

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	05:12
Sunrise ..	06:33
Zohr	12:02
Asr	15:09
Maghrib...	17:32
Isha	18:50

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Warm with light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 12-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Rather cold to cold

Weather

and partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	21	14
Kuwait Airport	22	13
Abdaly	21	10

Bubyan	20	17
Jahra	21	12
Salmiyah	19	15
Ahmadi	21	14
Nuwaisib	23	13
Wafra	24	12
Salmiyah	19	10

National Bank of Kuwait sheds 8 fils, Humansoft Holding gains

Kuwait stock index meanders into red turf, volume ticks lower

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: Kuwait stocks meandered into red turf on Monday erasing most of last session's gains. The All Shares Index dropped 21.81 points to 5,703.16 pts weighed mostly by blue chips.

The Premier Market dipped 29.55 points to 6,221.37 pts while Main Market gave up 5.87 points. The BK Main 50 was down 29.55 points at 6221.37 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile ticked slightly lower following Sunday's surge. Over 441 million shares changed hands - down 1 pct from the day before.

The sectors closed mixed. Oil and Gas outshone the rest with 3.22 pct gain whereas Technology sector slumped 5 percent, the worst performer of the day. Financial Services continued to top in both volume and value with over 307 million shares traded for KD 20.4 million.

Among the day's notable losers, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait extended Sunday's losses with a 8 fils drop to 842 fils after trading 4.9 million shares while Kuwait Finance House clipped 2 fils with a volume of 5.4 million shares. Tamdeen Investment Co was down 6 fils at 238 fils.

Zain fell 3 fils to 632 fils after pushing over 1 million shares while Ooredoo erased Sunday's gains with a 8 fils drop to 685 fils. stc was down 3 fils at 960 fils and logistics major Agility rose 3 fils to 747 fils. Humansoft Holding jumped 19 fils to 349 fils and Boursa Kuwait Securities sprinted 9 fils to KD 1.160. NAPESCO soared 51 fils to KD 1.040 whereas Mabaneh closed flat.

The market opened firm and edged higher in early trade. The main index scaled the day's highest level of 5,736 points and flipped direction as selling roiled the trading floor sentiment. It moved listlessly in the second half before closing with moderate losses.

Top gainer of the day, Energy Holding darted 7.69 pct to 30.8 fils while NCCI scaled 7.5 pct to stand next. First Takaful Insurance skidded 12.63 pct, the steepest decliner of the day and ALOLA continued to top the volume with 189.3 million shares.

Reflecting the day's drop, the losers outnumbered the winners. 46 stocks advanced whereas 69 closed lower. Of the 132 counters active on Monday, 17 closed flat. 11,657 deals worth KD 43.73 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, Gulf Bank eased 1 fil to 218 fils after trading 4.2 million shares while Burgan Bank was unchanged at 220 fils. Kuwait International Bank dialed down 2 fils and Boubyan Bank closed 3 fils in red.

Ahli United Bank BSC tripped 1 fil with a volume of 5.5 million shares and Warba Bank followed suit to close at 235 fils whereas Al Ahli Bank and Ahli United Bank Kuwait erased 1 fil each to close at 203 fils and 300 fils respectively.

Investment conglomerate KIPCO rose 2 fils to 172 fils on back of 5.6 million shares while KAMCO ticked 0.1 fil into green. Kuwait Investment Co and Noor Financial Investment dialed down 1 fil each while

SMEs collapse dangerous: KCCI

No backing down on decision

By Khaled Al-Hajri
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: Despite the weight of parliamentary and popular pressures that the government found itself facing head-on immediately after the decisions it issued last Wednesday, and the stance taken by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) yesterday which did not calm the scene, there is no sign or indication or promise of the government's retreat from the decision.

According to reliable sources, the government will not retreat from its decisions to close commercial activities, in light of the continuous increase in COVID-19 cases.

The directives issued in this regard require studying ways to mitigate the effects of decisions and their repercussions, especially on young entrepreneurs, instead of canceling or writing-off decisions as others believe.

Meanwhile, KCCI has entered the crisis

line, warning that "the collapse of small and medium enterprises will have a very dangerous economic, societal and financial cost".

In his speech during a meeting with representatives of SMEs, the KCCI Board Chairman Muhammad Al-Saqer said, "The Chamber's endeavors did not record any success, neither due to its weakness nor error in its directions, but rather due to the faltering and hesitation of the decision, foiling of necessary legislation, and absence of decisions most of the time as well as delay in issuing them."

He explained that this statement is not related to supporting SMEs but also applies unfortunately to Kuwait's management of the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic in general.

Al-Saqer emphasized that, "For the second time, small and medium enterprises have become victims of insufficient and bold study of closure decisions, fear of naming matters by their names, and addressing the real causes of relapse in health efforts".



KUNA photos
Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Sabah holds meeting with specialized agents in the correctional institute. Inset: The Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah receives the Ambassador of Ukraine.

'Continue rehabilitation, training'

Defense minister meets envoys, eyes ties boost

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8, (KUNA): Kuwait Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Sabah, stressed the necessity of continuing the workers rehabilitation and training within the correctional facilities and the implementation of judgments on how to deal with inmates according to the

requirements stipulated in international human rights charters.

This came in a press release of the General Administration for Security Relations and Media in the ministry, following a tour conducted by Sheikh Thamer in the correctional institutions, as he was received by the Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Institutions and Judgment Execution Sector, Major General Talal Marafie, in the presence of a number of specialized assistant agents.

The statement said that the minister was briefed during the tour on a virtual presentation on the prisons' facilities, the qualitative shift that it witnessed, and the health services provided, which include medical specialties, laboratories, radiology and preventive health in light of the exceptional circumstances that the country is going through in the face of the coronavirus.

The minister expressed his appreciation for the efforts made within the correctional institutions sector and the implementation of judgments through the care, activities and programs provided to male and female inmates, which strengthens Kuwait's position as a leading country to preserve human rights.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah on Monday held talks with a number of ambassadors in the country on cooperation between Kuwait and the envoys' countries.

Kuwait Army said in a press statement that the minister held the discussions with the ambassador of the Ukraine, the UK and Belgium.

The talks deal with means of cementing cooperation, joint action and latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

Later in the day, the minister met with Chairman of Kuwait Airways Captain Ali Al-Dokhan, examining some topics.

The meeting was attended by the defense acting undersecretary, Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the KAC Deputy Chairman Faisal Al-Gharib and the airways chief executive officer, Adel Al-Sanea.

mp profile getting to know you

Voting Record

Al-Khalifa has no voting record as he is a first-time MP.

Marzouq Khalifa Al-Khalifa
Sunni
Fourth Constituency

MARZOUQ KHALIFA
AL-KHALIFA was born in 1961. He holds Diploma in Military Science and a master's degree in Military Science.

He worked at the Ministry of Defense and retired with the rank of colonel. He participated in the liberation of Kuwait in 1990.

He contested the by-elections in 2014 but he lost as he obtained 4,005 votes and placed second in the Fourth Constituency. He also ran for the 2016 parliamentary elections; during which he won 2,874 votes and ranked ninth in his constituency. However, he lost his parliamentary



Al-Khalifa

chair due to the complaint filed by former MP Farraj Zebr Al-Erbeid. He won in the 2020 elections with 4,760 votes which put him in seventh place in the Fourth Constituency.

Statement

Al-Khalifa supported the grilling motion filed by three MPs against HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid and declared no cooperation with the latter. "We will not cooperate with a weak prime minister

who does not address the demands of the public; foremost of which are the proposed general amnesty, amendment of Elections Law, putting citizenship issues under the jurisdiction of the court and combating corruption," he asserted.

MARS ASCENDENT

Continued from Page 2

Europe and one from India. The UAE hopes to make it seven with its \$200-plus million mission.

The UAE is especially proud that Amal was designed and built by its own citizens, who partnered with the University of Colorado at Boulder and other US institutions, not simply purchased from abroad. Its arrival at Mars coincides with this year's 50th anniversary of the country's founding.

"Starting off the year with this milestone is something very important for the people" of the UAE, said Sharaf.

China, hasn't divulged much in advance. Even the spacecraft's exact arrival time on Wednesday has yet to be announced.

The China Academy of Space Technology's Ye Peijian noted that Tianwen-1 has three objectives: orbiting the planet, landing and releasing the rover. If successful, he said in a statement "it will become the world's first Mars expedition accomplishing all three goals with one probe."

The coronavirus pandemic has complicated each step of each spacecraft's 300 million-mile (480 million-kilometer) journey to Mars. It even kept the European and Russian space agencies' joint Mars mission grounded until the next launch window in 2022.

The flight control rooms will contain fewer people on the big day, with staff spread over a wider area and working from home. Desks have dividers and partitions. Masks and social distancing are mandatory.

Perseverance's deputy project manager Matt Wallace, who's working his fifth Mars rover mission, said the pandemic won't dampen the mood come landing day.

"I don't think COVID's going to be able to stop us from jumping up and down, and fist-bumping," he said. "You're going to see a lot of happy people no matter what, once we get this thing on the surface safely."

Court acquits cadet officer

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a cadet officer and an individual who were charged with manslaughter that occurred during military exercises at Ali Al-Sabah Military College. The court ordered the civil case to be referred to the competent court.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution had accused the defendants of inadvertently causing the death of the victim - a cadet officer at Ali Al-Sabah Military College - due to their negligence and failure to observe the regulations when they involved the victim in military exercises despite granting him medical rest, which led to the deterioration of his health condition, followed by his death.

Representing the defendants was Lawyer Hussein Al-Asfour who argued that there is no substantial evidence, especially medical reports, that back the claims made by the prosecutor.

Kuwait added to 'red zone'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 8: Ukraine's Ministry of Health has updated its list of countries classified as 'red' and 'green' zones; taking into account the number of active cases of coronavirus per 100,000 population, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to 112.international news website, Ukraine has increased the number of 'red' zone countries to 80. The additional 'red' zone countries are Namibia, Botswana, Moldova, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives and Eswatini; while Suriname was excluded from the list.

Popular countries like Poland, Hungary, Germany, Italy, France, USA, Canada and Great Britain remain in the 'red' zone for Ukrainian tourists.

Chief Sanitary Doctor Viktor Lyashko was quoted as saying that the government plans to complete five million inoculations every month once the vaccination campaign in Ukraine begins.

"If we correctly assume the capabilities of our healthcare system, we will be able to complete approximately five million inoculations monthly; and that is excluding the rooms used for routine vaccinations," he added.

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