

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:00	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	05:22	Maghrib ..	18:14
Zohr	11:48	Isha	19:34

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 12-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	32	21
Kuwait Airport	32	21

Abdaly	31	15
Jahra	33	20
Salmiyah	29	21
Ahmadi	29	22
Nuwaisib	35	20
Wafra	34	18
Salmiyah	31	16

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

National Bank of Kuwait rallies 4 fils, Humansoft Holding dips

Kuwait's stock market wraps up week with modest gains



Rain drains, sewers causing red tide, fish death, says EPA.

KUNA photo

'Human acts negatively impact sea water'

The Public Environment Authority (EPA) has been monitoring appearance of the red tide stretching from Al-Salam beach, in Kuwait Bay, all the way to Al-Sulabikhat Bay, amid some floating dead fish. EPA said in a statement, on Wednesday, that a team of the authority

scooped up some samples and examined them at the laboratory. The examination revealed that the samples contained some Myrionecta Rubra algae at a rate of 150300 per liter.

A survey of the mentioned region showed alteration of the water color namely close to

the rain drain sewers, adding that "human coastal activities" have negatively impacted on quality of the sea water causing the red tide and the fish death.

EPA will survey other locations off the coast in coming days. (KUNA)

By John Mathews

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: Kuwait stocks edged higher on Thursday to end the week on an upbeat note. The All Shares Index climbed 13.42 points to 6,530 pts extending last session's modest gains.

The Premier Market rose 13.42 points to 6,530 pts taking the month's gains to 206 points while Main Market scaled 9.13 points. The BK Main 50 index was up 5.14 points at 4,978.38 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile rebounded after hitting month's lowest level in the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in green. Technology outpaced the rest with 8.71 percent gain whereas Insurance slid 0.57 pct, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 99 million shares while Banking sector dominated in value with KD 39.1 million.

In the individual shares, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait rallied 4 fils to 830 fils with brisk trading while Kuwait Finance House added 3 fils on back of 4.2 million shares and has shed 42 fils month-to-date. National Investment Co climbed 2 fils to 183 fils and Mezzan Holding gained 6 fils. Mabane Co gave up 3 fils before closing at 715 fils.

Zain was unchanged at 603 fils and Ooredoo dialed up 2 fils to close at 650 fils. stc inched 1 fil higher to 900 fils and logistics major Agility slipped 4 fils to 404 fils extending last session's gains. Humansoft Holding skidded 29 fils to KD 3.859 and Boursa Kuwait Securities scaled 6 fils. Integrated Holding dialed up 2 fils whereas Aznour stood pat at 265 fils.

National Industries Group rose 3 fils to 202 fils on back of 6.3 million shares while Gulf Cable gave up 7 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co slipped 5 fils to 895 fils whereas Al Qurain Petrochemical Co took in 2 fils. Jazeera Airways skidded 34 fils to 624 fils after pushing over 2 million shares and ALAFCO eased 1 fil. The market opened weak and pulled higher in early trade. The main index flipped and headed south to plumb the day's lowest level of 5936 points past an hour into the session. It vacillated briefly and revved up in the final hour amid buying spurt in some of the counters to close with modest gains.

Top gainer of the day, Warba Capital Holding soared 35.9 pct to 17.6 fils and Massaleh sprinted 10 percent to stand next. Al Rai Media Group skidded 9.59 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and Bayan Investment Co topped the volume with 42.7 million shares.

Reflecting the day's gains, the winners outnumbered the losers. 62 stocks advanced whereas 48 closed lower. Of the 133 counters active on Thursday, 23 closed flat. 8706 deals worth KD 58 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, Gulf Bank clipped 2 fils after pushing 5.8 million shares whereas Burgan Bank and Kuwait International Bank paused at 221 fils and 206 fils respectively. Boubyan Bank fell 2 fils to 627 fils.

US\$/KD	0.30140/50
Euro/KD	0.3611
Yen/KD	0.0027
British £/KD	0.4157
Indian Rs/KD	0.0040
Philippines Peso/KD	0.0062
FTSE	+41.06 pts at 13:10 hr, April 15
Nikkei	+21.70 pts at closing April 15
Gold	1743.30 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude	\$62.90 per barrel
Brent crude	\$66.36 per barrel
LIBOR rate	0.18363%

Al Ahli Bank BSC was unchanged at 215 fils with a volume of 12.8 million and Warba Bank trimmed 1 fil. Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait inched 1 fils higher to 202 fils whereas Ahli United Bank Kuwait held ground at 313 fils.

KIPCO ticked 1 fil higher to 163 fils and Kuwait Real Estate Co followed suit. Al Intiaz Investment was unchanged at 114 fils whereas Kuwait Investment Co darted 7 fils on back of 4.7 million shares. International Financial Advisors and Arzan tripped 1 fil each whereas The Securities House paused at 48.8 fils.

Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) eased 0.7 fils to 87.2 fils whereas KMEFIC and Osoul Investment stood pat at 136 fils and 76.5 fils respectively. Gulf Investment Co slipped 4 fils to 128 fils and Aayan Leasing and Investment added 3 fils on back of 4.3 million shares. Gulf Insurance Group jumped 10 fils to 620 fils and Al Ahleia Insurance Co dived 22 fils.

Noor Financial Investment dropped 10 fils to 230 fils after pushing 4.8 million shares whereas Tamdeen Investment dialed up 2 fils. Bayan Investment Co took in 1.1 fils and Coast Investment trimmed 0.8 fils. KFIC sprinted 7 fils to 111 fils and KAMCO crept 0.5 fils into green.

National Real Estate Co rose 1.5 fils to 93.5 fils whereas Sahlia Real Estate clipped 2 fils. Tamdeen Real Estate Co gave up 4 fils whereas Ajial Real Estate dialed up 2 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co fell 2 fils to 232 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement gained 6 fils. Shuaiba Industrial darted 10 fils to 175 fils whereas Metal and Recycling Co and Kuwait Foundry Co tripped 1 fil each.

The market was mixed during the week. The main index closed higher in three of the five sessions scaling 27 points week-on-week. It has rallied 177 points from start of the month and is up 407 points year-to-date.

'7-10 walk' wins majority praise

PACI timings announced

Law streamlines loans payment

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: The official gazette Kuwait Today published a law which talks about financial obligations owed by citizens to banks in the form of installments, reports Al-Anba daily.

In its first article the law stipulates the payment of financial obligations to those citizens who wish to do so, and the second article allows the postponement of the payment of consumer and installment loans to local banks, investment companies and financing companies subject to the supervision of the Central Bank for those eligible citizens who wish to do so under the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait and as the conditions and controls put in place by the provisions of this law.

According to Article three, the postponement period stipulated in the two previous Articles is 6 months, starting from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. It is permissible to extend the period for another six months by a decision from the concerned authorities -- to implement the provisions of this law.

Article 4 stipulates that "the funds necessary to implement this law shall be taken from the state treasury."

In implementation of Article 5, the Prime

Minister and the ministers, each in his own jurisdiction, shall implement this law and it shall be enforced from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

In response to a question about the other bodies mentioned in the law that has been approved by the government and the council, namely the family and defaulters' funds, and the "insurances" and the financing bank, the sources answered: "insurances" and "financing" and the family and defaulters' funds are subject to "financial" control and are included, and postponement will be organized for them.

PACI timings: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced that the timings for collecting civil ID cards at its headquarters in South Surra during Ramadan starts from 10:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm, while work in its Jahra and Ahmadi branches ends at 1:30 pm, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, PACI disclosed the Ramadan working hours in its administrative building start from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm; while the citizens' reception hall closes at 1:00 pm and expatriates can visit from 1:30 to 4:00 pm.



Sahar Dashti presents the vouchers to Abdullah Al-Kandari from Kuwait Food Bank.

Strategic partnership with KFB

AUB provides foodstuff for needy

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: In its continuous humanitarian and social effort, Ahli United Bank (AUB) provided financial support to promote the efforts of Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) in providing assistance to needy families in Kuwait. This initiative is part of AUB's endeavors to enhance community living and to meet the needs of needy families in the holy month of Ramadan.

Commenting on this initiative, Mrs. Sahar Dashti, the Head of CSR Team and General Manager of the Customer Protection, at AUB said in a press release: Ahli United Bank has launched this humanitarian initiative aiming to meet the increasing needs of food by needy families in the month of Ramadan, based on its CSR principles and in contribution of the Bank to promote the values of compassion, solidarity and giving urged by Islamic religion, especially in the holy month of Ramadan.

Dashti pointed out that AUB is keen to provide this assistance in the form of money vouchers for needy families sponsored by Kuwait Food Bank, instead of providing

Machla food boxes. AUB preferred to provide its assistance in such a form in compliance with the precautionary and health measures raised by the competent authorities to face Covid-19 pandemic repercussions. The provision of purchase vouchers instead of food commodities is an appropriate mechanism that allows these families choose their preferred food items from certain shopping centers.

Dashti said that AUB is keen to cooperate with Kuwait Food Bank as a strategic partner, pointing out that this initiative is part of the ongoing cooperation with this humanitarian institution, in appreciation of its leading role in caring for needy families and providing them with various assistance.

This initiative is in-line with the focuses of AUB's CSR program which provides a range of special activities for the month of Ramadan, that receives approval and praise from various groups of society. And in this occasion Dashti wishes everyone a blessed Ramadan.

'Good health benefits'

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: The first day of the blessed month of Ramadan witnessed a large number of citizens and expatriates outside their homes during the three-hour period (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm) for walking within the residential areas as per the decision of the Council of Ministers, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Apparently, people want to go outside during the period allowed for walking due to the moderate weather conditions. This is in addition to the fact that the three-hour period has become an outlet for citizens and expatriates of all ages.

Most of the internal residential areas witnessed the elderly and youths of both genders outside their homes during the period for walking - a manifestation of the importance of the decision to allow three hours of walking per day.

The staff of Al-Qabas spotted some people walking on the first day of the month of fasting, as citizens and expatriates flocked to the walkways while being committed to health regulations such as social distancing and wearing masks to cover the nose and mouth. They affirmed that addressing the corona issue needs everyone's cooperation, as the State alone cannot protect all the people.

A number of citizens and expatriates welcomed the specified period for walking, describing it as good and useful; as long as the person walks alone, wears masks and there is no problem in terms of transmitting the virus. They added the choice of walking hours is very good as it is after 'iftar' when the weather is appropriate and the temperature is low.

A number of citizens and residents asserted that the Cabinet's decision to exercise walking is an opportunity for people to exercise instead of "prolonged confinement" inside the home, and that it has good health and psychological effects, pointing out that allowing people to go out for a period of 3 hours is a relaxation of people's psyche, especially that the weather is appropriate, and that sport is important for body movement.

'We're sorry': Official spokesman for Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Essam Al-Ruwaih expressed the agency's apology for the erroneous post on its Twitter account on Wednesday, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Al-Ruwaih affirmed that as per the instruction of Minister of Information and Culture and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, KUNA has taken a number of strict measures in managing electronic editing at the agency to avoid the recurrence of such errors.

He revealed these measures include the transfer of some officials in the Electronic Editing Department and identifying those behind the error.

He confirmed reshuffling in the Editorial Sector to give a chance to Kuwaiti youths with experience and competence in managing electronic editing to prove their capabilities.

He stressed the agency's keenness to ensure the accuracy of electronic editing, the distinguished position and the great role it plays in covering local and international news and transmitting information and facts with full credibility and transparency.

PAY organizes Ramadan activities for young men

KUWAIT CITY, April 15, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Youth (PAY) announced on Thursday various programs, activities and competitions for youth from different ages during the Holy month of Ramadan. The events follows guidelines to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

PAY will organize educational seminars and lectures in various fields of youths' interests, by two seminars weekly, with the participation of experts and academics, Head of PAY's public relations and media department Abdullah Al-Adwani said in remarks to KUNA.

PAY will spread daily awareness messages via its social media accounts related to health protection measures the country is witnessing, shedding light on the importance of abiding by the health regulations, and encouraging people to practice sports, he added.

PAY will also broadcast religious messages in accordance with the Holy month, he added.

They will launch the 10,000 walking steps challenge, which will take place every week, he said.

We're committed: US envoy

Bid to end human trafficking

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: The US ambassador to Kuwait, Alina Romanowski, affirmed that her country is committed to cooperating with Kuwait to end human trafficking, protect employment, and prevent violations of rights, reports Al-Qabas daily.

"We are very pleased to partner with the Kuwait Society for Human Rights in the project funded by the US-Middle East Partnership Initiative to combat human trafficking and protect victims of labor violations," Romanowski said in a statement to the daily. She went on to say, through our cooperation in the "Together" program, the Kuwait Society for Human Rights will provide anyone connected to the hotline with comprehensive assistance, including case management and access to psychological, social and legal assistance, and praised the role of the Society, which she described as a wonderful organization, as it reflects talent of the Kuwaiti people and their goodwill.



Romanowski

Moody's report

Credit rating risk

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: In the latest report on Kuwait by Moody's, it warned that the liquidity risks threaten the credit rating in the short term, reports Al-Nahar daily.

The agency explained that Kuwait's classification is restricted by the cracking of the relationship between the government and the National Assembly. It impedes the policy-making process and undermines the state's ability to adapt to economic and financial turbulence. Despite the wealth, Kuwait's economy is smaller than other oil-exporting Gulf economies.

She indicated that "human trafficking" is a global problem, and each of us must take bold steps and do our part, reaffirming her country's commitment to ending human trafficking and protecting victims.

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