

Prayer Timings

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 05:20 | Asr | 14:48 |
| Sunrise | 06:44 | Maghrib | 17:07 |
| Zohr | 11:55 | Isha | 18:29 |

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Mild and cloudy to partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.

Weather

By Night: Cold with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station Max Exp Min Rec

| | | |
|----------------|----|----|
| Kuwait City | 21 | 13 |
| Kuwait Airport | 21 | 09 |
| Abdaly | 21 | 06 |
| Salmiyah | 19 | 14 |
| Ahmadi | 19 | 16 |
| Nuwaisib | 21 | 10 |

VACCINE BOOSTER REGISTRATION: https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Booster_Registration.aspx

Family

Continued from Page 2

Only months after they arrived, the Patan family already feels at home in large part because of Raymond.

She helped enroll their kids in school, find a dentist for 9-year-old Sala's infected tooth, and sign Patan up for car insurance, something that was new for the 35-year-old.

She lined up English classes and state and federal services for new immigrants. She drove Patan an hour to the nearest testing site for a driver's license. After he failed twice because his English was not proficient enough, he asked if there was a test in his native Pashto language, like in Virginia and California. There wasn't. So Raymond found a site, another hour away, that would allow him to review his errors. On his third try, he passed.

Clarín has tracked down a sheep on craigslist for Eid, while Raymond watched YouTube videos on how to slaughter livestock according to halal principles, since the closest halal butcher is an hour away in Fargo, North Dakota.

For Patan, they have been a comfort in a strange place. "When we are going to their house, we feel like we went to Afghanistan and we are going to meet our close relatives," he said.

He longs for his homeland, the family festivities. Patan's wife makes their traditional dishes still, like Bolani Afghani, a fried, vegetable-filled flatbread that Clarín enjoyed with him in Afghanistan.

Over there, Patan and her team were the ones helping her feel at home.

Both Clarín and Patan speak passionately about farming, describing in detail how to get a good apple crop and ward off disease.

Clarín arranged for the US military to take her team in convoys to remote areas to train farmers, empowering Afghans to teach each other skills. They lined canals to ensure clean water. They worked with farmers to plant trees and build stone barriers to control flooding. They distributed seeds to 1,200 families, who have since shared seeds with more people.

The program trained about 5,000 farmers in Paktika from 2009 to 2011. They provided growers hoop-houses, apple trees, pruning equipment and small grants. They taught farmers tangible solutions, including using buckets with drip lines to irrigate gardens and conserve water.

The Taliban tried to sabotage the trust they built with farmers, Clarín said. Once, an explosive blew up in a red bucket like the ones they used for irrigation.

Patan has stayed in contact with some of the farmers in Paktika and proudly shows photos on his iPhone of the tiny stems he distributed that are now trees several feet tall. One farmer texted him to say his harvest is feeding his family as millions of others in the country face severe hunger.

That offers some solace after seeing his homeland fall to the Taliban. It feels good he said to know his work left something lasting and that "the people can still benefit from it. We educated one generation and those fathers will tell it to their sons."

Patan misses his career back in Afghanistan. Most US employers do not recognize degrees from Afghan universities so he plans to return to school to earn a US degree. For now, he is training to be a commercial truck driver, a field flush with opportunities: There were 21 job openings in the area when he started his classes this month.

He wants a local truck route to stay close to home, but it will still be challenging for his family. His wife, Sedıqa, does not speak English, nor does she know how to read or write, and does not feel comfortable going out by herself.

She also does not drive.

When she started learning English online, she was at "ground zero," said her teacher, Sara Sundberg at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

"When she came, she didn't know what to do with a pencil. We had to show her. She held it kind of like a Henna tube," said Sundberg, holding together her thumb and index finger tightly at the tip as if squeezing something.

Five months later, her handwriting is "meticulous," and her pronunciation is excellent, Sundberg said. She's even learning to say Minnesota with the long "oooo."

"I'm teaching her how to communicate with the community and I want people to understand her," Sundberg said. "Everything is brand new for her."

Sedıqa is slowly gaining confidence in speaking with her teacher, but with others she is silent, smiling and staying back with her children.

Everything is new for their children, too. Patan's sons befriended a neighbor boy and jumped for the first time on a trampoline.

His oldest son, Maiwan, decorated his first pumpkin, while his two younger sons wore their traditional Afghan clothes because their teachers told them that on the Friday before Halloween the kids could "dress up," something that was lost in translation but went unnoticed as the other kids excitedly showed them their costumes.

They look forward to the weekends with their "aunties" at the farm.

On a warm October Saturday, Clarín jogged next to 12-year-old Maiwan driving a small tractor as Ali and his 9-year-old brother, Sala, dug in the dirt for worms with their cousins, giggling and chatting incessantly in Pashto.

"They are kinda free," Patan says of his kids now, recalling how bomb blasts in Kabul caused them to miss school more than once.

They still carry the trauma. When fireworks were shot off for Fourth of July this summer, Patan called his cousin in a panic and asked if Fergus Falls was being bombed.

Clarín has vowed to get all her guys out. Since the Taliban took control of the country in August, she has been starting most days around 3 a.m. when she quietly makes her way to her basement office, hours before she heads to her job in Fergus Falls as a US Department of Agriculture wetlands restoration engineer.

Clarín has so far spent just under \$10,000 since May. That includes the airfare for the Patan family, a contribution toward the family's used minivan, and fees for five applications for humanitarian parole for families still in Afghanistan.

Two other Afghan families Clarín helped chose to settle in Austin, Texas, and San Diego, partly because in both places there are mosques, halal butcher shops and established Afghan communities. None of that exists in Fergus Falls. They also wanted to avoid Minnesota's winters where wind chill temperatures a few years ago dropped to as low as 50 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, (-45 degrees Celsius), something Patan was shocked to learn.

But Patan knows there are drawbacks to cities. Another former member of Clarín's team who moved to California recently returned to Minnesota after complaining about the crime in Sacramento. They now live about an hour away but close to Fargo, where there is a mosque.

Patan, who speaks Dari and Pashto, translates documents for Clarín for the visa applications. He worries about his former colleagues, who remain his close friends.

"I hope that one day they can also come here and we will make a big Afghan kind-of-family over here," he said. "All of them want to come here to Fergus." (AP)

Jazeera Airways climbs 20 fils, Humansoft slips

Boursa extends gain, volume hits one-month high

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Kuwait stocks pulled higher Monday extending last session's robust gain. The All Shares Index scaled 38 points in a broad advance to 7190 pts helped by mid-caps and heavyweights even as the broader trend remained markedly positive.

The Premier Market sprinted 35.33 points to 7795.90 pts taking the month's gain to 157 pts while Main Market jumped 45.52 pts. BK Main 50 rallied 61.92 points to 6305.40 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile rose above the 300 million mark to hit a one-month high. Over 355 million shares changed hands - a 2.2 percent increase from the day before.

All sectors, barring one, closed in green turf. Technology outshone the rest with 4 percent gain while Insurance slipped 0.23 pct, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 179 million shares and the sector was also ahead in value with KD 25.5 million.

Among the standouts, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait rose 5 fils to KD 1.028 on back of over 4 million shares extending last session's gain and Gulf Bank followed suit to end at 290 fils. Kuwait Finance House paced 4 fils after pushing 8.4 million shares while Ahli Bank sprinted 11 fils to 278 fils. Boursa Kuwait Securities sprinted 15 fils to KD 2.020.

Zain rose 2 fils to 599 fils on back of 2.2 million shares whereas Ooredoo stood pat at 622 fils. stc climbed 10 fils to 869 fils extending Sunday's modest rise and logistics major Agility paced 7 fils after pushing over 3 mil-

lion shares. Mabane Co rose 3 fils to 813 fils while Arabi Group Holding soared 53 fils to 330 fils with a volume of 4.2 million shares. Humansoft Holding however dropped 10 fils to KD 3.210.

KIPCO inched 1 fil higher to 144 fils after moving over 8.5 million shares whereas National Investment Co and Al Intiaz Investment stood pat at 234 fils and 119 fils respectively, and National International Group paced 4 fils. KAMCO Investment rose 3 fils to 135 fils while Arzan Financial Group and Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) added 3 fils each. KMEFIC closed 4 fils in green whereas Kuwait Reinsurance shed 13 fils.

National Industries Group rose 2 fils to 292 fils on back of 5.8 million shares whereas Gulf Cable was unchanged at 872 fils. Jazeera Airways continued its ascent with a 20 fils jump to KD 1.500 and has gained 210 fils month-to-date whereas ALAFCO paused at 219 fils. Mezzan Holding and Aznour took in 2 fils each while Integrated Holding was up 4 fils at 376 fils.

Highest

The market opened firm and edged higher in early trade. The main index sagged slightly and pivoted north half way into the session amid fresh buying across the sectors. It scaled the day's highest level of 7191 points and retreated slightly in the final minutes before closing with moderate gain.

Top gainer of the day, AGHC vaulted 19.13 percent to 330 fils and Marezek sprinted 18.64 pct to stand close behind. Al Aqaria dropped 4.92 percent, the steepest decliner of the day

and Aayan Real Estate topped the volume 50 million.

Mirroring the day's gain, the market spread was heavily skewed towards the winners. 89 stocks advanced whereas 32 closed lower. Of the 138 counters active on Monday, 17 closed lower. 12,785 deals worth KD 72 million were transacted during the session.

Rose

Kuwait Cement Co rose 4 fils to 232 fils on back of 1.3 million shares whereas Kuwait Portland Cement gave up 4 fils. HEISC dialed up 1 fil and Kuwait Foundry Co held ground at 359 fils. ACICO Industries fell 2 fils to 142 fils after moving 2.8 million shares. NAFESCO was flat at 808 fils.

NICBM climbed 5 fils to 197 fils and NCCI added 2 fils. Educational Holding tripped 2 fils whereas Automated Systems Co closed 4 fils in green. Independent Petroleum Group stood pat at 590 fils and Sultan Centre added 3 fils on back of 1.7 million shares. Gulf Petroleum Industries inched 0.3 fil up to 25 fils while Gulf Franchising Holding paced 3.8 fils.

Burgan Company For Well Drilling and OSOS Holding Group dialed up 2 fils each to close at 142 fils and 107 fils respectively while Combined Group Contracting Co was up 4 fils at 349 fils. IFA Hotels and Resorts edged 0.9 fil up to 57.4 fils and United Projects close 3 fils in green. Mashaer Holding ticked 0.1 fil up to 70 fils.

Egypt Kuwait Holding slipped 7 fils to 420 fils and Kuwait Gulf Links Transport Co trimmed 1.8 fils. Equipment Holding inched 0.2 fil up to 54.5 fils and Warba Capital Hold-

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ▲ | US\$/KD 0.30250/60 |
| ▼ | Euro/KD 0.3424 |
| ■ | Yen/KD 0.0026 |
| ▼ | British £/KD 0.4101 |
| ■ | Indian Rs/KD 0.0041 |
| ■ | Philippines Peso/KD 0.0059 |
| ▼ | FTSE -60.38 pts at 18:50 Jan 10 |
| ▼ | Nikkei -9.31 pts at closing Jan 10 |
| ▲ | Gold \$1800.55 per oz (London) |
| ▼ | NYMEX crude \$78.55 per barrel |
| ▼ | Brent crude \$81.38 per barrel |
| ■ | LIBOR rate 0.23614% |

ing added. Ininvest BSC and KCPC eased 1 fil each while Jassim Transport gave up 6 fils.

The market has been upbeat so far during the week sprinting 92 points in last two sessions. It has gained 147 point month-to-date after rallying 1497 points during whole of 2021.



KUNA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs during his meeting with the President of the friendly Republic of Cyprus, President Nicos Anastasiades.

FM, team visit Nicosia

Kuwait, Cyprus sign two MoUs

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): Official negotiations were held on Monday between Kuwait and Cyprus in the capital, Nicosia.

The talks were held by the Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, accompanied by senior officials, with the Cypriot Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Christodoulides.

The two sides tackled bilateral relations and the historic deep-rooted ties between both countries during the meeting that marked the 61st anniversary of establishing the diplomatic relations between both countries.

They tackled means to boost and bolster bilateral ties at all levels, and also discussed the required joint cooperation to encounter coronavirus (Covid-19) and its variants.

They also discussed the latest developments on the regional and international arenas, and main challenges facing the region.

The two ministers signed two memoranda of understanding, namely, a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a joint committee for cooperation between Kuwait and Cyprus at the level of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Public transport

Continued from Page 1

The daily said starting from Sunday, those coming from Kuwait must have a strong reason or must have been fully vaccinated, pointing out that the decision about allowing people to enter Germany will be looked at on individual case basis according to the nature of the case by the competent German authorities upon arrival at the airport or the German border.

The new procedures require those coming from these countries from the age of 6 years and over to submit a negative test result, proof of vaccination, or proof of recovery before entering Germany.

Meanwhile, the German Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Stefan Mobbs, has expressed his admiration and congratulated Kuwait for its success in combating the Corona epidemic during difficult times in light of the difficult beginning, pointing out that Kuwait has shown its steadfastness and determination to fight the virus.

The German envoy told the media, "I considered it a right decision by the Kuwaiti government to call on Kuwaiti citizens from Germany and other European countries to return home (Kuwait), as we cannot win at the global level unless we cooperate."

He added, in light of the high numbers of Omicron infections in Kuwait, Germany decided to allow entry only to travelers who have been fully vaccinated (or those with very urgent medical cases), noting that the German embassy in Kuwait will remain open and adhere to the strict regulations of the Kuwaiti government such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and other health protocols.

He explained, the embassy has no influence on the decision of the German authorities that it will take at the entry points.

Speaker calls

Continued from Page 1

He wants to know the steps taken in this regard, if the diwan has contacted the ministry about this issue, and if the diwan received reports about human rights conditions in Kuwait from global organizations.

MP Yousef Al-Ghareeb asked Minister of Health Dr Khalid Al-Saed about the rising number of illegal clinics operated by marginal expatriate workers who perform plastic surgeries even if they are not doctors. He wants to know the measures taken by the ministry to address this issue that endangers people's lives, if such clinics were shut down, and if the involved individuals were referred to the concerned institutions.

Al-Ghareeb also forwarded queries to Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Ali Fahad Al-Mudhaf about the way his ministry is dealing with the Covid-19 variant Omicron. He asked if any of the students and teachers were found to be infected with Corona during the exams.

In addition, he submitted a proposal to increase the number of seats in the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacology at Kuwait University.

Also:

BAGHDAD: Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanim sent a cable of congratulation to **Mohammad Al-Halbousi** who was reelected earlier Sunday as speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives.

In his message, Al-Ghanim commended as "balanced and exemplary" the performance of Al-Halbousi during his past term in speakership, expressing hope for success in his new tenure.

'Cut power, oil use to get energy for future'

EPA issues facts, data

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The report recently released by the Environment Public Authority (EPA) on the evaluation of sustainable production and consumption in Kuwait for the year 2021 mentioned a number of environmental facts and data that must be taken into account when preparing general plans and strategies, reports Al-Anba daily.

The report revealed that the share of agriculture in the GDP is 0.4 percent. This was described by concerned sources as very small, and requires serious thinking about the need to find agricultural solutions that can achieve food security in light of the existence of capabilities and techniques needed to achieve this.

There are a number of solutions that can be applied and implemented such as model farms and the use of greenhouse techniques, but they are still very few and must be supported in a way that makes them huge projects that allow for self-sufficiency.

The total installed electrical capacity in the country, according to the reports of the Ministry of Electricity and Water for the year 2016, is 18,850 megawatts. The per capita share of electrical power is 14 kilowatts/hour, which indicates high consumption rate.

'Judiciary has final word in cases'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Once again, the Kuwaiti judiciary has consolidated the foundations of justice and affirmed that it has the final word in any case, reports Al-Rai daily.

After more than a year of marathon investigations, the Public Prosecution recently decided to save all communications submitted by the Financial Investigation Unit against a number of social media celebrities facing money laundering charges. With the decision of the prosecution, the suspension of funds and

In this regard, the sources stressed the need to rationalize power consumption, develop energy management plans to preserve state resources, expedite the implementation of renewable energy projects that reduce the environmental burden, and reduce oil consumption as depleted energy.

Also, the report revealed that there are a significant number of threatened birds, fish and mammals in the Kuwaiti environment, with 11 species of birds, 18 species of fish and 7 species of mammals.

In light of the decline in the volume of fish catches, the report highlighted the trend towards fish farming.

However, the sources described fish farming in Kuwait as timid, as the production of aquaculture reached 197 metric tons in the year 2018. In the same year, the production of fisheries reached 2,817 metric tons, according to the statistics of the Food and Agriculture Organization within the country's profiles for fisheries and aquaculture in Kuwait.

The report explained that the size of protected areas, whether marine or terrestrial, in the country amounts to 11.6 percent of the total area of the country in the year 2020, according to the Kuwaiti Monitoring Information System.

The sources believe that this percentage is relatively less but the EPA has a plan to raise the percentage of protected areas in the country to 20 percent, adding that the size of the terrestrial protected areas is 8.68 percent of the total land, while the marine protected areas amounted to 2.95 percent of the total area.

accounts of social media celebrities who were previously charged with violating the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law was lifted.

The prosecution's decision confirms that there is no documented evidence about the accusations; which were repeatedly affirmed by the daily that suspicious or accusations do not mean conviction at all, and that "the accused is innocent until proven guilty." Therefore, the prosecution's decision confirms the innocence of all the involved celebrities.

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