



football  
Page 15



大新銀行 HSBC 恒生指數 HSI 23223.76

十大升幅股份 Top 10 Gainers

| 代號   | 名稱   | 收市   | 升/跌  | 最高   | 最低   |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 0001 | 中環發展 | 1.18 | 0.08 | 1.25 | 1.10 |
| 0002 | 中環發展 | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.24 | 0.20 |
| 0003 | 中環發展 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.04 |
| 0004 | 中環發展 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.01 |
| 0005 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 0006 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 0007 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 0008 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 0009 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| 0010 | 中環發展 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 |

markets  
Page 9

# MINISTRY STRESSES NEED FOR CAUTION THESE DAYS MoH set to fight spread of omicron

## NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Assistant Undersecretary for Residency Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General **Anwar Al-Barjas** stated that a Kuwaiti woman, who is married to a non-Kuwaiti man, can complete all the transactions of her husband and children at the citizen service centers, reports Al-Rai daily.

However, he highlighted the ministry's endeavors to promote electronic transformation and gradually reduce and even avoid in-person visits by clients.

Al-Barjas, in the presence of the Director of Citizen Service Centers Brigadier **Abdul-Qader Shaaban**, inaugurated the citizen service center at Al-Salaam area following its renovation to become one of the model service centers in the country.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the inauguration event, Al-Barjas said, "This step will not be the last in opening service centers and equipping them with the best advanced services. There are instructions from the Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali and the Undersecretary of the ministry Lieutenant General **Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf** to rehabilitate all dilapidated citizen service centers and address any negatives issues first-hand, as well as qualify workers with courses and skills with all available means to complete citizens' transactions".

**KUWAIT CITY:** Statistics issued by the General Administration of Information Systems revealed 6,744,248 residence transactions have been completed through the 'Mata' platform renewal including the Kuwaiti passport renewals, since the date of launching the service, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, Article 18 residence permits for expatriates in the private sector accounted for 1,336,828, while 447,297 residence permits for domestics (Article 20) have been renewed.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement 421,131 driving licenses have been renewed, and 23,754 have been confiscated or replaced and received 1,320,026 dinars in the form of traffic fines.

**RIYADH:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General **Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf** on Saturday condemned, in the strongest terms, Houthi militia terrorist attack on Jazan, southern Saudi Arabia.

Al-Hajraf, in a statement, stressed that the systematic and deliberate attacks targeting civilians and civilian facilities is a flagrant violation of international laws and norms, as well as considered a war crime.

Yesterday, The Saudi-led coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen announced the death of a Saudi citizen and a Yemeni resident after Houthi militia projectile fell on Jazan. (KUNA)

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh authorities buried 23 unclaimed bodies on Saturday after a day-long search failed to recover more victims or survivors of a massive fire on a crowded river ferry that left 40 people dead.

**Habibur Rahman**, a top government official, said he had an incomplete list of 17 missing people who were on board the ferry on Friday when the fire broke out. He said he was forcing many to leap into cold waters and swim ashore.

Divers looked for more survivors before suspending their efforts at sunset on Saturday.

Rahman said 50 people were being treated in two hospitals, while 19 others have been sent home.

**Dr. Samanta Lal Sen**, chief coordinator of the Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in Dhaka, said his hospital was treating 15 people for serious burns. "I would say everyone is critical and no one is out of danger," he said. (AP)

**LONDON:** Queen Elizabeth II in her Christmas Day message shared the pain she felt after the death of her husband as she encouraged people everywhere to celebrate with friends and family, despite the grief caused by the ongoing pandemic.

Saying she understood the difficulty of spending the holiday season "with one familiar laugh missing," the monarch delivered her address beside a framed photograph of her arm-in-arm with **Prince Philip**, who died in April at age 99. On her right shoulder was the same sapphire chrysanthemum brooch she wore in the photo - a glittering statement pin that she also wore as a newlywed.

"Although it's a time of great happiness and good cheer for many, Christmas can be hard for those who have lost loved ones," the Queen said in the prerecorded message broadcast when many British families were enjoying their traditional Christmas dinner. (AP)



This undated photo provided by Merck & Co. shows their new antiviral medication molnupiravir. U.S. regulators have authorized a second pill against COVID-19, an antiviral drug from Merck that may help blunt the wave of infections driven by the omicron variant. The Food and Drug Administration granted the drug emergency use Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021, for adults with early COVID-19 who face the highest risks of hospitalization. Inset: This image provided by Pfizer in October 2021 shows the company's COVID-19 Paxlovid pills. U.S. health regulators on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021 authorized the first pill against COVID-19, a Pfizer drug that Americans will be able to take at home to head off the worst effects of the virus. (AP)

170 new Friday

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 25, (Agencies):** The Ministry of Health will resort to taking a number of measures in the event of an increase in the number of new cases of omicron variant, most notably stopping all non-emergency operations, opening more wards and intensive care units in hospitals, reintroducing field hospitals if necessary, and relying on examining patients and non-emergency cases through video calls or what is known as "telemedicine", reports Aljarida daily quoting informed health sources.

They stressed the readiness of the ministry to address any possible increases in the cases in the coming days.

The sources affirmed that daily meetings are being held by senior officials of the ministry with directors of all health zones and relevant central departments to determine the readiness of public hospitals to address the situation.

They indicated that the ministry and all members of the medical, technical and administrative staff have accumulated experience during and after the pandemic period of more than 22 months, which made the sector experienced enough to deal with any developments.

The sources highlighted the importance of adhering to the precautionary measures and following health requirements, of not being complacent during the coming period.

## Effective

They explained that vaccination with the third booster dose is one of the most effective ways to protect against the new variant, especially with the approach of the month of January during which seasonal viral diseases are prevalent.

The ministry had decided to stop the periodic vacations for all its employees, starting from next week until the end of January, in view of the global epidemiological situation and the developments resulting from the spread of the omicron variant.

A circular issued by the Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Mustafa Reda highlighted that this decision comes within the framework of ensuring the proper progress of work and providing the best health services.

In view of the developments in the global and local health situation, the Ministry of Health stressed the need for caution during gatherings, especially religious gatherings by some communities in these days on the occasion of the New Year's Day. It wished safety and security for everyone, reports Al-Qabas daily.

As part of the Ministry of Interior's efforts to deal with the corona crisis and curb the spread of the omicron variant which coincided with the Christmas and New Year celebrations, the security authorities in the Capital Governorate coordinated with the churches to strictly implement the health and security regulations to prevent overcrowding, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the security sector.

In cooperation with seven churches in the country, the ministry laid down a comprehensive plan for the entry and exit in churches to ensure there is no crowding among the worshippers. Each church should fill only half of the capacity, in addition to setting three worship timings for the largest communities and two timings for others to prevent crowding in the churches, sources explained.

## Measures

Member of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association (KTAA) and Chairman of the Media Committee in the association Hussein Al-Sulaiteen said only three percent of travel ticket reservations for the New Year holiday were cancelled despite the health measures taken by some European countries and the discovery of omicron cases in Kuwait, reports Al-Anba daily.

He disclosed the current sales of tourism and travel agencies increased slightly compared to the previous period, but the travel sector in general is still in a phase of fluctuation and instability. He affirmed this is normal due to the emergence of the new variants of coronavirus, which prompted some people to change their travel plans.

He said the most preferred destinations for the New Year holiday include Turkey, Dubai and Egypt; indicating that travel rate to Dubai increased remarkably when ticket prices dropped by 100 percent. He revealed the price of a ticket to Dubai reached more than KD200 in the past, while the current price ranges from KD90 to KD100.

Kuwait's Health Ministry on Friday said that 170 people tested positive for COVID-19 taking the total to 414,761.

The recoveries rose by 40 to 411,256, while death toll from the pandemic remained unchanged at 2,467, the Ministry's Spokesman Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad told KUNA.



In this photo provided by NASA, the James Webb Space Telescope is separated in space on Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope soared from French Guiana on South America's northeastern coast, riding a European Ariane rocket into the Christmas morning sky. The \$10 billion infrared observatory is intended as the successor to the aging Hubble Space Telescope. (AP)

## MPs 'lament' Cabinet delay

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 25:** A number of MPs commented on the delayed formation of the new government.

MP **Badr Al-Mullah** said the neighboring countries are busy making achievements, while His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid is deliberately delaying the announcement of the new government. He stressed that this is against the citizens' interests and an addition to the record of failures.

MP **Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi** posted on his Twitter account: "Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid aims to protect his position through the way he forms the new government. He focuses on remaining in his position for as long as possible without taking into consideration the interest of the nation." Addressing the premier, Al-Saqaabi said: "Cooperation with you has reached the end of the road. Declining is the best service you can offer to Kuwait."

MP **Mubarak Al-Hajraf** thinks the premier delays the formation of the government and hinders the execution of the generous amnesty that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah granted to those convicted in opinion cases. He said he cannot cooperate with the premier who is not aware of the suffering of families whose children are still in exile.

## Telescope launched on daring quest

**PARIS, Dec 25, (AP):** The world's largest and most powerful space telescope rocketed away Saturday on a high-stakes quest to behold light from the first stars and galaxies and scour the universe for hints of life.

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope soared from French Guiana on South America's northeastern coast, riding a European Ariane rocket into the Christmas morning sky.

The \$10 billion observatory hurtled toward its destination 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away, or more than four times beyond the moon. It will take a month to get there and another five months before its infrared eyes are ready to start scanning the cosmos.

First, the telescope's enormous mirror and sunshield need to unfurl; they were folded origami-style to fit into the rocket's nose cone. Otherwise, the observatory won't be able to peer back in time 13.7 billion years as anticipated, within a mere 100 million years of the universe-forming Big Bang.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson called Webb is a time machine that will provide "a better understanding of our universe and our place in it: who we are, what we are, the search that's eternal."

"We are going to discover incredible things that we never imagined," Nelson said following liftoff, speaking from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. But he cautioned: "There are still innumerable things that have to work and they have to work perfectly ... we know that in great reward there is great risk."

Intended as a successor to the aging Hubble Space Telescope, the long-delayed James Webb is named after NASA's administrator during the 1960s. NASA partnered with the European and Canadian space agencies to build and launch the new 7-ton telescope, with thousands of people from 29 countries working on it since the 1990s.

With the launch falling on Christmas and a global surge in COVID-19 cases, there were fewer spectators at the French Guiana launch site than expected. Nelson bowed out along with a congressional delegation and many contractors who worked on the telescope.

Around the world, astronomers had eagerly waited to see Webb finally taking flight after years of setbacks. Last-minute technical snags bumped the launch nearly a week, then gusty wind pushed it to Christmas. A few of the launch

controllers wore Santa caps in celebration. "We have delivered a Christmas gift today for humanity," said European Space Agency director general Josef Aschbacher. He described it as a special moment, but added: "It's very nerve-racking. I couldn't do launches every single day. This would not be good for my life expectancy."

Cheers and applause erupted in and outside Launch Control following Webb's flawless launch, with jubilant scientists embracing one another amid shouts of "Go Webb!" and signs that read: "Bon Voyage Webb." Cameras on the rocket's upper stage provided one last glimpse of the shimmering telescope, before it sped away.

The telescope's showpiece: a gold-plated mirror more than 21 feet (6.5 meters) across. Protecting the observatory is a wispy, five-layered sunshield, vital for keeping the light-gathering mirror and heat-sensing infrared detectors at subzero temperatures. At 70 feet by 46 feet (21 meters by 14 meters), it's the size of a tennis court.

If all goes well, the sunshield will be opened three days after liftoff, taking at least five days to unfold and lock into place. Next, the mirror segments should open up like the leaves of a drop-leaf table, 12 days or so into the flight.

In all, hundreds of release mechanisms need to work - perfectly - in order for the telescope to succeed. "Like nothing we've done before," said NASA program director Greg Robinson.

Retired astronaut-astronomer Steven Hawley is more stressed over Webb than he was for Hubble, which he released into orbit from space shuttle Discovery in 1990. That's because Webb will be too far away for rescuing, as was necessary when Hubble turned out to have blurry vision from a defective mirror.

Spacewalking repairs by astronauts transformed Hubble into a beloved marvel that has revolutionized humanity's understanding of the universe, casting its eyes as far back as 13.4 billion years. It's now up to Webb to draw even closer to the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, its infrared vision keener and more far-reaching than Hubble's is in the shorter visible and ultraviolet wavelengths.

NASA is shooting for 10 years of operational life from Webb. Engineers deliberately left the fuel tank accessible for a top-off by visiting spacecraft, if and when such technology becomes available.