

Local

Oil markets witnessed remarkable improvement due to OPEC+ deal: Kuwait

Kuwait urges Libyan parties to cease hostilities

KUWAIT: Oil markets have witnessed a remarkable improvement recently due to the historical OPEC+ agreement, said Kuwait's Oil Minister and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel. This came in a statement Fadhel made after his participation online, Saturday, in the Ministerial Meeting No. 179 of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The minister indicated that there are positive signs of a relative increase and a gradual improvement in global oil demand during the last period.

Fadhel affirmed that Kuwait played a prominent role in reaching this historic agreement, stressing Kuwait's commitment to reduce its production according to the terms of the agreement, which have a significant impact on the improvement witnessed in the oil markets during the past weeks. He also expected that the OPEC +

meeting will result in continued cooperation among all the signatory countries of this agreement because of the common interest of the countries concerned and the global oil industry in general in order to reflect these positive effects on the global economy. On April 13, the OPEC + group agreed to reduce oil production rates by 9.7 million barrels per day as of May 1 for an initial period of two months ending on June 30, 2020.

Libya hostilities

In other news, Kuwait, which supported UN Secretary General's global ceasefire initiative to focus efforts on combating coronavirus, called Saturday on Libyan warring parties to cease hostilities to end bloodshed of Libyans. The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, called for an end of fighting in Libya and welcomed Egyptian President Abdul-

fattah Al-Sisi's initiative to bring warring Libyan parties to table of negotiations.

The negotiations, it said, aimed at reaching a political solution on basis of relevant UN Security Council's resolutions and outcome of UN-sponsored Berlin Conference in order to preserve unity, independence and territorial safety of Libya, as well as meet aspirations of the Libyan people. Sisi announced the initiative during talks in Cairo with Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar. The initiative calls for a ceasefire starting June 8, holding UN-supervised election of a Libyan presidential council and drafting a constitutional declaration to regulate elections for later stage, as well as ending foreign interference.

Iraqi FM

Separately, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad

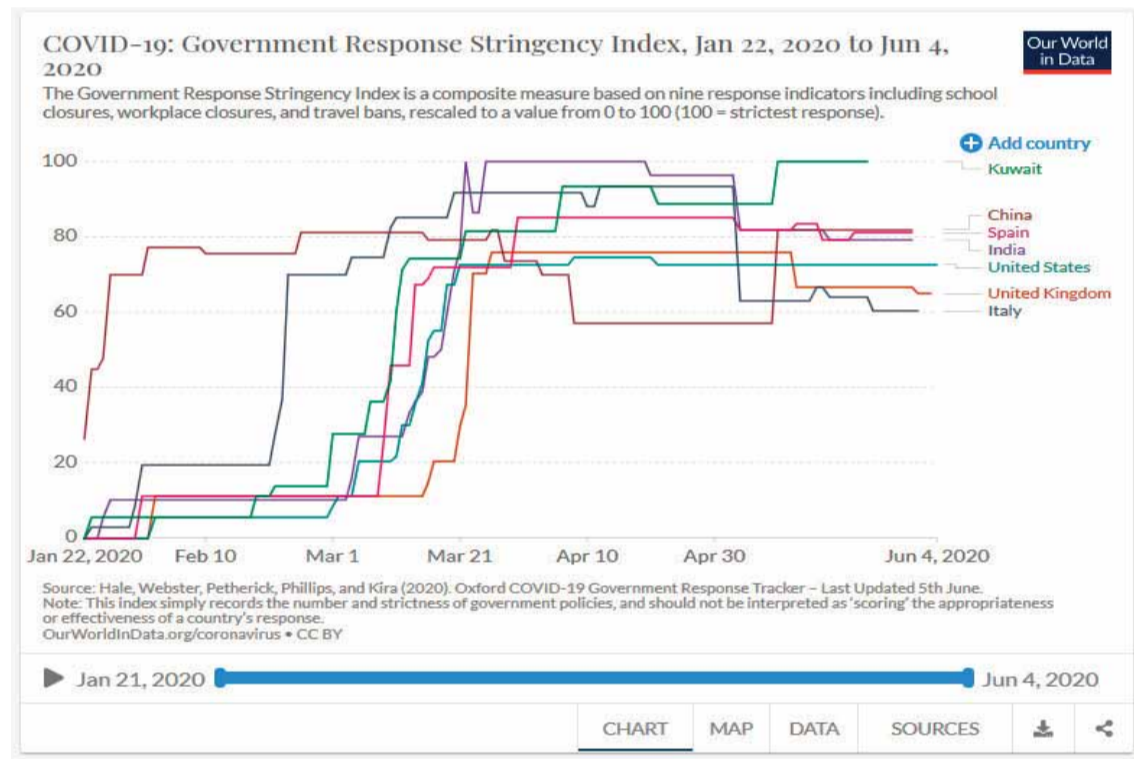
Al-Sabah phoned on Saturday Iraqi counterpart Fuad Baki to congratulate him on the new post. During the phone call, Sheikh Dr Ahmad conveyed the sentiments on behalf of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister, and His Highness the Crown Prince after the completion of formation of the Iraqi cabinet. The foreign Minister also expressed best wishes to the minister and the Iraqi people and government.

Earlier, Iraq's parliament approved the remainder of Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi's cabinet and passing the candidates for seven government posts. A total of 247 MPs approved the seven ministry posts that had remained vacant since Kadhimi was sworn in last month. The new posts include oil, trade, foreign affairs, justice, migration and displacement and culture and agriculture ministries, completing the premier's 22-member cabinet. — KUNA



Kuwait's Oil Minister and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel.

Kuwait 100% on govt response stringency index



KUWAIT: Kuwait scored 100 percent on the Oxford University's Government Response Stringency Index for its fight against the coronavirus. Kuwait scored perfect on almost all indicators including school closures, restrictions on movement, economic policies, COVID-19 testing regimes and emergency invest-

ments in healthcare. Most of Kuwait is under a partial curfew from 6pm to 6am and several areas including Khaitan, Hawally, Mahboula, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Farwaniya are completely isolated. The infection rate has seen a decrease in recent days, although it remains unclear if this trend will continue.

US Ambassador congratulates Kuwaiti graduates of US universities

By Alina Romanowski, US Ambassador to Kuwait

On behalf of the US Embassy, I would like to congratulate the Kuwaiti students who graduated from US universities as part of the class of 2020! In addition, I welcome all Kuwaiti students who are back from universities in the United States, and extend my greetings to the Kuwaitis who are still studying in America. All of you have achieved a great milestone during a challenging time, and you and your families should be proud. You are joining generations of Kuwaitis who studied in the United States and used that education to become leaders in their fields.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Higher Education, the Kuwaiti Cultural Office, and the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, Kuwaiti students in the US were able to receive food, financial support, and visa information during the COVID-19 crisis. My staff at the US Embassy have been in frequent contact with students and their parents to answer their questions. The US Department of Homeland Security helped students by allowing them to maintain their student status through online classes, and accepting electronic signatures on their I-20 forms. US universities are providing high quality online education options and enabling international students to complete their academic year prior to departure.

We take great pride in having Kuwaitis study at top schools in the United States. If you choose to study in the United States, you will not only receive

a world-class education, but also valuable life experiences and an opportunity to build even more connections between our great nations.

We are ready to support anyone interested in studying in the United States. We know that the college application process this year will be affected by the COVID-19 situation. Nonetheless, we can help make the process easier. Please contact our Education Adviser at KuwaitCity@EducationUSA.org for help with finding the right school for you.

I know that many students have questions about their visas and student status. We have a video on our Instagram account (@USEmbassyQ8) that answers frequently asked questions, and you can also contact KuwaitNIV@state.gov with any other questions. The Embassy's visa officers will prioritize returning student visa applications when we resume visa operations. Once again to those returning, welcome back. We wish you a safe and healthy summer!



US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina Romanowski

News in brief

Six suicides in five days

KUWAIT: An Indian man was found dead in a Khaitan Park Saturday in an apparent suicide, police say. The victim's body was found hanging in the park, before police were called. The latest case is the sixth suicide reported within five days.

Scam calls

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior urged the public to avoid responding to scam text messages, international calls, or emails that they may receive and in which they are asked to update their bank accounts.

Medicine delivery

KUWAIT: Health Ministry Undersecretary for medicine and medical supplies Dr Abdallah Al-Bader said that total medicines that were delivered to the home by fire department reached 5,356 medical prescriptions last week, while a total of 46,572 prescriptions were delivered since the service was launched.

13 flights

KUWAIT: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation announced that 13 flights departed Kuwait International Airport yesterday, carrying a total of 2,430 passengers. They include eight flights to Egypt, one flight to Qatar, one flight to India, one flight to Bhutan, one flight to Thailand, and one flight to the UAE.

Curfew breakers

KUWAIT: Nine people were arrested for violating the curfew on Saturday, including eight Kuwaitis and one expatriate. The arrests were made as follows: two in Hawally governorate, one in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, and one in Al-Ahmadi.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed

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