

Local

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News in brief

Ministry says hiring
expat imams at
'unfavorable' locations

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs released a statement Thursday confirming that it has requested to hire non-Kuwaiti imams and muezzins to work in mosques at remote locations "that are unfavorable for Kuwaiti candidates". The ministry's explanation comes in response to complaints that it was seeking to hire expatriate candidates contrary to the government's current trend of 'Kuwaitization' of public posts. "We are experiencing rapid urban development in new areas, as well as resignations due to deaths and other reasons especially COVID," the ministry affirmed. "We requested the increase of non-Kuwaiti imams to work in new areas considered undesirable for Kuwaitis, such as remote areas located near the border, farms or chalets," the ministry clarified.

Cash transactions
banned in domestic
workers' offices

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry made a decision to ban any use of cash in transactions relating to domestic workers' offices. "All licensed offices and institutions that bring domestic workers into Kuwait must comply with the new law which prohibits the use of cash in their transactions, and payments must be directly from the customer's account through modems allowed by the Kuwaiti Central Bank," the Ministry announced.

Kuwait oil price
down \$1.28 to
\$98.07 pb

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti crude oil price fell by \$1.28 to \$98.07 per barrel on Wednesday, compared with \$99.35 per barrel the previous day, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday. Brent crude rose by \$1.31 to \$93.65 pb and West Texas Intermediate hiked by \$1.58 to \$88.11 pb.

Sudanese cultural
enthusiasts commend
Kuwait's contributions

KHARTOUM: A number of Sudanese cultural officials commended on Thursday the contributions of Kuwait National Council for Culture Arts and Letters (NCCAL), saying that the council had been providing essential assistance and contributions to the Sudanese intellectual scene. Speaking to KUNA, Hatem Elias — former director of the Khartoum international book fair — affirmed that the NCCAL was a bridge introducing the Sudanese audience to Kuwaiti cultural wealth and products. He reiterated Sudan's keenness on Kuwait publishing companies' participation in its cultural functions and events.

Elias commended Kuwait's investment in the field of culture, intellect and illumination, saying that the volume of cultural achievements done by Kuwait, especially last half century, was tremendous.

Tayeb Ahmad Al-Tayeb — a passionate reader — lauded the publications by the NCCAL, saying that they were essential for the Arab book libraries. Meanwhile, writer and academic Ahmad Al-Sadeq noted that the excellent quality and valuable books and products put out by the NCCAL.

Sadeq affirmed that the NCCAL products were very popular in Sudan, stressed that he was keen on owning various books produced by the council. He commended Kuwait's efforts to spreading knowledge and literature in his country, affirming that many intellectuals in Sudan had benefited from Kuwait's cultural wealth and began their own journey thanks to the Gulf country's efforts. —KUNA

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: People take to the beach despite strong winds and high waves at a beach in Kuwait on August 17, 2022. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Experts demand restructuring of
Arab environmental media: Bahzad

Recommendations of the 6th experts' workshop in cooperation with KEPS

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: The Sabah Al-Ahmad Environmental Training Center concluded its sixth workshop for expertise for the current year. The event was held in cooperation with the Kuwait Environment Protection Society under the theme 'The Reality of Environmental Awareness and Media in the Arab World'. It featured the participation of 12 Arab countries, who developed 70 proposals to restructure environmental media and make maximum use of professional and technical expertise in the press and media field.

Jenan Bahzad, Director of Programs and Activities and Member of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Environment Protection Society, pointed out the importance of "cooperation of environmental information centers with various media outlets." It is imperative to "provide them with the necessary information, as well as the latest studies, regional and international activities and cooperating with non-governmental associations related to environmental affairs, in addition to strengthening the role of environmental media to be participating effectively, and utilizing modern media to reach the largest segment of society," she added.

Bahzad recommended to the experts to establish an Arab research center to attract researchers specialized in Arab media to study and develop Arab leadership in the various fields of media, and to include the specialization of environmental media within Arab media colleges. She also recommended forming Arab work teams for the exchange of knowledge between the supervisors of environmental pages and programs in the various media, experts, interested parties and concerned organizations, as well as the creation of an electronic environmental library that brings the Arab world together to view all

environmental resources that are difficult to access and benefit from the proposed solutions to them, in addition to activating digital media, and broadcasting an Arab visual channel specialized in the environmental field that brings together experts, associations and media professionals."

Challenges facing media

In the meantime, Bahzad summarized the challenges faced by the environmental media as seen by experts in several points, including "the absence of opinion polls that determine the levels of environmental awareness among different segments of the

ness and lack of specialized human cadres capable of responsible environmental knowledge, and the absence of media institutions specialized in the environment."

Bahzad reported the most prominent environmental issues that were addressed by the workshop and that she finds the shortcomings in her Arab media coverage. She lists those issues as the impact of wars, conflicts and destruction of the environment during conflicts and their profound impact on future generations, the failure to cover what is happening in Palestine from the Zionist occupation's measures regarding land confiscation and burning trees carried out by the occupier, in addition to the methods of disposal of waste of all kinds, whether organic, inorganic and the extent to which they are used, the societal culture in protecting the environment, encroachment on the environment in cutting down trees, sudden and suspected fires that are deliberate, overgrazing and marine pollution, in addition to over-construction and lack of planting trees, bushes and poaching, which caused the extinction of some birds and animals, and raising environmental awareness for children in line with their knowledge and skills. She called out for involving the private and public sectors to deliver and develop correct information, and to establish a unified Arab center that trains cadres from all Arab countries in the field of environmental awareness and information, in addition to adding awareness and training concepts in schools and universities.



Jenan Bahzad

Recommendation
to establish Arab
research center

public and private audience, the lack of information and the need for material support, in addition to the fact that the specialized media lacks of the existence of information bases and the shortcomings of modern studies and curricula, the absence of transparency in some Arab countries in the environmental media, the lack of capabilities and technical cadres specialized in the environmental field, the absence of information, bias in reporting news, and fear when declaring what is happening in the environment, in addition to the lack of impartiality and orientation to politics and leaving the environment on the sidelines, the weak-

IKEA collaborates with
EPA in distributing one
million eco-friendly bags

KUWAIT: In line with the commitment to have a positive impact on both people and planet, IKEA Kuwait is collaborating with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) in Kuwait to distribute a total of one million biodegradable eco-friendly bags, as part of EPA's environmental awareness campaign.

The EPA campaign aims to decrease plastic waste in Kuwait by shedding light on the danger of excessive plastic usage and to encourage a public behavior of replacing plastic bags with eco-friendly bags that dissolve in water, leaving no toxic residue behind.

"At IKEA, our ambition is to become a climate positive business. To meet the challenges of unsustainable consumption, climate change, and growing inequality, we are taking ambitious steps towards a more sustainable future. Our collaboration with EPA is a step on this journey," said Carsten Ebel, Director of Sustainability at Al-Homaizi Ltd.

"IKEA is a value-based business. We decided to side with the many since the beginning, more than 76 years ago, and the IKEA vision, to create a better everyday life for the many people, is now more relevant than ever. This means it is our responsibility to support the overall commitment to reduce plastic pollution, and to do everything we can to address it like encouraging people to use the biodegradable eco-friendly bags which are made from renewable and recycled materials," continued Ebel. For a bet-



ter environment in Kuwait, IKEA calls all its customers to collect their eco-friendly bags from the EPA's dedicated booth at any of IKEA stores: The Avenues, 360, and The Assima Mall.

"We are honored to partner with EPA in Kuwait, and very happy to be chosen as part of this valuable campaign. This will help us all make better and more

eco-friendly choices. We praise the EPA's instrumental efforts in promoting greener and sustainable solutions, which will indeed support the on-going global sustainable efforts in Kuwait. We also look forward for more cooperations in the future, hoping to encourage everyone in Kuwait to a better home and a better life," Ebel concluded.