

Local

COVID-19 emergency field teams inspect Assima Mall

Inspectors check shops, customers' adherence to health protocols



KUWAIT: Public Authority for Manpower and Ministry of Commerce and Industry inspectors participate in an inspection tour at the Assima Mall. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The COVID-19 Emergency Committee formed by the Council of Ministers includes field inspection teams of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Kuwait Municipality, which are in charge of inspecting health requirements in different public places and businesses. As part of their inspections, PAM inspectors along with Ministry of Commerce and Industry inspectors went on an inspection tour at the Assima Mall on Wednesday.

Fatma Abdul Malik, who is in charge of the women inspection team of PAM said that the authority's inspectors carried out more than 63,000 inspections since the beginning of the pandemic, during which they issued about 7,000 warnings and 790 fines. "These included beauty salons and other businesses violating health requirements," she told Kuwait Times.

PAM inspectors go on these tours in teams or individually. "Sometimes we cover one governorate or certain businesses. Currently we are focusing on hotels to make sure no weddings or parties are taking place there. We also focus on salons, health clubs, tailors and medical clinics," she added.

Once inside the shopping mall, the inspectors look for different things when checking adherence to health protocols. "Apart from wearing facemasks, we also check cosmetic stores to make sure they

don't have testers. Fitting rooms are currently available for customers, but we check that the customers are wearing facemasks and that the rooms are frequently disinfected," stressed Abdul Malik.

Working every day

Jaafar Al-Ramzi, supervising inspector of PAM, said that inspectors have been working every day



63,000+
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since the beginning of the pandemic. "We check the health requirements and spread awareness among visitors on this issue. We also see that employees and visitors adhere to health requirements," he pointed out.

Food and drinks are not allowed inside the stores, so that customers don't remove their facemasks inside commercial centers, he explained. "At restaurants, we check the social distancing to be at least two meters. Each shop should have sanitizers,



and the contents should not exceed more than 60 percent ethanol. The limit number of customers in each store is still applicable," said Ramzi.

The inspectors of the Ministry of Commerce are also focusing on following health requirements during this period. "We focus on wearing facemasks, social distancing, floor signs, temperature checking and the availability of hand sanitizers. The inspectors issue warnings and undertakings, and fine the employee or business owner. Deterrent penalties may be applied on the violators," said inspector Mithkar Fahad.

Faisal Al-Ansari, Director of the Technical Staff to supervise goods at the Ministry of Commerce

and head of the health requirements team, stated that they work on two shifts during the morning and evening periods to support the Ministry of Health in helping decrease possible infections with COVID-19.

"Joining the inspections on health requirements did not affect the work of the other department at the Ministry of Commerce. We have special departments at the ministry for each issue. We still inspect prices, licenses and other violations. We have 21 centers in all governorates, in addition to our hotline: 135 and Whatsapp number: 55135135 to receive any complaint of the consumers," explained Ansari.



KUWAIT: Customers are seen at the main fish market in Sharq. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Weather affects fish prices in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: There has been a noticeable spike in the prices of fish at Mubarakiya fish market. According to a market official who requested anonymity, the price increase has been due to recent adverse weather conditions, rain, cold and the temperature of the sea. "This is expected, especially in the winter season. The fish go to the bottom of the sea to adapt to the temperature, so the catch is low. But this is compensated by imported fish," he said.

Prices of fish depend on their type and size. The price of hamour for example ranges from KD 3.5 per kilo to KD 3 per kilo. Fish like baloul are KD 5 per kilo, nuwaibi KD 2.500, sha-em KD 3, sheem KD 5, nagrour KD 5, crabs KD 1.500 and the bigger size was at KD 2, biyya KD 2, zubaiti KD 4.500, kanad KD 2.500, sheeri KD 2.500, t'lah KD 3.500, m'zeizei KD 5 and faskar KD 3 per kilo. Kuwaitis' favorite fish zubaidi is also classified depending on size, with large (700 gm to 1 kg) selling for KD 9 per kilo, medium (400 gm to 600 gm) for KD 6 and small (350 gm and less) for KD 4.5.

Prices of fish is much cheaper at the Souq Mubarakiya and Souq Sharq fish markets than at hypermarkets and supermarkets. "If you want cheaper and fresher fish, buy them from the central fish markets. Prices are sometimes double in the malls," the official noted. Fish caught in Kuwaiti waters account for only around 20 percent of fish in the market, with the rest imported from various countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Zubaidi, hamour, nuwaibi and maid are some of the varieties of fish popular in Kuwait. Meanwhile, only half of Mubarakiya fish market will be open to the public by the end of January, as the other half will be renovated.



Kuwait Times, Kuwait News' Yasser Al-Zayyat's photo among 'world best'



KUWAIT: Several world news agencies selected a picture by Kuwait Times and Kuwait News photographer Yasser Al-Zayyat among the best photos of the week in yet another achievement in the organization's continued endeavor to reaching excellence in local, regional and international arenas. AFP, The Guardian,



ABC News, Gulf News among others as well as Kuwaiti dailies Al-Qabas and Al-Rai posted Al-Zayyat's picture - showing Kuwait City under heavy fog, highlighting it among the best pictures taken from around the world this past week. Kuwait TV also featured the photo during its daily broadcast yesterday.