

## **The 'truck crisis' resolved leaving its affect on environment**

The Saudi authorities imposed the strict security and identity checks on trucks. The 37 km line of trucks struck at a halt for more than a week to get through Saudi border from Ghuwaifat near Al Sila. The Saudi officials confirmed that the new practices at the border had the reason of delay. The trucks are careful unloaded and reloaded one by one as the drivers go through identity checks. Now the truck crisis settled. However, the bad affect on environment that can kill camels in the desert stay behind in the Al Ghuwaifat and Al Sila regions. The truck drivers, thousands in numbers were trap in a long row that is 30 km at one phase. The plastic bags and bottles discarded in the desert.

Al Sila warns the motorists about the unexpected crossing of camels. They found several signs on the roadside. Dr Ulrich Wernery, Scientific Director at the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory in Dubai said that hundreds of camels had killed in the UAE every year by plastic left behind in the desert.

In Al Ghuwaifat and Al Sila, the municipal cleaners had trying to collect from roadside the plastic waste from last two weeks. Several meter into the desert the plastic bags and bottles discarded by the truck drivers. Several truck drivers said, "Apart from a lack of proper sleep, the most serious problem was the lack of toilets - we had to go to the desert to relieve ourselves."

The municipal cleaners said their duty were to clean up the roadside not to collected the waste from desert. They also said we had worked four times more in the last two weeks. One of the Bangladeshi municipal cleaner Mohammad said, "I used to clean up a two kilometers stretch [roadside] in one hour earlier. You see, now the time is 10.30 am; I started my work at 6 am here, but I haven't finished yet." The cleaner's works in a morning shift from 6 am to 11 am. They collected the wastage in black plastic bags and than leave, them on the roadside for collecting the cleaning company's truck to collect it. At 11 am, the plastic bags seen on the roadside but the bottles and bags are still present in the desert. When a question asked from the cleaner about the remaining plastic bags, he said, "He was trying his best to clean up the area, but some areas were not manageable." He said, "It may take a few days to clean it up completely." The Gulf News encouraged by a report on camel deaths in the desert and a campaign influence to say "No to plastic bags." A group of female Emirati students from the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) Madinat Zayed campus (a town near Al Sila) conducted an awareness drive. The name of that campaign "A desert without camels is like the earth without air." The Young Emiratis said we could not compromise the life without camels. The student said that campaign followed by People and it has a positive affect on people and they stopped to throwing away plastic bags and bottles in the desert. Now they even collected the discarded rubbish and brought back to home.