

Local

Kuwait Times intern Saoud Al-Marzouq talks about his passion for politics

People in power should move faster or Kuwait will be lost, says Marzouq

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Being an intern can benefit students in exploring a career path, giving them an edge in the job market, helping them develop and refine their skills, granting them access to a variety of tasks and securing good references and recommendations for them.

This summer, political science student Saoud Al-Marzouq, 20, joined Kuwait Times as an intern to develop his skills and get an insight into Kuwait politics. He receives training and education regarding how various media channels operate.

Marzouq shines in conducting interviews, writing feature stories, and striving to be the voice of the voiceless people of Kuwait. Kuwait Times interviewed Marzouq to discover more about him and his deep passion for learning to make a great impact on society.

Kuwait Times: Why did you choose to study political science?

Saoud Al-Marzouq: My first choice was psychology to study the mind and behavior of people, but it was not included in scholarship, so I ended up studying political science which was my second choice. I wanted to study psychology because I liked to see how individuals evolve and how they grow up and become who they are. I wanted to understand people around me and understand myself, but I had also an interest in political science like the sociological aspect. I was interested in the scene of how those individuals can come together and create society, government, nations, organizations, and companies, and how people can organize themselves naturally.

My desire to study political science grew when I went to the US and listened to a lot of broadcasts and saw the different perspectives. I watched and listened to a lot of broadcasters for their ideas on



KUWAIT: Saoud Al-Marzouq at Kuwait Times office. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

foreign policy in the Middle East. For me, I saw a lot of news during family visits; all news talking over and over about Syria, but I never understood what was actually happening.

The media never try to explain it but, in the broadcast, they explained it in a real way and very easily. I understand that some people speak the truth, but step by step I started to understand US domestic policy and getting more attached to it. I started to enjoy it after I got the background on politics.

KT: How did you imagine yourself as a grown-up?

Marzouq: When I was a kid, I always imagined my older version of me as a not-worthy man. I was a

failure in school, I was not religious, and anything life throws at me, I was not good at it. I remember when I was a kid, I had this idea that when I get older, I will be religious, pray five times a day and fast in Ramadan and be the perfect Muslim, but that kind of thinking changed when my parents got divorced. Their fights revealed the cover of some relatives that I thought were "perfect", but it turns out that they were not. I started to think that when I grow up, I don't want to cover up the bad sides of myself. I will not be a perfect human; I will be realistic with myself and the people around me.

KT: What are you passionate about?

Marzouq: I'm passionate about trying to understand Kuwait and how to contribute to fixing and being part of it. I try to see the world differently.

KT: What are your hobbies?

Marzouq: When I was young, I liked RC planes. Also, I was playing soccer in Jahra sports club, then I started to play oud, violin, and piano and will learn more about it in the next semester in the US. I like going to the gym one hour a day for 4-5 times a week.

KT: What projects you are aiming to achieve?

Marzouq: I'm trying to take life piece by piece, focusing on my internship with Kuwait Times and learning more about playing the oud during my free time here in Kuwait.

KT: How do you see your generation?

Marzouq: I see a lot of parts of them are more liberalized. Some of them are different, while others look like the old generation and turn to be like their parents. They allow themselves to do stuff while



Kuwaiti political science student and Kuwait Times intern Saoud Al-Marzouq.

others are not okay to do it. Parents think that they can discipline their kids by being strict with them and forcing them to do things. Children will be programmed to do stuff, not for their own sake. Nowadays, the generation does things just to please their parents. They are mature, but they are just brought up with their own pressures, and parents will not last forever.

KT: Where do you see yourself after graduation?

Marzouq: After graduation, I want to work in the United States; I do not see my future in Kuwait. I want to freely express myself. I want to be at least 80 percent real with my writings.

KT: Any last words?

Marzouq: The people in power in Kuwait should move faster or else Kuwait will be lost. People feel that they are not appreciated but they get appreciation from other countries. I met with some people who are more work-oriented and passionate about work like me; they tell me that I will not work in Kuwait, and it is not worth it as no one appreciates us.

Study finds young people follow influencers out of 'fear of missing out'

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Associate Professor at Kuwait University's Department of Media Fatima Al-Salem conducted a study that showed that following influencers on social media has repercussions on the mental health of their followers, especially young people.

The study, which was based on the theory of social comparison and the case of "FOMO" (fear of missing out), aimed to understand the social and psychological effects on young people who follow influencers on social media, and showed the impact on their psychological state on the extent of their daily use of social media apps.

Al-Salem's study chose a sample of 4,275 young Kuwaiti people, and the results showed a strong statistical correlation between the psychological state variable and its impact on FOMO. The worse the psychological state, the higher is the feeling of fear of losing opportunities, according to the study.

The study recommended conducting more follow-up studies that focus on the psychological and social effects of using social media apps on young people, in addition to conducting studies aimed at explaining the differences in social comparisons and "FOMO" among young people and other groups. The study called for educating young people and making them aware of the dangers of extensive use of social media networks, through media education and awareness campaigns.

New trends

Maryam Hussain follows influencers from all over the world and keeps herself updated with the new trends in the fashion industry. She told Kuwait Times that her spending budget increased more than 40 percent in recent years on cloth, make-up,



accessories, and other luxuries.

"Influencers are affecting our purchasing decisions unconsciously. However, the availability of products in the market and continuous offers and discounts in the shopping centers and online stores encourage us to increase our buying," she said. "Despite most followers knowing that the life of those influencers is not completely real, they like the idea of living this style of life."

"Coming from a person who used to get influenced easily, getting influencers talking about products and highlighting the extravagant bits of their lifestyle was overwhelming," she added.

Meanwhile, Nada Saleh said "I had managed to escape the cycle by acknowledging that the lives influencers claimed were real on their stories isn't the reality in its full picture. Keeping that in mind, I got more into focusing on myself and my mindset to become fully

aware of my capabilities and strengths."

Level of trust

Nahla Omar mentioned that following social media influencers and getting affected by them depends on the level of trust between the follower and what the influencer offers. "If the influencer recommends products that are over the budget or it turns out later that the products they offer are not good as what they said, the followers will not get affected by them later," she said. "However, they will keep following them to be updated about the latest trends in fashion or other new lifestyle trends, fearing of missing out on what's new."

"Some influencers know how to affect their followers to buy the products they recommend," she added. "As for me, if I bought a product recommended by an influencer and like it, in the future, I will buy what this influencer advises for me."

Dive Team completes protective projects in Arifjan's coral reefs



KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team, on Sunday, set new protective projects in the coral reefs of Arifjan, South Al-Ahmadi port. In a statement to the press, team director Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the team knows the significance of the coral reefs due to their impor-

tance to the environment and rareness. "The project lasted few days, in which the team have completed maintenance for anchorages in the depth of 11 to 14 meters, checking the condition of the coral reefs and lifting a neglected fishing net," said Fadhel. "The coral



reefs of Arifjan are one of the most beautiful and important marine sites in Kuwait, and one of the most visited. Its depth ranges between three and 15 meters. It's five nautical miles away from the coast of Mina Abdullah," he added. —KUNA

In my view

Home businesses under Kuwait's law



By Fajer Ahmed

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Kuwait business laws are becoming more and more business friendly, especially for small businesses and home businesses, which were legalized under ministerial decision 330/2017. Many home businesses successfully operate from social media platforms. Today I will answer a few questions that concern home businesses which are referred to as micro businesses under Kuwait law.

Question: Do I need a small business license as a home business? If so, can you provide us with more information?

Fajer: It is advised that you get a small business license for many different reasons, one of which is working with payment providers, delivery companies, etc. Home business licenses are available in Kuwait and you can obtain them from Kuwait Business Center under the Ministry of Commerce. They are actually easy to obtain, and you can apply online. Unlike other licenses, you do not need a physical location, and therefore do not need to pay rent. Actually, all you need is an email to apply.

A few things to keep in mind though: Home licenses are only for specific activities. They are only provided to Kuwaiti citizens that are over the age of 21, and you cannot register for social security with a home license.

Question: I read that recently the Central Bank in Kuwait is not allowing small businesses to receive any funds or payments through payment providers if they are a home business. Is this true?

Fajer: The Central Bank clarified in recent regulations that home businesses may not receive funds from payment providers unless they have written permission and approval from their local bank to receive said funds electronically.

KOC Digital transformation 'work in progress'

KUWAIT: The state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) underlined on Sunday its commitment to digital transformation plans, saying the process is a "work in progress" that would only come to fruition through more cooperation across the board. Amid an event outlining such plans, KOC deputy CEO for Planning and Financial Affairs Bader Al-Attar praised the efforts of the company's workforce towards achieving digital transformation goals. Echoing his sentiments, Bader Al-Munifi, the deputy CEO of KOC's gas and innovation directorate, cited digital transformation plans as "part and parcel" of the company's long-term strategies. —KUNA