

Mosquitoes' humming fills air across Bahrain

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Mosquito infestation is becoming a huge matter of concern across the Kingdom with citizens and residents urging the authorities to take immediate action.

People are in great dismay as it is a great health concern. They say, for the first time, it has become a national worry with the humming of mosquitoes heard from Gudaibiya to Riffa and Galali to Hamad Town.

It is learnt that many residents and citizens have alerted their local municipality authorities to take immediate action. "We have a huge mosquito problem here, and we really don't know where it is breeding," a resident of Umm Al Hassan told The Daily Tribune.

"We are worried about our children. They are badly affected by stings and twice we took them to skin doctors after being worried about their health," he added.

An expatriate in Gudaibiya said he has never seen "this

many mosquitoes in his 30-plus years of stay in the Kingdom".

"I came here thirty years before from the Indian city of Mumbai, which is notorious for mosquitoes. One of the greatest reliefs I felt here was the absence of mosquitoes' humming, which was never harmonious with my ears.

"Now, I am seeing quite many mosquitoes here. Though it can't be compared to a Mumbai-like situation, I urge the authorities to nip the issue in the bud itself as many mosquito-borne diseases could pose a large threat to society."

Studies reveal that many varieties of mosquitoes exist in the Kingdom and a prominent of them are Aedes Aegypti, a kind of mosquito that is adept at breeding indoors because it prefers to lay its eggs on the walls of containers, rather than in pools or other natural water sources.

Lawmakers have many a time earlier called for action after receiving complaints of mosquito infestation outbreaks in many neighbourhoods across the Kingdom.

They have been asking the authorities to deploy pest control teams to address the menace in association with the Health Ministry.

Residents, citizens in plea to tackle mosquito menace across the Kingdom

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AN EXPATRIATE, WHO RESIDES IN GUDAIBIYA

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A RESIDENT OF UMM AL HASSAN

During the previous years, the Health Ministry dispatched pest control teams to control mosquito infestation in many areas including Galali, Tubli, Malkiya and Buhair Valley.

Globally, mosquito-borne diseases affect nearly 700 million people and kill close to one million yearly, according to the World Health Organisation.

Mosquitoes swallow viruses or parasites living in the blood, which can be transferred to another individual through their bites.

While the mosquito may not be affected, these mosquito-borne diseases can cause immense suffering for humans. Common types of mosquito-borne diseases include Malaria, Dengue, West Nile virus, Chikungunya,

Yellow Fever and Zika.

These diseases are not a present cause to worry as they have not been reported in the Kingdom in any recent times.

Bahrain was declared "Malaria-free" following the successful elimination of all indigenous transmission, over four decades ago, in 1979.

This success was attributed to vigorous control measures which included residual spraying, control of mosquito breeding sites and active case detection.

According to various studies, imported Malaria cases have been reported once in a while since then, owing to a large immi-

grant population.



The average lifespan of an Aedes mosquito in nature is two weeks. The mosquito can lay eggs about three times in its lifetime, and about 100 eggs are produced each time.

Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, is a mosquito that can spread dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, Mayaro and yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents. The mosquito can be recognized by black and white markings on its legs and a marking in the form of a lyre on the upper surface of its thorax.

Why is it called Aedes aegypti?

Aedes (Greek for "unpleasant") aegypti is the principal vector of several human diseases, including chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, and Zika.

How far can Aedes mosquito fly?

The mosquito can fly up to 400 meters looking for water-filled containers to lay their eggs but usually remains close to the human habitation. Aedes aegypti is a daytime feeder: The peak biting periods are early in the morning and in the evening before dusk

Feather, feather, everywhere, not a space to live in Demistan

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Residents of the Al-Ridha neighbourhood in Demistan say they are in a protracted and bitter fight to stay clear of an annoying waste, poultry feathers.

Not just one or two feathers, but several hundred, people there say.

Residents say it is everywhere, inside their houses, on the corridors, streets and even inside their mosque, reports *AlAyam*.

The report says the complaints are from residents in complexes 1026 and 1019.

The features, people claim, are from a poultry company



near Demistan.

The area, reportedly, has been bearing the brunt of the

foul smell of chicken for years.

Residents there hope authorities will find a solution soon.

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