

Lessons to be presented in PowerPoint to students using 'voice only'

Introductory meetings being held for teachers, students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Prior to the completion of academic year 2019-2020 for some 38,000 twelfth grade students of the scientific, literary and religious departments, preparatory meetings for teachers and students of the virtual classes was scheduled to start Saturday to familiarize them with the mechanism of grade distribution and how to explain and receive lessons, reports Al-Rai daily.

An educational source revealed that the meetings were fixed to take place between the teacher and his virtual class to explain the grading system, which is required of every student, whether reports or assignments. He indicated the lessons will be presented in PowerPoint to the students directly using "voice only",

without the teacher's picture appearing. It will be done via slides but students can interact with it. The source said the teacher in this system will set a specific time for the student to prepare assignments, and marks will be deducted in the event of delay. He indicated the meeting aims to get students accustomed to electronic interaction under the distance education system to make it easy for them to start the exceptional school year.

While the source mentioned that one virtual class will include about 20 to 25 students, he also said the only obstacle facing teachers in the system is the failure to activate pen and whiteboard in the explanation. This will prevent some lessons from being explained, including the application of grammar and syntax in the Arabic language, which needs a board to display the words as it's visible to male and female students.

He warned of internet problems, saying it could be interrupted at any moment during the start of the virtual class and lead to major problems such as curriculum delay, stressing the majority of teachers, until this moment, use their devices, and interconnect on their phone lines or personal "Wi-Fi" networks.

In addition, the source criticized the Ministry of Education's decision to keep teachers in the tenth and eleventh grades, as they were informed by school administrations that their attendance would be only one hour, during which the teacher can not sit in the teachers' room, in order to prevent gathering.

MoH recovers KD 7.5 mn from patients being treated abroad

'Sums disbursed to patient, companions checked'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Ministry of Health was able to recover about 7.5 million dinars from patients undergoing medical treatment abroad and their companions who benefited from sums at the end of the treatment period, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Informed health sources disclosed that those sums were recovered within 5 years of implementing the clearance certificates system in 2016, explaining that the Ministry's Legal Affairs Department is looking into other financial demands in the same context.

On the other hand, Ministry of Health recently renewed the call for citizens and expatriates not to travel now due to the instability of the global epidemiological situation, indicating the airport was recently opened for cases that require travel; such as study and treatment abroad.

In this context, the Ministry's Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad confirmed that relative decrease in the number of suspected cases of coronavirus in the country is reflecting relative comfort in the health facilities, compared to the past months.

Infection

On Friday, Kuwait recorded 620 new cases of infection, bringing the total cases registered in the country to 70,045, while one death was recorded, bringing the total number of deaths to 469.

Sources were quoted as saying Chairman of the Foreign Treatment Accountability Department Asma Al-Fadhli set the requirements of clearance for patients treated abroad online by entering the Ministry of Health website MOH.GOV.KW, then e-services page for citizens, and return of patients - treatment abroad.

The same sources indicated "after registering for the return of patients and entering the



People shopping at one of the supermarkets.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

civil number and password, the patient and accompanying information such as civil number, the country of treatment, date of departure, date of return, and the attachment of passport photos 'entry and exit stamp of the treatment country', as well as phone number to follow-up with the competent employee in case there is any notice".

They pointed out that providing this service online is to ensure that patients do not visit the ministry and to make things easy for them, especially in the corona crisis period. They indicated the audit process are carried out through computer, and in the event of any remarks, references are notified directly to visit the ministry.

Regarding the importance of the clearance certificate, sources stated that sums disbursed to the patient and his companions are checked throughout the treatment period abroad, in addition to recovering any sums that were unlawfully disbursed by making use of them after the patient's scheduled treatment ends.

On the other hand, the spokesman for the Ministry of Health Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad reported "a relative decrease in the number of suspected cases of coronavirus in the country," which resulted in

"relative comfort in the health facilities compared to previous months."

Al-Sanad indicated during the ministry's weekly press conference that "there are positive indications of the imminent production of a vaccine for the virus, which the ministry follows through the committee specialized in the Covid-19 vaccine on a daily basis, with regard to the viral load and the rate of patient survival in the hospital, noting the anti-virus is available on clinical trials in Kuwait."

He pointed out that "the transition within the stages of returning to normal life is progressing well so far, and the cases of contact form the highest percentage of the total number of infections".

Instability

Al-Sanad renewed the call to citizens and residents not to travel now due to the instability of the global epidemiological situation, indicating that the airport was recently opened for cases that require travel, such as cases of study and treatment abroad.

He mentioned that "the sense of smell and taste does not affect all people with coronavirus, as it may last for six weeks for some, and it's necessary to see a doctor to follow

up on the health situation," stressing the need to adhere to the health requirements and personal preventive measures.

In terms of the daily statistics, Ministry of Health announced the recovery of 704 cases of infection, according to Friday's statistics, bringing the total number of people recovering to 61,610 and with 620 new cases recorded, bringing the total number of registered cases to 7,045, while the recovery rate is 87.9 percent of the number of infected cases. With one death, the total number of deaths as of Friday was 469.

Al-Sanad said the 620 cases of infection included 423 Kuwaiti citizens at a rate of 68.23 percent, indicating the infection rate according to the health zones reached 220 in Ahmadi, 139 in Jahra, 100 in Farwaniya, 82 in Hawalli, and 79 in the Capital.

On the latest developments in the intensive care departments, Al-Sanad pointed out that the number of cases receiving medical care there reached 127, bringing the total number of all cases that were confirmed and still receiving the necessary medical care to 7,966, indicating the number of swabs performed recently reached 3,599 and the total number of examinations 522,200.

In partnership with RIBA

Dubai Design District launches d3 Architecture Festival 2020

DUBAI, UAE, Aug 8: Dubai Design District (d3) launched the inaugural d3 Architecture Festival in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects Gulf Chapter (RIBA Gulf Chapter), establishing the emirate's first platform to showcase regional architecture, urbanism and sustainable development.

The inaugural edition of the d3 Architecture Festival is set to run from 11 to 13 November 2020 on the sidelines of Dubai Design Week, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority.

Curated with Juan Roldan, Associate Professor in the College of Architecture, Art & Design at the American University of Sharjah under the theme 'Identity, Context and Placemaking in the Gulf', the d3 Architecture Festival 2020 in partnership with RIBA Gulf Chapter will celebrate the achievements of architecture companies in d3, Dubai and the wider GCC region.

Showcasing landmark regional architectural projects, the event will host a series of talks to steer the Middle East towards a more sustainable future, and invite designers, architects and the general public to participate in daily charrettes. The emirate's first architecture festival will kick off with an opening reception at Building 6, d3, on 11 November.

Architectural

Speaking about the new festival, Khadija Al Bastaki, Executive Director of d3, said: "Dubai has long been known as an architectural playground and the emirate's limitless ambition has found expression in its ever-evolving skyline. As we carry on the process of rebuilding in the post-COVID-19 world, our relationship with the built and natural world has never been more important."

"In line with this priority, and recognizing that d3 has become a hub for the Middle East's architecture community, we're delighted to announce the launch of the d3 Architecture Festival 2020 in partnership with RIBA Gulf Chapter. While offering a platform for critical reflection on social, cultural and economic issues, it will also provide opportunities for new talent and bring the design community together to champion Dubai and the UAE as a hub for knowledge, creativity and innovation."

RIBA Gulf Chapter Chair and Managing Partner of AMA, Andy Shaw, added: "The past six months have shown us all how important the cities and buildings we build for ourselves are, and how we must come together and move forward. Architects have the skills to craft beautiful spaces that can be sustainable and innovative as Gulf countries look forward to how the future could be. The RIBA Gulf Chapter's goals are well aligned with d3 and make for a great partnership for this new festival."

"The exhibition will feature models, drawings and projects from the most exciting architects working in the Gulf, such as Binchy and Binchy and ANARCHITECT who are founded by RIBA members. This event is a celebration of what has been achieved by architects in the region and, more importantly,

what is to come from the emerging generation of local companies and graduating students."

On the goals of the festival, Roldan added: "Over the last ten years, a new architectural landscape has emerged in the region. High-quality work with a deeper understanding of the Gulf's historical context has become part of the region's cultural and social tissue."

Future

"The d3 Architecture Festival 2020 in partnership with RIBA Gulf Chapter will showcase this diverse and complex constellation of a new architectural landscape in the region, analyzing the stakeholders and conditions that have supported its emergence. Firstly, a mature generation of local and international designers with a deeper understanding of the nuances of the historical and cultural context. Secondly, an increasing number of governmental, private institutions, and clients with a growing awareness of a distinctive and contemporary approach to architecture as a way of delivering social, cultural, and economic added value. And thirdly, architectural education as the transversal element that articulates critical thinking in the future architecture in the region."

As a home to over 50 leading local and international architecture practices such as Foster + Partners, Zaha Hadid Architects, and Benoy, d3's business partners have designed some of the UAE's most impressive projects to date, such as The Opus, Zayed National Museum and the falcon-shaped UAE National Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, envisioned by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. Alongside awe-inspiring, large-scale projects, d3's architectural business partners have delivered acclaimed boutique developments such as KOA Canvas by T.Zed Architects.

In line with the wider objectives of the UAE Vision 2021, the country is well on track to becoming a global leader in the fields of innovation and technology that form key pillars of a competitive knowledge-based economy. In ensuring sustainable development, the UAE's reputation for excellence in architecture and engineering has continued to contribute to green and clean infrastructure, skyscrapers and heritage projects that strike the perfect balance between contextual relevance, cultural significance and social importance.

At d3, the heart of creativity in the Middle East, architecture and interior design studios make up a significant component of the community's 385 business partners and 9,000 people.

The list of practices and schools participating in the d3 Architecture Festival 2020 in partnership with RIBA Gulf Chapter:

AGi Architects; AMA; American University of Sharjah; ANARCHITECT; Ardhl;

Benoy; Binchy and Binchy Architecture; Dabbagh Architects; Design and More; Dorsch Gruppe; Foster+Partners; Heriot-Watt University Dubai; Killa Design; Koichi Takada Architects; Nyxo Visionary Design; OFFICE. Kersten Geers David Van Severen; Pace; RMJM; RSP; T.ZED Architects; UNStudio; Verform; waiwai; Woods Bagot; Zaha Hadid Architects.



Architecture Festival 2020 to be held in partnership with RIBA Gulf Chapter.

KRCS donates 10 'ambulances' to Lebanon: official

BEIRUT, Aug 8, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) declared on Friday donating 10 fully equipped ambulance vehicles and three mobile blood donation vehicles for the Lebanese Red Cross.

The head of the KRCS mission in Lebanon, Dr Musaed Al-Enezi, said in a statement to KUNA that the society kick started its field activities in Beirut by donating respirators to Al-Wardiah Hospital in the district of Al-Ashrafiya.

The hospital was badly damaged in Tuesday's huge blast that ripped through Beirut Port and inflicted extensive damage throughout the capital.

The KRCS has also handed over to the hospital other medical kits and protective masks.

The society team will deliver more aid to other hospitals tomorrow Saturday, Al-Enezi revealed.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and industry announced on Friday sending food to the Lebanese capital, Beirut, after the terrible explosions that occurred Tuesday.

In a statement to KUNA, the ministry said all aid was sent in cooperation with foreign and defence ministries including Kuwait's flour mills and bakeries; due to orders of His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah.

See Also Page 6

App aims to ease process of visiting branches and reduce wait times for customers

Gulf Bank Launches "Visit Gulf Bank" App For Booking Branch Appointments

Gulf Bank has launched its latest mobile application allowing customers to book appointments to visit their nearest branch. The app aims to reduce wait times and make the process of visiting a branch more convenient, especially in light of the current restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The new app, titled "Visit Gulf Bank," is currently available to download for all Gulf Bank clients on both iOS and Android devices. Gulf Bank customers can book their appointments through the app and specify their preferred date, time and branch, granting them a smoother and faster branch visit.

Regarding the launch of the new app, Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "We are proud to launch the 'Visit Gulf Bank' app as part of our promise to constantly deliver



Ahmad Al-Amir

the highest levels of customer service, and in keeping with the precautionary measures we have been implementing at Gulf Bank. The new app will enable us to regulate the amount of customers we can welcome to the branch at any given time, ensure social distancing measures, and reduce wait times for visitors."

Gulf Bank is currently welcoming customers at a select number of branches

throughout the country, and is keen on applying all the necessary precautionary measures to ensure the regular sterilization of its locations. These measures include taking customers' temperatures at the entrance, maintaining physical distance, and ensuring both customers and employees are wearing gloves and masks at all times. Gulf Bank is committed to applying the best preventive health measure to ensure the safety of both its clients and employees.

To learn more about Gulf Bank's services, customers can contact the Customer Contact Center by calling 1805805 or direct their queries through the WhatsApp service on 65805805. In addition, customers can also visit www.e-gulfbank.com for more information.