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News in brief

137 KFF officers promoted

KUWAIT: The General Fire Force announced that the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah directed a promotion for 137 officers in the fire brigade who meet the conditions for promotion. The force said in a press statement on Friday that this comes in appreciation from Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled for the sincere efforts of these officers in protecting lives and property and achieving community security. It indicated that the promotions included 65 officers from the rank of major to Lieutenant Colonel and 72 officers from lieutenant colonel to colonel. —KUNA

New GCC chief congratulated

RIYADH: Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf congratulated UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al-Jaber on appointment as President-Designate for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) which Dubai will host next November. In a press statement on Thursday, Dr Al-Hajraf wished Dr Al-Jaber, also UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, all success in his mission to steer discussions towards more cooperation and integration to tackle the climate issue. UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced today the appointment of Dr Al-Jaber as COP28 President-Designate upon directive of President UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Al-Hajraf hailed that the UAE's hosting of the COP28 is a source of pride for the GCC countries and their peoples. He added that the conference is being held at a delicate time, given many countries suffering from the negative impacts of climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the challenges facing energy, food and water security. —KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A rainbow appears after heavy rainfall above the Sulaibikhat beach in Kuwait on January 14, 2023. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Innovative minds stir KU's 43rd Engineering Design Exhibition

Around 296 students present 78 innovative projects

KUWAIT: After years of accumulating knowledge, honing skillsets and sharpening creative capabilities, efforts of Engineering Students at Kuwait University culminate in a final project proudly displayed at the Engineering Design Exhibition. Students enrolled in the engineering design module examine the world around them and provide creative and practical solutions to societal issues.

Around 296 students presented 78 innovative projects at the exhibition's 43rd edition, hosted at Sabah Al-Salem University City on January 9. Electrical engineering students Dana and Rabaa Al-Mutairi shared a deep concern for the growing number of road accidents endangering the lives of motorcycle drivers, and the two took it upon themselves to devise an effective way to better protect road-goers. After much deliberation, Dana and Rabaa created a lightweight piece equipped with lights and warning notifications and which could be attached to the drivers' helmets.

The piece, Dana explained, "Measures distance between the motorcyclist and other approaching vehicles and sounds a warning to the driver in case of closing distance," Rabaa went on to add that driver is also able to use the piece to pinpoint his location and send it to concerned authorities in case of an emergency. Dana and Rabaa came up with a low cost, effective and easily operated device that could potentially save lives. As for chemical engineering students Hasan Ali, Mane Al-Randi, Sarah

Al-Sayegh and Fatima Dashti, they racked their brains trying to arrive at an idea for their final project. The group soon realized that the Middle East region is completely devoid of an acetone-manufacturing factory, a multi-purpose chemical compound used in detergents, cosmetics, and relied upon by many industries. The four agreed to work towards the first acetone-manufacturing factory in the area and used this idea as the blueprint for their project. A group of civil engineering students, of the environmental engineering discipline, was set upon finding solutions for Kuwait's environmental issues.

One student relayed to her collaborators that Qaruh Island, the farthest from Kuwait's shores, has been suffering from environmental issues eating away at it for the past 20 years. She told them that the island, once home to vibrant coral reefs, lost

much of its sea life and its size due to the deterioration of the marine environment around it. The group of five designed a project restoring life to the withering island with a concrete structure surrounding it.

The structure will help regrow coral reefs, explained the students, adding that rehabilitating Qaruh will require around 1,500 concrete domes. Each concrete dome is 71 centimeters high, with a 73 cm diameter, and is comprised of cement and fly ash, an eco-friendly substance. The first stage of the project establishes a factory to cover Qaruh's need of the concrete domes, and then expands to export such domes to countries suffering from the very same conundrum. These exhibited projects are a testament to students' innovative capabilities, and are a step closer to the future ahead. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Part of the acetone factory, the process of separating hydrogen from acetone and condensing it.

Halfway house integral part of drug rehab process: Kuwait official

KUWAIT: The halfway house of the Kuwait addiction treatment center is an integral facility that helps in the rehabilitation from narcotics and substance abuse. Opened in 2010, the halfway house recovering addicts to face their demons and learn necessary social and psychological skills would enable them to reintegrate into society.

Head of the psychiatric service at the halfway house Yaqoub Al-Shatti told KUNA that the facility received those in advance stages of recovery and treatment, which previously involve steps such as withdrawal symptoms and so on. The first two months in the house involved intensive psychiatric treatment for provided by medical professionals, followed by a decrease in psychiatric treatment and reoccurring visits to facilities situated in Fintas area, which usually takes around two to three months. The whole process would be done according to various methods including the 12-step program, he indicated.

Developed in the 1930s, the classic 12-step program was aimed at riding individuals from addiction,

namely alcohol. It is a lifestyle based on principles simply written in a digital mode from one to 12. The healing process at the halfway house also includes efforts and attempts to fix the patients' social, familial, and professional relations as much as possible, affirmed Al-Shatti.

In 2017, the Health as well as the Awqaf (Endowment) and Islamic Affairs ministries signed a cooperation protocol in which the latter would provide a fully furnished, serviced, and staffed building to house residents of the halfway home, indicated Al-Shatti. He noted that residents were permitted to leave the facility during certain times and dates as well being allowed to sleep at their family houses on occasion. On the data connected with the success of the project, Al-Shatti revealed that the Ministry of Health was the only authority able to give specific numbers, however, he said that there were many residents who left the house some years ago and are still paying visits to the facility as friends of the halfway house. — KUNA



School counselors have role in battling narcotics: Specialists

KUWAIT: Schools counselors across the country have a vital role in addressing students' problems especially when it comes to narcotics addiction and trafficking, said specialists on Saturday.

Mariam Al-Aamiri, an intermediate school counselor, told KUNA that students were under tremendous amount of pressure and they often fall prey to drug traffickers. She noted that with diligent work, a counselor could become the very first line of defense for students against the evils of narcotics. Whether it was familial disputes, lack of psychiatric

well-being, or plain curiosity, all these factors could become red flags that counselors must be recognized to prevent damage, Al-Aamiri said.

Parents and families are equally responsible for the students' welfare, and if there were any problems, it should be dealt with discretely and professionally, she added.

Similarly, Ebtisam Al-Majed, senior school counselor at another intermediate school, affirmed that prevention was far better than focusing on finding the cure. Awareness campaigns must begin from schools themselves, she stressed, saying that it was important to report suspicious cases of substance abuse and handle the situation with utmost care. When seeking treatment, students and their guardians are assured privacy, revealed Al-Majed, adding that providing humane treatment and a helping hand was key to a successful recuperation. — KUNA



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