

NEW REGULATIONS IN IRAQ

From 1st March 2013 all Original Import documents must be attested by Embassy of the Republic of Iraq at country of origin.

Newsletter

UAE heatwave may continue for several days

Forecasters say heatwave in UAE may continue for several days



Al Ain: The heatwave has sent the ground level temperatures soaring beyond 50 degrees Celsius.

Forecasters said the conditions are not unusual and will continue for the next several days. Humidity, air pollution, dust and sand can worsen conditions in coastal and inland areas. "These are the harsh conditions in this part of the world demanding a great deal of care from people while outdoors," said Adel Hassan, a meteorologist in Al Ain.

The heatwave started a day before Ramadan. This is the first time in the past 32 years that people will keep a 15-hour fast in such extreme conditions. "I was about to faint in just five minutes," said Mushtaq Ali, an Al Ain resident who went out to pick up an office dispatch.

People also posted pictures on social media of car temperature gauges showing outdoor temperatures of 50 and 51 degrees Celsius.

The sun was blazing in Seih Al Salem, around 25km to the south-west of Al Lisaili in Dubai. Here the maximum temperature goes up to 49.9 degrees Celsius in July, but on Tuesday it was 50.5 degrees Celsius. It means the ground temperature was in the range of 53 degrees Celsius to 54 degrees Celsius. In cities and towns such as Liwa, Sweihan, Madinat Zayed and Falaj Al Mualla, people described the situation as unbearable. Air-conditioners in vehicles took time to cool.

Forecasters attribute the conditions to the heat cyclones in the

Empty Quarter. Heat cyclones are a usual phenomenon in the region in July and August. Winds bring in heat to the UAE and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

The bright sun has also increased the ultraviolet radiation. Hassan said maximum UV radiation in the UAE is recorded in the months of July and August and goes down in December. Radiation is the highest at 12pm.

The National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology said the weather will remain hot and hazy all over the country. There will be scattered clouds during the day over the next 48 hours.

Nights will be humid and mornings hazy. Northerly and northeasterly winds will blow at a speed of 20km/h to 30km/h in the morning and night. Wind speeds could reach 42km/h at times, kicking up dust in open inland areas.

High temperatures cause discomfort in UAE

Forecasters see no sign of change in weather across the emirates



Al Ain: The constantly high temperature for the last two weeks has been causing a great deal of discomfort to people across the emirates.

Hot and hazy conditions prevailed from the first day of Ramadan with the temperature shooting up beyond 50 degrees Celsius in a town in the Western Region of Abu Dhabi, while it was not very different in other areas. The mercury has been hovering between 47 and 49 degrees Celsius since then, forcing people to reduce outdoor activities

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Celsius since then, forcing people to reduce outdoor activities during the daytime. The conditions are also extreme at night with temperatures between 35 and 42 degrees Celsius, along with rising levels of humidity, especially in the coastal areas.

Forecasters, however, do not see any immediate change in weather, saying conditions will be hot and hazy with occasional dusty winds over the next two days at least.

However, in Al Ain, the weather has been hot but quite strange. It becomes cloudy in the afternoon and a thunderstorm surprised residents on Monday at around 6.30pm. Strong winds uprooted iftar tents and trees and signboards were damaged.

Moderate to heavy rain lashed suburban areas such as Bid Bint Saud, Al Nebagh, Umm Ghafa, Al Hayer and neighbouring towns. Residents of these areas also reported a hailstorm.

Expatriate workers say employers are filing false absconding cases

Workers: Ministry should try to contact the worker before accepting absconding case



Dubai: Expatriate workers are complaining that the Ministry of Labour is accepting absconding reports from employers against their employees without checking the credibility of such cases.

Despite the crackdown by the ministry on false absconding reports filed by employers, workers said the ministry is ruining

their lives and careers by accepting such cases before investigating their credibility.

According to Humaid Bin Deemas Al Suwaidi, Assistant Undersecretary at the ministry, any company that files a false absconding case against any of its employees will be prosecuted, penalised and pay a Dh10,000 fine. The file of the company or companies will also be blocked at the ministry.

Many workers said that absconding cases had been reported against them despite the fact that they did not run away.

“The workers have to complain to the ministry against the absconding case within three months and if they fail to do so, the absconding case will be lifted only if Dh10,000 is paid to the ministry,” said Thomas, an Indian employee in Dubai.

Thomas said that if the ministry collects Dh10,000 to lift the absconding case either from the sponsor or from the worker, that means the aim is money and not regulating the labour market.

Luis A., another worker from the Philippines, told Gulf News that he has an absconding case filed against him when he complained to the ministry over unpaid salaries.

Luis said that he complained at the ministry to arbitrate his salary claim and the ministry referred his case to the Labour Court in Dubai.

“My case was at the court for two years and the court finally ordered the employer to pay my compensation of Dh30,132 with cancellation and a life ban because the sponsor filed an absconding case against me which I just came to know about after the court verdict,” he said.

Luis said that he did not abscond and he showed up at the court all the time.

“I spent the past two years fighting for my dues at the court and I cannot start over again for another case to lift the false absconding case against me. All I can say that this is unfair,” he said.

“I was the victim in all this., Why should I and my family suffer

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the consequences of a life ban, I have my wife here with me in Dubai and with four children as dependants," said Luis.

Another worker who don't want his name to be mentioned said that he has been working in a company for more than one year, but due to a business problem the company stopped paying the workers' salaries on time.

"I used to get one salary every three months. I was asked by my sponsor verbally to take unpaid leave for two months and during that time my company filed an absconding complaint against me to avoid having to pay my salary and dues," he said.

He said he did not abscond and he was in touch with the company but the ministry refused to listen to him. Another worker said that the ministry should try to contact the worker before accepting any absconding case from sponsors.

"We have to run from pillar to post to prove that we did not abscond," said the worker.

UAE top banks show healthy growth in second quarter profits

Emirates NBD, NBAD, FGB have declared second quarter results



Abu Dhabi: The second-quarter earnings of top UAE banks last week, pointed towards a healthy growth in profits and a sustainable recovery in their loans growth, say banking industry experts.

"The second quarter earnings for the three major UAE banks, Emirates NBD, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank

displayed solid loan growth that is currently pacing at 10 per cent, year-on-year, and looks set to continue if not accelerate for the rest of the year as the risk appetite from banks keeps increasing, reflecting the improving macro environment in the UAE," a Dubai-based analyst told Gulf News.

He added: "It remains to be seen how the Central Bank reacts as the loan growth outpaces their objectives suggesting potential overheating."

Another banking expert said: "Loan growth picked up further in the second quarter of 2013, which suggests that UAE's credit appetite continues to improve."

The UAE, the second-largest Arab economy is picking up after a marked drop in property prices in the aftermath of the global financial crisis that started in 2008. Loans and advances at the nation's banks grew 5 per cent in the year to May, compared with expansion of 2.6 per cent in December, according to central bank data.

The economy of the Gulf-Arab nation is poised to grow 4.6 per cent, on average, between 2012 and 2015, more than twice as fast as the prior four years, according to government forecasts.

Forecasts

Emirates NBD (ENBD) said its second-quarter net profit rose 50 per cent, beating analysts' forecasts, as Dubai's largest lender benefited from an recovery in the emirate's economy.

ENBD, 55.6 per cent owned by state fund Investment Corp of Dubai, made a net profit of Dh972 million in the three months to June 30, compared with Dh647 million in 2012. The stock has benefited in 2013 as investor confidence that Dubai's economy is recovering, helped by a revival in real estate and tourism, has fed through into the banking sector.

ENBD booked impairments of Dh997 million in the second quarter of this year, marginally up on the Dh954 million recorded in the same three months of 2012