

Crime

Report

'LEVEL ONE' SECURITY THREAT AT DETECTIVES DEPARTMENT

KUWAIT: Security was increased around the Criminal Detectives General Department, and special security arrangements were made at its offices in all governorates after the alert level was raised to level one after receiving intelligence about terrorist threats against the criminal security sector. Security sources said the interior ministry raised its alert to grade one as a precautionary measure. The source said the measures impose tight security around places mentioned in the intelligence reports, adding that among such measures are making sure about identities of citizens and expats being questioned by detectives and at police stations. The source said detectives are keeping a close eye on any unusual movements around criminal detectives' offices and are carrying loaded weapons as a precautionary measure.

Mysterious fall

Criminal detectives are working on solving the mystery of the death of a female citizen who fell from the 10th floor of a building in Fintas, leaving some belongings and clothes behind. Detectives who went to the roof found the citizen's civil ID, which revealed she was in her 40s. The building's haris (janitor) said he had never seen the woman before, nor did any of the residents. Detectives who started an investigation believe the woman may have been on the roof of the building for a long time.

Suicide

An Egyptian man aged 52 hanged himself to death at a bachelors' residence in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. His body was found by a roommate, and was recovered by the coroner. Detectives are investigating the case.

Search for thief son

A female citizen discovered that gold jewelry worth KD 6,000 were missing from the safe. When she questioned the maid, she accused the son of her sponsor of the theft, claiming she saw him do it. The citizen went to Ardhiya police station and lodged a complaint against her son, who ignored her calls. Detectives are looking for him. - Translated from the Arabic press

HOSPITALS PRIVATE ROOM FEES TO INCREASE TOO

KUWAIT: The health ministry plans to increase charges for private rooms at hospitals and specialized centers. A high-ranking source said the increase will be 200 percent for citizens and expats - at KD 3 for citizens and KD 15 for expats per day, as the current fees are KD 1 for citizens and KD 15 for expats. Increase for bedoons (stateless) will be the same as Kuwaitis. - Al-Anbaa



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

ABUL QA'QA', A TOURIST GUIDE

By Salah Al-Sayer

Years ago, several Europeans working in oil companies were kidnapped in Yemen. Such kidnappings often take place after receiving the tribes' approval in order to blackmail foreign companies drilling for oil in that place. I sarcastically wrote about the 'Terrorism Tourism' before, saying that one can travel for various reasons such as religion, health or touristic adventures by visiting tribes-controlled regions to get kidnapped.

A few days ago, a joke was circulated about a young man named Abul Qa'qa' who was affected by the extremist ideas. He texted his friend saying that he was going to join the Mujahideen and invited him to go along. "Next time brother. I have just returned from Bangkok," his friend replied. This clearly means that taking part in terrorist operations is a sort of recreation, fun or tourism for some young people. Tunisian national

Anees Al-Ammari, known as 'Berlin Cutthroat', had reportedly consumed liquor and toured three European countries before committing his bloody crime, as if it was listed on his touristic activities' agenda.

Terrorism is committed to steam out one's inner anger

Family members of the 'Berlin Cutthroat' told the press that he had been feeling down, stressed out, nervous, angry and disappointed; all aspects that had a direct relation to the crime. Terrorism is committed to steam out one's inner anger. Quoting a car racing enthusiast talking about the reason why he loved such a dangerous sport, he said that "it is a way to steam out my anger and make me happy while I try to control the rebellious monster inside of me." Another girl who loves thrilling games in amusement parks said that it alters her mode and makes it better, and that it helps her get rid of negative energy.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

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'NEGATIVE PHENOMENA'

By Iqbal Al-Ahmad

It is true that we are disappointed by those who voted for the creation of the negative phenomena committee in the National Assembly; a panel created by those who we can call 'MPs of gloom', and others we had a lot of faith in. I am not blaming those who were happy with this proposal, but I blame those in whom we placed our hope, and do you know why? Not because they voted for the committee, but because they voted without inquiring about the meaning of negative phenomena, so that they can convince us that this committee's goal is to 'serve' and 'help' as the interior minister proclaimed.

Dos negative phenomena include women who are not covering their hair?

Is negative phenomena a bribe, corruption or wasta? I believe that those topics will for sure be ignored because the committee was not formed to deal with such issues. Or is it about having a Christmas tree and congratulating Christians, since such practice is considered a sin in the view of the committee's creators?

Dos negative phenomena include women who are not covering their hair? Or is it the youth going astray due to the administration's failure in finding jobs for them? Does the rise in drug use's rates classify under this category too? When male and female university students sit in the same hall together, is that considered a negative phenomenon? I am sure this resembles a priority for the committee's creators, whereas their list of priorities probably does not include the problem of placing the wrong person in an important place.

Cracked streets, flying gravel, waste, water pollution and spread of corruption; are those included in their list of priorities? I salute the new youth MPs at the Assembly, including Ahmad Al-Fadhli, Rakan Al-Nisf, Youssef Al-Fadhala and Khaled Al-Shatti, who insisted to reject this dishonorable committee. But it seems that the ministers voting in favor of the committee proved that the government itself is a negative phenomenon.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, TRANSFORMATIONAL GROWTH RECORDED BY KUWAIT AIRWAYS IN 2016

KUWAIT: As Kuwait Airways, the official national carrier of the State of Kuwait, enters its 64th year of operations - the oldest single-state national carrier in the GCC region - the pioneering spirit of the airline saw a resurgence in 2016, with its iconic Bluebird emblem certainly appearing to soar once more.

The year 2016 witnessed a number of key achievements followed by rapid growth for the airline, signaling a commitment from both the management and stakeholders to position Kuwait's official national carrier in line with global and regional developments in the aviation sector.

The catalyst for this change was the culmination of the development and introduction of Kuwait Airways' five-year "Transformation Strategy". Officially announced on 3rd September 2016, the planning stages for this strategy had been set in motion when Rasha Al-Roumi, Chairperson and CEO, was appointed - along with a new senior management team - in 2014.

The new strategy has seen a radical change in the carrier's goals, across all its operational, commercial and service areas. The primary aim, according to airline sources, is to introduce a new business model and corporatized "culture of excellence" that will allow the airline to compete within the regional aviation industry. A consequence and by-product of such actions, is also the restoring of a sense of domestic and international pride, in Kuwait's official national carrier.

So, how has Kuwait Airways gone about addressing its core challenges and looked to set itself out on this journey of change, in 2016? Well, first it should be understood that the changes being seen at Kuwait Airways have been looked at from a comprehensive

review of all its business activities, flight schedules, staffing requirements and training, product and service offerings, business and subsidiary partner relations, as well as stakeholder engagement - among many other operational areas.

"The Transformation Strategy is a holistic approach to addressing key challenges that have been faced by the airline and is a detailed roadmap identifying the key milestones and goals we need to achieve over the next five years, in what is a very competitive market," says Roumi.

New Livery

Launched in October 2016, the airline's reveal of a new livery and branded identity was, perhaps, one of the biggest external signals that a sea-change of activity was happening at Kuwait Airways. According to Roumi, however, the livery is not just a "cosmetic change", but rather: "One of the first steps on a journey of transformation."

That said, the fresh, dynamic look of the new livery does indicate a statement of intent by the airline, but how is this outward change being reflected within the structure of the organization?

Winter Schedule

At the end of October 2016 and for the first time in Kuwait Airways' history, the airline introduced a major overhaul of its flight scheduling, resulting in a number of immediate operational and customer-relevant changes that have already borne fruit.

With the introduction of better flight timings, across its whole network of 36 destinations, the official national carrier also turned all-but-one of its routes into direct, non-stop

flights - thereby reducing flight and connection times for its passengers. This was most positively received by passengers on Kuwait Airways' Paris, Rome, Bangkok and Manila routes. In terms of operations, the Winter Schedule also saw an average 15 percent increase on flight frequencies across its network. This has, in turn, been another factor in increasing passenger numbers and increasing market share, from the airline's home market.

Strategic partnerships

With the new international airport still several years away, Kuwait Airways has been working closely with Kuwait International Airport to manage the increase in its passenger numbers and to offer better services and convenience to all its customers.

To this end, Kuwait Airways now has dedicated gates allocated just for Kuwait Airways, which are suitable for the new fleet of wide-bodied aircraft. Much like other national carriers operating from their main domestic hub, there will also be a Kuwait Airways Terminal that will be exclusively for Kuwait Airways passengers and aircraft.

In further support of an enhanced passenger experience, Kuwait Airways also announced, in Q4 2016, that it has signed an agreement with Amadeus to overhaul its booking and reservations, with the soon to be introduced PPS (Pre-flight Planning System).

The introduction of Amadeus' Performance Insight Suite technology will be the first of its kind to be used by an airline, in the Middle East. The cut-over from the legacy system to the new PPS is expected in Q2 2017.

With this new technology, Kuwait Airways will be able to track the number of bookings it has from Kuwait City to any of its destinations

and then understand how many passengers on a particular route were booked through travel agencies located in that city or country. Tactical insights of this type will, therefore, allow Kuwait Airways to compare booking and sales against their target or historical performance.

New Fleet

With a stated aim of having the youngest commercial airline fleet, by 2021, Kuwait Airways welcomed the first of 10 Boeing 777-300ER aircraft into its fleet, on 9th December 2016. The first of a total of 35 new aircraft on order, Kuwait Airways' new look fleet will also consist of 10 Airbus A350 and 15 Airbus A320neo.

The second of the extended-range "triple-sevens" arrived on 1st January 2017, with all 10 due to be in service by the end of Q3 2017.

The new fleet will initially serve existing long-haul destinations such as London, New York, Paris and Bangkok. The acquisition of these 13,360km (max.) range aircraft will also offer Kuwait Airways the option, in the future, of opening up new and profitable routes to destinations worldwide - via non-stop flights.

In profit by 2019

Announced in December 2016, Roumi has indicated that, on its current trajectory, Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) would reach profitability in 2019. This is attributed to a "financial methodology" that is now in place to reduce costs and raise the company's revenue.

This is yet another positive signal to both stakeholders and would-be investors, in terms of the airline's ongoing privatization process. The successful implementation of the airline's migration to a corporate and privatized structure will also be a clear benchmark for other

Kuwaiti companies, further inviting investor confidence in the State of Kuwait as a whole - not just for the airline.

Gains, Increases and Consolidation So, what are the positive indicators being seen that are supporting Kuwait Airways' resurgence, in 2016? First and foremost, an airline survives by attracting and sustaining its passenger numbers. This was done in spectacular style by Kuwait Airways, in 2016, with an increase of 26.1 percent in passengers handled, over the previous year. This is well above IATA's average growth figures, for the Middle East region, which stands at five percent, for the same period.

In terms of domestic market share, there was also another significant rise. With figures for 2015 showing that 23 percent of passengers travelling through Kuwait International Airport flew Kuwait Airways; by the end of 2016 this had risen by 11 percent to a total of 32 percent.

In terms of regions served by the airline's network, Kuwait Airways also saw a five percent increase in market share to the Far East and Europe, respectively, and a 20 percent increase to North America.

Of course, there are a number of factors driving this success and among them are the flight frequency increases and new routes added to the network. This is reinforced by the airline's focus on destinations that achieve profitability throughout the year and strengthen the revenue and profit rate for each internationally-based Kuwait Airways station.

Since the start of the Winter Schedule to the end of 2016, Kuwait Airways has also seen a 12 percent increase to its OTPs (On-Time Performance); taking it up into the higher echelons of aviation industry standards.