

News in Brief

Lottery to be held for military academies

KUWAIT: The Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences announced that a public lottery will be held for applicants to join the program for students looking to specialize. Eligible students must hold a university degree. This will be the thirty-first batch to be enrolled in the program. The lottery will be carried out on Tuesday, April 4 in two sessions: a morning session for science majors and an evening session for literary majors. Applicants will be notified about the lottery through the "Sahel" app, according to a press release from the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media, the media arm of the Ministry of Interior. The academy had opened registration for the course dedicated to non-commissioned officers and individuals on March 26, following orders from Deputy First Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The course is meant to encourage Kuwaiti youth to enroll in the military and support the security department of the Ministry of Interior with needed personnel. In other news, Ali Al-Sabah Military Academy announced that a lottery will be held for batch 23 applicants on April 11. Eligible applicants must hold university degrees. The academy is also holding the lottery over two periods: a morning session for science majors and an evening session for literary majors. Applicants will be notified of the lottery through email and the Mobile ID app. —KUNA

Unstable weather expected in Ramadan

KUWAIT: The unstable weather that the country is currently witnessing can be attributed to the transition in and overlap of seasons, said Al-Ujairi Scientific Center Wednesday. The change of seasons, added the center, results in high variable winds, thunderstorms and hail. "The periods of 'Sabq Al-Sarayat' and 'Al-Sarayat' that we are experiencing now result from an overlap between 'Al-Hamim' season, which ends on April 2, followed by the 'Thar'aan' season. This results in continuously changing weather conditions," the center said in a statement. "Al-Thar'aan season is characterized by the Sarayat. During this period, the sun is at an angle which allows it to heat the soil directly without heating the air. This increases the speed of air currents. Hot air then replaces cold air, causing dust." Al-Thar'aan is also known for continuous changes in the speed and direction of wind, which makes it more difficult to predict weather conditions during the season. Sharp differences in temperature are also a hallmark of the season. Unstable weather conditions due to the season are expected throughout the second half of Ramadan, said the center. —KUNA

Renowned Kuwaiti playwright premieres play at Tunisian festival

Play opens doors for collaboration with other Arab artistes

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti director and playwright Sulayman Al-Bassam presented Tuesday his new play "silence", which talks about the Beirut port explosion. The script relies on a mix of music and sounds to relay the extent of the catastrophe to the audience. The show was part of a workshop held by Bassam in Tunisia at the Tunisia World Theater festival, which kicked off Monday and will go on until April 4.

"The play opens new doors for using Arabic combinations to create a contemporary theatrical language," Bassam told KUNA.

A well-known Arab modern theater director and playwright, Bassam's work explores themes of identity, war and individual sovereignty. According to a biography published on his website, he often sets his work against the backdrop of civilizational overlap and tension between the Arab-Islamic world and the West.

Bassam often collaborates with multinational creative teams and his newest play is not an exception. "Silence" was a fruit of the cooperation between artists in the Tunisian theater scene and Bassam's independent Kuwaiti theater group "SABAB theatre".

"The cooperation creates a window of opportunity

for more collaboration in the Arab theater scene. It also strengthens partnerships in the field, especially that playwrights and artists who work in theater across the Arab world are somewhat isolated," he said.

Bassam described the script of his new play as "poetic and political", given that it addresses the August 2022 Beirut port explosion. The massive blast ripped through Lebanon's capital, killing 218 people, injuring 7,000 and leaving 300,000 displaced.

Considered one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions to have been recorded, the Beirut explosion damaged 77,000 apartments and caused an estimated \$3.8 to \$4.6 billion in material damage.

In his play, Bassam tries to approach various forms of resistance in the face of unprecedented brutality. He borrows the personality of the thinker, the artist and the regular Joe who chooses absolute silence as a sovereign form of expression.

The team behind "silence" is made up of a diverse group of artistes, including the Syrian-French actress Hala Omran, members of "Team Dragon", musicians Ali Hout and Abdel-Ridha Kobeissi from Lebanon and Tunisian production director Oussama Jamaï. —KUNA



TUNISIA: Kuwaiti playwright and director Sulayman Al-Bassam gives a workshop at the festival. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Thirty-five students from five private schools pose for a picture after competing in EcoQuest to develop innovative approaches that tackle climate change.

Students compete for sustainability at LAPA's EcoQuest

KUWAIT: The LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) has held the "EcoQuest" contest for the fifth time, in accordance with its mission to lead environmental efficiency at the Kuwait and regional level. Thirty-five students from five private schools participated in a full-day competition to develop innovative approaches that contribute to preserving natural resources and protecting the eco-sys-

tem, particularly as the world faces many challenges caused by climate change. The competition was sponsored by Kout Food Group in partnership with LOYAC and Shaheed Park with support from Klue.

The day began with an awareness session, followed by a farming activity, during which students participated in digging and planting. It also included a treasure hunt game, where students worked on solving 10 puzzles distributed across the park. Each participating school was represented by a team of seven members. Theatrical performances were presented by LAPA teachers in order to entertain students and urge them to think and innovate.

Students competed for points by solving puzzles, participating in activities or through getting

the required badges. Winners must collect all the badges during the least possible time. Each school presented an environmental project related to the challenges of climate change in Kuwait, the scarce water resources and the increased desertification rates resulting from the climate crisis. The English Academy (TEA) won first place, Lycee Francais Koweit came in second place and The American School of Kuwait was third.

Chairperson of LAPA Fareah Al-Saqqaf said the "EcoQuest" competition is important because it helps students understand the challenges and risks resulting from climate change and develop their skills in presenting serious solutions that contribute to protecting Kuwait's environment and ensuring a better future for them and upcoming generations.



Students participate in a farming activity as part of the competition.



The winning team representing the The English Academy (TEA) pose for a photo after the contest.



KUWAIT: People walk around old Kuwait in the early 1900s. (Source: 'Kuwait' by Ralph Shaw, London, 1976. Prepared by: Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Al-Ella, researcher in heritage at the Ministry of Information.)



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