

## Local



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

# Frustration and anger mount in isolated areas

## Lack of services, supplies and fuel add to sense of hopelessness

By Nawara Fattahova

**R**esidents in lockdown areas face daily challenges, including short supplies of food and basic necessities, long queues and lack of income.

The densely populated areas Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Mahboula were placed under lockdown in April and the original three-week timeline extended when the entire country was placed under a full curfew. Then when the curfew expired on May 30, these two areas were given an additional three weeks of lockdown along with Khaitan, Farwaniya and Hawally.

For those living in Jleeb and Mahboula, two months of total isolation has added to the fear, anxiety and frustration created by the global pandemic. Kuwait Times spoke with people living

in all the locked down areas to hear their concerns and problems.

"I haven't been able to leave the area for two months, so I feel frustrated. Also, I don't have a car, and no transportation is available since the lockdown. And with the hot weather, it's hard to walk for long periods. So for instance, I can't bring the gas cylinder, and have to wait for the truck that delivers the cylinders. In two months, we only received it once," Suhail, a resident of Jleeb, told Kuwait Times.

"Furthermore, I can't go to the main co-op as it's far, so I buy all my stuff from the baqala. Of course I don't find all my needs, so sometimes my friends bring me some food. I live in block 2, and those who distribute meals don't reach our block. My friends told me that food is distributed to around 1,500 people in other blocks. Also, a truck with bread came two weeks ago, which is

not enough, while before they were coming more frequently. My friends told me they waited two hours in the queue to enter the co-op," he added.

In Mahboula, the biggest concerns are maintenance services, food supply and petrol. "My dishwasher has stopped working. When I called the service center in my area, he said he doesn't have spare parts to fix it. I called various well-known electronics companies, but they had the same answer - our staff is not allowed to enter Mahboula," said Khaled, a resident of Mahboula. "We also face problems withdrawing money, as not all ATM machines are functional. Only two are working and every day, there are long queues for these machines. Medical services are available as we have a field hospital, and I haven't faced any difficulties in this regard," he added.

