

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:01	Asr	14:30
Sunrise ..	06:24	Maghrib ..	16:49
Zohr	11:37	Isha	18:11

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Mild and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

By Night: Rather cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with light

Weather

to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h with a chance for mist forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	27	19
Kuwait Airport	28	13
Abdaly	28	13

Jahra	29	16
Salmiyah	26	19
Ahmadi	26	18
Nuwaisib	28	14
Wafra	28	15
Salmi	27	13
Jal Aliyah	27	18

Omicron

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"We've seen a sharp increase in cases for the past 10 days. So far they have mostly been very mild cases, with patients having flu-like symptoms: dry coughs, fever, night sweats, a lot of body pains," said Dr. Unben Pillay, a general practitioner in Gauteng province, where 81% of the new cases have been reported.

The variant has provided further proof of what experts have long been saying: that no continent will be safe until the whole globe has been sufficiently vaccinated. The more the virus is allowed to spread, the more opportunities it has to mutate.

"The emergence of the omicron variant has fulfilled, in a precise way, the predictions of the scientists who warned that the elevated transmission of the virus in areas with limited access to vaccine would speed its evolution," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, head of CEPI, one of the founders of the U.N.-backed global vaccine sharing initiative COVAX.

In some parts of the world, authorities are moving in the opposite direction.

In Malaysia, officials went ahead with the partial reopening of a bridge connecting it to Singapore. And New Zealand announced it will press ahead with plans to reopen internally after months of shutdown, though it is also restricting travel from nine southern African nations.

"We've come through the past two years of COVID in better shape than nearly anywhere in the world," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said, pointing to low death rates, a growing economy and high vaccination rates.

Also:

The emergence of the new omicron variant and the world's desperate and likely futile attempts to keep it at bay are reminders of what scientists have warned for months: The coronavirus will thrive as long as vast parts of the world lack vaccines.

The hoarding of limited COVID-19 shots by rich countries — creating virtual vaccine deserts in many poorer ones — doesn't just mean risk for the parts of the world seeing shortages; it threatens the entire globe.

That's because the more the disease spreads among unvaccinated populations, the more possibilities it has to mutate and potentially become more dangerous, prolonging the pandemic for everyone.

"The virus is a ruthless opportunist, and the inequity that has characterized the global response has now come home to roost," said Dr. Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPI, one of the groups behind the U.N.-backed COVAX shot-sharing initiative.

Perhaps nowhere is the inequality more evident than in Africa, where under 7% of the population is vaccinated. South African scientists alerted the World Health Organization to the new omicron variant last week, though it may never be clear where it first originated. Researchers are now rushing to determine whether it is more infectious or able to evade current vaccines.

COVAX was supposed to avoid such inequality — but instead the initiative is woefully short of shots and has already abandoned its initial goal of 2 billion doses.

Even to reach its scaled-back target of distributing 1.4 billion doses by the end of 2021, it must ship more than 25 million doses every day. Instead, it has averaged just over 4 million a day since the beginning of October, with some days dipping below 1 million, according to an Associated Press analysis of the shipments.

Shipments in recent days have ramped up, but nowhere near the amount needed.

Meanwhile, richer nations often have a glut of shots, and many are now offering boosters — something the WHO has discouraged because every booster is essentially a dose that is not going to someone who's never even gotten their first shot. Despite the U.N. health agency's appeal to countries to declare a moratorium on booster shots until the end of the year, more than 60 countries are now administering them.

"What it highlights are the continuing and fundamental risks to everyone associated with not seriously addressing the inequalities still at play globally in the fight against disease and poor health," said Dr. Osman Dar, director of the One Health Project at the Chatham House think tank.

Anna Marriott, health policy manager for Oxfam, said COVAX was limited from the outset after being pushed to the back of the vaccine queue by rich countries.

"The COVAX team may be delivering as fast as they can, but they can't deliver vaccines they haven't got," Marriott said.

Just 13% of vaccines COVAX contracted for and 12% of promised donations have actually been delivered, according to calculations by the International Monetary Fund from mid-November. About a third of the vaccines dispensed by COVAX have been donations, according to the vaccine alliance known as Gavi, and the initiative is now partly a clearinghouse for those donated doses, the very situation it was set up to avoid. (AP)

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwait stocks spiraled south Tuesday tracking weak regional and global cues following last session's modest rebound. The All Shares Index sank 161.51 points in a broad decline to 6,789.96 points, the second biggest single day decline of the year.

The Premier Market saw brutal flooring as it tumbled 204.68 points to 7,345.47 pts while Main Market slid 66.24 points. The BK Main 50 skidded 74 points to 5,863.50 points. The volume turnover meanwhile bounced past the 400 million mark following Monday's dip. Over 423 million shares changed hands — a 43 pct surge from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in red turf. Healthcare outshone the rest with 2.11 percent gain whereas Technology dived 4.67 pct, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 146 million shares and Banking sector was ahead in value with 61.2 million shares.

Among the day's notable losers, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait dived 14 fils to 984 fils after trading 21 million shares while Ku-

wait Finance House plunged 27 fils to 792 fils. Boubyan Bank skidded 24 fils to 758 fils and Ahli United Bank BSC shed 13 fils with a volume of over 28 million shares. Humansoft Holding tanked 45 fils to KD 3,200 taking the month's losses to 139 fils.

Zain dropped 17 fils to 569 fils after pushing 21.8 million shares and Ooredoo dialed down 2 fils. stc took in 1 fil whereas logistics major Agility skidded 34 fils to 922 fils with a volume of 11.4 million. KIPCO and Al Imtiaz slipped 5 fils each to close at 140 fils and 112 fils respectively while National Investment Co gave up 6 fils. Mabaneer Co took in 1 fil. Boursa Kuwait Securities Co sprinted 17 fils to KD 1.932.

The market opened firm and ticked up briefly in early trade. The main index scaled the day's highest level of 6,984 points and drifted lower as trading floor sentiment weakened. It continued to erode and fell sharply in final minutes to close with heavy loss.

Top gainer of the day, Al Aqaria climbed 5.81 pct to 51 fils and Al Madar Finance and Investment Co scaled 5.77 pct to stand next. Safat Energy skidded 14.95 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and GFH topped the volume wit 66 million shares.

Reflecting the day's slide, the market spread was heavily skewed towards the losers. 26 stocks advanced whereas 111 closed lower. Of the 144 counters active on Tuesday, 7 closed flat. 18,002 deals worth KD 122.78 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, Gulf Bank fell 3 fils to 244 fils after pushing over 10 million shares while Kuwait International Bank and Burgan Bank gave up 6 fils each. Warba Bank was down 10 fils at 264 fils whereas Commercial Bank paused at 500 fils. Ahli United Bank Kuwait shed 9 fils.

National Industries Group dropped 8 fils to 255 fils after moving 8.2 million shares and Gulf Cable shed 13 fils. Jazeera Airways climbed 20 fils to KD 1.020 following steep drop in last two sessions and ALAFCO was down 13 fils at 216 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co slid 40 fils to 825 fils while Qurain Petrochemical Co retreated 17 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co slipped 6 fils to 226 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement scaled 17 fils with thin trading. HEISC rose 5 fils to 460 fils and Shuaiba Industrial was down 11 fils to 219 fils. Metal and Recycling Co fell 4.5 fils to 97.5 fils whereas Kuwait

Foundry Co added 3 fils. ACICO Industries closed 5 fils in red after pushing over 1 million shares.

Kuwait and Gulf Links Transport Co clipped 2.8 fils whereas Arabi Group Holding stood pat at 182 fils. Sultan Centre fell 4 fils to 214 fils and Kuwait Hotels gave up 4.5 fils. Safat Energy Holding dropped 7.4 fils to 42.1 fils while NCCI shed 14 fils. Automated Systems Co retreated 5 fils to 102 fils with thin trading whereas KCPC jumped 20 fils. Advanced Technology Co sprinted 22 fils to 523 fils.

Burgan Company For Well Drilling slipped 7 fils to 142 fils and Combined Group Contracting Co followed suit. United Projects slid 23 fils to 250 fils whereas Hayat Communication paced 5 fils. PAPCO fell 3.6 fils to 6.8 fils and IFA Hotels and Resorts gave up 5.2 fils. OSOS Holding was unchanged at 111 fils.

Egypt Kuwait Holding rose 3 fils to 418 fils and Kuwait Resorts was down 4.4 fils at 93.8 fils. Oula Fuel Marketing clipped 2 fils while Soor Fuel Marketing gave up 4 fils. Inovest BSC slipped 5 fils to 107 fils and Jassim Transport Co closed 6 fils in red.

The market has been largely downbeat so far during the week plunging

▲	US\$/KD 0.30255/65
▼	Euro/KD 0.3419
■	Yen/KD 0.0026
▼	British £/KD 0.4025
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0040
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0060
▼	FTSE -28.68 pts at 18:50 Nov 30
▼	Nikkei -462.16 pts at closing Nov 30
▼	Gold \$1,797.60 per oz (London)
▼	NYMEX crude \$67.53 per barrel
▼	Brent crude \$70.62 per barrel
■	LIBOR rate 0.17088%

338 points in last three sessions. It has slid 327 points so far during the month and is up 1,244 points year-to-date.



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeded
Movement at the Kuwait International Airport remains unchanged despite the news of new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron'. Outgoing and incoming traffic continues. It seems like the price of tickets has withstood the shock of emergence of the African variant.

Return tickets to Kuwait go down

'Calm down, no need to change dates'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The prices of return tickets to Kuwait finally absorbed the shock of the emergence of the African Coronavirus variant 'Omicron', as the prices have started to go down to the KD200 level as a result of the government's reassurance that it does not intend to close the airport or the borders, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the travel and tourism sector.

Sources told the daily that ticket prices began to decrease for those traveling in the next few days, but these prices remain relatively high compared to the prices before the announcement of the emergence of the 'Omicron' variant.

Sources disclosed the prices of tickets for those coming from Cairo, Egypt are as follows depending on the day of travel: KD181 for Tuesday, KD158 for Wednesday, KD116 for Thursday, KD107 for Friday and KD97 for Saturday — almost 50 percent decrease in five days.

Sources expect the prices to continue to decline during the coming period until they return to the normal level in accordance with the law on supply and demand.

Kuwait's 'Al-Mukaimi' wins diplomacy prize

RAMALLAH, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Haila Al-Mukaimi, professor at Kuwait University, won on Monday President Mahmoud Abbas award for academic diplomacy that is granted to scientists and researchers who support the Palestinian cause.

This came during the self-liberation of the Palestinians: production of resistance knowledge" held in Ramallah and Gaza.

The conference comes to affirm the importance of academic diplomacy on the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" which falls on November 29 every year.

The Day was adopted by the UN in 1977 for the establishment of Palestine as an independent, sovereign Arab state.

Al-Mukaimi dedicated this award to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's government and people.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Al-Mukaimi said Kuwait's academic efforts to back the Palestinian cause is added to Kuwait's efforts aimed at supporting the central Arab issue in order to reach fair solutions that ensure a dignified, safe and stable life for Palestinians.

She pointed to Kuwait's diplomatic efforts, represented in the Foreign Ministry, seeking to preserve Palestinians' rights.

She highlighted that international powers, which compete for global dominance, should race to establish stability in the Middle East and find equitable solutions to the Palestinian issue. Meanwhile, head of international academic campaign against the Israeli occupation Ramzi Ouda expressed appreciation to Al-Mukaimi who made efforts to serve the Arab issues in general and the Palestinian cause in particular.

Speaking to KUNA, Ouda said "we appreciate Al-Mukaimi for her researches in favor of Arabs and Palestinians' rights."

Jobs for Kuwaitis Work equality eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: In line with the Kuwaitization policy and plan to address the lopsided demographic structure, the government is looking into the possibility of amending the specified percentage of Kuwaiti workers appointed under government contracts in various State authorities, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the Ministry of Public Works started this step by setting a regulation regarding the appointment of national workers in its new and existing projects and it is awaiting the approval of Public Works Minister Dr Rana Al-Faris.

Sources clarified the government's approach is to provide job opportunities for national workers in basic jobs in the State's infrastructure projects, in addition to secondary and administrative jobs.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director General of the National Labor Sector at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Abdullah Al-Mutatah confirmed ongoing efforts to create a working environment similar to that of the government sector, including employment privileges and job security.

On the sidelines of the recent open recruitment for nationals under one of the ministry's contacts, Al-Mutatah affirmed the authority's keenness to guarantee equality between workers in the public and private sectors. He said this is in addition to partnerships with different entities in the private sector in order to provide suitable job opportunities for nationals.

He also unveiled a plan to issue decisions to ensure the proper implementation of regulations on equality between workers in the private and government sectors. He said the job opportunities under government contracts are for citizens who hold university degrees, diplomas and high school certificates; as well as those with experience and the fresh graduates.

Bedoun weddings move to damage image – MP

Speaker lauds IPU outcome

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim praised the outcome of the 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Madrid, Spain from Nov 26-30.

He also expressed his gratitude to Kuwaiti Ambassador to Spain Eyada Al-Saeedi and the workers at the embassy for their support that eased the mission of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to the IPU assembly.

In a press conference at the end of the assembly, Al-Ghanim underscored its importance as it is the first face-to-face assembly after the Covid-19 crisis.

He affirmed the strong coordination among Arab, Gulf, Islamic and other geopolitical groups. He said Arab coordination was revived after ending several disputes, thanks to the efforts exerted by HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He then thanked his accompanying delegation, especially the employees at the Secretariats General of Kuwait's National Assembly and IPU.

Meanwhile, a delegation representing the Assembly's Secretariat General participated in the Dubai Expo 2020. This participation is part of the booth of Kuwait at the Expo from Nov 28 to Dec 11. It includes the 'Tolerance and Inclusivity Week' — one of the dominant topics at the expo.

The Secretariat General's participation includes as well a presentation on the parliamentary history of Kuwait; highlighting the role of the Assembly as an honorable front of democracy in the region and as a legislative authority.

It will also present a rare document — manuscript of the Constitution of Kuwait written in 1962. This is in addition to the minutes of the meetings held by the committee tasked to draft the Constitution, sessions of the first parliamentary term (1962) and the third parliamentary term (1973), other documents, and a model of the Assembly building. A number of

records produced by Kuwait TV will be shown, explaining the importance of several laws; particularly those concerning the disabled, children, women and family.

On the other hand, MP Ahmad Al-Hamad forwarded queries to Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Khalifa Hamada about the decision to cancel the training and consultation budget for workers in public institutions and oil sector in fiscal 2021/2022.

Al-Hamad inquired if the saved amount matches the losses incurred due to lack of training and national development efforts. He wants to know if the ministry conducted a study to identify the economic consequences of such a move, considering the losses are estimated at millions of dinars for the training and consultative companies and the employees working in those companies. He asked about the alternative that the ministry intends to provide in order to fill this gap.

In another development, MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari commented on the circular of the Ministry of Justice about the non-certification of the marriage of Bedouns. He said the decision is unconstitutional and inhuman.

He called on Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi to cancel the circular. He said the minister should take into consideration the image of Kuwait in the eyes of the international community.

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji also asked Hamada about the reports of the State Audit Bureau (SAB), which recorded major losses incurred by public companies. He said some of these companies have resorted to establishing other companies or participating in other companies in order to escape from the monitoring of SAB.

He requested for a list of the established companies, those that participated in public companies, date of establishment, chairpersons and members of the boards of directors, their salaries and allowances.



Al-Mukaimi

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