

Local

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News in brief

ABK announces Eid timings

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced it will be closed from Sunday, 1 May, 2022 through to Wednesday, 4 May, 2022. However, the Bank will be operating on a limited basis with the following branches open on Thursday, 5 May, 2022 from (8:30am to 3:00pm): Head Office Branch, Farwaniya Branch, Fahheel Branch, Shuwaikh Branch, New Jahra Branch, Salmiya Branch, Hawally Branch. The bank will resume regular working hours on Sunday, 8 May, 2022.

KRCS distributes food in Yemen

ADEN: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) on Tuesday started giving out 2,418 food parcels to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in four governorates in Yemen as part of "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign, which continues for eighth year running. "The relief effort targets needy families in the governorates of Aden, Taiz, and Marib and Hadhramaut," said KRCS Director-General Abdulrahman Al-Aoun. "It aims to alleviate the suffering of IDPs in the holy month of Ramadan," he said, affirming KRCS resolve to continue the aid campaign in collaboration with the Yemeni local authorities and partners.

Kuwait oil at \$104.19 pb

KUWAIT: Kuwait crude oil dropped 22 cents during Tuesday's trading session to close at \$104.19 per barrel (pb) compared with \$104.41 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday. Brent crude rose \$2.67 to reach \$104.99 pb and West Texas Intermediate jumped \$3.16 to \$101.70 pb.

Govt sets aside KD 2.1 billion to South Saad Al-Abdullah project

KD 6 million initial budget to restore Souq Al-Mubarakiya

KUWAIT: Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid said Tuesday the government gave the green light to the funding of South Saad Al-Abdullah Town and the rehabilitation of Souq Al-Mubarakiya in FY 2022-2023. The South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project costs a total of KD 2.1 billion (nearly \$6.8 billion) which will be phased over the coming state budgets according to the construction stages of the project.

It is listed in the draft bill linking the budgets of the state departments for FY 2022-2023, he told reporters, noting that bill still awaits endorsement from the National Assembly. "The housing question is a top priority for the government, which does its utmost to provide adequate funding for the Public Authority for Housing

Welfare (PAHW) to meet its obligations towards the people of Kuwait," the minister pointed out.

On January 25, the government injected liquidity to appropriation of 11,428 plots of land," Rushaid said, appreciating cooperation from the legislative authority. "Only three months later, the executive authority approved today KD 2.1 billion funding for the South Saad Al-Abdullah project, which signals out keenness on enabling PAHW to find solutions to the housing question," he explained.

Dealing with Souq Al-Mubarakiya which was hit by a huge fire late last month, he said an investigation panel was set up to determine the causes of the fire and draw up safety measures that could prevent recurrence of similar incidents. "An initial budget amounting to KD 6 million (some \$19 million) was set aside for the



Finance Minister Abdulwahab Al-Rushaid

rehabilitation process of the landmark marketplace," the minister disclosed, refuting media speculations in this regard. —KUNA

AU holds annual Ramadan meal distribution drive

KUWAIT: The Australian University (AU) held its annual Ramadan meal distribution drive in order to deliver meals as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. This year the university was able to include a larger number of volunteers including students and staff members to contribute and take part in this humanitarian initiative. May Al-Musallam, Senior Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at AU, highlighted the importance of giving back to the community, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, and further noted that AU always strives to live up to its values of care and altruism. Concerning this year's distribution drive and its volunteers, Musallam said: "I am happy that this year's drive has attracted so many volunteers. It shows the culture of care at AU extends beyond just the institution, but the values have also been ingrained into its students and staff."



stc successfully concludes its Ramadan campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the conclusion of its Ramadan campaign for the year 2022. The campaign primarily focused on initiatives that empowered the youth, supported the development of mental and physical health, in addition to initiatives that contributed to the community across different aspects during the Holy Month. stc launched interactive initiatives and organized several activities including sports competitions, challenges, youth development activities, and employee focused initiatives under its CSR program in collaboration with different organizations from both the Government and private sectors in Kuwait.



Danah Al-Jasem

Community driven initiatives

The community driven initiatives stc participated in this year included sponsoring Al-Qabas' first Ramadan Padel tournament, considering the role of sports during the holy month, with 250 Teams participating and the participation of the number one ranked Padel player in the world, Juan Lebron Chincoa, during the closing ceremony that witnessed the attendance of 2,000 people.

stc partnered with Flare Fitness gym to host several fitness challenges for a good cause under the slogan "Transform your power". The fitness challenges enabled the participants to donate iftar meals to charity and families in need, as well as other initiatives organized through the partnership to spread a positive impact within the community.

stc also sponsored and participated in the "Your Steps = Free Internet" and "Al-Hamra in Motion" fitness challenge for a three weeks period at Al-Hamra Tower. Your Steps = Free Internet", a daily 5,000 steps challenge held for 3

weeks in which participants reaching their goals, while using the Warba Bank App "Fayez", donated free internet subscriptions to over 100 families in need.

stc also collaborated with Aspire Kids Club during Ramadan to give back to the community through distributing iftar meals to workers at the Equestrian Club, Kuwait Zoo, mosques, and other locations. In addition to distributing meals, educational gifts were also distributed to the children at the Kuwait Hospitals in celebration of girgiran.

stc celebrated "girgiran", the beautiful Kuwaiti tradition, with children in the Surra district with the participation of Zeina Al Saffar. stc initiative came in an effort to share the joys of girgiran with children and youth who are the community's most vibrant segment.

Employees Related Activities

In terms of its internal activities, stc organized a Padel tournament for employees in line with its commitment towards adopting a healthier lifestyle through fitness activity and encouraging activities that develop teamwork skills. stc also held its employee Ghabga this year for the first time since the pandemic to further strengthen the links between members of the Big stc family. The social event provided employees with an opportunity to get together, including the employees of e-Portal. The gathering was held in a beautiful one-family atmosphere, attended by stc CEO Eng. Maziad Alharbi and top executive management.

These were not the only initiatives employees were involved in during this Ramadan, as the Company highly encouraged the participation in the various community driven initiatives. stc formed a team consisting of its employees to participate in the Al-Qabas Padel tournament, the Company also held special activities for its employees during the Flare Fitness and Hamra in Motion challenges.

"On Us" Ramadan lucky draw for customers

For its new and existing customers, stc launched the Ramadan weekly lucky draw, a 5-week raffle draw held throughout the month of Ramadan where 50 lucky winners got a chance to win one of the valuable prizes and a free commitment. Customers renewing or subscribing to any postpaid plans were automatically included in the draw.

stc also launched 'stc tv' during the month of Ramadan, the Company's rebranded and redefined entertainment platform. The rebrand aims to leverage on 'Jawwy TV', stc's previous platform, and provide customers with a wide



selection of entertainment options.

Danah Al-Jasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are proud to have participated in a variety of community driven initiatives that reflected our Ramadan campaign theme this year. This year was special for us, especially considering the return of normal activities following the pandemic, and we were keen to play an impactful role."

Jasem added, "We collaborated with various entities this Ramadan from both private and government sectors with the objective of spreading positivity within the community. The initiatives we participated in also helped spread awareness on various topics that reflect the true values behind the Holy Month, as well as the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through regular fitness activity. Our strategy further builds on the direction we have set to not only be a pioneer within the telecom industry but also in our community through our progressive CSR program. stc aims to enrich people's lifestyles whether it is through our wide range of solutions and offerings, or by organizing various activities that entertain and bring the community together for a good cause."

Jasem concluded, "On behalf of stc, I would like to thank all the entities and organizations we partnered with as we conclude our Ramadan campaign this year. stc



greatly values the role it aspires to play within the community and will continue to organize and participate in initiatives that have a positive impact on the community. We are also proud of the gradual growth and diversity of our CSR framework, which has addressed the most common topics within our key pillars, which are health, the environment, entrepreneurship, and the youth. We will continue to play an active role within our community and organize initiatives that empower and encourage the youth to adopt positive habits that will enrich their lives."