



As rain retreats, dust storms Bahrain

● Emergency teams, cleaning companies in operation

● Officials are assessing damages

● Strong wind uprooted trees, hoardings

TDI | Manama

While the municipal workers are still labouring to remove the puddles left behind by the showers last week, clouds of dust have started wafting over the Kingdom, amplifying their woes.

However, there were no reports of any casualties or injuries.

Essam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, said directives are given to municipalities to sweep and clean the streets until the dust storm settles and the weather returns to normality.

Municipal workers were in operation at all affected streets and squares of the Kingdom to clear the trees uprooted, and advertisement hoardings brought down in the gust of heavy wind that also massed tonnes of sand and dust on motorways and other places.

Sand and dust had covered roads in layers, adversely affect-



In pictures, workers in actions at various parts of Bahrain following a heavy dust storm

ing normal life, but thanks to the quick work of authorities, vehicular traffic mostly remained unaffected though visibility was poor.

The Meteorology department at the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications had earlier predicted the possibility of a dust wave by the northwest winds to hit the Kingdom.

Cleaning and sweeping operations are ongoing in the Capital Municipality, Muharraq Municipality, Northern Region Mu-

nunicipality and Southern Region Municipality.

Leading these efforts are the emergency teams and cleaning companies. Works Ministry has also deployed inspectors to assess the damages caused and enforce necessary measures.

Works are also ongoing to keep public places, parks, walkways and waterfronts clear of dust.

Municipalities said they have established hotline numbers and circulated them on social media

channels for citizens to contact.

Capital Municipality

Capital Municipality said they are working 24/7 to remove the dust collected on the streets.

Sanad Complex 745, Al-Qudaiya Complex 308, Al-Hoora Cemetery, Al-Diya Park Complex 312, Budaiya Street, Complex 353, Sanabis, Complex 406, were all affected by the strong winds and dust.

Muharraq

Muharraq municipality said they had cleared layers of dust and sand accumulated on Sheikh Issa Bridge, Diyar Al Muharraq Street Complex 262, the Diyar Al Muharraq Street and Sheikh Isa bin Salman Bridge.

Workers also cleared the sand accumulated on Street 65 at the intersection of the entrance to Diyar Al Muharraq.

Northern

Northern region municipality said they are sweeping main



streets with automatic and manual sweepers to remove dust and sand.

Sand and dust blanketed Sheikh Khalifa Bin Street, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Street, Sheikh Salman Street and Sheikh Hamad Street. The dust has also layered over several secondary streets, roads, overpasses and tunnels.

Southern

The southern municipality said they cleared several uprooted trees from the roads following the strong gust of winds.

Street Sheikh Salman, Bahrain Bay Street near Al Qudra Village, public squares and sub-streets were swept clean by workers by removing truck-loads of sand and dust accumulated.

Cold weather today

The Meteorology department forecast climate to remain cold today with temperatures between 18 and 10 Degree Celsius.

Monday will be sunny for the Kingdom, with temperatures between 21 and 14 Degree Celsius.

Saudi defence downs ballistic missile fired @ Khamis Mushait

● Coalition investigating reports of strike on a detention centre

● UAE says reserves right to defend itself

● UN condemns attack on UAE, Saudi

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The coalition forces supporting the legitimacy in Yemen yesterday said the Saudi defences downed a ballistic missile fired towards Khamis Mushait from Saada airport.

Coalition spokesman Brigadier-General Turki al-Malki said the Houthis aimed the ballistic missile at a commercial centre in Khamis Mushait.



The Saudi-led alliance on Thursday reported operations against "Houthi military capabilities"

"The Houthi escalation by targeting civilian infrastructure necessitates an immediate response to protect civilians," he said, adding that the coalition will continue to target Houthi camps and warehouses.

The Saudi-led alliance on Thursday reported operations against "Houthi military capabilities" in Hodeidah, ballistic missile launch platforms in Bayda province in central Yemen and military targets in Yemen's Houthi-held capital Sanaa.

On Thursday, the coalition also published pictures of the bombing of Houthi militia camps and warehouses in Sanaa.

The coalition had announced at dawn on Thursday that it had started a large-scale military operation to paralyze the capabilities of the Houthi militia.

"Legal and moral right"

Separately, Dr Anwar Gargash, the diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, yesterday said the UAE has a "legal and moral right" to defend itself against terrorist acts by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia.

"The UAE has a legal and moral right to defend its lands, population and sovereignty, and will exercise this right to defend itself and prevent terrorist acts pursued by the Houthi group," he was quoted as saying.

He said this during a call with Hans Grundberg, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General

of the United Nations to Yemen.

The UAE official also highlighted the lack of engagement of Houthis in a "political solution to the crisis," adding that the piracy of the UAE-flagged 'Rwabee' ship adds another dimension to the issue.

Gargash also called for a "strong and firm position" against the "terrorist acts by the Houthi militia" from the international community.

Airstrike on prison?

Meanwhile, a Save the Children report said three children and more than 60 adults were killed in airstrikes in Yemen yesterday. Responding, coalition spokesman Brigadier-General Turki al-Malki said, "We take this report very seriously and it will be fully investigated as all reports of this nature are, using an internationally approved, independent process. Whilst this is ongoing, it would be inappro-



Dr Anwar Gargash
prate to comment further."

UN condemns attack on UAE

The UN Security Council condemned the Houthi attack on the UAE and other sites in Saudi Arabia in a statement on Friday and "underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice."

The statement came after the council met behind closed doors to discuss the Houthi attack on the UAE, which requested the discussion. The UAE joined the

15-member council this month for a two-year term.

When asked about the airstrikes on Yemen on Friday, UAE UN Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh told reporters: "The coalition undertake to abide by international law and proportionate response in all its military operations."



The coalition has intensified airstrikes on Houthi military targets after the group carried out an unprecedented assault on coalition member the United Arab Emirates on Monday and further missile and drone launches at Saudi cities.