gain whereas Technology slid 0.96 percent, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 166.6 million shares and the sector also dominated in value with KD 21.54 million.

Among the notable losers, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait extended Sunday's losses with a 5 fils drop to 885 fils after pushing 3.8 million shares and Boubyan Bank shed 20 fils to close at 766 fils. Commercial Bank was down 10 fils at 500 fils while Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) gave up 6 fils. Mezzan Holding slipped 6 fils to 620 fils.

Zain was unchanged at 588 fils after moving 2.4 million shares whereas Ooredoo skidded 19 fils. stc fell 5 fils to 860 fils and logistics major Agility followed suit to close at 990 fils with a volume of 1.9 million.

KIPSCO stood pat at 161 fils whereas National Investment Co and Mabaneer Co dialed up 2 fils each. Boursa Kuwait Securities sprinted 13 fils to KD 1.590 and Humansoft Holding vaulted 81 fils.

National Industries Group eased 1 fil to 234 fils after pushing 33.6 million shares and Gulf Cable erased 5 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co clipped 2 fils and Al Qurain Petrochemical Co gave up 4 fils before settling at 374 fils. Jazeera Airways and ALAFCO tripped 1 fil each to close at 749 fils and 219 fils respectively. NAPESCO fell 5 fils to 875 fils and United Projects Co scaled 11 fils.

The market opened firm and headed south in early trade. The main index continued to erode amid selling pressure in some of the heavyweights and mid-caps and plumbed the day's lowest level of 6531 points in the final minutes. It however clawed back some of the losses at close.

Top gainer of the day, KSHC jumped 8.7 percent to 37.5 fils and Sanam Real Estate climbed 7.63 pct to stand next. Metal and Recycling Co skidded 9.77 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and Mazaya Holding topped the volume with 83.2 million shares.

Mirroring the day's drop, the market spread was skewed towards the losers. 44 stocks advanced whereas 83 closed lower. Of the 141 counters active on Monday, 14 closed flat. 12,915 deals worth KD 62 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector Kuwait Finance House was unchanged at 788 fils after pushing 7.2 million shares whereas Gulf Bank and Kuwait International Bank clipped 1 fil

■	US\$/KD 0.30040/50
▲	Euro/KD 0.3567
■	Yen/KD 0.0027
▼	British £/KD 0.4172
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0040
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0060
▲	FTSE +49.42 pts at 18:50 Aug 02
▲	Nikkei +497.43 pts at closing Aug 02
▼	Gold \$1807.55 per oz (London)
▼	NYMEX crude \$71.07 per barrel
▼	Brent crude \$72.79 per barrel
▼	LIBOR rate 0.11775%

each. Borgan Bank dialed down 2 fils with a volume of 2.9 million.

Warba Bank eased 1 fil to 246 fils whereas Ahli United Bank BSC held ground at 242 fils. Al Ahli Bank Kuwait fell 3 fils to 218 fils whereas Ahli United Bank Kuwait stood pat at 218 fils.

Kuwait Investment Co eased 1 fil to 244 fils whereas International Financial Advisors and Arzan Financial Group dialed 1 fil each. Noor Financial Investment gave up 3 fils while Gulf Investment House and Osoul Investment added 1 fil each.

Bayan Investment erased 1.1 fils while KAMCO ticked 1 fil into red. Gulf Insurance Group gained 5 fils and Al Ahleia Insurance Co scaled 17 fils to close at 509 fils. Warba Insurance Co closed 3 fils in red.

Kuwait Cement Co slipped 5 fils to 241 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement added 3 fils. Metal and Recycling Co dropped 13 fils to 120 fils and Kuwait Foundry Co was down 14 fils at 389 fils. ACICO Industries dialed up 2 fils whereas NICBM closed 2 fils in red. PAPCO dropped 6 fils to 56.8 fils.

Kuwait and Gulf Links Transport Co eased 0.7 fil to 52 fils and Automated Systems Co tripped 1 fil. KCPC climbed 8 fils to 560 fils whereas Kuwait National Cinema Co and Arabi Group Holding paused at 820 fils and 153 fils respectively. OSOS Holding Group added 1.9 fils and Mashaer Holding clipped 1.7 fils.

Educational Holding Group rose 3 fils to 678 fils whereas Independent Petroleum Group gave up 5 fils. Sultan Centre erased 3 fils and Borgan Company For Well Drilling dialed down 2 fils and Combined Group Contracting Co erased 5 fils. Hilal Cement eased 1.6 fils to 91.5 fils and HEISC trimmed 1 fil. Equipment Holding Co crept 2.2 fils up to 35.5 fils.

The market has been retreating so far during the week shedding 32 points in the last two sessions. It has rallied 195 points during the whole of July and is up 977 points year-to-date.

Petroleum engineers count

Kuwaitis far outnumber expats

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The number of Kuwaiti employees in the oil sector who hold a petroleum engineering degree has reached 1,150. Most of them - about 963 in number - are working in the Kuwait Oil Company, 105 in the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, 58 in the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), and 18 in Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), reports Al-Anba daily.

According to official data, about 43 employees hold petroleum engineering degree and work in the Ministry of Oil.

Meanwhile, the total number of expatriates working in the oil sector with the similar degree is 97, with 89 working in the Kuwait Oil Company, three in Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, and five expatriates in KUFPEC.

Regarding the recruitment mechanisms, informed sources explained that the mechanism for appointing employees in the Ministry of Oil is through nomination in the integrated systems of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

As for the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the Kuwait Oil Company is the authority concerned with publishing advertisements for the recruitment of petroleum engineers. KOC follows the unified mechanism for employment in the oil sector which is approved by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. Based on this mechanism, Kuwaitis are appointed from all scientific disciplines, including petroleum engineering, in the company, to the extent needed of each individual specialty, as required by the work interest and permitted by the annual vacancies available in the budget.

It should be noted in this regard that the Kuwait Oil Company was forced to postpone the publication of the recruitment announcement for an unlimited number of scientific disciplines, including the aforementioned specialization, due to the conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption of work in all public facilities of the state, including the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries, for a relatively long period.