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'Severe dust storm' to hit Kuwait on Monday

Country braces for another dusty weekend • Mercury could reach 46 degree Celsius



KUWAIT: Motorists negotiate through the thick orange haze as a dust storm blanketed Kuwait on Monday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Dusty weather is predicted for the weekend yet again in Kuwait. Strong winds of up to 50 km/h in speed that cause rising dust and drop in visibility may hit Kuwait by Friday evening and continue through the weekend, said Yasser Al-Bloushi, meteorologist at Kuwait Meteorological Center. He further warned of a "severe dust storm" that is expected to hit Kuwait on Monday.

The weekend's weather is also expected to be hot with the temperatures ranging between 41 and 46 degree Celsius, according to Bloushi. Meanwhile, the strong winds could cause high sea waves of up to six feet on Friday and Saturday, Bloushi warned.

A massive dust storm coming from Iraq affected large areas of Kuwait on Monday, dropping visibility to less than 1,000 km and suspending flights from and to the country. Kuwait Meteorological Center said the dust storm was accompanied with strong winds exceeding 50 km/h in speed, while sea waves would reach as high

as six feet.

The bad weather conditions, described as "severe" in the meteorological center's weather warning, disrupted flights at Kuwait International Airport and cargo movements at Kuwait ports. Motorists were urged to avoid driving unless necessary and take extreme caution while on the road as visibility dropped to as low as 100 meters especially in open areas. The health ministry also warned people with breathing difficulties to take extra caution, while the education ministry also closed schools on Tuesday as a precautionary measure.

Kuwait has been hit by frequent dust storms this year well ahead of their usual season. Most of the dust is carried from Iraq to Kuwait by north-westerly winds brought by the Indian monsoon depression affecting the region. Another massive dust storm hit Iraq on Wednesday the eighth since mid-April. Iraq has been battered by soil degradation, intense droughts and low rainfall linked to climate change. — Agencies

Rare monkeypox outbreaks in North America, Europe

MONTREAL, Canada: Health authorities in North America and Europe have detected dozens of suspected or confirmed cases of monkeypox since early May, sparking concern the disease endemic in parts of Africa is spreading. Canada was the latest country to report it was investigating more than a dozen suspected cases of monkeypox, after Spain and Portugal detected more than 40 possible and verified cases.

Britain has confirmed nine cases since May 6, and the United States verified its first on Wednesday, saying a man in the eastern state of Massachusetts had tested positive for the virus after visiting Canada. The illness, from which most people recover within several weeks and has only been fatal in rare cases, has infected thousands of people in parts of Central and Western Africa in recent years but is rare in Europe and North Africa. Italy on Thursday reported its first case of monkeypox joining a number of other European and North American nations in detecting the disease endemic in parts of Africa. Meanwhile, one person in Sweden has a confirmed case of monkeypox, health authorities said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it was coordinating with UK and European health officials over the new outbreaks. "We really need to better understand the extent of monkeypox in endemic countries... to really understand how much is circulating and the risk that it poses for people who are living there, as well as the risk of exportation," infectious disease epidemiologist Dr Maria Van Kerkhove said at a WHO press conference on Tuesday on global health issues.

The first case in Britain was someone who had traveled from Nigeria, though later cases were possibly through community transmission, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said in a statement.

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Jordan king says half-brother to remain under house arrest

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II said Thursday his half-brother Prince Hamzah, accused of involvement in a coup plot last year, is in a state of "delusion" and will remain under house arrest. Authorities in Jordan announced in April last year that they had foiled a bid to destabilize the Western-allied kingdom, marking a rare

crisis in a nation seen as a pillar of regional stability. Two former officials were sentenced to 15 years in jail in July after they were found guilty of conspiring to topple the king in favor of Prince Hamzah, who escaped prosecution but was ordered into house arrest.

The king said in a statement released on Thursday that his half-brother would remain under house arrest, and that further restrictions would be imposed upon him. "A Royal Decree was issued, approving the recommendation of the council formed in accordance with the Royal Family Law, to restrict the communications, place of residence, and movement of Prince Hamzah," the statement from the royal palace said.



Prince Hamzah

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Zionists arrest pallbearer of slain journalist

JERUSALEM: Zionist entity has arrested one of the pallbearers of slain Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, police said Thursday, but rejected his lawyer's claim that the detention was linked to his role at the funeral.

In a raid that has sparked international outrage, baton-wielding Zionist entity's police beat several pallbearers as they carried the journalist's coffin out of a hospital in Zionist-annexed

east Jerusalem. Abu Akleh was shot dead during a Zionist army raid in the West Bank last week.

Palestinians and the TV network said Zionist troops killed her, while Zionist entity said she may have been killed by Palestinian gunfire or a stray shot from a Zionist entity sniper. A lawyer for pallbearer Amro Abu Khudeir told AFP that his client had been arrested and questioned over his role at the funeral. According to the lawyer, Khaldoun Najm, Zionist entity also claimed to have "a secret file on (Khudeir's) membership of a terrorist organization".

"I think they will arrest more young men who participated in the funeral," Najm said.

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JERUSALEM: In this file photo taken on May 13, 2022, Amro Abu Khudeir (gray shirt) covers his head protectively as he carries the casket of slain Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh out of a hospital, before being transported to a church and then her resting place, in Jerusalem. — AFP

Independents celebrate in Lebanon

BEIRUT: When Firas Hamdan was injured at a protest near Lebanon's parliament two years ago, the then activist never imagined he would one day return as a lawmaker. Hamdan, one of 13 independent politicians who emerged from a mass anti-government protest movement in 2019, made it to parliament on a reformist plat-

form at elections on Sunday.

The 35-year-old lawyer and another independent, Elias Jarade, both snatched seats from allies of the powerful Shiite group Hezbollah in one of its south Lebanon strongholds—a first in three decades. It was a breakthrough at the first election since the Mediterranean country was plunged into a deep economic crisis that has stoked popular fury with the hereditary and graft-tainted ruling class.

"To those who protested and clashed with authorities, those who were beaten by security forces, I say: 'Today one of those victims is in

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BEIRUT: Newly-elected Lebanese MP Firas Hamdan shares a moment with friends at his residence in the southern Lebanese village of Kfeir. — AFP