

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:56	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	05:19	Maghrib ..	18:16
Zohr	11:47	Isha	19:37

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind with speeds of 20-60 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind

Weather

with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	37	25
Kuwait Airport	37	22
Abdaly	38	21
Bubyan	-	-

Jahra	38	24
Failaka Island	-	-
Salmiyah	33	26
Ahmadi	34	25
Nuwaisib	39	21
Wafra	38	23
Salmiyah	37	19

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

Mabane Co dips 9 fils, Humansoft Holding gains

Kuwait stock market slips into red turf, volume swells



People lining outside the vaccination center.

Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Covid jabs 'slow down' in Ramadan

Power cut as 'strangers' visiting building found to mine 'Bitcoin'

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has launched a campaign, which is the first of its kind in the history of the ministry, to track rental properties where "Bitcoin" is being mined locally and illegally, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry started its campaign after reports were made to the inspectorate team via social media about the presence of a device that is being used in a building for exploiting electricity in violation of the law, according to eyewitnesses.

In a press statement, the Deputy Head of the inspectorate team at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Ahmed Al-Shammari, who went to the aforementioned building accompanied by the team officer Ali Al-Zainal, explained that there were violations related to electricity installations, which required placing a warning poster on the first visit, as no one was available in that building. Due to the way the electricity box was closed which raised suspicion, the inspectors went on to open it and found tampered wiring, which is a violation of the applicable laws.

Al-Shammari said the violators were not cooperative, and the team was forced to open the box only to find explicit violations and extensions that violate one of the wings of this building.

He went on to explain that the residents of the area said the building is fully rented

and frequented by people who are strangers to the area. They bring large devices to draw electrical current to feed devices which are used to illegally mine Bitcoin in Kuwait.

The meter reading showed unusual consumption of electricity exceeding the average meter reading, which confirmed that there is unjustified electricity consumption in the property. Usually such kind of consumption is an indication of sinister practices in regard to the consumption of electricity.

The team disconnected electricity in that building and a citation was issued. It is the first time the team is cutting off electricity to a property where digital currencies are mined.

Al-Shammari warned that no violator will be excluded, and laws will be applied to everyone.

He called on the landlords to ensure that their tenants are not using their properties in a manner that violates the laws, and that they should call the concerned authorities as soon as they realize unlawful operations are being carried out on their properties.

Al-Shammari affirmed that the ministry will track the rented houses that are used for these purposes and that consume electricity excessively, indicating that the violators use government homes in private residential areas due to the low value of the electrical tariff, which amounts to 2 fils per kilowatt, and therefore their profits are high because the cost of the electricity tariff is low.



The check post after the hit. No one was hurt.

Motorist runs over checkpoint

By Munif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff

The border security men manning a security check post at the entrance to Jahra opposite the club escaped unhurt when an unidentified Kuwaiti driving a vanette ran into the checkpoint.

However, no one was hurt in the accident. The driver of the vehicle was abnormal. The driver has been arrested and detained at the area police station.

The alertness of the security men prevented them from getting injured. It is noteworthy to

mention that, a few days ago, a tragedy occurred on the Maghreb Highway, which resulted in the death of the martyr Sa'ad Al-Enezi on duty in a run over accident when a reckless Kuwaiti motorist was attempting to escape from the checkpoint.

'Unfit' foodstuff seized

Beggars, vendors held in Mahboula

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: The Public Security Sector in the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with Kuwait Municipality, carried out a security campaign in Mahboula, resulting in the confiscation of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and arrest of street vendors and beggars, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the ministry revealed that a security team from Ahmadi

and Fahaheel Police Station, in coordination with the Municipality branch in Ahmadi, tracked down street vendors and beggars in Mahboula.

The campaign led to the confiscation of an undisclosed quantity of food items found to be unfit for human consumption, in addition to the arrest of 11 street vendors and beggars who were referred to the concerned authority for the necessary legal measures

'Ban on expats entry stays'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: While the government and health authorities are racing against time to vaccinate groups and other segments included in the national campaign, with the aim of acquiring the community immunity, the global vaccination index shows Kuwait has remarkably declined in the daily average of vaccination in the first five days of Ramadan.

The number of people vaccinated until yesterday was 819,000, an increase of only 46,000, compared to the total number of vaccinated people last Tuesday -- the first day of the month of Ramadan -- reached 773,000, which means that the daily average of vaccination in the first week of Ramadan was estimated at 9,200 people injected per day.

For its part, informed health sources told Al-Seyassah about the decrease in the daily vaccination rate in the country, pointing out that if the Ministry of Health continues to vaccinate 10,000 people per day, it will actually succeed in reaching the first million before the end of Ramadan, but this is absolutely not enough to fight the pandemic and reach community immunity in a timely manner.

The sources emphasized that the slowdown in health reflected negatively on catching up with the global immunization train, after the rate for vaccinated people fell on the first day of Ramadan and along with that Kuwait dropped to the 47th place instead of the 44th globally, and continued to decline until yesterday pushing Kuwait to 48th in the world among the 177 countries that have begun vaccination against the virus.

Airport traffic: Kuwait International Airport operated a total of 182 commercial flights -- 89 departures and 93 arrivals -- in the first three days of the blessed month of Ramadan, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the latest statistics, India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) topped the list of destinations during the abovementioned period; followed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and Bahrain.

An official source from the airport revealed that passenger movement is proceeding smoothly in line with the Cabinet's decision to ban the entry of non-Kuwaitis until further notice; while Kuwaitis, their first-degree relatives and accompanying workers are allowed to enter the country.

The source said there is no change in the number of arriving passengers as it is still within the normal level -- not more than 1,000 passengers per day, affirming the medical and technical teams are ready to provide all services to travelers.

The source confirmed all the circulars issued by civil aviation authorities are in line with the directives of health authorities in implementing the health regulations to curb the spread of the new strains of coronavirus from different countries around the world.

Meanwhile, a source from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) affirmed the approval of laboratories within the MUNA program to ensure the reliability of PCR examination certificates for passengers from Pakistan and the Philippines.

The source said the entities operating at the airport are exerting tremendous efforts to better serve travelers, facilitate passenger movement and implement health regulations to curb the spread of corona.

Following are the accredited laboratories in the Philippines:

1. Detoxicare Swab Center in Batangas, Nueva Ecija and Quezon City
 2. One World in Bulacan, Makati and Pasay
 3. MP Diagnostics in Mandaluyong and Manila
 4. Hi-Precision Diagnostics - Covid Pass in Quezon City
 5. Philippine Airport Diagnostic Laboratory
- Pakistan: Excel Laboratory in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Multan - Covid Pass

By John Mathews

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: Kuwait stocks slipped into a shallow trough on Sunday after logging modest gains in last two sessions. The All Shares Index clawed back from steep mid-session losses to close 5 points down at 5,948.51 pts even as the broader sentiment remained positive.

The Premier Market slipped 10.32 points to 6,519.72 points paring the month's gains to 195 points whereas Main Market scaled 7 points. The BK Main 50 was up 12.96 pts at 4,991.34 points. The volume turnover meanwhile rose for the second straight session. Over 309 million shares changed hands -- a 23 percent jump from the previous session.

The sectors closed mixed. Technology outshone the rest with 1.16 percent gain whereas Insurance sector shed 2.24 percent, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, Financial Services topped with 131 million shares while Banking sector dominated in value with KD 10.5 million.

Among the notable losers, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait slipped 4 fils to 826 fils after pushing 2.5 million shares while Kuwait Finance House fell 2 fils with a volume of 3.7 million shares and is down 48 fils month-to-date. Mabane Co slid 9 fils extending Thursday's downtick and Kuwait Insurance Co skidded 41 fils with thin trading.

Zain was unchanged at 603 fils and stc too did not budge from its earlier close of 900 fils. Logistics major Agility climbed 4 fils to 758 fils taking the month's gains to 32 fils while Humansoft Holding sprinted 15 fils to KD 3,847. Boursa Kuwait Securities slipped 7 fils to KD 1.109 and Integrated Holding took in 1 fil. Aznour tripped 1 fil after moving 2.4 million shares.

National Industries Group paced 4 fils on back of 3.2 million shares taking the month's gains to 21 fils and Gulf Cables dialed down 2 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co eased 1 fil to 903 fils whereas Al Qurain Petrochemical Co scaled 4 fils. Jazeera Airways lost altitude with a 7 fils drop to 620 fils and ALAFCO took in 1 fil.

The market opened firm and moved sideways in early trade. The main index headed south amid selling in some of the heavyweights and plumbed the day's lowest level of 5,942 pts past the mid-session. It rebounded thereafter to pare back most of the losses before slipping again in the final minutes to close with small losses.

Top gainer of the day, Al Rai Media Group soared 21 percent to 29.7 fils and Jiyad sprinted 9.33 pct to stand next. Amwal Investment skidded 15.23 percent, the steepest decliner of the day and Bayan Investment topped the volume with 35.5 million shares.

Despite the day's downtick, the market spread was skewed towards the winners. 71 stocks advanced whereas 47 closed lower. Of the 131 counters active on Sunday, 13 closed flat. 10,770 deals worth KD 33.5 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, Gulf Bank eased

'Charities complying with rules'

'Teams formed to monitor donations'

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs Hana Al-Hajri confirmed that the ministry has formed inspection teams tasked to monitor the donation collection activities of charitable societies during the holy month of Ramadan, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Hajri revealed that two violations were recorded on the first and second days of the holy month, asserting this is a good indication that the charities are complying with the regulations. She said the inspection teams consist of representatives of the concerned authorities, affirming these teams will continue to follow up donation campaigns and ensure strict compliance with the regulations.

On the participation of volunteers in the 'Ramadan donations' campaign, Al-Hajri said the volunteer teams are allowed to participate provided they are affiliated with well-known charities authorized to engage in such a campaign. She clarified these volunteers are not allowed to collect

US\$/KD	0.30140/50
Euro/KD	0.3613
Yen/KD	0.0027
British £/KD	0.4172
Indian Rs/KD	0.0040
Philippines Peso/KD	0.0062
FTSE	+36.03 pts at closing April 16
Nikkei	+40.68 pts at closing April 16
Gold	1766.45 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude	\$63.11 per barrel
Brent crude	\$66.72 per barrel
LIBOR rate	0.18825%

1 fil to 213 fils after moving 8.9 million shares and Kuwait International Bank followed suit to end at 205 fils. Borgan Bank dialed down 1 fil whereas Boubyan Bank closed 3 fils in green on back of over 2 million shares.

Ahli United Bank BSC fell 1 fil to 214 fils whereas Warba Bank stood pat at 246 fils. Al Ahli Bank gave up 2 fils and Ahli United Bank Kuwait inched 1 fil up to 314 fils.

KIPCO eased 1 fil to 162 fils whereas National Investment Co dialed up 2 fils on back of 1.2 million shares. Al Intiaz Investment held ground at 114 fils Kuwait Investment Co climbed 5 fils to 170 fils with a volume of 3.3 million shares and International Financial Advisors added 3 fils.

Noor Financial Investment Co climbed 4 fils to 234 fils whereas Tamdeen Investment slipped 3 fils. The Securities Holding ticked 0.8 fils up while Arzan Investment and KMEFIC added 1 fil each. First Investment closed 3.3 fils in green with brisk trading. Aayan Leasing gained 7 fils on back of 10.6 million shares.

KFIC eased 1 fil to 110 fils and KAMCO trimmed 0.5 fils. Unicap added 2.1 fils and Al Deera Holding darted 8 fils to 210 fils. International Financial Advisors rose 3 fils to 111 fils and Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) ticked 0.3 fils higher. Gulf Insurance Group added 4 fils whereas Al Ahleia Insurance shed 15 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co dialed up 2 fils whereas Borgan Company For Well Drilling was unchanged at 142 fils. Combined Group Contracting Co gave up 3 fils and KCPC paced 3 fils. Shuaiba Industrial gained 5 fils.

The market was mixed during the previous week. The main index closed higher in three of the five sessions scaling 27 points week-on-week. It has rallied 172 points from start of the month and is up 402 points year-to-date.

House collapses

Family rescued

KUWAIT CITY, April 18: Fire-fighters rescued an Asian family after their house in Rumaithiya Area collapsed early Sunday, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) said.

KFF Department of Public Relations said in a press statement the building collapsed because construction workers nearby failed to put support pillars causing its collapse.

Fire-fighters rushed to the scene and rescued the three-member Asian family from the collapsed building.

The firefighters rescued the family and transferred them hospital, while the investigation teams were examining the scene.

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