

Kidney disease on the rise in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The number of kidney dialysis patients in Kuwait has increased by 2 percent compared to last year, the Kuwait Nephrology Association said Wednesday. The number of patients this year has reached 2,400, said the association, with 54 percent being men. According to global statistics, there are 850 million patients with kidney disease, making it the most prevalent disease in the world. Dr Anas Al-Yousef, head of the association said chronic kidney failure is the most common condition, with 10 to 15 percent of the world's population having the disease. Kidney disease, he said, is so common because it's a silent disease that requires identification through lab tests.

About 100 patients received kidney transplants at Hamid Al-Essa center last year, Yousef, who is also the head of the nephrology unit at the Amiri Hospital, told KUNA Wednesday. More than 400 patients remain on the center's waitlist and the center is equipped to handle this large number of patients, he added. "Reducing the high rates of kidney disease across the world requires concerted global efforts. People should maintain moderate blood sugar levels, control their blood pressure, maintain an ideal weight through exercise and adhering to a healthy diet, and refrain from smoking and overusing pain killers," he said.

Yousef stressed the importance of periodic checkups, specifically for people with kidney disease risk factors, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, as well as those who have a family history of kidney disease. "The best treatment is early diagnosis," he added.

The association will set up a booth next Saturday at the Avenues Mall to mark World Kidney Day, which falls on Thursday, March 9. Aimed at raising awareness of kidney disease, the booth will include a group of nephrologists and nutritionists who will share educational and scientific materials with the public. Anyone can visit the booth between 10 am to 10 pm. — KUNA



Dr Anas Al-Yousef



The "Mariachi Romatitlán" musical band has held performances at international festivals to promote Mexican culture.

Embassy, NCCAL to offer a night of Mexican music

KUWAIT: As part of the 28th Qurain Cultural Festival, the Embassy of Mexico, with the generous sponsorship of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), is holding an evening of traditional Mexican folk music with Mariachi Romatitlán. The presentation will take place on March 10, 2023, at 8 pm, at Abdulhussein AbdulRidha Theater in Salmiya and all are welcome.

Listening to the unmistakable and rhythmic sound of the mariachi produces a special sensation and provokes a mixture of feelings of joy and even nostalgia, which only mariachi music produces. For this reason, the mariachi, whose emblematic figure has become the most representative of the music scene in Mexico, is celebrated.

But beyond these emotions that pass for expressions of identity and nationalism, few know that the mariachi music has been recognized as Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). According to UNESCO, the mariachi interprets traditional music and a fundamental element of Mexican culture through which values, history and different languages are transmitted, for which reason it is recognized as Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

The mariachi attire is inspired by the clothes worn by the peasants with ornaments of Spanish clothing. They wear spurs on their ankle boots, tall hats, trousers with silver buttons, bow ties and jackets.

The "Mariachi Romatitlán" musical band is committed to the preservation and dissemination of traditional Mexican folk music. Since its creation, the band has been active, not only as interpreters of the mariachi music, but also in the search for traditional songs of this genre that is well known and popular worldwide.

MILSET electrical installation contest announces three winners

Competition promotes optimizing energy consumption, boosts confidence among students



KUWAIT: Middle school students take on multiple electricity wiring challenges as part of the competition.



KUWAIT: Asia's Regional Office of the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology (MILSET Asia) announced the results of the 10th annual Kuwait school competition in electrical installations, co-organized by the Ministry of Education and a group of volunteer engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

The first place, said the office in a press statement Wednesday, was won by Saif Al-Dawla Intermediate Boys School, while Ibn Al-Nafis Intermediate Boys School ranked second place, and Abdullah bin Amer Intermediate Boys School won the third spot.

MILSET is a global organization for investing leisure time in science and technology, founded in 1987 in Quebec City during the first international scientific forum with the aim of contributing to the development of scientific and technical culture among youngsters through the practice of qualitative experimental scientific activities.

MILSET Asia Regional Director Dawood Al-Ahmad said qualifying rounds were held within each school to choose the team that would be representing the school in the competition. This year's competition "Electrical Installations: Science and skills" also included training hours and practical workshops inside the MILSET office.

Ahmad said he was pleased with the continued success of the competition in its tenth consecutive year. He added that it aims to support activity programs within schools which develop students' capabilities and enhance their skills in the field of handicrafts and

help students discover their inclinations and interests through the practice of manual work.

The competition also aims to help participating students embrace values such as consumption rationalization — especially the consumption of electricity —, organization, planning, as well as enhancing communication skills in the work environment within a collaborative team and boosting the students' self-confidence and independence, he said.

He said the contest is an exciting challenge for students, who got the opportunity to compete in wiring home power distribution boards and energy-saving light bulbs among others. Students, he added, were evaluated based on quality and speed of their work. — KUNA

New India envoy seeks to revitalize bilateral political engagement

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika said on Tuesday that he would strive to revitalize high-level political engagement between Kuwait and India. Addressing the media after presenting credentials as India's new ambassador to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday, Dr Swaika said he wants to begin his official tenure by thanking HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah and the government and the people of Kuwait.

Hinting at an upcoming high-level visit, he said: "We expect the visit of Kuwait's Foreign Minister to India at an early opportunity this year." Foreign Minister of Kuwait had last visited India in March 2021 and India's External Affairs Minister visited Kuwait in June 2021. The discussions at both ministerial visits led to elevation of Joint Commission meetings at the

foreign-minister level. Both foreign ministers had a very productive conversation in December last year during which India's external affairs minister extended an invitation to foreign minister of Kuwait to visit India, he said. The ambassador gave an overview of Kuwait-India partnership and spelled out his priorities and expectations as India's new ambassador.

"India and Kuwait have been traditional and time-tested partners. It is a relationship that has both historical foundations and modern-day ingredients for a strong partnership. Geographically, we are maritime neighbors, with the Arabian Sea connecting our shores. Culturally, we are close to each other especially the strong people-to-people connection that makes our relationship unique. Economically, India is crucial to Kuwait's food security while Kuwait is crucial to India's energy security. And most importantly, it is a relationship to which the leadership of both countries attaches utmost importance," he pointed out. The total bilateral trade between India and Ku-



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika (L) addresses media at the Indian Embassy on Tuesday as Embassy First Secretary Dr Vinod Gaikwad looks on.

wait stood at \$12.243 billion in 2021 and is currently growing following the pandemic recovery. "India is second largest destination for Kuwait's oil exports. Kuwait also has good investments in India through Kuwait Investment Authority's investments. However, it is my considered view that there is a lot of untapped potential both in terms of trade and investments from both sides," he said.

"My endeavor as an ambassador would be to further strengthen our economic partnership. On the trade

front, there is a lot of scope for project exports from India," he said. "Having a large Indian community in Kuwait also keeps the embassy on its toes, practically on a 24/7 basis. But then again, this is our duty and responsibility."

"Our consular service delivery mechanisms are robust. The embassy also has a sound feedback and grievance redressal mechanism including 12 WhatsApp lines for various services. The WhatsApp lines are being monitored on 24x7 basis by dedicated people," he added.

LuLu Hypermarket organizes free medical checkups

KUWAIT: LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region conducted free doctor's consultations for its customers as a part of Kuwait Doctors Day.

The free consultation campaign was held on March 4 at the Dajeej outlet of the hypermarket. The consultation was conducted across several health factors, with doctors specializing in more than seven departments participating in the campaign. The free consultation was a part of the Hypermarket's CSR resolution that aims to benefit its customers in various aspects. Visitors to the hypermarket had the opportunity

to discuss their health concerns, receive medical advice and get their vital signs checked. The event was well-received by the community, with hundreds of customers taking advantage of the opportunity to consult with medical professionals.

The Hypermarket extends its gratitude to the Indian Doctors Forum who supported this cause by providing their highly qualified doctors, who volunteered their time and expertise for the initiative, by providing valuable insights on how customers can maintain a healthy lifestyle and prevent common illnesses. The consultations were given mainly by cardiologists, gynecologists, general physicians, dermatologists and infection specialists.

LuLu Hypermarket has always been committed to promoting healthy living among its customers and this initiative is just one of the many ways in which the company is working towards realizing this goal.



LuLu Hypermarket customers sign up to be seen by doctors at the event.



KUWAIT: Doctors and LuLu Hypermarket staff pose for a photo at the free doctors consultation event.