

# START A NEW ADVENTURE WITH THE FLYDUBAI SALE

AIRLINE OFFERS UP TO 50% OFF BUSINESS AND ECONOMY CLASS FARES TO SELECT DESTINATIONS



Bangkok

**KUWAIT:** Dubai-based flydubai has announced its latest sale, offering up to 50 percent off Business and Economy Class fares to more than 70 destinations around its network. The sale begins on midday 13 September and ends on 26 September for travel from 15 September 2017 to 27 October 2018. The earlier a flight is booked,

the higher the discount on one-way and return fares. Further discounts are available for flydubai OPEN rewards members who will receive an extra 5 percent off fares during the sale period.

OPEN rewards has been designed to make spending and earning rewards points simple, straightforward and instant-

ly rewarding, giving its members the ability to pay for flydubai flights, upgrades and optional extras for any trip on any day, to any destination.

With a network of more than 90 destinations, flydubai has something for everyone. For those looking for a beach holiday, Sri Lanka, Male and Zanzibar offer white

beaches and blue skies for the perfect island getaway. Passengers can explore the historic European Capital cities of Bratislava and Prague or even discover what India, Nepal and Thailand have to offer. The ancient worlds of Georgia, Jordan and Turkey are just some of the unique destinations available, along with the city of

Salalah, a hidden gem on the coast of Oman. flydubai is dedicated to providing its customers with a better travel experience by offering greater choice and flexibility. With flydubai's Business Class, passengers can enjoy a more personalised flying experience while Economy Class offers comfortable seating and a convenient way to travel.



Kathmandu



Sri Lanka—Elephants at Pinnawala



Prague

# LIMAK WINS BID FOR \$570M HIGHWAY PROJECT IN RUSSIA

**ISTANBUL:** Limak Construction, a leading contractor currently constructing landmark projects worldwide, including the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport, has won a \$570 million bid for the construction and operation of the transport corridor between the 5 and 7 highway in Ufa, Russia. The bid was won under a Joint Venture agreement with Russia's VTB Capital to form special purpose company LLC Bashkir Concession Company.

The project will be completed in four years followed by a planned operation period of 25 years. The 12.5-kilometer highway will be made up of four lanes in total, and comprises a 1,250-meter tunnel, several bridges, and viaducts with a total length of 2,600-meters. The road will have a capacity to support 22,700 vehicles a day and connect the city of Ufa from the east to the highway.

Limak Holding Board Member, Serdar Bacakcsz, said: "This project is quite luring for us in terms of its engineering needs as the highway route has both a long tunnel and a number of bridges and viaducts spanning 2,600 meters. At the same time, following our improvement of relations with Russia, this is the largest project in Russia contracted to a Turkish contracting company after the softening of political tension between Turkey and Russia. We believe that both the investment and operation of this project will continue to strengthen relations between our two countries."

Limak was awarded the tender for Kuwait



From left to right, Iyas Munirov, Andrey Kiselev, Nihat Ozdemir and Serdar Bacakcsz

International Airport's New Terminal II Building which is recognized as the largest tender won abroad in a single package by Turkish contractors. In Kuwait Limak was also contracted for the Communicable Diseases Hospital project and the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Site Infrastructure and Electrical Works project.

Limak will carry out construction of the highway with MARASHSTROY, the company's current partner for the Rostov-on-Don Platov International Airport project scheduled to begin services December 2017.

Established in 1976, Limak Construction is a fully owned subsidiary of Limak Group of Companies, one of the leading conglomerates in Turkey. The Group operates in over 17 countries with more than 50,000 employees and across various sectors, including tourism, cement, energy, infrastructure, airport management and operations, port management, food and aviation.



## AI-EQUIPPED UPCOMING SMARTPHONE BY HUAWEI IN KUWAIT TO BOAST WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SMARTPHONE CAMERA

**KUWAIT:** With leading smartphone brands finally embracing a dual-lens rear camera set-up on their device, inter-brand competition with one of the hottest mobile trends of the past year is reaching fever pitch. However, with Huawei having implemented dual-camera technology in its mobile phones for over two generations, how will other smartphone manufacturers successfully overcome their latecomer limitations to beat this dual-camera technology pioneer? Put simply, this last minute push may be too little, too late.

Mobile photography is increasingly important in the age of social media. While some smartphone manufacturers marketed external camera modules to help take professional quality photos, the increase in size and weight meant consumers had to sacrifice the portability of their device. Knowing that the most indispensable characteristics of a smartphone could not be sacrificed, Huawei pioneered the use of a dual camera design that enables both a slim body and extraordinary photography performance.

In order to attain the best imaging quality, Huawei partnered with Leica, the leader in the world of imaging for more than 100 years, in a joint effort to develop dual camera mobile phones. Huawei and Leica's dual camera system has been applied on three generations of Huawei smartphones, and is widely recognized by the mobile phone industry and customers.

The question now is how can dual camera technology evolve further, and what innovative experiences will it bring? Huawei's answer may well be found in its upcoming smartphone series - the HUAWEI Mate 10, touted to hit the global markets shortly. In the teaser video, we can see that Huawei has maintained the same design for the dual-lens camera on the Mate 10. The Leica logo

appears in between the two vertically aligned lenses, with a dual LED flash on the left, and a laser focus module on the right. According to industry insiders, the Mate 10 may come with a dual-lens 20MP rear camera and a dual F1.7 large aperture lens, coupled with the Bolek effect and the double optical zoom feature. The HUAWEI Mate 10 is expected to feature a built-in AI chip that will further enhance its photo-taking abilities. By simulating the techniques of professional photographers, anyone can effortlessly produce professional grade photos. The Mate 10 may very well be the most powerful camera smartphone on the market.

AI has kept hold of people's imaginations and remains a key trend in smartphone technology. Leading technology giants are competing for a leading role in the market and AI has become a platform for the phone makers to create differentiated value.

Aiming to come out on top in an already homogenized smartphone market, Huawei put in place a strategy to coordinate artificial intelligence (AI) development in terms of device, cloud and chip, as early as 2016. This ongoing investment in R&D has paid off and Huawei is set to further boost its dual camera technology with the help of its clearly defined mobile AI chip and mobile AI strategy. Innovation is crucial in a successful AI strategy; something Huawei recognised from the offset. By continually investing in developing its own chips to compete with, the performance of its mobile chips is no longer a concern as Huawei's capabilities in research and development are proven. However, the capabilities and innovation in the upcoming AI chip will certainly be something to look forward to. Huawei has released a short video of "Phone Clone" on their social media account; certainly something to keep an eye on for the future.

## AUB MAKES A CUSTOMER'S DREAM COME TRUE WITH KD 250,000 GRAND PRIZE

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 13 September. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300. The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Taiba Abdulnabi Kadhem.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Rawan Faisal Al Sandan, Salman Younis Mohd, Naqwah Faleh Al Azmi, Rania Omer Abu Salah, Ali H S Al Azemi, Eid Saleh Al Dhafeeri, Saad Abdullah Al Blais, Sameerah Ali Al Kandari, Fatema Mohd Taqi, Nazr Ul Islam Mohammed Nazr Ul Islam, Meshal Turki Al Dabbous, Souad B M Al Bader, Ali Salem Mohammad, Wafaa Taleb Al Naseh, Huda Khalid Mohammad, Ali Sulaiman Abdullah, Samir Ahmed Othman, Soraya Dad Ayob, Zulfqar Ghulam, Ali Rashid Ahmed, Moosa Mohammed Isa, A.Hussain Essa Abdulla, Taibah Mansoor Hussain, Khalil Ebrahim Mohamed, Mahdi Abdulla Buhamad.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

## OOREDOO PARTNERS WITH SEAS AND DESERTS FOR EXCLUSIVE OFFER

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, Kuwait's strongest network, is proud to partner with Seas and Deserts, the official distributor of the world-famous Garmin fitness and navigation devices, for an exclusive offer that enriches customers' lifestyle. The exclusive offer gives customers mobile internet for a whole year, with 200 GB/month bundled together with Garmin Drive Luxe 51 navigation device. The Wi-Fi enabled device benefits from the connection by getting updates from the internet, in addition to offering customers comprehensive navigation with live traffic, using the latest technologies, with the ability of pairing to a smartphone via Bluetooth.

Commenting on this offer, Ooredoo Kuwait in a statement expressed its pride in collaborating with such a reputable company such as Seas and



Deserts, which is the authorized dealer of Garmin, the international fitness and navigation technology brand. Ooredoo stated that this partnership stems from its core values of caring, connecting, and challenging, underscoring that it aims to work towards creating value added services with reputable brand names that complement the lifestyle of its customers. On its part, Seas and Deserts noted that it is proud to collaborate with Ooredoo, Kuwait's strongest network, to deliver unparalleled services to its customers, especially with the vital and indispensable role telecommunications technology plays in everyday life today.

## LABOR REFORM IN FRANCE'S MACRON ECONOMY

**PARIS:** Protestors against President Emmanuel Macron's proposed liberalization of French labor laws were on the streets of the country's cities on Tuesday. The marchers, chanting slogans and brandishing placards, halted traffic as they moved slowly through the streets. A fringe of anarchists broke windows; police responded by firing tear gas. But this was no rerun of the mass marches of past years, let alone the semi-revolutionary eruptions of 1968.

France's second-largest union, the Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) was the only one of the three main workers' organizations that took part. Another protest, this one organized by the far-left France Insoumise (France Unbound) party is scheduled for Sept. 23. The Tuesday marching columns numbered, nationwide, in the few hundred thousand rather than the many millions hoped for - the police claimed 232,000, the organizers 400,000. There was little effect on production, services or transportation.

It was neither victory nor defeat for either side. Instead, Macron's changes to the vast labor code - hiring and firing will be easier, some workplace issues will be negotiated at company level - hang in the balance. The CGT, the left and the far-right National Front all oppose them, but Macron and his government have a solid, if inexperienced, majority in the Assembly.

More than his predecessors who tried and failed to liberalize France's labor market - the center-right Nicolas Sarkozy and the center-left Francois Hollande - Macron has pinned the credibility of his presidency on systemic, cultural change, a deliberate jolting of French society and economy out of the rut into which he believes it has fallen. He is contemptuous of both former presi-

dents (he knew Hollande well, having been both his advisor and Finance Minister), believing them to have given up too soon and too easily. When Macron spoke, as he did earlier this month, of "slackers," he said when challenged that he meant those who retreated from the necessary surgery on France's body politic. The marchers, however, seized on the word and put it on their placards: "Macron, the slackers will kick you out," read one.

The slackers have a point. Indeed, they have several. Labor productivity in France is relatively good, only a little behind that of the United States and the highest of Europe's major economies. When French workers work, they work well.

Though both Macron's labor and economic reforms have won support from the center-right and from many economists, France remains doubtful, even hostile. Perhaps the best-known Frenchman in political and intellectual circles before Macron was the economist Thomas Piketty, whose "Capital in the 21st Century" (2013) is a best seller and who has excoriated his country both for its steeply rising inequality and its hypocrisy in pretending it is egalitarian. Hypocritical it may be, but it clings to the myth, and perfectly bourgeois Frenchmen and -women may recoil from an obvious widening of the income and wealth gaps.

To put major emphasis on labor reforms may, in any case, not be the main point. Germany liberalized its labor market through the so-called Hartz reforms between 2003 and 2005, but unlike France the German unions were relatively moderate, wage bargaining was already localized and investment was rising. In addition, the costs of German unification had already been paid. — Reuters