

Unprecedented breakthrough holds promise for numerous applications, including energy storage

GUST, Northwestern University collaborate in new scientific breakthrough

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: In a scientific collaboration between Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and Northwestern University, one of the top private research institutions in the US, research teams from both universities have reached a new scientific breakthrough in the fields of surface science and nanotechnology. This unprecedented breakthrough holds promise for numerous applications, including energy storage.

This partnership, which came through GUST's Functional Materials Group Research Center, led by Vice President of Academic Affairs Prof. Bassam Alameddine, and Northwestern University's International Institute



Alameddine

serendipitous properties was published by the American Chemical Society and found international attention and recognition.

for Nanotechnology, directed by Prof. Omar Farha, resulted in the discovery of new materials for environmental remediation and separation of gases. Their research paper on the synthesis of new porous materials with



Farha

materials promising but they are also made from cost-effective reagents and abundant elements, such as copper, zinc, iron, and carbon. The idea stemmed

GUST's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prof. Bassam Alameddine, who has made the building blocks in his research laboratory at GUST, said, "Not only are these new materials promising but they are also made from cost-effective reagents and abundant elements, such as copper, zinc, iron, and carbon. The idea stemmed

in February 2020 – right before the COVID-19 pandemic – during Prof. Omar's visit to Kuwait, and despite the severe disruptions, curfew, and travel bans resulting from the pandemic, we were able to achieve these results."

Prof. Omar Farha, a recipient of the 2019 Kuwait Prize and one of the most renowned researchers in his field with over 550 research articles, emphasized on the exceptional properties the new materials reveal and their potential applications adding, "These crystalline structures that we made demonstrated outstanding efficiency in separating xenon gas, which is an essential element employed in nuclear reactors. Additionally, we found out that the po-

rous materials have a high capacity to absorb sulfur dioxide, which is a toxic gas produced from the combustion of sour petroleum oil, which we will be disclosing in several publications soon". Prof. Farha also expressed his desire to establish a strategic partnership with research institutes from Kuwait to become a regional hub in this technological field and a key player in the global efforts carried out to reduce the emission of toxic and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

GUST's Prof. Alameddine also expressed his ambitions in taking this research collaboration as a foundation for the establishment of a national initiative that would allow for further

technological developments and increased knowledge transfer in the field of nanotechnology locally. This would be achieved through the creation of a research center in the state of Kuwait which would include several institutes and stakeholders that would place the country at the forefront of the international efforts in tackling modern environmental and sustainable energy challenges. This comes in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 'New Kuwait', specifically in terms of promoting the concept of knowledge economy, which aims at creating a diversified and sustainable economy through scientific research that provides successful solutions to various problems and challenges.

KCB discusses cooperation with World Bank Group on 'housing'

PAHW cites delay in another project

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (Agencies): Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) has held talks with the World Bank Group on cooperation in real-state funding, namely sustainable financing for construction of houses for Kuwaiti citizens.

KCB executives held the discussions with counterparts from the group,

as part of cooperation with the international bank that encourages economic growth worldwide, said KCB official spokesperson Habari Al-Khashti in a statement on Tuesday.

Moreover, she said the international bank's delegation lauded KCB's role at the level of supporting the nationals to construct houses.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chairman and Director General of the KCB Salah Al-Mudhaf praised the capability of international bank in supporting several government sectors.

In other news, in line with what was published by Al-Anba about warning the contractor of 40 buildings in the residential city of Sabah Al-Ahmad, the daily has learned from sources another project to construct, complete and maintain 20 vertical housing buildings in the same residential city also suffers from delays, as the percentage of work completion is only 69.8 %, although the project should have been completed in March 2020.

The sources said the General Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Waqayyan had also warned the contractor with a letter on Aug 30, 2020, but given the failure to complete on time, the work period has been extended until March 31, 2022.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has extended priority for the distribution of plots in South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project to include citizens who submitted housing grant applications on June 30, 2001 or earlier, reports Annahar daily.

In a press statement last week, PAHW called on these citizens to apply through its online platform if they wish to avail plots in this project. The authority added that the online application started on Thursday.

According to PAHW, it will start receiving citizens who applied online in its main building in South Surra during the evening period on Sunday; advising them to present the barcode at the entrance.

Meanwhile, the government has started talks on the mechanism for paying rent for buildings that government agencies are renting from real estate owners, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed this is the result of the expiry of rent contracts during the business disruption in 2020 in view of governmental decisions on dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak.

Sources said the real estate owners asked the government agencies to pay the rent, but these agencies did not pay immediately due to a legal problem that requires a technical opinion clarifying the mechanism for paying the rent despite the expiry of lease contracts.

'Highest levels of services quality'

American blood association renews accreditation of Kuwait's blood labs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The American Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB) has renewed accreditation of Kuwait's blood and immunity laboratories and genetic examinations, namely laboratories of the Central Blood Bank, and Sheikhha Salwa Al-Sabah Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord Center.

Dr. Reem Al-Radwan, the director of blood transfusion at the Ministry of Health, said in a statement to KUNA on Tuesday that the AABB accreditation of the blood transfusion department, since 1989, has proceeded due to recording highest levels of services' quality.

The department receives international inspectors regularly every two years, she said, indicating that it has always won recognition of the international organizations.

However, Dr. Al-Radwan noted that due to the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the coronavirus crisis, the external inspection by the AABB had been done virtually.

The Central Blood Bank, Sheikhha Salwa Center and the Cooperatives Center for Blood Transfusion had presented, virtually, a large number of work papers between November 21 and 23, to these organizations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hanan Al-Awadhi, the medical director medical services supervisor at the blood transfusion department, said the Kuwaiti blood laboratories rank third globally.

The non-profit organization, AABB, represent personnel and associations operating in the sector of blood transfusion in the United States of America.

TGS features Lara Dashti

When young Lara Dashti walked out at as the head of her team at the Tokyo Olympics she made history.

Lara is the first-ever female Olympic flag bearer of Kuwait. And the second Kuwaiti female Olympic swimmer. Last month, she made history again by winning gold at the Arab Championship for short-distance swimming in Abu Dhabi. But irrespective of these achievements and accolades, which she has managed to collect at the young age of 17, there is something different about Lara. She is a very special

Kuwaiti teenager. Highly focused, exceedingly well-spoken, mature and hardworking, her life revolves around swimming and academics.

Despite her crazy training schedules and tournament travels, Lara is a stellar student. What is also interesting is her strong work ethic. A role model and a youth icon, Lara Dashti not only breaks stereotypes about Arab women athletes, but she also draws attention to the potential that is there in the Arab youth.

Tune in to this story of her journey on Thursday on Radio Kuwait.



Group photo

'Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Complications'

Dasman Diabetes Institute holds specialized three-day course

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), a leading diabetes research Institute established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, held recently its specialized three-day course on the Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Complications.

This program was held at the Institute and attended by healthcare professionals. Trainees learned to assess and treat the feet in people with diabetes using evidence-based assessment and treatment methods, aimed at reduction of diabetic foot ulceration and amputation. This program was organized and delivered by Kay Scarsbrook Khan, Chief Podiatrist and Dr. Abdullah Al Ajmi, Consultant Neurologist from DDI.

Foot problems are a major cause of morbidity in people with diabetes. The countries of the MENA region have among the highest rates of diabetes prevalence in the world. It was estimated in 2019 there were approximately 54.8 million adults living with diabetes in the MENA region, this is expected to increase to more than double by 2045.

Despite the high prevalence of dia-

Kuwait partakes in twelfth edition of 'World Chambers Congress' in Dubai

DUBAI, Nov 23, (KUNA): The 12th edition of the World Chambers Congress (WCC), organized by the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC) and Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, began Tuesday in Dubai with the participation of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti delegation, partaking in the event held until November 25th, includes a delegation of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) headed by

Chairman of the board Mohammad Jassem Al-Saqer.

The congress witnessed the participation 100 countries with the event including 40 sessions and workshops supervised by 80 experts.

The ICC will present its award during the course of the event.

The ICC was established in Paris in 1919 and it includes over 45 million company and institute from 100 countries.

betes in the MENA region, many of the countries in the region lack adequate foot care provision, foot screening and self-care education programs.

The course provided participants with the knowledge and skills to assess the foot in people with diabetes, screen and categorise an individual's risk of

foot ulceration and provide appropriate education advocating self-care and ulcer prevention. It also aimed to increase knowledge and skills in the assessment and treatment of common foot problems and diabetic foot complications, in line with current international guidelines.

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