

Local

Zain shares ambitions of youth at NUKS conference in United States

Waleed Al-Khashti: Investing in Kuwait's future generations is our top priority



CHICAGO: Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with Waleed Al-Khashti and Zain's team at the company's booth.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, took part in the opening ceremony of the 37th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA). The company is the platinum sponsor of the event, which is held in Chicago, Illinois under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of many national figures, including the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti.

During his opening speech, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti said: "Every time we fly to the US and meet our youth, we are overwhelmed with feelings of pride in a generation filled with ambition, eagerness, and dedication to achieve so much for our nation."

Khashti added: "We did not allow the pandemic to be an obstacle that prevents us from taking part in this year's conference. We have always been a main partner of this event throughout the years because it is a national gathering through which we meet our students abroad, who represent our hope for the future."

Khashti continued: "I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in Kuwait's students abroad, and further renew our support to your programs here in the US. At Zain, we strongly believe in the capabilities of our youth, and we dedicate a major part of our efforts towards youth and education initiatives as part of our sustainability and social responsibility strategy."

Khashti concluded: "Investing in the next generation is the most profitable form of investment and is a top priority for us. That's why at Zain we focus

much of our sustainability and social responsibility efforts on issues that cater to the youth. Kuwaiti is full of ambitious minds like yourselves that aspire for change, and we feel it is crucial that companies and organizations embrace these young minds to help and empower them to believe in themselves and achieve positive change."

Zain is proud to be the platinum sponsor of the conference, which makes a return after a halt of



Zain platinum sponsor of event held in Chicago

nearly two years due to the COVID pandemic. This year, Zain continues its role as a main supporter of the event for 17 years. The conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad, and Zain's support comes in line with its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors. The company is proud to have become an integral part of this event's success, through which it connects with the country's youth abroad.

Zain will be contributing to the event by organizing several unique activities and programs for the students. The company will sponsor a special sports seminar featuring many distinguished current and past Kuwaiti athletes, as well as sponsor a health seminar that will host Ministry of Health Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad, who will share a behind-the-scenes look at the ministry's efforts to

richer countries should donate more COVID-19 vaccines and give up intellectual property protections to manufacture more doses worldwide to stem the spread of the virus. "The news about this new variant should make clearer than ever why this pandemic will not end until we have global vaccinations," he said.

But with memories still fresh of the way global air travel helped the spread of COVID after it first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, countries clamped down on the new variant. Australia became the latest to act, banning all flights from nine southern African countries. Thailand meanwhile restricted flights from eight countries, as did the United States, Brazil, Canada and Saudi Arabia. EU officials agreed in an emergency meeting to urge all 27 nations in the bloc to restrict travel from southern Africa, with many members having already done so.

The World Trade Organization called off its ministerial conference, its biggest gathering in four years, at the last minute Friday due to the new variant. Vaccine manufacturers have held out hope that they can modify current vaccines to target the Omicron variant. Germany's BioNTech and US drugmaker Pfizer said they expect data "in two weeks at the latest" to show if their jab can be adjusted. Moderna said it will develop a booster specific to the new variant.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia was among countries in the Middle East and North Africa to ban travelers from several African nations due to fears over a new coronavirus variant. The Saudi interior ministry and authorities in the United Arab Emirates said visitors from seven African countries were barred from entry. They listed the countries as South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho and Eswatini.

The Saudi ban comprises flights to and from those countries, the official Saudi Press Agency said, quoting an interior ministry official. It said, however, that foreign nationals from the seven countries could enter the kingdom if they had spent the previous 14 days in another country and comply with Saudi health protocols. The official Emirati news agency WAM said the UAE ban would go into effect on Monday and was only for travelers coming from those African countries, regardless of the airline, and included transit passengers.

curb the COVID outbreak last year.

Zain will take part in a special exhibition for sponsors, where the company will present available career opportunities to students, as well as showcase its leading experience in the telecom sector. In addition, Zain has prepared several surprises for students who will be visiting the event. The company is also set to host ZAINPHONIC, a special workshop that shares tips and tricks of smartphone photography, giving the students a chance to learn the best techniques for taking pro-level photos with their smartphones and helping them unleash their creativity.

Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS USA conference is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaitis outside of Kuwait, and welcomes students from all over the US. The event appeals to students on both intellectual and social levels and it serves as an open forum for them to exchange opinions and views regarding important domestic issues with the presence of distinguished national figures from the Kuwaiti community, including academics, media personalities, athletes, doctors, and more who fly to the US for the purpose of meeting with the students and sharing their experiences with them.

Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis with a great social experience, as well as listen to their ideas and experiences while pursuing their education abroad.

The National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA) serves nearly 14,000 Kuwaiti students studying in the United States. The union aims, through its events and programs, to connect Kuwaiti students with each other



Zain's Waleed Al-Khashti addresses Kuwait's students in Chicago.

on one level, and with their nation and the latest updates of the Kuwaiti community on another. NUKS USA was publicized in the USA and was granted the recognition of the United States government. The achievement is considered a proud milestone for Kuwait's youth, and is a direct result of the great relations between the State of Kuwait and United States. Such a recognition is a clear reflection of the strategic relations between the two nations.

public acceptance".

More than 500,000 trips have already been made in Pony.ai's robotaxis during earlier testing stages, the Toyota-backed start-up said. Passengers using Baidu's "Apollo Go" cars must download an app called "Luobo kuaipao" - meaning "radish run" - and can hail a cab at one of 600 pick-up and drop-off points. Sixty-seven Baidu taxis are on the roads in Beijing charging just over two yuan (\$0.30) for a 5.9-kilometre journey. Alibaba-backed start-up AutoX and ride-hailing giant DiDi Chuxing have also been running robotaxi pilot projects in cities around the country. — AFP

less than the mausoleum that inspired it. It cost 15 million rupees (\$200,000) to build. "We used marble from Makrana to build the house, which is the same that was used to build the Taj Mahal," he said. Chouksey plans to mount an Indian flag on top of the main dome and add symbols from India's most popular religions to the four minarets surrounding his new manor. "We want to send a message of peace and religious harmony. There is a lot of hate around. Love solves all problems in life and Taj Mahal is a symbol of that." — AFP

Moreover in the shadow of this system, social media may turn into an arena for strife among intelligence agencies, ransom seekers and criminals, infested with rumors and misleading information intended to foment troubles. Setting other examples of unsound phenomena under the wings of democracy, he mentioned prevalence of the majorities at the expense of the rights of some communities. In some countries malpractices jeopardize development, Speaker Al-Ghanem added.

Moreover, he urged the conferring legislators to hold further and longer discussions and brainstorming debates to pin point issues and shortcomings that transpire under democracy. Al-Ghanem expressed readiness to host at the Kuwaiti parliament headquarters seminars to discuss and debate the challenges facing democracy - under the IPU aegis. The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, headed by the Speaker, arrived in Madrid on Wednesday to partake in the IPU conference. — AFP

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country to find a suspected case of the new strain, after Belgium on Friday. "The Omicron variant has with strong likelihood already arrived in Germany," tweeted Kai Klose, social affairs minister in the western state of Hesse.

The neighboring Czech Republic was carrying out further tests on a woman who had travelled from Namibia and was suspected to have the new variant, prime minister Andrej Babis said. The Netherlands meanwhile found that around one in 10 - 61 out of 600 - people who had arrived at Schiphol airport on Friday from South Africa were positive for COVID-19. The rest tested negative. The infected people, who flew in on two KLM flights that took off before the Dutch government announced a ban on travelers from the region, were being kept quarantined in a hotel near the airport.

"The positive test results will be examined as soon as possible to determine whether this concerns the new worrisome variant," the Dutch Health Authority said in a statement. The Netherlands on Friday became the latest in a series of European countries to tighten its COVID restrictions. The WHO said it could take several weeks to understand the variant, which was initially known as B.1.1.529, and cautioned against imposing travel curbs while scientific evidence was still scant.

South Africa has called the travel curbs "draconian" and yesterday said the flight bans were "akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing and the ability to detect new variants quicker." "Excellent science should be applauded and not punished," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The main countries targeted by the shutdown include South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. US President Joe Biden meanwhile said

First 'robotaxis' enter service...

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Developers are hoping Chinese consumers - who have embraced e-commerce, online payments and other digital solutions - will quickly get used to the sensation of travelling in a car without a driver. Pony.ai co-founder Peng Jun said the key to moving the industry forward is "policy, technology and

Indian man builds Taj Mahal replica...

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Chouksey's story has none of the tragedy and building his new home has taken him three years — a dozen

Kuwait Speaker urges lawmakers...

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noted, stressing, "We should not be afraid when we point the finger at wrong practices; for democracy is a means not an objective; it is rather a practice and not a slogan and we ought not to turn into slaves for political paganism or legal statue even if they carry a democratic name."

Democracy is not sacred and nothing should prohibit efforts to correct or guide it where the practices are not right, he stressed further. In his lengthy address, Al-Ghanem cautioned that democracy may encounter serious threats and challenges where the society witnesses sharp polarization with parties getting embroiled in irresponsible conflicts.