

## Local

## News in brief

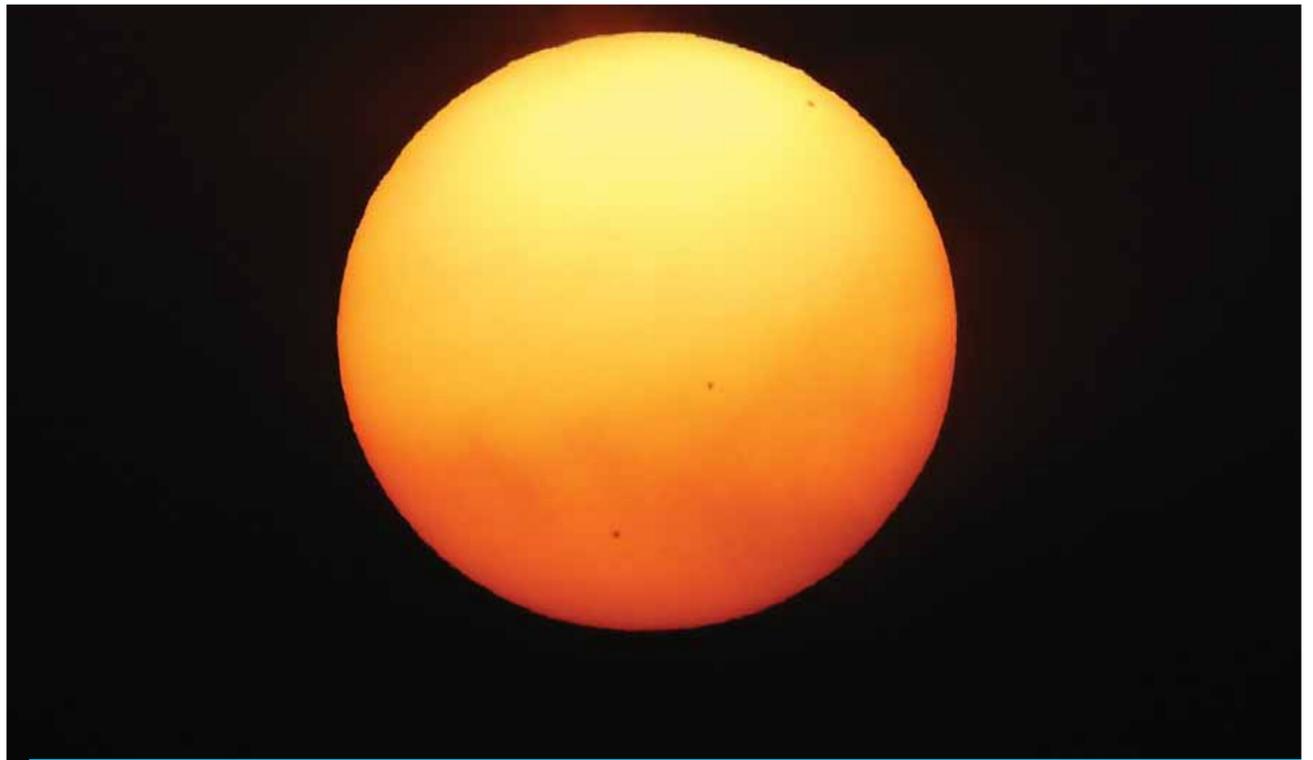
**Kuwait condemns  
Kabul explosion**

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait expressed on Saturday its strong condemnation of the recent blast, which rocked a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan, leading to several casualties. A statement by the Foreign Ministry reiterated Kuwait's strong stance against such cowardly terror attacks, which stood against all international laws and humanitarian as well as religious values. The State of Kuwait reaffirmed its calls to bolster global counterterrorism efforts to prevent such events from reoccurring. Kuwait expressed condolences to those who have passed as a result of the attack and wished for the swift recovery for those injured.

**GCC citizens can use  
IDs to enter Kuwait**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Interior reinstated the waiver of travel documents to citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries as from tomorrow, Friday. The Kuwaiti citizens and nationals of other GCC states are able to use only their national smart IDs to travel to and from Kuwait, said a statement by the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media. The decision revokes the travel restrictions imposed by the GCC member countries due to Coronavirus pandemic, according to the statement.

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** This picture taken on April 30, 2022 from Kuwait City shows a view of the sun and three sunspot regions, (from bottom to top) 3001, 2999 and 2995.— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# Food truck owners complain of bad govt procedures, space shortage

## Fewer customers during Ramadan add to owners' woes

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The food trucks parked on the seaside near Green Island are facing a plethora of problems. Not only are customers significantly fewer during the holy month Ramadan, but they also face many obstacles.

Abdullah Al-Saadoun, owner of a food truck which serves different kinds of beverages, complained he had to unfairly pay fines. "To park my food truck here, I must pay rent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry online. For three months, the same error occurred on their website, and a total of KD 120 was deducted from my bank account, yet my payment was not confirmed. During this period, the Municipality (which is in charge of inspecting the licenses), issued two fines to my truck, although I have the bank statement proving my payment and

deduction from my bank account," he told Kuwait Times. "I went personally to the ministry to clarify this failure on their official website, but I didn't resolve the problem or reach any result after meeting many officials in three locations including the Ministries Complex, Ishbiliya Center and South Surra Center. I even asked my friends who work at the ministry to pay on behalf of me. When I asked them to pay in person at the ministry, they said this option is not available, and I must only pay online. I wonder why, as the pandemic is over," Saadoun asked.

When he tried to complain, he was unsuccessful. "The number for complaints is never answered. The employee at the ministry advised me to send an email, but nobody answered to any of the tens of emails that I already sent. I spoke to other truck owners and most of them are facing the same problem," he concluded.

**Space shortage**

Mohammed Saad, owner of another truck, complained of a shortage of spaces by the seaside. "The ministry should set a limit for occupied spaces. It is not fair to let one user take three or four spaces, while there are only a total of nine or ten spots in each location on the seafront. These trucks' owners have wasta, so they get many spaces, while we only get one spot," he explained.

Jaafar Sadeq is the owner a food truck that is operating there since June 2021. He sells various kinds of foods, sweets and beverages. He powers his truck through solar panels. "During the day, I store energy from the sun, and when I shut down at night, I switch to this energy for the refrigerators inside the truck so the food will not get spoiled. Sometimes, I face problem with municipal inspectors who ask me to park the truck vertically to fit in one space, while I need it to be positioned horizontally to

provide space for the solar panels," he said. "I have chosen this location as I believe I can help people and not just sell my products. I have faced such a situation many times, when some people had low blood pressure or low sugar levels and collapsed. So I was near to help them," added Sadeq.

Cleanliness is another problem he faces. "Every day I have to pay street cleaners to clean the place around my truck as people always throw rubbish. Sometimes I don't find any worker, so I have to clean the area before I close the truck and before I open it the next day," stressed Sadeq. Ahmad, owner of a food truck operating in the area for about four months, said he faces problems with electricity and water. "I don't have power supply for my truck, so I use a generator for cooking, which is very expensive. Also, I bring water containers for washing fruit, vegetables and equipment," he noted.



**KUWAIT:** Food trucks lined up at a location in Kuwait.— Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



**KUWAIT:** This file photo shows food trucks parked on the seaside near Kuwait Towers.

## Kuwait charity societies continue philanthropic activities

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait charity societies continued their philanthropic activities in the last days of holy month of Ramadan, helping the needy in and outside Kuwait. Charity societies distributed food baskets in Tunisia, Palestine and Yemen as well as clothes for families in Yemen. The international charitable society for development distributed 200 food baskets in two suburbs in Kairouan, Tunisia, while Al-Quraan and Al-Sunna society distributed food baskets for 94 families in the West Bank city of Qalqilia who were suffering from deteriorating living conditions. In Yemen, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) gave 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, Ma'rab 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. Tareq Luqman, director general of Estijabah Foundation, expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti aid agencies for the limitless support to the Yemeni people. The Kuwaiti assistance will help improve living conditions of the Yemeni people who bore the brunt of the protracted conflict, he noted.

Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR) also gave out 4,832

food baskets to IDPs in four governorates in Yemen as part of the campaign "Kuwait by Your Side." The new relief effort was launched at a ceremony in Taiz in the presence of Nabil Jamel, director general of the Taiz office of the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and Deputy Director of KSR's office in Yemen Adel Ba'eshn. The Yemeni official expressed gratitude for Kuwait's assistance to the Yemenis displaced by the conflict. "The State of Kuwait continues contributing to the realization of food security for vulnerable people and alleviating their suffering over the past years," Jamel said in a statement during the ceremony. These assistance in

Yemen is only part of many humanitarian aid distributed to people in many areas in the conflict-ridden nation. A foundation stone was placed for a health center named after Adnan Al-Ojan to serve 15,000 people in area of Damoun, Hadhramawt. The center will include casualty, minor surgery section, vaccination room, a laboratory, pharmacy, X-ray, toilets and doctors' rooms.

**Eid clothes**

With advent of Eid Al-Fitr, KRCS distributed new clothes to 600 children in the Yemeni governorates of Hadhramawt, Aden, Taiz and Ma'rab. In New Delhi,

Kuwait embassy to India organized an Iftar meal by distributing more than 2,200 food baskets for Indian families. Kuwait Ambassador to India said the Iftar project this year was the largest compared with previous years, as the embassy supervised distribution of around 42 tons of food supplies even during the COVID-19.

Locally, KRCS announced distribution of 1,070 vouchers worth KD 50 per voucher to needy families on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. Director of KRCS' Public Relations and Media Department Khaled Al-Zaid told KUNA vouchers were distributed to needy families in Kuwait approved by KRCS, in order to help them. The recipients will buy clothes from shops designated to cover the needs of children, orphans and the elderly, he added. KRCS will not stop helping the poor and will provide health, relief along with educational support for them, as KRCS has been distributing humanitarian aid to needy families throughout the year, with the distribution of vouchers as part of the help provided by the association annually, he explained.

Meanwhile, KRCS signed an agreement to establish a disaster relief and response center in Antalya, Turkey, with a generous donation from Kuwait Finance House (KFH). On the sidelines of the agreement signing ceremony, KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said the center would address emergencies such as the recent fires, which plagued Turkish forests. He expressed gratitude towards KFH for its donation, saying that it reflected the generous spirit of the Kuwaiti people. On his part, Head of the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD) Yunus Sezer lauded the KRCS and KFH for their contributions, affirming that the State of Kuwait had a tremendous record of accomplishment when it came to humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.— KUNA



**Kuwait Red Crescent Society distributes clothes to 600 children in Yemen for Eid Al-Fitr.**