

Local

Kuwait volunteers carry out beach cleanup drive to mark global event

Environmentalists raise awareness on dangers of plastic waste



KUWAIT: People participate in a cleanup drive at the Ushairej beach yesterday to mark the International Coastal Cleanup Day. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: A local team of volunteers organized a cleanup drive at the Ushairej beach yesterday to mark the International Coastal Cleanup Day. US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina L Romanowski participated in the event, organized by the Green Hands Environmental Team, and featuring representatives from other NGOs in Kuwait.

As an ambitious global environmental initiative, the world celebrated the International Coastal Cleanup Day yesterday by organizing various campaigns and activities to clean seacoasts and beaches. These campaigns aim to raise environmental awareness and the need to preserve seacoasts and beaches, and to shed light on the problems and threats to the environment, thus contributing to maintaining its ecological balance and ensuring its biodiversity.

On the International Coastal Cleanup Day, the Media official of Kuwait's diving team, Dr Dhari Al-Huwail said that the team participated in the global

campaign to clean the beaches by cleaning the southern coast of Fahaaheel in cooperation with the Kuwait Municipality and volunteers. He noted that the team chose the southern coast as a cleaning site on this occasion due to the accumulation of a lot of plastic waste carried by the northern winds that blew over Kuwait a few days ago, indicating that the team was able to remove two tons of plastic waste.

Moreover, he stressed the danger of plastic waste and its negative impact on the marine and coastal environment and its organisms, as it destroys thousands of sea creatures and birds, wishing more penalties for violators to ensure the

safety of the environment and coasts. He also said that the team continues to protect the marine and coastal environment throughout the year, with the participation of many governmental and private agencies, and it has distinguished international partnerships, most notably the environmental cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Wildlife Protection Committee of the Kuwait Society for the Protection of the Environment, Dr Manaf Behbehani, said that the coasts are among the most important natural environments due to their biological diversity. He noted that Kuwait enjoys a seacoast extending

from north to south with a length of about 325 km, and the nine islands have a coastline of 175 km, which is considered a natural wealth. Behbehani stressed that Kuwait attaches great importance to protecting the coasts and their vital and non-vital resources, as stated in Article 100 of the Environmental Law, as it includes severe financial penalties and imprisonment for those who cause the destruction of coastal environments.

In the meantime, Director-General of Public Relations and Media at the Environment Public Authority, Sheikha Al-Ibrahim, said that the International Coastal Cleanup Day is a global initiative identified by the United Nations and celebrated by the world in many activities to clean coastal and marine areas and aims to raise environmental awareness. She added that the authority chose the beaches of Kubbar Island as a cleaning site on this occasion, as it is one of the most beautiful Kuwaiti islands, for the diversity of its wildlife.

Restrictions eased for vaccinated Kuwait travelers to England

LONDON: The British government announced Friday that Kuwait, among other countries, is removed from mandatory pre-departure COVID-19 tests for vaccinated travelers to England and Scotland, starting October 4. Grant Shapps, the UK Transport Secretary, said in a series of tweets that as of the aforementioned date, the current red-amber-green country lists that govern arrivals into England would cease to exist. In their place will be a "simpler" red list of no-go destinations. The new system will help in "striking the right balance to manage the public health risk as No.1 priority," Shapps said. Hence, according to Shapps, the UK will no longer require pre-departure tests before arrival into England for fully vaccinated travelers coming from non-red list countries starting from October 4. "From later in October, (fully vaccinated travelers) will be able to replace the day two PCR test with a cheaper lateral flow," he added, referring to the test required two days after arriving in England. Officials review these measures weekly or

in response to significant changes in disease activity abroad, as they could re-impose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

The new measures to ease pandemic restrictions on travel into England and Scotland replace a complicated "traffic light" watchlist with a simpler regime for fully vaccinated arrivals. As per the new measures, the "amber" list covering travel from much of the world, including Europe, will be abolished in the UK's two largest nations, reflecting high levels of vaccination against COVID-19 by other countries. The reform comes after strong disquiet among the public and the travel industry over byzantine rules that made summer holidays prohibitively expensive for many families.

"Today's changes mean a simpler, more straightforward system," Shapps said in a statement, announcing the changes for England. "One with less testing and lower costs, allowing more people to travel, see loved ones or conduct business around the world while providing a boost for the travel industry."

Only the "red" list will remain, requiring travelers to quarantine in government-approved hotels if they are arriving from COVID hotspots. But eight countries will come off the English and Scottish red list from next Wednesday — Bangladesh, Egypt, Kenya,

the Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

From October 4, fully vaccinated travelers coming to England from other destinations will no longer have to take a pre-departure test. And from the end of October, they will not have to take an expensive PCR test on day two of their stay in England, only a rapid lateral flow test.

The Shapps statement applied only to England, but Scotland's separate government followed suit with parallel changes scrapping the amber list. However, Edinburgh retained the requirement for pre-departure and day-two PCR tests, "due to significant concerns at the impact on public health".

All the UK's devolved administrations — including Wales and Northern Ireland — have followed previous changes to travel rules announced by the UK government in London. The Welsh government said it would "carefully consider" the announcement by London, but also voiced concern at the changes to the testing regime.

Nevertheless, UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said: "As global vaccination efforts continue to accelerate and more people gain protection from this dreadful disease, it is right that our rules and regulations keep pace." Travel industry bodies welcomed the move, while the British Chambers of Commerce said it could provide travelers and businesses with "confidence and clarity needed after so much uncertainty". —Agencies

Around 200 arrested in Farwaniya crackdown



KUWAIT: Around 200 people were arrested in a wide-scale crackdown on violators in Farwaniya Governorate over the weekend, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. "Farwaniya security directorate launched a crackdown in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Farwaniya, Khaitan, Industrial Ardiya, Friday Market and Rai," the Interior Ministry said. And while the ministry did not disclose the number of people arrested in the crackdown, local reports quoting security sources said that the crackdown resulted in

the arrest of around 200 residency law violators, loose laborers and domestic helpers working in markets. The anonymous sources noted that crackdowns will continue "until security is established in the entire country and residency law violators are deported." Interior Ministry, manpower authority, environment authority and fire force personnel took part in the crackdown, the interior ministry said.

Police have arrested 118 people during a police



crackdown in Hawally Wednesday night. Police also arrested 64 residency law violators and eight juveniles during a campaign in Fahaaheel Industrial area earlier on Wednesday. On Tuesday, police carried out a similar campaign in Bneid Al-Qar, during which they arrested 96 people. Furthermore, the Interior Ministry announced during the weekend that Capital Governorate police arrested 17 people during a similar crackdown in Jaber Al-Ahmad.

News in brief

Earthquake north of Kuwait

KUWAIT: A 3.1-magnitude earthquake occurred in Rhoudhatain northeast of Kuwait yesterday, the Kuwait National Seismic Network (KNSN) said. In a statement, KNSN said that the quake happened at 3:18 am in Kuwait at a depth of seven kilometers. KNSN is an entity affiliated with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Cops sustain injuries

KUWAIT: A man attacked two policemen with a knife before he was placed under arrest, the interior ministry announced yesterday. The attack happened while police were placing the suspect under control after they responded to an emergency call reporting a man physically assaulting his parents, the interior ministry explained, adding that the officers are in stable condition. The suspect, who was likely under the influence of narcotics at the time of arrest, was taken to the proper authorities for further action, it added.

Murder threat

KUWAIT: Police arrested a Kuwaiti man who attempted to kill his ex-wife, according to a local report. A security source said the woman complained to Salmiya police that her ex-husband threatened to kill her and was following her. Police contacted the man, who denied his ex-wife's accusations, adding: "I am at a chalet and let her say whatever she likes". Policemen doubted his claims and told the woman to leave, assuring her that detectives will follow her. They discovered her ex-husband was following her and tried to force her to stop, so detectives arrested him.

More arrests

KUWAIT: The criminal security sector statistics during the week indicated an increase in activities to arrest violators. The statistics mentioned 68 drugs cases, the arrest of 79 suspects including five women, 29 thefts and the arrest of 37 suspected thieves, in addition to confiscating drugs and forgery and other cases.