Students rise up against idling cars

Ashwani Kumar

ABU DHABI — Young minds have the power to change the world. A group of 150 students from different schools in the Capital proved that again through their green initiative.

Three months back, two students of Bright Riders School — Tanmay Kulkarni and Parth Garg — both members of school's eco club thought about doing something on their own.

"It was during our vacation we decided to do something on our own. And that's how Club Rise Abu Dhabi happened. We put up posters on social media and educational institutions to spread the word. Initially we got some 20 to 25 members joining us," Garg said.

It was after they got going with their first initiative that more students joined their movement. "We cleaned up Capital Garden and had some 60-odd students from eight to nine schools. It has been growing ever since," Parth said.

Last week, they took up issues of vehicle idling, underage smoking among others. Club Rise Abu Dhabi held an event at Abu Dhabi Corniche, which grabbed the attention of around 300 people.

"When motorists stop at signals, they leave their car engines on.

What is idling?

Idling refers to the running engine of a vehicle when it is not in motion. This commonly occurs when vehicles are stopped at a red light, waiting, or otherwise stationary with the engine running. When idling, the engine runs without any loads except the engine accessories.

What if we were to switch off the engines for those 30 seconds? We would save tonnes of fuel and save the environment. We don't realise but environment is being abused," noted Ahmad Khan, a student of Abu Dhabi Indian School.

"We were shocked to find that some 92 per cent didn't know what idling is. We had 30 volunteers who went around creating awareness," said the founders.

"Contrary to popular belief, restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idling. In fact, idling for just 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine."

Now, there is a core team of students from Grade 8 to 11. "Once we leave the school, someone else will take up the mantle. This movement should go on forever until we make our planet safe."

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Members of Club Rise Abu Dhabi meet mall visitors to raise awareness about protecting the environment. — *Supplied photo*

4WD crashes into shop in Sharjah, injures man

Afkar Abdullah

SHARJAH — A 30-year-old Indian man sustained serious injuries when a four-wheel drive vehicle crashed into his shop in Sharjah on Friday evening. According to the police, the incident took place in the Madam area around 8.30pm.

After being notified about the accident, the police and paramedics rushed to the scene. They found that an Emirati had crashed his vehicle into the shop that sold fruits and vegetables.

The Indian victim was rushed to Al Dhaid Hospital, where he is recuperating. He was still in a critical condition at the time of filing this report.

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Students during the 45-minute grand finale examination. The exam was organised to keep students engaged and interested in math.

Dubai waits to know who is good at mental math

Saman Haziq

DUBAI — A long wait is over. More than 1,000 students who attended the grand finale of a mental math competition will know the names of the winners today.

To instil love for the subject in students, a Mental Math examination was conducted in the city that saw a participation of over 20,000 children (of different schools from Grades 1 to 7) from across the UAE. The grand finale saw 1,450 students appear for the second round of the 45-minute, 100-mark exam at the Amity University in Dubai. The exam was organised in line with the UAE's Year of Giving initiative, by India-based firm Ignited Mind Lab — a company that conducts mathematical competitions to keep students engaged and interested in math.

"The main objective of the KHDA-approved competition is to develop interest by engaging students in solving variety of problems at different levels of difficulty and giving them the confidence that they can do it," CA Dilip Jain, who organised the event, told *Khaleej Times*.

Jain said: "It is much more than a mere competition. Many children have a phobia for math and some of them even lost interest in the subject and gi

ve up. So we thought that we could develop their interest in this subject through competitions by engaging them into solving variety of problems at different levels of difficulty. It is very important that we prepare children well and make it possible for them to taste success at early age. It enhances their self-esteem and makes them confident to face future competitions which are gateway to careers in medicine, engineering, information technol-

ogy, accountancy, financial analysis among others."

Mallika Menon, faculty head, Mathematics at the Dubai Scholars Private School, said: "Mental Math, irrelevant of its applications, is an excellent way to stimulate one's mind. Not only does it generally stimulate your mind, but it also helps one get a better 'number sense'. Such math competitions help in laying a firm foundation for students' future development."

Neer, Grade 4 student of Gems Modern Academy, who attended the exam said: "I liked this exam because it helped me improve my concentration, made me revise old concepts. Also, because I like to solve challenging sums."

Soumil Jain, a Grade 6 student at Our Own High School - Al Warqa'a, said: "Preparing for competitive exams like Mental Math will mould

students for higher professional competition exams. It helps improve practical mathematical problems, logical reasoning, concentration and memory."

Ishita Jain, Grade 7 student of The Millennium School (Dubai), said: "Mental math actually keeps our brains quick and sharp. It helps us clear our concepts and also assists us in our daily life situations while shopping or converting from one type of unit into another."

The results of grand finale will be announced today and Suhail Mohammed Al Zarooni, an Emirati Guinness World record holder and chairman of Al Zarooni Foundation, will distribute prizes to the winners at the Amity University Dubai on October 21.

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> **CA Dilip Jain,** organiser, Mental Math exam

> It will mould students for professional competitions. It helps improve practical problems, logical reasoning, concentration and memory."
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> **Neer,** Grade 4, Gems Modern Academy

20K
Grade 1 to 7 students from across UAE participated in the contest

1,450
students will know the results of Mental Math competition today

Car catches fire in Umm Al Quwain

Ahmed Shaaban

UMM AL QUWAIN — A fire broke out in a four-wheel drive vehicle in Umm Al Quwain's Azbah area on Friday afternoon "most likely due to the scorching heat," a senior official told *Khaleej Times*.

Sources at the UAQ civil defence department said the vehicle was gutted in the fire. "The firefighters managed to put out the flames, and cooled the site so as to prevent the fire from starting again," said a source.

Investigations are on to identify the reason behind the fire, said the source. "The incident has been referred to the legal authorities concerned for further investigation."

Official records show that seven vehicles caught fire in different areas of the northern emirate recently. "These included different types of vehicles — four-wheel-drive vehicles, a truck, trailers, and cars," said a civil defence official.

The official added: "All drivers need to do regular maintenance of their cars, particularly in the summer, to detect any possible fuel or oil leaks."

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The four-wheel-drive vehicle in flames at Azbah, Umm Al Quwain.