

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:20	Asr	14:56
Sunrise	06:43	Maghrib	17:16
Zohr	11:59	Isha	18:36

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hrs:

By Day: A significant decrease in temperature and rather cold with moderate to fresh north westerly wind with speeds of 20-45 km/h.

By Night: Very cold and partly cloudy with moderate to fresh north

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Wind	Humidity
Kuwait City	22	13	Westerly 20-45 km/h	23
Kuwait Airport	23	09		11
Abdaly	25	06		15
Bubyan	21	11		-
Jahra				23
Failaka Island				-
Salmiyah				19
Ahmedi				-
Nuwaisib				22
Wafra				09
Salmiyah				09

Other Voices

Honored by the blessing of Islam before plagued with your ideas!

By **Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli**
Former Minister of Oil

THE New Kuwaitis have been plagued with our political authorities over the years. They and their sons believe we are the infidels of Quraish (Kofar Quraysh). The lord of the servants sent them to guide us to what is right!

Otherwise, is it possible for someone to protest against a New Year's party when we are in the 21st century? We work, study and date everything that we find interesting in this life. We know our years. As for the Hijri year (Islamic calendar), it is only used for religious holidays like Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha. Those who belong to the Jaafari Sect use it for Ashura – a day of expressing grief and sadness for the slaughter of the grandson of our noble Messenger, Imam Hussein, and the people of his honorable household (Ahl Al-Bayt).

We honor and respect the people for someone who annoyed us recently by protesting against an 'innocent' party held in a public place (hotel) to celebrate New Year's Day; while the 'rational' government obeyed him and referred the hotel owners and those who attended the party for investigation and trial!

Such events were held in public – in our hotels and public places – in the sixties, seventies and mid-eighties, until we were afflicted by certain personalities and figures. The government would subjugate and disgrace them, so they would fluff their feathers on us and we say to them: Are you full? They ask: Is there more?!

Hundreds of celebrations were held in Kuwait like this party in a public place as well as apartments, villas, chalets and camping sites. Where were the guards of piety and the 'fatwa' spokesmen? Where was the 'rational' government that feared and became submissive to such people?!

Government submission tempted a young man from the disastrous Dec 5 Assembly, who submitted within a few days a proposal to increase the religious institutes for boys and girls in all the governorates of Kuwait?!

We say to the immature young man that we worked with his late father, may God forgive him, in the National Assembly as ministers and lawmakers of the 1992 Assembly. The deceased was a logical religious man, may God have mercy on him. Through his religion, he had a relationship with his Creator. He did not attempt to trade in religiosity or populist parade, as he was the representative of all the people.

We say to the immature MP that we lived in Kuwait and between our backs

was a religious institute located on a street bearing his name in the old souk area. It is an extension of Gharabally Market and behind it is Bin Duaij Market. Its walls include all the spectra of the original Kuwaiti people – before we came to prominence with the Kuwaitis who were imported or naturalized by the authority.

Kuwait radiated in terms of religion and culture; hence, the emergence of clerics like Sheikh Yusuf bin Isa, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nuri, Sheikh Hamada and others. We listened to them submissively because they spoke only with logic and truth.

These people rejected the bloody religious 'takfir' principles whose followers used to surround us while they were outside the borders, until they entered to silence us and hold our breath – similar to what you and the likes of you are doing now.

We are in Kuwait, my great nephew, may God honor us with the true and pure Islam before we were plagued with ideologies (ideas) like yours.



Ali Al-Baghli



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

MPs in heated arguments with Speaker of the National Assembly after he postponed the session due to lack of quorum on Jan 19.

'Kuwait's Constitution, principles of Islam guarantee family, kids safety'

Citizens get nod to build houses in Mutla'a from March 14

By **Saeed Mahmoud Saleh**
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: National Assembly Observer and Chairman of the Parliamentary Women, Children and Family Affairs Committee MP Osama Al-Shaheen attended the fourth conference organized by the International Society for Prevention of Children Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) – Bahrain branch with the theme, "For the safe future of Arab orphan children."

Al-Shaheen delivered a presentation on Law No. 21/2015 and 16/2020 regarding family violence, during which he emphasized that Kuwait's Constitution and principles of Islam guarantee the protection of the family and children.

Meanwhile, the Housing Affairs Committee on Wednesday met with representatives of the State Ministry for Housing Welfare, Kuwait Municipality and Ministry of Public Works.

After the meeting, Committee Chairman MP Fayez Al-Jomhour delivered good news to citizens who applied for plots in Mutla'a residential area, confirming that the Municipality will start issuing permits for them to construct their houses on

March 14, 2021. He congratulated these citizens and praised the cooperation of relevant institutions, especially the state ministries for Municipal and Housing Affairs. On the other hand, MP Soud Bu Sleeb forwarded queries to former Minister of Justice Nawaf Al-Yasseen about the action that the Public Prosecution took against those involved in the money laundering case related to the Malaysian Sovereign Fund, Euro Fighter deal and Kuwait Army Fund.

In another development, MPs Osama Al-Shaheen, Hamad Al-Matar, Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi, Khalid Al-Otaibi and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri submitted a bill to amend law number 23/2015 on the establishment of the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA).

The bill stipulates intensifying efforts of the State to monitor financial issues and expand supervision to cover Kuwaiti offices abroad in order to prevent the recurrence of violations, such as those related to military offices.

The amendment states that FSA will be headed by the board chairman with the rank of minister; while the chairman, deputy chairman and heads of departments will be appointed based on a decree with a term of four years renewable once. The chairman will form and head a supreme committee affiliated to the authority.

Ministries, other public institutions, companies owned by the State, companies where the State owns 50 percent or more of the capital, and all overseas offices – medical, cultural, military, etc. – will be subject to the monitoring of FSA.

Investment activities are not subject to FSA monitoring, while the supreme committee can add other institutions under FSA monitoring. If a public institution rejects FSA monitoring, the chairman will inform HH the Prime Minister and the National Assembly Speaker.

The board chairman and his deputy cannot be dismissed unless through a recommendation signed by majority of the supreme committee members and if they commit grave violations as per the reports of a fact-finding committee which will be formed by the finance minister and headed by a judge nominated by the Supreme Judiciary Council.

FSA will sign cooperation protocols with the other monitoring institutions like the State Audit Bureau (SAB), Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and Kuwait Financial Investigations Unit.

MPs Ali Al-Qattan, Hesham Al-Saleh, Muhammad Al-Rajhi, Muhammad Al-Sayer and Fares Al-Otaibi submitted a proposal to amend law number 98/ 2013 on the establishment of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises.

According to the bill, the beneficiaries of the fund are citizens registered in the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) as employees; in addition to public sector employees who are allowed to go on leave for maximum of three years to handle their businesses. If such employees resume work and give up their businesses, these businesses will be returned to the fund.

The board of directors will issue decisions and specify procedures for compensating the beneficiaries in case of total closure due to unforeseeable circumstances like pandemic, natural disasters and wars.

If a business suffers from financial troubles, it goes back to the custody of the fund and the beneficiary is not held responsible unless embezzlement is uncovered. In this case, the beneficiary shall bear financial and criminal responsibilities.

MP Saad Al-Khanfour proposed increasing national labor subsidy by 100 percent and up to 120 percent for employees holding a master's or doctorate degree.

The bill cancels the authority of the concerned minister to reduce national labor subsidy and such reduction will be done only through a law ratified by the Assembly.

MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa submitted a proposal to construct a road intersecting Jahra and the Sixth Ring Road.

Kuwait bourse extends gains, as volume turnover recedes

By **John Mathews**
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: Kuwait benchmark notched feeble rise on Wednesday extending the gains to third straight session. The All Shares Index gained 7.99 points in volatile trade to 5,681.16 points paced by select counters even as the broader sentiment turned cautiously positive.

The Premier Market climbed 10.54 points to 6,202.11 pts taking the month's gains to 151 pts while Main Market added 2.74 points. The volume turnover, meanwhile, slipped slightly following last session's surge. Over 315 million shares changed hands – a 6 pct rise from Tuesday.

The sectors closed mostly in green turf. Utilities outshone the rest with 2.25 pct gain whereas Technology sector shed 2 percent, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 133.2 million shares while Banking Sector dominated with KD 10.3 million.

In the individual shares, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait rose 3 fils on back of over 3 million shares to 856 fils whereas Mabane Co dialed up 2 fils. Tamdeen Investment skidded 40 fils to 290 fils while YIACO soared 70 fils to 780 fils. NAPESCO swung 33 fils up to KD 1.024.

Zain slipped 3 fils to 629 fils after pushing 3.8 million shares and Ooredoo gave up 7 fils to close at 683 fils. stc darted 6 fils to 905 fils while Agility scaled 7 fils on back of over 2 million shares. Humansoft Holding jumped 20 fils to KD 3.670 and Boursa Securities House was up 7 fils at KD 1.150.

KIPCO was unchanged at 159 fils whereas KAMCO ticked 0.1 fil higher to 73.1 fils. International Financial Advisors and Bayan Investment took in 0.8 fil whereas Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) stood pat at 83.5 fils. KMEFIC added 3 fils while National Investment Co trimmed 1 fil. Osoul Investment rose 2.8 fils whereas Noor Financial Investment erased 2 fils.

The market opened on a tame note and pulled higher in early. The main index scaled the day's highest level of 5686 points before retreating amid a bout of selling. It bottomed at 5,666 points ahead of the mid-session and clawed back into the green zone in the second half and ended with small gains.

Top gainer of the day, Metal and Recycling Co soared 20.6 percent to 95.3 fils while Thuraya jumped 19.43 pct to stand next. Tamdeen Investment skidded 12.12 percent, the steepest decliner of the day while ALOLA topped the volume with 44.6 million shares.

Mirroring the day's gains, the market spread was skewed towards the winners. 72 stocks advanced whereas 47 closed lower. Of the 137 counters active on Wednesday, 18 closed flat. 10, 547 deals worth KD 35.3 million were transacted during the session.

National Industries Group added 2 fils on back of 2.9 million shares while Mezzan Holding rose 5 fils after pushing 1.2 million shares. Boubyan Petrochemical Co fell 4 fils to 663 fils whereas Al Qurain

Petrochemical Co took in 1 fil. Integrated Holding stood pat at 359 fils while Aznour paced 6 fils.

Jazeera Airways added 2 fils whereas ALAFCO eased 1 fil to 229 fils. Mashaer Holding and Mubarrad Transport took in 0.5 fil each to close at 60 fils and 78 fils respectively. Soor Fuel and Oula Fuel were both flat at 122 fils whereas Inovest inched 0.9 fil. UPAC gave up 3 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co climbed 4 fils to 244 fils while Kuwait Portland Cement darted 16 fils to 820 fils. Gulf Cable clipped 1 fil and Kuwait Foundry Co scaled 14 fils to close at 295 fils. ACICO Industries eased 1.3 fils to 90.7 fils whereas Kuwait Gulf Links Transport Co stalled at 53.5 fils.

KCPC slipped 3 fils to 431 fils while Automated Systems Co tripped 1.5 fils.

▼	US\$/KD 0.30280/90
▲	Euro/KD 0.366
■	Yen/KD 0.0029
▲	British £/KD 0.4138
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0041
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0063
▲	FTSE +13.72 pts at closing Jan 20
▼	Nikkei -110.20 pts at closing Jan 20
▲	Gold \$1,843 per oz (London)
▲	NYMEX crude \$53.74 per barrel
▲	Brent crude \$56.51 per barrel
■	3-month \$ LIBOR rate 0.22363%

Educational Holding was down 4 fils at 330 fils and Independent Petroleum Group paced 5 fils. Gulf Petroleum Investment eased 0.2 fil to 20.2 fils. Borgan Well Drilling Co dialed up 2 fils and IFA Hotels and Resorts ticked 0.2 fil into green.

Combined Group Contracting Co moved 6 fils up to 214 fils on back of 1.6 million shares and OSOS gave up 4.4 fils to close at 85.1 fils. United Projects Co whittled down 3 fils and Al Bareeq Holding clipped 1.5 fils.

In the Banking Sector, Kuwait Finance edged 1 fil up to 856 fils on back of over 3 million shares whereas Borgan Bank tripped 1 fil. Gulf Bank and Kuwait International Bank added 1 fil each to close at 218 fils and 210 fils respectively. Boubyan Bank trimmed 1 fil and Warba Bank followed suit. Ahli United Bank stood pat at 220 fils.

The market has been largely upbeat so far during the week, gaining 25 points in last four sessions. It has rallied 135 points from start of the month after tumbling 736 points during whole of 2020.

mp profile getting to know you

Voting Record

- Grilling motion against Minister of Information Muhammad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in 2012 – rejected
- Grilling motion against Minister of Finance Mustafa Al-Shamali in 2012 – approved
- Death penalty for those convicted of offending God in 2012 – absent

Osama Habib Al-Menawer
Sunni
Third Constituency

OSAMA HABIB AL-MENAWER was born in 1972 and obtained Bachelor of Law from Kuwait University.

He is a lawyer and member of several law organizations including the International Lawyers Association, Avocats Sans Frontières and Arab Organization for Human Rights.

He ran for the February 2012 parliamentary elections in the Fourth Constituency; during which he got 10,591 votes and ranked eighth in his constituency. He was part of the majority and Justice Bloc in the 2012 Parliament.

He lost in the 2016 elections when he landed on the 20th spot in the Fourth Constituency with 2,032 votes.

He emerged victorious in the

2020 elections with 3,858 votes which put him in second place in the Third Constituency.

Statement

Al-Menawer commented on the issue of flying pebbles on roads throughout the country. "While walking on the roads of Kuwait post-liberation, I saw about six tons of pebbles and the roads were not damaged at the time. Now, the roads cannot withstand even the small vehicles. This issue has nothing to do with road paving technology as it is mainly due to corruption."



Al-Menawer

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