

Dubai residents urged to stay indoors amid heavy rain

AFP | Dubai

Dubai police yesterday urged residents to stay indoors unless it was “absolutely necessary” as heavy rainfall was expected in the emirates which saw record downpours last year. The warning came hours after rainfall in the Emirati city caused flooding in streets.

“For your safety, please remain cautious as unstable weather conditions are expected in the coming hours, and avoid going out unless it is absolutely necessary until midday on Friday,” said a police alert sent to residents’ phones.

The National Center of Meteorology (NCM) in the UAE warned of rainfall across the country from yesterday to today, including in Dubai and the capital Abu Dhabi.

Other Gulf states also experienced heavy rain yesterday, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar where the downpour caused an Arab Cup match to be cancelled.

Last year in April, record rains lashed the UAE, flooding homes and transforming streets into rivers.

Festival reset

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Organisers of the Muharrag Nights Festival announced the postponement of yesterday’s scheduled events due to prevailing weather conditions.

The festival will resume today, offering visitors an enhanced atmosphere and a diverse programme of cultural activities from 5pm until midnight.

Cable theft

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Two Asian nationals, aged 42 and 44, have been arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Evidence for stealing electrical cables and metal materials from residential properties, the Ministry of Interior announced.

The value of the stolen items is estimated at approximately BD6,000.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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Maritime security, safety a priority

Interior Minister highlights importance of sea navigation protection at joint exercise



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa at the conclusion of joint maritime exercise

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The Interior Minister, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, emphasised the critical importance of sustaining maritime security and safety during the conclusion of the joint Coast Guard exercise, “Vigilant Guard 14”, held this week.

“Maintaining readiness and safeguarding our territorial waters is a national priority that demands continuous coordination and training,” H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah said.

“These exercises enhance operational capabilities and strengthen strategic partnerships, ensuring our maritime security remains robust and effective.”

Distinguished guests

Present at the event were the Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, and the Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command and Commander of the Fifth Fleet, Vice Admiral Curt A. Renshaw, along with several of-



“Vigilant Guard 14” is being implemented to conduct continuous, structured, and progressive training based on realistic scenarios.

officials from the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the National Guard, and the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

The exercise aimed to increase preparedness and improve re-

sponse speed through realistic, scenario-based training.

Participants focused on enhancing information-gathering, risk assessment, rapid decision-making, and the integration of advanced technological tools into maritime operations.

Cooperation

H.E. the Interior Minister commended the effective field coordination and cooperation demonstrated during the exercise, noting that such training facilitates knowledge exchange and strengthens strategic ca-

pabilities to address maritime challenges.

He expressed appreciation to all participating entities, highlighting the first-time involvement of the US Coast Guard, and emphasised the ongoing need for capacity-building, reviewing procedures, and conducting joint operations to safeguard Bahrain’s waters.

H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah was briefed by the Preparation and Control Committee on the course of implementation in light of the exercise’s scenarios.

“Training facilitates knowledge exchange and strengthens strategic capabilities to address maritime challenges.”

— H.E. GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA, INTERIOR MINISTER

“Vigilant Guard 14” is being implemented in accordance with the Instructions of H.E. the Interior Minister to conduct continuous, structured, and progressive training based on realistic scenarios.

It culminates in an annual exercise that simulates real-world conditions.

In this context, the Coast Guard conducted five main exercises to develop skills, enhance coordination, and increase operational cooperation, with “Vigilant Guard 14” serving as the conclusion of the training programme for the current year.

Cold wave

Temperatures drop sharply amid strong winds and rain

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A sudden drop in temperatures swept across the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday evening.

This change in weather coincided with intensified rainfall and stronger wind activity, the Meteorology Department at the Ministry of Transport and Communications reported.

The shift brought a noticeable chill to several regions, signaling the arrival of a cold wave across the Kingdom.

By 6pm, temperatures had fallen to 13 degrees Celsius in

many areas, with perceived temperatures dropping as low as 9 degrees Celsius due to active winds.

Observations from monitoring stations showed slight variations across the Kingdom.

Bahrain International Airport recorded 14 degrees Celsius (perceived 9), the King Fahd Causeway 13 degrees (perceived 10), and Sitra 14 degrees (perceived 10).

Durrat Al Bahrain reported 13 degrees (perceived 9), while the University of Bahrain recorded the lowest actual temperature at 12 degrees Celsius (perceived 9).



Chilly winds and rain make Bahrain’s roads wet and slippery

Rashid Equestrian Club also felt the cold, with 13 degrees recorded and a perceived temperature of 9 degrees.

The Meteorology Department warned of continued strong northwesterly winds, blowing at speeds of 15 to 20 knots, reaching 22 to 27 knots, with occasional gusts up to 35 knots, urging residents to exercise caution, especially in open and marine areas.

Scattered rainfall was reported in several areas during the afternoon, accompanied by the arrival of the cold wave and intensifying winds.