

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:54	Asr .....	14:31
Sunrise ..	06:16	Maghrib ..	16:51
Zohr .....	11:34	Isha .....	18:11

# Local

VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE: [https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD\\_19\\_Vaccine\\_Registration.aspx](https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx)

## Agility drops 10 fils, National Bank of Kuwait gains

# Kuwait bourse slips into shallow trough, volume recedes

By John Mathews  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Kuwait stocks slipped into a shallow trough Sunday, snapping the three-day gain. The All Shares Index dropped 28.19 points to 7255.22 pts, paring back steeper early session losses even as the broader sentiment turned soggy.

The Premier Market slipped 21.68 points to 7861.18 pts trimming the month's gains to 169 pts while Main Market skidded 44.20 points. The BK Main 50 index slid 51.51 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile fell marginally following Thursday's sharp pullback. Over 381 million shares changed hands - down 2 pct from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in red. Consumer Derivatives outshone the rest with 0.15 pct gain whereas Technology shed 1.89 percent, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 189.9 million shares and the sector was also ahead in value with KD 20.5 million.

Among the notable losers, Gulf Bank slipped 4 fils to 260 fils after pushing 7.2 million shares and Boubyan Bank followed suit to close at 814 fils. National Investment Co too gave up 4 fils before settling at 234 fils and Mabanee Co closed 6 fils in red erasing most of last session's gain. Boursa Kuwait Securities skidded 21 fils to KD 1.928. Gulf Insurance Group slid 27 fils to KD 1.120 and Real Estate Trade Centre dived 23 fils.

### Eased

Zain inched 1 fil up to 597 fils on back of 2.4 million shares whereas Ooredoo eased 1 fil to 668 fils, stc stood pat at 860 fils and logistics major Agility was down 10 fils at KD 1.03 after pushing 2.7 million shares. KIPCO crept 1 fil higher to 143 fils and National Bank of Kuwait dived up 2 fils. Humansoft Holding climbed 20 fils to KD 3.300 paring month-to-date loss to 39 fils.

National Industries Group fell 2 fils to 282 fils after moving 3.6 million

shares and Gulf Cable followed suit to end at 980 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co dropped 8 fils to 925 fils whereas Al Qurain Petrochemical Co paused at 371 fils. Jazeera Airways fell 4 fils to KD 1.219 and ALAFCO closed 2 fils in red. Mezzan Holding gave up 5 fils and NAFESCO paced 5 fils. Kuwait National Cinema Co jumped 31 fils to 930 fils and KCPC shed 27 fils.

The market opened firm and drifted lower in early trade. The main index fell sharply almost an hour into the session as sentiment turned weak and plumbled the day's lowest level of 7224 points. It pivoted north thereafter and moved sideways in the final hour before closing with small gain.

Top gainer of the day, ACICO Industries rose 3.68 pct to 141 fils and Argan Real Estate scaled 3.6 percent to stand next. Marakez skidded 20 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and GFH topped the volume with 77.5 million shares.

Mirroring the day's drop, the losers vastly outnumbered the winners. 27 stocks advanced whereas 104

stocks closed lower. Of the 144 counters active on Sunday, 13 closed flat. 13,728 deals worth KD 61.1 million were transacted during the session.

### Trimmed

In the banking sector, Kuwait International Bank and Burgan Bank clipped 2 fils each whereas Kuwait Finance House trimmed 1 fil to close at 845 fils and the counter saw 2.5 million shares change hands. Ahli United Bank BSC dialed down 2 fils after pushing 5 million shares and Warba Bank eased 1 fil to 317 fils. Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait added 1 fil while Ahli United Bank Kuwait closed 1 fil in red.

Kuwait Cement Co rose 2 fils to 245 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement clipped 2 fils. HEISC and Metal and Recycling Co dropped 4 fils each while Shuaiba Industrial Co held ground at 230 fils. ACICO Industries scaled 5 fils whereas Kuwait Foundry Co gave up 6 fils before closing at 364 fils. NICBM rose 3 fils to 206 fils and Equipment Holding trimmed 1.6 fils.

### Weather

partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times variable wind changing to north westerly wind later on with speeds of 10-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station Max Exp Min Rec  
Kuwait City 30 23

Kuwait Airport	31	22
Abdaly	30	20
Jahra	30	19
Salmiyah	26	23
Ahmadi	27	23
Nuwaisib	28	21
Wafra	29	19
Salmiyah	29	15
Jal Aliyah	30	18

▲	US\$/KD 0.30250/60
▼	Euro/KD 0.3422
■	Yen/KD 0.0026
▲	British £/KD 0.4078
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0040
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0060
▼	FTSE -32.39 pts at closing Nov 19
▲	Nikkei +147.21 pts at closing Nov 19
▲	Gold \$1861.40 per oz (London)
▼	NYMEX crude \$75.71 per barrel
▼	Brent crude \$78.66 per barrel
■	LIBOR rate 0.16400%



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Camping season has started in Kuwait. Citizens rent government area after paying KD 350 for the season. People set up big and small tents in the area with all kinds of amenities available, including dish antenna, TV, washrooms. Weekends are mostly spent here throughout the season. Above: Bags of charcoal for grilling and other foodstuff is available by the roadside, sold by mobile groceries set up everywhere.

## Other Voices

### One of a kind phenomenon

By Ahmad alsarraf

There is no doubt that former MP Musallam Al-Barrak is a phenomenon that has few parallels in our political life, and remains the most prominent, sustainable and popular, yet for all the wrong reasons.

Al-Barrak, the former unionist, and before he was an MP, had a strong personality, a public presence and the ability to provoke it with a loud voice and possesses a rhetoric talent, and the ability to confront, with an understanding of how to benefit and use the capabilities and support of others, but he remains a regional phenomenon that neither includes the homeland, entirely nor all its vital issues.

The role of a representative in the majority of parliaments in the world is limited to legislation, oversight of government actions, and serving the voters of his region, within the law.

Al-Barrak built the majority of his popularity on serving the voters with full and continuous government support until his last days as a deputy to the extent that his oversight of the government was selective and not comprehensive, and therefore the broad base that was and still supports him stems mainly from its benefit from him on the one hand, and its anger at the transgressions and mistakes of some successive governments, and its deprivation of material benefits and the services that were obtained.

The prevalent corruption in the government administration and of most of its institutions prompted the people in various areas of the country to support Musallam and complain about the government, and demand the distribution of state funds to drop loans and increase pensions and pay even those who do not work, and a villa for every citizen regardless of the consequences of all this under the pretext the state's money is already lost on others, so why not waste it on them.

If we look at Al-Barrak's political history, which began in 1996, we will find that it was almost devoid of active participation in presenting constructive bills. Rather, his participation was passive, but popular and attractive.

Al-Barrak concentrated his efforts

mostly on questioning the powerful ministers, and overthrew them one by one, both good and bad.

He also voted three times, and in three parliaments, against giving women their political rights. He always voted for the very populist issue of dropping loans. All of this helped support his popularity in his region, especially with the continued weakness of successive governments and their having to meet his demands and this increased his popularity and increased government headache.

Former MP Al-Barrak never paid any attention to the issue of education or the issue of freedom. He never paid attention to cultural or even commercial issues. Rather, he was concerned with politics and building the popular base that overwhelmed all his competitors.

The new Kuwait, the post-amnesty Kuwait, needs former MP Musallam Al-Barrak, if he returns to politics, to devote his abilities to the issues he touched upon in his last speech, and to stop his previous role in terrorizing the government often not for the sake of the public interest!

We want Al-Barrak to seek to establish a state of institutions, not to perpetuate mediation. We want a leadership to a true national opposition. Parliament without opposition is meaningless and not one in which everyone seeks to get his slice of the cake. We want a National Assembly that seeks to raise the ceiling of freedoms, as the world tends to openness. We want an Assembly that supports arts, literature and culture, in their true meanings. We want a National Assembly that seeks national unity and strongly criminalizes its enemies. We want an opposition that cares about the most serious issues and that is the issue of education and its development.

We want his participation in the development of government agencies services. Failure to achieve these will perpetuate the existence of negative phenomena, and we will continue to move in circles.

It is the government that creates the representative that frightens it through its failure to develop its administration and refusing the demands of its citizens, so this makes them resort to the deputy, and the latter satisfies them with government approval, thus the representative earns the vote of his elector and his loyalty forever.

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## No to power abuse

### 'We back our officers using guns if needed'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs in the Ministry of Interior Major General Farraj Al-Zuabi affirmed that the ministry has stood by, and is fully prepared to stand by, any police officer who uses all the tools available to him, including firearms, when implementing the law, dealing with outlaws, and defending himself, in a way that enables the police to be able to apply the law with equal standards as long as they adhere to the ministerial regulatory decisions in this regard, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an interview with the Security and Citizen Program on Kuwait TV conducted by Colonel Nasser Abu Salib, Major General Al-Zuabi said, "If it turns out that the police officer abused his powers and violated the law, we will not provide him with any support. On the contrary, we will stand by the citizen or expatriate who was subjected to abuse or any transgression committed against him".

He emphasized the need to abide by the instructions of the Minister of Interior in this regard, highlighting the fact that the ministry provides courses for its officers regarding their rights and duties as well as the circumstances during which the officer can use the tools available to him.

Commenting on the increase in the rate of violence in the country and the number of felony and misdemeanor cases, Major General Al-Zuabi said, "From investigations, it appears that the violence is the result of youth possessing inaccurate concepts and the belief that he is always right without any room for discussion or without acceptance of others. Regarding domestic violence, most of it stems from the lack of dialogue and making concessions for the welfare of the family."

**Lawyer acquitted:** The Court of Appeals, headed by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Haid, acquitted a lawyer of deceiving a woman to have sexual intercourse with her and refrained from imposing punishment for conniving with a nurse to abort the woman's baby, says Al-Seyassah.

Earlier, the Criminal Court sentenced the lawyer to seven years in prison for having sexual intercourse with the woman through deception and three years for conniving with a nurse to abort the baby. The nurse was also sentenced to three years in prison.

**Harboring illegals:** Securitymen from the Ministry of Interior has arrested an unidentified Asian for harboring five illegal domestic workers and finding them jobs on an hourly basis, reports Al-Rai daily.

The six persons have been referred to the concerned authorities for deportation.

# Jobs important file for upcoming govt

'Public sector dents budget'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: The employment file is the most important file for the upcoming government. There are three main components that it must achieve according to the development and economic indicators - regulating employment in the government sector, increasing the proportion of national employment in the private sector, and dealing with the liquidity shortage called for by successive ministers of the Ministry of Finance in light of the obligation to pay salaries, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Even though the employment figures in the government sector seem to be an achievement for the Civil Service Commission (CSC) by reducing the waiting list of job seekers from 16,000 to just 7,000 within five years, these figures raise an alarm at the same time about a huge number of employees in the government sector without an economic value, and without meeting the goals of the development plan in the country.

Looking at these numbers, it can be described as worthless. On the surface, young people are being employed but on the inside, it is a burden on the administrative sector and the state budget.

### Development

The country's second development plan 2015-2020 stipulates regulating employment in the government sector in return for increasing the percentage of national cadres in the private sector by identifying about 10,000 new job opportunities for Kuwaitis in the government sector. However, the CSC figures indicate the appointment of 20,000 graduates on an annual basis, which is double the anticipated figure.

It seems that the employment file should be tackled both in the governmental and private sectors in order to achieve the developmental ambition of investing in national cadres. This can be achieved in the event that other employment sectors are able to increase the percentage of national employment in the private sector, as well as develop support

for young entrepreneurs through the National Fund to Support Small and Medium Enterprises, so that the government sector can breathe, and the overcrowding in government agencies can decrease.

On the other hand, the CSC's table is crowded with other files, which are also deemed necessary, as they involve the private sector's role in employing young people.

In recent years, there has been a stumble in the nomination of graduates of some scientific disciplines, including engineering and artistic disciplines.

### Mechanism

CSC took new steps in the mechanism of nominating citizens who are looking for work. They include nomination as the citizens register, instead of making them wait for batches, as well as the nomination of Kuwaitis instead of expatriates when there is a Kuwaiti, who is registered with the central employment system, available in the same specialty. This has contributed to reducing the number of job seekers.

Although CSC has approached higher education institutions after identifying the disciplines that suffer from a scarcity of national cadres and those with a surplus of graduates, it still suffers from the accumulation of job seekers in some disciplines. This necessitates more cooperation with the higher education institutions to control education outcomes to keep pace with the labor market.

The recent government tasks to CSC seemed to have others added to its duties in the next government, foremost of which is setting new controls for appointing leaders and supervisors, reviewing the mechanism of granting financial benefits to employees, and linking them to achievement, as well as implementing a project to prepare a national center for staff development in the government administrative sector.

CSC will soon enter, with the new government, the final year of the resolution No. 11/2017 regarding the rules and procedures for Kuwaitization of government jobs. This resolution had given the authorities five years to achieve the required rate for Kuwaitization. Some job groups still did not achieve the required rates, due to which questions are being raised as to whether these rates will be achieved within the next few months.

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