

Local

Souq Mubarakia shopkeepers tell horrific tales from massive inferno

Owner lost KD 100,000 in blaze: 'We could only run to save our lives'



KUWAIT: An aerial view shows fire trucks deployed around Souq Mubarakia in Kuwait City on April 1, 2022, a day after a massive fire gutted the heritage market. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Xinhua



Photo taken on April 1, 2022 shows the damaged Souq Mubarakia after the fire.

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Four days after a blaze tore through Souq Mubarakia, traffic there is lighter than usual. The stench of burned material still hangs in the air, although the fire was extinguished days ago. When Kuwait Times visited, some owners of the gutted stores were watching bulldozers removing the debris, with the hope they can still salvage some items.

One of the shopkeepers, who did not want to be named, evaluated his losses at around KD 100,000. "I had two stores with bukhoor (incense) and perfumes, which were destroyed in the blaze. I lost all the contents of both stores, worth KD 100,000. I am not insured, but I hope the administration of the market will be able to compensate us in some ways," he told Kuwait Times.

According to him, all shops had fire extinguishers, but as the fire resulted from a strong explosion in one of the perfume shops, they couldn't even use

the extinguishers. "We didn't even have the chance to take any goods from the store. We could only run to save our lives," the shop owner rued.

Farouq is the owner of a store selling makeup and skincare products near the scorched area, but in the basement. "I'm glad the firemen could extinguish the fire before it reached the basement where our store is located. Fortunately, I didn't lose any goods, but due to security reasons and the location of the store, the police have closed the basement for now till everything is cleaned. So I'm still facing losses for having my store closed," he said.

Mohammed Al-Rifai, owner of a perfume store on the adjacent Gharabally Street, complained of a

lack of customers. "Only a few customers pass by my shop. This is not even a quarter of the usual number of customers during this period. This has sharply affected my sales. Most people think the whole Souq Mubarakia has burned down and there are no stores open, after what they saw on social media. But this is not true, as only a part of

between 2 and three liters a day - adding this is among the most important pieces of advice given to patients in Ramadan.

Dr Ghanem said patients should stay away from diuretics such as drinks containing caffeine. He said following a balanced nutritional system contributes to fasting successfully, while controlling the amount of protein in food contributes effectively to avoiding any complications during the fasting period.

Dr Ghanem also advised patients to avoid heavy tasks while fasting to maintain the level of liquids in the body, "especially since we are fasting during relatively high temperatures in the coming days". He said avoiding sweets and eating suhour contributes to healthy fasting. He added patients must take their medicine as instructed by their doctors.



Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem

Doctor advises kidney patients to avoid salt-rich foods

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Head of the urology unit at Jaber Armed Forces Hospital Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanem said kidney and urinary tract patients must be careful during the fasting period. He said they should consult a doctor before fasting to get an integrated medication plan, adding that kidney patients are the most affected by the type of foods they consume.

Dr Ghanem said a wrong nutrition system in which there are salts and sodium contribute to the formation of stones, so kidney and urinary tract patients must eat food rich in moisture and stay away from foods that contain salts. He advised kidney patients to drink large amounts of water -

Kuwait urges better global partnership efforts for education

PARIS: Kuwait called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to strengthen the efforts of the global partnership for education, stressing the need to undertake a "better way" of educating refugees and displaced persons, and supporting a culture of peace and security. This came in the speech Monday by Kuwait's permanent representative to UNESCO, Ambassador Dr Adam Al-Mulla, before the 214th session of the Organization's Executive Council. Ambassador Mulla stressed the importance of the member states consultation and participation in a way that contributes to strengthening the global partnership for education and building a better future for millions around the world. He also stressed that strengthening regional offices, especially those located in conflict areas, with financial support and providing them with a larger number of specialists to enable them to face challenges.



KUWAIT: Kuwait's delegation to the 214th session of the UNESCO's Executive Council. — KUNA

Furthermore, he expressed Kuwait's thanks to the UNESCO General Secretariat for its unremitting efforts and endeavors to implement the program approved by the organization's general conference and its various activities for the period 2018-2021. He praised Saudi Arabia's effective leadership in conducting regional consultations to prepare recommendations in preparation for the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, which will be held in Mexico later this year. — KUNA

Kuwait oil price up to \$106.71 pb

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti oil price rose by 52 cents to \$106.71 per barrel on Monday, compared with \$106.19 pb Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday. Globally, the Brent crude went up by \$3.14 to \$107.53 pb and West Texas Intermediate also rose by \$4.01 to settle at \$103.28 pb.

The price for OPEC's daily basket of crude increased by a dollar and 33 cents to \$106.23 per barrel (pb) on Monday, compared with \$104.90 pb

four days earlier, the cartel said. The monthly average of the organization's basket price last month amounted to \$113.48 pb while its annual average is \$68.9 pb, it said in a statement. Key oil-producing states decided at the conclusion of meetings at diverse levels on Thursday to maintain a previous accord to raise the daily output of the crude by 432,000 barrels per day.

They agreed to reconfirm the baseline adjustment, the production adjustment plan and the monthly production adjustment mechanism approved at the 19th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting and the decision to adjust upward the monthly overall production by 0.432 mb/d for the month of May 2022, as per the attached schedule. — KUNA



Heavy damage in Souq Mubarakia as the Liberation Tower is seen in the background.

the market was destroyed," he said.

Lena, a saleslady at a clothing store opposite the gutted area, described her fear during the inferno last week. "I was really scared when I saw the fire, which almost reached our store, and I can't forget

that scene. We were lucky that it didn't reach our store. Unfortunately, our sales have been strongly affected, as people are not coming to Mubarakia. People think this place is closed, and only a few people are coming here," she said.

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