

Local

Zain platinum sponsor of NUKS USA 37th annual conference

Under patronage of Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of the 37th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA), which is set to be held from the 25 - 28 November in Chicago, Illinois under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The announcement was made during the press conference held at the Kuwait Economic Society, which witnessed the presence of Zain Kuwait's Internal and External Relations Department Manager Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, NUKS USA



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo during a press conference to announce Zain's platinum sponsorship of the 37th annual conference of NUKS USA.



Held in Chicago
from Nov 25-28

Director Abdulaziz Al-Kandari, as well as NUKS USA representatives and the event's sponsors.

Zain expressed its pride in being the platinum sponsor of the conference, which makes a return after a halt of nearly two years due to the COVID-19 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.

As always, Zain will be contributing to the event

by organizing a number of 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 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 a number of 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 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.

Gulf Bank grants gold sponsorship to NUKS conference

KUWAIT: In a press conference held by the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) yesterday in Kuwait, Gulf Bank announced it is granting gold sponsorship to the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) conference in the United States. This year, Gulf Bank is renewing its partnership with NUKS as part of its social sustainability program and commitment to supporting and empowering Kuwaiti youth.

This year's NUKS conference will be taking place in Chicago, California from November 25 to November 28 and will host several events and activities for Kuwaiti students who are studying abroad in the United States. Gulf Bank will be organizing numerous entertaining activities for the students present at the conference.

Commenting on Gulf Bank's sponsorship of this



Mohammed Al-Qattan

year's NUKS Conference, Mohammed Al-Qattan, General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, said: "At Gulf Bank, we make it a point to seize every opportunity available to support our local youth and enable them to excel and succeed on both the professional and personal fronts. One such opportunity is our annual support of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students conference in the United States of America. We are planning to launch multiple events and surprises at this year's conference, as we gradually celebrate the return of in-person events abroad. We are looking forward to meeting our international Kuwaiti students at the conference, and we wish all our students every success in their academic journeys."

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The bank is constantly engaging

and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the bank. The bank also supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various relevant parties to achieve it.

Barrak returns to Kuwait, thanks...

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Hundreds of others had been waiting at the diwanias of Barrak and Tahous and the three activists to greet them. Supporters thronged Barrak as he emerged from the airport, then carried him on their shoulders and shouted slogans. Barrak thanked the good treatment he was given by police officers, saying they completed all procedures within seconds.

His supporters also surrounded Barrak's vehicle on the Fifth Ring Road on the way to his diwaniya. Traffic was paralyzed and came to a halt despite police intervention. At Barrak's diwaniya in Andalus, preparations had started from Tuesday as people performed traditional bedouin dances and songs, waving swords in celebration for their hero's return.

UAE seeks to bolster arms...

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The group has 13,000 employees "from all over the world", but it wants to hire more UAE citizens, with a focus on striking agreements with universities in the country or abroad. Its targets align with a country-wide "Emiratization" strategy that has seen the authorities push for more local hires in an oil-rich Gulf country, where the foreign population outnumbered citizens at almost nine to one.

At the Dubai Airshow, the huge display erected by EDGE boasts several homemade products, from guided missiles to cybersecurity systems. The group's contracts have multiplied recently, nearly all of them with the UAE government. Particularly lucrative deals have included maintenance of military jets, worth almost \$4 billion, as well as providing guided munitions at \$880 million.

Like neighboring Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the UAE is among the world's top arms importers and is seeking to diversify its economy. In the defense industry, this occurs through "offsets", which require defense manufacturers to invest in countries that import equipment from them. "We have 20 products done under the 'Made in the UAE' initiative and 13 new products announced this year,"

Firecrackers were also burst.

Barrak and his companions were greeted by Kuwaiti travelers first at Istanbul Airport when he boarded the plane, which was brought back to the country by pilot Ammar Al-Ajmi, himself a former MP. The five exiles sang the Kuwaiti national anthem as the plane approached Kuwait Airport, according to videos posted on Twitter. The five men were among some 15 former opposition MPs and activists who left Kuwait for Turkey in the summer of 2018 to escape jail terms passed against them by the top court for storming the National Assembly building in 2011.

On Monday, three former MPs returned to the country, and two years ago, two other former MPs returned to Kuwait after a special Amiri pardon. Only former MP Faisal Al-Mislem has not returned so far and it is not immediately known when he is due to come back. Mislem has not been enthusiastic about the deal that led to the Amiri pardon, fearing concessions were made in return for the pardon. Mislem has not made any comment for the past several days and his supporters have launched a campaign on Twitter urging him to return.

Breiki said. "There is an inspiration to have an indigenous capability, however we haven't matured enough that we can do it without partners."

EDGE has signed multiple deals with foreign partners, including US firms Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, and Brazil's Embraer, Breiki said, adding that they are also part of the "Airbus ecosystem". He added that the company has set up "strategic partnerships" with certain firms "where they buy from us and sell for us".

The establishment of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity last year has opened up new opportunities for partnerships with Zionist defense firms, which have made their first appearance at the Dubai Airshow. "We're discussing with them, we're signing contracts with them," Breiki said, adding: "We're in line with our government".

On Sunday, Zionist weapons giant Elbit, known for its sophisticated unmanned aerial systems, announced the creation of a UAE subsidiary that seeks to "lead the transfer of technologies to local partners". EDGE, which has so far signed about 20 contracts for defense and munitions, hopes to expand its foothold on the international scene.

One of its companies specialized in precision engineering for aerospace, EPI, already exports more than 60 percent of its production. "Export is important, not only on the economic side," but also to demonstrate the quality of Emirati products abroad, Breiki said. "We have this criterion: If we have a good product, we should be able to sell it abroad." — AFP

Robots, big data as Gulf...

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automated delivery drones and Dubai's ambition to have 25 percent of all transport automated by 2030 offer further evidence of the Gulf's tech aspirations.

The Middle East is predicted to receive only two percent of the estimated \$15.7 trillion global AI economy by 2030, according to PwC. But analysts say the Gulf countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE - are playing the long game, positioning themselves to leapfrog global players. The annual growth rate of the Middle East AI market is about 20 to 34 percent, led by the UAE and then Saudi Arabia, PwC said in a report, predicting that more than 10 percent of each of the two countries' GDP will come from AI by 2030.

"Governments have the luxury of being more strategic," said Vessali, citing the 20 and 50-year plans which are a hallmark of Gulf governments. "This is unheard of a) in the private sector, and b) in the West," he adds. Vessali said most AI companies in

Schools shut as Delhi, Lahore...

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The Indian capital of 20 million people has also cancelled school classes and urged people to work from home, while banning non-essential trucks from entering the city in an effort to clean the smog. In an order passed late Tuesday, the city's Commission for Air Quality Management said all education institutions should remain shut until further notice.

"Anti-smog guns" - which spray mist into the air - and water sprinklers were ordered to operate at pollution hotspots at least three times a day. The commission also said that at least half of government workers were being sent home and private firms should follow suit. The order came days after the Delhi government pushed back against a call by India's Supreme Court to declare the city's first "pollution lockdown", which would restrict the population to their homes.

In neighboring Pakistan, the city of Lahore in Punjab province near the border with India was ranked the most polluted city in the world yesterday

Gulf states are fully, or at least semi, governmental, with comparatively low pressure to generate short-term returns. However, the region has a history of investing in companies which did not become particularly profitable, outside a few core industries such as oil and gas, he warned.

While the region might be known as culturally conservative, its AI strategies are better characterized as liberal and aggressive, according to some local players. In 2017, the UAE appointed its first minister of state for artificial intelligence, Omar bin Sultan Al-Olama, to spearhead the country's AI strategy, launched that same year. The UAE has said it aims to become one of the leading nations in AI by 2031, creating new economic and business opportunities, and generate up to 335 billion dirhams (\$91 billion) in extra growth.

"The region seems to classify being left behind on new technologies as a bigger risk than anything else," said Cesar Lopez, the CEO of Datumcon. "Taking the risk to do what others aren't has attracted and built business," he told AFP. The data and AI solutions company based in the UAE and Saudi Arabia is using computer vision to scan and identify damaged containers at Jebel Ali port in Dubai, one of the world's busiest, operated by logistics company DP World. — AFP

by a Swiss air quality monitor. By evening the air above the city of 11 million had cleared slightly. But levels of PM2.5 - the smallest and most harmful particles polluting the air - were still at 118 micrograms per cubic meter, nearly eight times the WHO's daily recommended maximum.

"Children are experiencing breathing diseases... for God's sake, find a solution," labourer Muhammad Saeed told AFP. In recent years, Lahore residents have built their own purifiers and filed lawsuits against government officials in desperate bids to clean the air. But authorities have been slow to act, blaming the smog on India or claiming the figures are exaggerated.

Lahore is consistently ranked one of the world's worst cities for air pollution. "We are poor people, we can't even afford a doctor's charges," shopkeeper Ikram Ahmed told AFP. "We can only plead with them to control the pollution. I am not a literate person, but I have read that Lahore has the worst air quality and then comes India's Delhi. If it continues like this, we will die."

Laborer Saeed said he had stopped taking his children outside for walks because of the dirty air. "There are factories and small industries operating here - either shift them somewhere else, give them compensation or provide them with modern technology, so we can get rid of this smog," he said. — AFP