

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:51	Asr	14:32
Sunrise ..	06:13	Maghrib ..	16:52
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:12

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Fair and rather cold

with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**

Kuwait City 25 18

Kuwait Airport 27 18

Abdaly 28 13

Jahra	27	17
Salmiyah	24	20
Ahmadi	24	20
Nuwaisib	27	17
Wafra	28	17
Salmiyah	26	13
Jal Aliyah	26	14

Oman

Continued from Page 2

In addition, the principles of Omani foreign policy as established in its blessed renaissance espouse dialogue as a means for solving disputes. They also support values of tolerance, justice equality and the settlement of conflicts in accordance with the UN charter and rules of the International Law. This enhanced the Sultanate's of Oman regional and international status and made it a lighthouse of peace and security.

It is worth noting that Omani foreign policy principles are derived from basics of Oman's centuries-old civilisation and original values of Omani society that indicate a sincere desire to promote humanity and moderation. As a result, the Sultanate of Oman is widely accepted as mediator in the international arena.

Economy...Oman Vision 2040:

The much-awaited Oman Economic Vision, scheduled to be implemented upon the start of the 10th Five Year Plan in January 2021, meets with serious challenges, including the slump in international oil prices and the global spread of coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

These challenges prompted the government to undertake stringent measures, including a Medium-Term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2024) which features many initiatives and programs aimed at establishing solid foundations for financial sustainability, reducing general debt, upgrading the efficiency of government spending, enhancing the State's financial reserves, improving revenues from investment of government (to help the country deal with any challenges) and, thus, setting economic growth upright.

The government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, also cut down budgets of government units by 5%, downsizing operational budgets and financial plans of government firms by at least 10% and slashing remunerations of boards of public authorities and establishment and affiliate committees by 50% applying a 5% Value Added Tax by next April (2021). All these measures are expected to supply the budget with a sum of RO 400 million.

The aggregate revenues of the 2020 Budget stood at RO 10.7 billion calculated at a rate of \$58 per barrel, while general expenditure was estimated at RO 13.2 billion, which entails estimated deficit of about RO 2.5 billion or 8% of the Gross Domestic Product.

In his speech last February, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik outlined the features of the next stage of development. He pointed out that the tasks of government firms will be fully revised with a view to developing them and augmenting their contribution to the economic system. His Majesty said, "We will study government decision-making with the aim of realizing the supreme national interests of the country. We will accord this aspect our full attention and our support." Accordingly, Oman Investment Authority restructured the boards of directors of 15 government firms coming under its supervision. Also, ICT sector firms were restructured and a project for the foundation of an all-round agricultural products marketing company was announced. The vegetable and fruit marketing company will report to Oman Food Investment Company.

Due to the vital role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in economic growth, the government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Labour, worked to establish a suitable environment for SMEs. The steps included the exemption of SMEs from Omanisation percentages and the allocation of some professions to expatriate manpower. Also, the portal Invest-Ease has introduced many electronic services to the business community. In this respect, His Majesty the Sultan said, "We understand the significance of the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector and the Entrepreneurship Sector, notably projects based on innovation, artificial intelligence and advanced technologies. Attention will be accorded to training and empowering youth to help them benefit from opportunities offered by these vital sectors so that they could establish the core component of a smart national economy. Our government will follow up the progress made in these domains step by step."

The schema of laws and incentives related to investment helped furnish an attractive climate for investments from home and abroad. These include the Foreign Capital Investment Law.

The government capitalizes on investment in Omani ports, particularly the Port of Sohar and the Port of Salalah, in addition to special economic zones (like the Special Economic Zone in Duqm and the Port of Duqm). The tourism sector also forms one of the basic pillars of economic diversification. The government has devised clear-cut strategies to maximize benefits from investment in the tourism sector.

Electronic Census:

His Majesty Sultan Haitham attaches great importance to Electronic Census of Population, Residences and Establishments due to be held in December 2020. His Majesty the Sultan urged all to cooperate and interact positively with the census procedures so that it could achieve its desired objectives. The outcome of the e-census will cover all aspects of developmental planning.

Job Security System Law:

To provide means of decent living for Omani citizens amid adverse global economic conditions, a Job Security System Law has been promulgated by Royal decree. His Majesty the Sultan donated RO 10 million as a personal contribution towards the foundation of the fund. He also issued directives to speed up the establishment of a comprehensive national Social Security Scheme that provides protection to low-income groups and Social Security Fund beneficiary families against expected impacts of the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan.

Education and Research Sector:

His Majesty Sultan Haitham accorded top priority to the sector of education. He gave directives to provide a supportive environment that enhances learning, research and innovation. The aim is to enable Omani citizens to contribute to the forthcoming stage of development.

The National Strategy for Research and Development has been modernized to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040, notably the development of a cognitive community that is capable of competing and converting knowledge into economic revenue. The setting up of University of Technology and Applied Sciences last August is testimony to this approach of encouraging research and innovation and benefit from advances of artificial intelligence and the 4th industrial revolution (4IR). For the same purpose the name of Ministry of Higher Education has been changed to Ministry of Higher Education, Research

and Innovation.

The Sultanate's of Oman modern renaissance is influenced by the memorable quote of the late Sultan who said, "We will educate our sons and daughters even under the shade of a tree" (way back in the 1970s). since then, the march of education has gone a long way and, today, educational establishments are set up on each mountain and plain in Oman.

The recent Royal directives to set up six priority schools in the forthcoming stage to the tune of RO 8.85 million reflect the attention accorded by His Majesty the Sultan to the needs of citizens. It is a gesture that denotes his Royal support to education, being the basic requirement for nation building.

Environment:

Since the outset of its blessed renaissance, the Sultanate of Oman has been implementing a policy of environment protection and pollution prevention. This policy comes within the framework of a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development, conservation of wildlife and preservation of renewable resources.

The government supported this approach by encouraging environment research, exchanging expertise, gathering information, spreading public awareness and instilling basic values and principles that support the goals of sustainable development.

The Environment Authority undertakes the mission of issuing laws deemed necessary for the protection of natural reserves, marine ecosystems and biological diversity. It also introduces the principle of environmental management as a means of raising the capacity of development projects. This is in addition to environment inspection tasks that seek to monitor the situation, assess any negative impacts to the environment and undertake necessary action.

The Environment Authority also seeks to reaffirm the principle of setting balance between development requirements and maintaining environment safety.

The government takes keen interest in analyzing impacts of projects on the environment. This applies to all sorts of industrial, service and infrastructure projects. Regular programmes for monitoring, detection and inspection have been conducted right after the operation of projects, so that field feedback on the environmental situation around the site could be received and negative impacts addressed immediately.

The Environment Authority executes laws, regulations, decision and national strategy programmes and drafts environment protection plans in keeping with the Sultanate's of Oman commitment to international environment agreements within the context of basic goals for sustainable development. National strategies in this field are updated regularly for the management of chemicals and pollutants. The authority issues licenses and environmental clearances. It sets up national networks for the analysis of air quality, among other tasks.

The Environment Authority follows up laws and national plans for the management of coastal areas and control of desertification. It drafts proposals for the establishment of nature reserves, including temporary protected sites and important sites in cooperation with global organisations.

Freedom of expression:

The renewed renaissance led by His Majesty the Sultan accords importance to the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Basic Law of the State's Article (29).

The article provides that the law secures to the individuals of society the freedom of expression either through speaking, writing or other means within the boundaries of the law. This has been reaffirmed by His Majesty the Sultan, who said that the State is founded on grounds of freedom of speech, justice and equality of opportunities where people's dignity, rights and liberties are preserved.

Omani Women:

One of the bright aspects of renewed Omani renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik is the Royal attention accorded to Omani women. The vital role of women in the nation building march has been highly recognized. His Majesty the Sultan said, "We all have to ensure that women get their full rights guaranteed by law, including their right to work side by side with men across all sectors to serve their country and society."

Last month, His Majesty the Sultan conferred the Order of Royal Commendation on a number of Omani women. The Order was presented by Honorable Lady, the Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, at a ceremony at Al Baraka Palace on 17 October 2020.

Youth Sector:

His Majesty the Sultan described youth as "the inexhaustible wealth of nations...its hands that build." He voiced his sincere desire to listen to youth, explore their interests, address their concerns and achieve their aspirations." The celebration of Omani Youth Day on 26 October came as reaffirmation of the Sultanate of Oman government's commitment towards this segment of society and its determination to provide them with all means that facilitate their march forward as they contribute to their country's progress.

HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al-Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, gave a speech at the event, saying, "Omani youth have shown that they are highly capable of shouldering their national responsibility. This confidence stems from their full awareness about their cause and how to serve by it espousing means of advancement, coupled with clear vision and firm resolve to participate in the rejuvenating renaissance of Oman. They are open to the culture of co-existence, love and peace."

His Majesty Sultan Haitham pledged, as he leads the promising reign of the renewed renaissance, that he will elevate Oman, in the coming stage, to the level of aspirations of its people in all spheres. Citizens participation will be the main pillar of national action, he said, asserting his absolute confidence in the abilities of loyal Omani people to cope with the requirements of the age and the next stage of development, with clear vision, extreme wisdom, steadfastness and self-denial.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham said, in a Royal address that:

"Nation building is a public responsibility binding upon all. No one is exempted. All should contribute within their capacities. Oman has been founded and its civilization consolidated with the sacrifices of its people, who relinquished everything dear for the sake of their country's dignity and supremacy. They exhibited exemplary fidelity in performing their national duties."



Rashid Al Mulla, a contestant from the UAE displays his skills with the jet-ski.

KUNA photo

Kuwait to promote various sports: Al-Zanki

The second round of the Aquabike World Championship 2021, held under the umbrella of the International Marine Sports Federation, concluded its activities at the Marina Beach recently.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Marine Sports Club, Mohammad Al-Zanki, said that hosting this sporting event reflects the country's standing and its ability to host international competitions.

He pointed out that hosting this sports gathering supports the vision of the State of Kuwait aimed at raising the level of various sports, which boast of many champions in water bike races. (KUNA)

'Teachers, lab help not part of Kuwaitization in public sector'

MoE to terminate 67 expat admin staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: In a letter addressed to the Ministry of Education, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) revealed that teachers, social and psychological researchers, and lab assistants are not covered under the Kuwaitization policy for government jobs in the current academic year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

It stressed that the Kuwaitization policy was applied to non-Kuwaitis five years ago.

According to the letter, CSC requested the Ministry of Education to terminate the services of 67 non-Kuwaiti administrative employees in six job groups, which does not include teachers, researchers and lab assistants, by the end of the 2021/2022 school year.

It explained that it had prepared the study related to the budget for the fifth year of implementing the ministry's Kuwaitization policy, in implementation of the Civil Service Council's decision regarding the rules and procedures for Kuwaitization of government jobs, as it contained the number of employees to be substituted for the current fiscal year, and the number of contracts to be canceled.

The number of employees covered by the decision to be replaced in the current fiscal year reached 17 engineers, 7 from financial, economic and commercial jobs, 9 from legal, Islamic and political affairs, 27 from language, media, arts and public relations, three from information systems and technology, and four from administrative support jobs.

While CSC excluded the positions of teaching, education and training, science, development, follow-up, statistics, and social, educational and sports services from the Kuwaitization decision for the 2021/2022 academic year, it clarified that the actual numbers included in the functional groups mentioned in the CSC decision (Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti) were taken from the systems data in the ministry's integrated civil service.

It said, "In the event that no comments were received from the Ministry of Education on what was mentioned in the table and the rates and numbers of those covered by the replacement within a maximum of 15 days, the Ministry of Finance will be addressed to take the necessary action towards freezing the contracts of non-Kuwaiti employees in each job group in the ministry's budget, as stipulated by the provisions of the Civil Service decision regarding the Kuwaitization of government jobs".

'Supply-demand ratio change led to rise in oil rates'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The CEO of the Quorum Center for Strategic Studies and Economic Research Tariq Al-Rifai stated that the significant change in oil prices during the recent past and its rise to exceed \$80 per barrel came as a result of the error and imbalance between supply and demand, as oil consumption is greater than production, reports Al-Anba

daily. In an exclusive press statement, Al-Rifai stressed that the absence of a second agreement for the OPEC-Plus group or the delay in its contract to determine the volume of production among countries will contribute to further increases in the oil prices, especially since the United States' production of shale oil needs

months to return to its state prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is currently being produced at approximately 11 million barrels per day, compared to 13 million barrels before the pandemic. This means that the United States needs a longer time to restore production to its previous state, as oil prices are expected to reach \$ 100 per barrel before the end of this year.

Invest in brains,

Continued from Page 1

120,000 people, I mean Bedoun residents, live on the margins, while they are the sons of this country by birth and affiliation. Most of them served or are serving in the police and army, yet the most basic human rights, such as education, medical care and others are denied to them. This issue has become a black mark for Kuwait in the world.

Isn't preventing a Kuwaiti woman married to a foreigner from granting her nationality to her children who were born, lived and educated in Kuwait and know no other homeland, one of the most unjust laws? Wouldn't it be more appropriate to grant her husband nationality because it would at least help reduce the rate of spinsterhood in the country?

The time has come to solve all these problems caused by visions based on the logic of racial and ethnic discrimination that the whole world has abandoned. It is time for Kuwait to start preparing for the future and follow the path of the other Gulf countries, and emerge from the darkness of the so-called purity of identity that causes more losses at all levels.

Sponsored by:
MUGHAL MAHAL
Everyone's First Choice
Since 1985

Kuwait Today

NOW OPEN
خيران
Road 278, Blue Water Mall

* This Branch Does Not Have Dine in Facilities

92224671 - 92224672 - 92224673

Order Online @

Talabat | MUGHAL | deliveroo

Timings 11:00 am to 11:00 pm
www.mughalmahal.com