



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika and Head of Kuwait Society of Engineers Faisal Al-Atal are seen during their meeting this week.

Indian envoy urges removing obstacles faced by engineers

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) and the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika agreed to expand the number of the India-based accreditation bodies recognized by Kuwait. KSE said it will be planning a future visit to India to look into organizations that conform with international standards for the engineering profession.

The agreement came following a meeting between the Head of KSE Faisal Al-Atal and the Indian Ambassador where they discussed issues of mutual interest, most notably approval of engineering qualifications and granting Indian engineers a "to whom it may concern" certificates to practice the profession in Kuwait. The meeting was in the presence of representatives from the Asia department at Kuwait Foreign Ministry and the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

Ambassador Swaika said he hoped the society would facilitate issuing "to whom it may concern" certificates and remove the obstacles that thousands of Indian engineers face in Kuwait. He said India upholds its end of the deal when it comes to bilateral education and accreditation agreements. Indian engineers, he said, work at KNPC and other oil companies, as well as the infrastructure and construction sectors.

Atal promised to look into prioritizing Indians when it comes to getting the certificates, in a manner consistent with international standards. He explained that approving non-Kuwaiti engineers, particularly Indian engineers, is in line with international standards, including the Washington Accord in addition to the International Engineering Alliance and the Indian National Board Accreditation (NBA). He emphasized that the society favors programs accredited by non-profit international bodies as opposed to those only approved by the government where the program is offered.

Photo of the day



In this picture taken on May 28, 2023, the International Space Station (ISS) transits the waxing gibbous moon as seen from Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Installing parking shades on private property to cost one-time fee

Draft regulation passes after controversial run in Municipal Council



KUWAIT: People installing parking shades in private lots will soon have to pay the municipality a licensing fee. According to the new regulations, people have to pay a one-time fee of 500 fils for every square meter of shade installed, including on private property and empty lots. The rule is meant to legislate control over the installation of parking shades, especially that some people randomly gate empty lots in commercial areas and use them for private purposes without obtaining the required permits, leaving the area without public parking spots. But municipal council members have argued the regulation as it is proposed will cause more harm than good.

The decision on whether to stipulate fees on shades has been in discussion since at least April 2022, with a lot of back and forth between the Municipal Council and the municipal minister.

The Municipal Council has called for private property to be exempted from the rule since the beginning, rejecting the regulation when it was still a draft twice — in 2022 and 2023. But two successive municipal ministers have insisted on stipulating the fee for shades installed in home parking lots following the council's two rejections, leaving the regulation in limbo.

Most recently, Municipal Minister Fahad Al-Shula's opposition to the council's decision to reject the fee sparked debate within the council on whether or not to forward the regulation to the Council of Ministers for a final decision. Municipal Council members voted against sending it to the ministers on Monday, with eight votes for, four against, two absences and one abstention, thereby opting to stipulate fees on shades installed on private property.

Kuwait University's Laila Jaragh wins research award

KUWAIT: Member of the teaching faculty at Kuwait University at the Chemistry Department Dr Laila Jaragh has won the International Best Research Award for cancer research from the ISSN International Awards and IIRAC-2023 Congress. Dr Jaragh is being honored for her research paper titled: "Development of nimesulide analogs as a dual inhibitor targeting tublin and HSP27 for treatment of female cancers."

Dr Jaragh's research team, comprised of scientists from the Chemistry Department at the Science College at Kuwait University, in addition to Prof Jamal Hareesa and Prof Fares Al-Enezi from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, developed chemical compounds similar in action and structure to the anti-inflammatory agent known as "nimesulide", which has recently become known as an anti-cancer agent.

The team said the compounds were completely

characterized at the general facilities laboratories at Kuwait University (RSPU). Their anti-cancer effects were then studied on breast cancer cell lines SKOV3 and SKBR3. The researchers targeted tubulin, which plays an important role in cell division, and heat shock protein 27 (HSP27). The two proteins are found on the surface of cells and are attractive targets for the discovery of anti-cancer therapy because both are regulated in cancer cells.

The team found that the synthesized compounds elicited cytotoxic effects against the cancer cell lines, meaning that they have potential as anti-cancer therapies. The research team thanked the scientific research department at Kuwait University for supporting and financing this project and supplying all the necessary equipment needed to help researchers produce excellent work.



Dr Laila Jaragh



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The exhibition includes a number of old publications.



A collection of old currencies displayed at the exhibition within the summer camp.

Kuwait's Nazaha sets up youth summer program

KUWAIT: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) launched on Monday its fifth summer club under the slogan (Youth for Integrity, Partnership and Learning). The club, held at the authority's headquarter, will present a number of activities and cultural programs, in cooperation with Kuwait Transparency Society, aims for highlighting the national role in fighting corruption and emphasizes Integrity. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials tour the caricature exhibit, which is part of the Nazaha summer camp launched on Monday. — KUNA photos