

Irrigation

'Workers live in isolated areas'

Volunteers team launches campaign to water trees, plants in many areas

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: Lack of tree irrigation activities on the streets of Kuwait has rendered many trees to dry up. Some of them have even died because they are not being watered - an activity that was mainly carried out by workers, most of who reside in the areas that are totally isolated as a precautionary measure to contain the spread of COVID-19, reports Al-Rai daily.



Sheikha Amthal

In this regard, the Voluntary Work Center headed by Sheikhha Amthal Al-Ahmad launched a campaign to water plants and trees in various regions. The campaign was launched in Adailiya area with the participation of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), volunteers from the center, a number of workers of cooperative societies, and the mayoral staff, in coordination with Kuwait Municipality.

Head of the "We Care" team from the Voluntary Work Center Salah Al-Saif explained that the continuation of the campaign comes in response to the call made by the center's head Sheikhha Amthal Al-Ahmad.

Several calls were made regarding the dried up trees on the streets

of some main areas and the need to water them in the absence of labor force that live in areas that are totally isolated.

The role of the center's teams is to bridge the shortage anywhere that state institutions may need.

The campaign will cover ten areas within Capital Governorate and three outside it. Those areas expressed their willingness to participate in the campaign through their cooperative societies based on its role and social responsibility and with the participation of volunteers in those areas.

The areas covered by the campaign include Adailiya, Rawda, Khaldiya, Yarmouk, Surra, Qortuba, Nuzha, Faiha, Kaifan, and Shamiya in the Capital Governorate, and Zahra, Andalus, and Jaber Al-Ali areas in other governorates.

Al-Saif highlighted the importance of cooperation between state institutions such as PAAAFR and Kuwait Municipality, as well as between cooperative societies and volunteer teams, in order to revive these plants and trees and pay attention to them.

He said the volunteers have been distributed in teams in each area under the supervision of experts from PAAAFR to guide them about the correct methods for watering plants and pruning.

Al-Saif concluded by hinting about the launch of mowing and pruning of plants in the coming stages.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The public comes out to enjoy by the beach after relaxation in total lockdown in many areas of Kuwait.

Minister cites suspicions of corruption, squandering of 'public funds' at MEW

'Maintenance of highways, interior roads continues'

KUWAIT CITY, June 18 : The acting Minister of Oil and Electricity and Water Minister Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel said he received last week a report from the Assistant Undersecretary for Observation, Monitoring and Control Centers at the Ministry of Electricity, Engineer Maha Al-Asousi, containing suspicions of abuse and squandering of public funds, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Fadhel stated on his Twitter account: "We have formed a fact-finding committee to submit a report within four days, and we'll follow all legal procedures."

In this regard, reliable sources at the Ministry of Electricity and Water notified the daily that awareness campaign to rationalize the use of electricity for this summer, which coincides with the operating challenges related to coronavirus pandemic, will be a very hot topic amid suspicions of legal violations and wastage.

The same sources expressed surprise that despite the presence of a department in the ministry that specializes in media, about KD 250,000 was allocated in tenders, while suspicions revolve around some unknown advertising companies having no real experience in this field.

What confirms the existence of suspicions of deliberate execution and directing of awards to unknown companies is the division of tender worth KD 250 thousand into three small parts, with the intention of reducing their value to less than KD 75 thousand to avoid being subjected to the jurisdiction of the Central Agency for Public Tenders, in contravention of Article No. 19 of Tender Law No. 46 of 2016, which prohibits such acts.

Also, the risk of fragmentation of tenders also lies in depriving all specialized media companies with a long-standing advertisement experience from participating, due to the apparent failure of the agency to allow the participation of those who are not invited, which is in accordance with the text of Article 16 of the same law that denies the ministry the right to award tender to "no-name" persons/companies only identified after successfully excluding the prestigious companies with jurisdiction from it.

The sources noted "this awareness campaign could have been directed to fall within the jurisdiction of the Governmental Media Communication Center of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, which currently addresses all government campaigns successfully although the limits of this media center is



Photos by Samer Shaqair

Top and above: Members of the Volunteers Group watering the plants dried up due to unavailability of workers stuck in the lockdown areas.

Many infected at '101' center

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: The Ministry of Communications announced that a number of workers in the Information Directory 101 are infected with the novel coronavirus, indicating that work will be stopped in order to examine and sterilize the center as per the recommendations of the health authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry notified citizens and residents about the suspension of services, such as receiving calls and booking appointments through 'WhatsApp', until next week in view of the new corona cases, hoping everyone is safe.

On the other hand, Ishbil-iyah Cooperative Society said 13 out of 80 employees tested were found to be infected with the virus -- two in the ration food branch, three in the administration and eight cleaners who were isolated. It also confirmed taking all preventive measures, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health; indicating those who tested positive have no symptoms.

The cooperative also confirmed that the central market and all branches opened at 8:00 am on Tuesday, after they were completely sterilized. It added the central market and branches were sterilized daily during the closure period.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed the closure of three commercial stores and issuance of seven citations as a result of non-compliance with regulations and decisions enforced as per the executive regulations of the Consumer Protection Law, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The ministry said its inspection teams monitored 125 cooperatives, central markets, shops and vegetable stands to guarantee strict compliance with the price control regulations.

looked into.

16 thefts in a day: Police are looking for unidentified thieves who are said to have stolen cables from 16 power transformers in one day alone in Salmiya, reports Al-Rai daily.

An employee of the Ministry of Electricity has filed 16 separate complaints with the Salmiya Police Station stating 185 electricity cables, each of 20 meters in length, have been stolen by the thieves.

He said the work was done professionally. He also said the suspects did not break the doors but may have used duplicate keys to enter.



A fireman sprays water on the fire.

KFSD photo

Cause probed in building fire

Firefighters acting on information rushed to a building under construction and put out fire inside the Ardhiya industrial area, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Information Department of the Fire Services Direct-

orate said in statement firemen from Ardhiya and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh fire centers managed to control the fire without injuries to firemen.

The source said investigations are underway to find out the cause of the fire.

News in Brief

Nine leaders resign: Nine former oil sector leaders, who are currently working as consultants in Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), submitted their resignation as a national initiative to contribute to ongoing cost-reduction efforts, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the sector.

Sources said the consultants expressed their readiness to provide all the necessary support to the company without any consideration, as their contribution and an affirmation of their national role in these exceptional and difficult circumstances that Kuwait and the whole world are going through.

Sources added this initiative comes to support the efforts of KIPIC CEO Hashem Hashem for oil companies in the context of reducing budgets and costs. This confirms the solidarity of national experiences with oil leaders in such circumstances; as well as the strength and solidity of relations between leaders, officials and advisors during crises, sources concluded.

'We're committed': Mabaneq Company affirmed its commitment to support its investors during the coronavirus pandemic, which continues to affect various sectors throughout the world, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the company disclosed that it has taken a number of decisions to complement its previous decisions regarding its investors at the Avenues in order to team up with them and mitigate the damages they suffered due to the pandemic.

Previously, the company decided that all investors at the Avenues who were unable to carry out their activities due to government procedures will be exempted from the monthly usage fees for the months of March, April, May and June 2020; in addition to 50 percent reduction of usage fees for July and August.

The company said the total amount of discounts given to investors until the end of August is around KD40 million.

Naham undergoes op: Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Lieutenant General Issam Al-Naham underwent a minor eye surgery successfully reports Al-Seyasah daily.

Al-Naham resumed his work immediately after the surgery.

The daily wishes him good health, wellness and further progress.

Man dies in mishap

Asian kills himself

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: An unidentified Asian, believed to be 43 years old ended his life in Raqqa by hanging inside the tent which was built next to the house of his sponsor, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said when the sponsor saw the corpse dangling from a rope, he informed the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior.

Paramedics and personnel from the Criminal Evidences Department (CED) rushed to the spot and referred the corpse to Forensics.

Bedoun dead: A bedoun who is believed to be in his 70s died on the spot after he was run over by a Kuwaiti man, reports Al-Anba daily.

The accident happened in the suburb of Saad Al-Abdullah and the victim was allegedly was on his way to perform the Maghrib prayer.

Without going into more details the daily said the corpse has been referred to Forensics.

CSRSIR rejects report: The Central System for Remediating the Status of Illegal Residents (CSRSIR) denied reports that it refused to appoint Bedouns in the Ministry of Health to contribute to ongoing efforts in facing the repercussions of the coronavirus crisis, reports Al-Rai daily.

It has been reported that the CSRSIR did not allow Bedouns with medical specializations and have valid cards to work in the medical field.

The CSRSIR also denied the rumor that its system malfunctioned; hence, the disruption of these Bedouns' appointment to medical posts.

The CSRSIR went on to reveal that on May 3, it asked the ministry and Civil Service Commission (CSC) to exempt this category from the appointment conditions in view of the prevailing health conditions and the country's need for staff with medical specializations; pointing out hundreds of Bedouns have been appointed in the medical field over the past years according to the previous conditions.

The CSRSIR affirmed its readiness to receive employment requests according to the stipulated conditions.

Symposium to focus on Kuwait's vision for developing education

KUWAIT CITY, June 18: The Reconnaissance Center for Research and Studies is organizing an electronic videoconference that will be broadcast live via the Zoom app at 8:00 pm on education in Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

A number of academics will participate in the symposium, headed by a professor of political science at Kuwait University and Director of the Latin American Studies

Unit Dr. Hanan Al-Hajri, Dr. Hamid Al-Hamoud, associate director of the "CMCS Contract Management Solutions Company", and received a doctorate on usury, economics and Islamic finance, and a professor of sociology at Kuwait University, Dr. Ali Al-Tarrah, who worked as a consultant to UNESCO for Arab region affairs, in addition to being a Kuwaiti representative to the organization.

The professor of industrial engineering at Kuwait University, Dr. Isra Al-Essa, also held the position of assistant dean in the College of Engineering and Petroleum will also take part.

The symposium will discuss a number of topics and themes, most notably Kuwait's vision for developing education, the global arrangement of Kuwait University and ways to improve its level, in addition to

evaluating the performance of Kuwait University during the "Corona" crisis, as well as "distance education: prospects and challenges".

A link to the live broadcast of the symposium will be provided through the Center's account on the Twitter platform @ReconnResearch, and the public will have the opportunity to direct their questions to the guests during the symposium.