

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:19	Asr	14:59
Sunrise	06:41	Maghrib	17:19
Zohr	12:00	Isha	18:39

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: Mild with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

By Night: Cold with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 06-24 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	17	11
Kuwait Airport	18	07

Abdaly	18	05
Jahra	19	08
Salmiyah	16	14
Ahmadi	16	12
Nuwaisib	17	07
Salmiyah	17	06
Jalaliyah	17	07

Gulf Cables sheds 16 fils, Jazeera Airways climbs

Kuwait market continues its slow descent, volume ticks up

By John Mathews
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 24: Kuwait stocks slipped into a small trough Monday as it continued to erode for fifth straight session. The All Shares Index dropped 14.90 pts to 7335.72 points dragged by some of the mid-caps and blue chips even as the overall mood remained soggy.

The Premier Market slipped 15.41 points to 7999.86 pts trimming the month's gains to 360 points while Main Market gave up 14.23 pts. The BK Main 50 was down 20.92 points at 6298.57 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile saw a small rebound following Sunday's pull-back. Over 297 million shares changed hands - up 11 percent from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in red. Consumer Discretionary outpaced the rest with 0.79 percent gain whereas Technology skidded 3.97 pct, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services continued to top with 204 million shares and the sector was also ahead in value with KD 27.9 million.

Among the day's notable losers, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait fell 2 fils to KD 1.040 after pushing 2.8 million shares and is up 43 fils month-to-date while Kuwait Finance House gave up 3 fils to close at 903

fils. National Investment Co tripped 3 fils with a volume of 14 million shares partly erasing Sunday's gain and Mabane Co followed suit to end at 817 fils.

Zain rose 2 fils to 598 fils on back of over 3 million shares whereas Ooredoo stood pat at 640 fils. stc climbed 5 fils to 868 fils and logistics major Agility eased 1 fil to 990 fils. Humansoft Holding took in 1 fil and Boursa Kuwait Securities climbed 10 fils to KD 2.020 recouping most of Sunday's loss. KIPCO was unchanged at 165 fils after moving over 10 million shares while Al Imtiaz Investment clipped 1 fil.

Kuwait Investment Co slipped 5 fils to 277 fils while Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) and Arzan Financial Group gave up 6 fils each. Noor Financial Investment climbed 6 fils to 330 fils whereas Tamdeen Investment dialed down 2 fils. Al Ahleia Insurance Co dropped 10 fils to 500 fils. KAMCO Investment stood pat at 147 fils.

Slipped

National Industries Group slipped 4 fils to 298 fils after moving 2.5 million shares and Gulf Cable shed 16 fils. Jazeera Airways steered 31 fils higher to KD 1.501 whereas ALAFCO was unchanged at 217 fils. Boubzyan Petrochemical Co dropped 9 fils to 915

fils whereas Qurain Petrochemical Co added 3 fils. Mezzan Holding took in 1 fil and Aznour eased 1 fil to 225 fils. Integrated Holding paused at 374 fils.

The market opened firm, edged lower in early trade. The main index continued to erode weighed by selling pressure in some of the counters and plumbed the day's lowest level of 7329 points final minutes. It clawed some of the loss before ending with a small drop.

Climbed

Top gainer of the day, Arkan Real Estate climbed 4.5 percent to 139 fils and Manazel scaled 3.85 pct to stand next. PAPCO skidded 9.59 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and GFH topped the volume with 59.9 million shares.

Mirroring the day's drop, the losers continued to outnumber the winners. 41 stocks advanced whereas 77 closed lower. Of the 139 counters active on Monday, 21 closed flat. 10,569 deals worth KD 55 million were transacted during the session.

Kuwait Cement Co fell 2 fils to 230 fils and Kuwait Portland Cement closed 5 fils in red. HEISC took in 2 fils while Metal and Recycling Co and Kuwait Foundry Co stood pat at 523 fils

and 96 fils respectively. ACICO Industries and Shuaiba Industrial too paused at 138 fils and 217 fils respectively. Warba Capital Holding fell 2 fils to 103 fils.

Kuwait and Gulf Links Transport Co edged 0.5 fil up to 68.5 fils whereas Automated Systems Co erased 3.8 fils. NAPESCO eased 1 fil to 807 fils dropped 12 fils erasing most of Sunday's gain while Combined Group Contracting Co and IFA Hotels and Resorts trimmed 1 fil each. Burgan Company For Well Drilling took in 2 fils.

OSOS Holding eased 1 fil to 114 fils and PAPCO gave up 6 fils with thin trading. Oula Fuel Marketing Co dialed up 2 fils and Soor Fuel Marketing added 1 fil. Mubarrad Holding and GFH Financial Group dropped 3 fils each whereas Egypt Kuwait Holding added 3 fils. In-vest BSC dialed up 2 fils.

Educational Holding Co inched 1 fil higher to KD 3.440 and Safat Energy Holding was unchanged at 49.9 fils. NCCI tripped 1 fil while Kuwait Hotels gave up 3.8 fils to close at 73.2 fils. Sultan Centre fell 3 fils to 209 fils and Arabi Group Holding was down 6 fils at 412 fils after moving 1.2 million shares.

The market has been eroding so far during the week, shedding 28 points in last two sessions. It has gained 292 points month-to-date after rallying 1497 points during whole of 2021.

US\$/KD	0.30220/30
Euro/KD	0.3420
Yen/KD	0.0026
British £/KD	0.4072
Indian Rs/KD	0.0040
Philippines Peso/KD	0.0059
FTSE	-188.51 pts at 18:50 Jan 24
Nikkei	+66.11 pts at closing Jan 24
Gold	\$1838.25 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude	\$82.31 per barrel
Brent crude	\$85.44 per barrel
LIBOR rate	0.2571%



The blood donation in progress by the Ministry of Defence staff.

KUNA photos

'My blood for Kuwait' campaign launched

As part of its social responsibility, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence launched on Sunday a blood donation campaign under the slogan "My Blood for Kuwait".

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait Army Director of Morale Guidance and Public Relations

Colonel Mohammad Al-Awadhi said that this week-long campaign comes from its belief in the importance of blood donation, and the army's social responsibility.

"This campaign comes as part of several previous campaigns organized by the Ministry of Defense, that aim to provide support for Kuwait Central Blood Bank," said Al-Awadhi. Al-Awadhi expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Health for its efforts, as there are more than 150-200 persons daily donating blood depending on the bank's needs. (KUNA)

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'Test imported food, cancer cases on rise'

Focus on increased pollution

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 24: The parliamentary Environment Affairs Committee on Monday discussed the need to test all imported and local food products to ensure they are free from harmful substances.

The meeting is in line with the directive of the National Assembly for the committee to investigate the rising pollution rate in the country.

Representatives of the Health Ministry, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Kuwait Municipality, Environment Public Authority (EPA), and Kuwait General Administration for Customs (KGAC) attended the meeting.

Committee Chairman MP Hamad Al-Matar disclosed that the food products entering the country are not subject to comprehensive laboratory tests. He said PAFN cannot carry out the task alone, so other tests are conducted by the Ministry of Health. He also wondered why PAFN reduced its budget request for the development of its laboratories from KD12 million to only KD2 million. He added the authority informed the committee that the technicians assigned in its laboratories are not qualified.

Al-Matar said a large number of food products - whether imported or manufactured locally - are not tested to make sure they are free from harmful substances; hence, the rising number of cancer patients in the country.

He called on Minister of Health Dr Khalid Al-Saeed to shoulder the responsibility of executing the Cabinet's decision regarding the release of imported items from customs.

He asked why the authority did not hire Kuwaitis who specialized in Chemistry and Biology. He added the number of Kuwaitis employed in the laboratories of PAFN is only four out of 30 workers.

Queries

Meanwhile, MP Farz Al-Daihani forwarded queries to Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Ali Al-Mousa about the frequent overflowing of drainage water in some parts of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

He wants to know the steps taken to solve the problem. He requested for a detailed report on the maintenance works and date of the last pavement works on the roads in the area.

Al-Daihani also asked Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Muhammad Al-Fares about the electricity and water violations uncovered in the area.

He inquired about the action taken against

those proven to have stolen electricity and water, number of power transmission stations in the area, if the consumption of electricity and water is higher than the regular consumers, reason behind the frequent fire incidents in power transmission stations, and number of cases in which the ministry decided to cut electricity.

He forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour about the number of police stations, officers and civilians working in the area; number of security campaigns since 2017 till date; number of crimes committed by unknown individuals; number of murder, attempted murder, suicide, suicide attempts, possession of weapons and prostitution cases recorded since 2017 till date; number of Residency Law violations and absconding cases; and if the ministry is capable of handling collapse of security system in case it happens in the area.

He asked His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid about the decision of the Council of Ministers to specify prices of the plots in the area in preparation for purchasing them from the current owners. He demanded for a copy of the Cabinet decision to allocate a budget for this purpose.

He wants to know the strategy of the government in addressing the problem and target date of implementation.

He requested for copies of researches and studies conducted by the Cabinet since 2010 till date to determine causes of the problem and suggested solutions.

He asked Minister of Health Dr Khalid Al-Saeed about the number of clinics in the area, number of its residents who underwent treatment at Farwaniya Hospital in 2020 and 2021, if the area is considered infested in theory and practice, if its population density burdens the health care system, suggested solutions to the problem, and way of dealing with children born out of wedlock and whose parents are unknown.

He asked Minister of State for Municipality, Communications and Information Technology Affairs Rana Al-Fares about the contracts for the provision of cleaning services in the area since 2017 till date, number of violations regarding abandoned vehicles since 2019 till date, if the restaurants and garages in the area are monitored by Kuwait Municipality, number of licenses that the Municipality granted to shops in the area, number of international telephone call crimes recorded by the Ministry of Communications, and annual cost of such crimes.

Four global operators get nod

'Dhamaan' to start ops soon

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 24: The consultant appointed by the Health Insurance Hospitals Company (Dhamaan), for attracting a global operating partner, received offers from 15 parties, and has settled on four unnamed global operators who met all the technical, administrative and financial conditions, and are eligible to enter the final competition, reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the company Deloitte, which was assigned by Dhamaan to participate in the process of selection and qualification of the operating partner, concluded that there are four operators, one each from Europe, North America, East Asia, and an Arab country with global capabilities in the field of healthcare.

These four operators were deemed to fulfill most of the conditions for submitting their offers to the Board of Directors of Dhamaan. Their offers will be evaluated and one operator among them will be selected, as part of the efforts of the company's officials to implement international standards for healthcare in Kuwait.

The operating partner will be responsible for managing the Dhamaan system of hospitals and primary healthcare centers in Kuwait. It will play a strategic role with Dhamaan, being the first healthcare institution in the Middle East with a public-private partnership (PPP) system, and the first company in the Gulf to offer its services based on the Integrated Health Maintenance System (HMO) model.

The sources affirmed that the company's officials will continue to focus fully on its targeted responsibility in improving the healthcare indicators in Kuwait, and increased efforts will be exerted in this regard on more than one level to operate the company.

In addition, the sources explained that the completion rate of hospitals is currently close to 70 percent. This indicates that Dhamaan will soon carry out all its responsibilities, which is one of the pivotal elements in the national development vision "New Kuwait 2035". The first phase of operations will witness the completion of two hospitals and five primary health care centers in various parts of Kuwait. The sources said, "The construction of the system is currently fully underway. The construction process is expected to be completed by the end of this year".

MoSA bent on 'battling' social media e-beggary

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 24: The Charity Societies Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs has completed the controls and requirements for collecting donations during Ramadan, and submitted the documents to the Under-secretary of the department for approval, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily quoting reliable Charity Societies Department said a 'tight plan' has been developed to address the phenomenon of requesting donations and collecting funds through various social media platforms, or what has come to be known lately as "electronic begging", over the past two years following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to reliable sources, the relevant department in the Ministry of Social Affairs has received several complaints and inquiries from citizens and residents regarding individuals and social media accounts through asking for money and inviting others to help in the activity, away from the knowledge of the state, and without obtaining approvals from the concerned authorities.

The sources stressed a big group of these (individuals and accounts) are referred to the Public Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior, to take legal action against them, for violating laws, decisions, controls and requirements regulating fundraising, especially Law No. 59 of 1959, which regulates funds collection for public benefit.

The sources indicated some individuals have taken the advantage of pandemic time and its wide repercussions and effects on several segments of society by requesting to collect funds, by calling for the establishment of charity projects or directing them to the needy families, taking advantage of the nature of the Kuwaiti society and its love to help the needy.

In this regard the department has called upon donors - citizens and residents - to be careful when donating money and not to be fooled by unscrupulous elements but to give only to the well-known institutions for fear these funds may fall into the hands of those who misuse them, which may distort Kuwaiti charity work.

The sources confirmed that the inspection team is constantly monitoring the social media sites - Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook - to follow up on and monitor calls from unlicensed parties calling for donations to take necessary measures.

Priority for jobs in govt sector as per CSC decree

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 24: The decree of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) regarding appointment to government jobs preserves the priority of appointment for citizens who hold various certificates and specializations, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the decree also stipulates that preference be given to appointing children of Kuwaiti women and with non-Kuwaiti nationality through a legal contract with the monthly reward stipulated for non-Kuwaitis, provided that the civil ID card is presented. After that, priority should be given to children of Kuwaiti women and with no nationality, provided that they provide proof of their registration in the Central Status for Remedying the Status of Illegal Residents (CSRISIR). After that, preference should then be given to citizens of Arab countries.

However, the sources said, "In order to preserve the implementation of this arrangement, CSC stipulated that it be reviewed before ap-

pointing any non-Kuwaiti employee with a non-Kuwaiti mother to ensure compliance with the arrangement".

The sources touched on the Kuwaitization of some government job groups, revealing that the Kuwaitization rates mentioned in CSC's Resolution No. 11/2017 regarding the replacement of expatriates with Kuwaitis, which was implemented from September 2017, will be completed this year after the duration of five years specified for its implementation.

They said, "This depends on the availability of Kuwaiti graduates and children of Kuwaiti women of definite and non-determined nationality, under the conditions described. The plans for the internal and external scholarships have been harmonized to provide doctors, nurses, supportive medical specialties and scientific materials to complete the replacement process".

In response to a question about the demand to sell employee vacations, the sources said, "Decree No. 102/2021 was issued to freeze the

leave balance for the years 2020 and 2021 for employees who did not take advantage of their vacations and decided to work during the COVID-19 period. They can now inquire electronically about the balance of their vacations that are allowed to be frozen through the CSC website".

The sources revealed that the freezing of leaves coincides with an existing law that allows the employees to keep a five-year leave balance (four previous years in addition to the current year), indicating that the new decree will allow the employees to freeze the leave balance for the aforementioned two years even if they maintain the maximum limit of the allowed balance in the Civil Service Act to become a total of seven years.

They noted that this balance may be used in addition to the vacations that are due for a maximum of 90 days per year, adding that the provisions for forfeiture stipulated in Article No. 40 of the Decree Law No. 15/1979 regarding the civil service will not apply to the employees.

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