

Local

Zain successfully concludes Dubai Roadshow startup accelerator tour

ZGI entrepreneurs met with execs from Google, Majid Al Futtaim Group, Wamda Capital

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, successfully concluded its Dubai Roadshow startup accelerator tour, featuring ten Kuwait-based businesses as part of the company's seventh Zain Great Idea tech startup accelerator program. The Dubai Roadshow was the first destination of Zain Great Idea's Regional Accelerator Program, featuring 10 out of 30 Kuwait-based startups that were selected by a judges panel consisting of innovation and entrepreneurship experts, representatives of venture capital firms, investors, and startup accelerators. The regional program is set to feature two more upcoming tours in Cairo and Riyadh.

The founders of the 10 businesses joined the three-day tour in Dubai, taking part in field visits, mentoring sessions, and orientation meetings with investors and executives from some of the region's biggest companies, accelerators, and innovation hubs. Special talks and gatherings were also held with prominent founders and entrepreneurs who shared their success stories, tips, and experiences with the participants.

The Dubai Roadshow featured a special session with Fadi Ghandour, Aramex Founder and Executive Chairman of Wamda Capital, the leading regional Venture Capital firm. The tour also featured visits to Google's MENA Innovation Hub, Majid Al Futtaim Group's Fintech Center, in5 Dubai integrated innovation platform, AstroLabs platform for tech ecosystems, and more.

The ten Kuwait-based startups are: Business4Sale: a business exiting platform, Bazaar Gate: a dropshipping e-commerce platform, Matrii: a mattress cleaning platform, Motery: an app for car sales and services, Punch: a loyalty cards app, Yuehli: an e-commerce app for mothers and kids, Phinests: a platform for creative freelance talents, Tdalal: a multi-solution platform for gifting needs, Enabill: a fintech platform for restaurant ordering and payments, and The Wish List: an online platform for fashion brands.

Zain recently inaugurated the all-new season of its renowned tech startup accelerator program in collaboration with Brilliant Lab. The program continues its mission to enrich the tech startup ecosystem in Kuwait and further push it forward towards expansion into the MENA region.

ZGI aims at taking entrepreneurs towards the best experiences that bring them sustainable growth, not only to help grow their businesses, but grow themselves as well. Zain always strives to leverage on its partners' ecosystem to connect its entrepreneurs with venture capital firms and business partners to help them put a steady first step in the business world.

Zain strongly believes in the crucial role played by private sector organizations in supporting social and economic sustainability projects. The company is committed to printing a positive impact through all its activities, and this has led it to embrace the most influential topics in the community, perhaps most importantly the support of youth, entrepreneurship, and innovation, not only in Kuwait, but across the entire region.



Fadi Ghandour with Zain's entrepreneurs.



ZGI members at Google's MENA office in Dubai.



The tour featured a visit to Majid Al Futtaim Group's Fintech Center.

Bangladesh-Kuwait relations hailed on Armed Forces Day

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait held a reception on Monday on the occasion of the 51st Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh at Millennium Hotel. The reception was attended by members of the Bangladesh armed forces, diplomatic officials, ambassadors and the media. Ambassador of Bangladesh Maj Gen Md Ashikuzzaman said the relationship and bond between Kuwait and Bangladesh are inseparable and historically connected. "Kuwait has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Bangladesh. Kuwait and Bangladesh are strategic partners in different fields, including the military," he said.

Regarding visas, the ambassador noted that the embassy has received complaints about family, work, and tourist visas for Bangladeshi nationals. "We had a meeting with officials from the ministry of interior, who assured me that officially Bangladeshis are not restricted, but according to the rules and regulations of Kuwait, a worker needs to bring a 'no objection' certificate," he said. Ashikuzzaman revealed that recently the embassy brought 500 skilled nurses from Bangladesh, adding the nurses will begin work in mid-December. "We are also planning to have a ministerial-level meeting to discuss the current situation with the Kuwaiti side," he said.

Maj Gen Khaled Ali Al-Kandari, Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration and Manpower of Kuwait Armed Forces, congratulated the Embassy of Bangladesh. "It is an honor and privilege to be here to celebrate with our friends the anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Bangladesh and Kuwait have

enjoyed excellent relations for decades," he said. "In 1991, the People's Republic of Bangladesh had a supportive stand with Kuwait during the liberation, which strengthened ties between both countries. Since then, the defense operation has continued to grow in multiple levels, where defense officials have been meeting to enhance and see new perspectives for operations, and are also considering enhancing collaboration to professional military teams," he pointed out. Kandari indicated that Bangladesh and Kuwait seek to maintain the security of both countries' peoples and land. "We have much in common: where we have the same defense principles that will hopefully continue to contribute to regional and international security stability."

Brig Gen Md Hasan Uz Zaman, Defense Attache of Bangladesh in Kuwait, said the Armed Forces Day on November 21 holds special importance not only for them, but also for the people of Bangladesh. "It signifies the paramount importance of comradeship, togetherness and jointness in arms to fight collectively against the enemy. On this day, we pay homage to our war heroes and martyrs. The day inspires the members of the Bangladesh armed forces to renew their oath to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their motherland Bangladesh."

On the professional development of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Hasan mentioned that following the dream of the Father of the Nation, the Bangladesh armed forces are being modernized under the "Forces Goal 2030". "As professional armed forces, Bangladesh proudly holds the top position among all troop-contributing countries under the banner of the United Nations for world peace. Under a bilateral agreement, the Bangladesh military contingent has been deployed in Kuwait since 1991 and supporting the Kuwait armed forces by engaging deeply in constructive and development works of Kuwait. Our armed forces are the symbol of pride, trust and confidence. Its contribution in nation building activities, disaster management and internal security duties are proudly acknowledged by every citizen of Bangladesh," he said.



KUWAIT: Bangladeshi and Kuwaiti officials attend a reception on Monday on the occasion of the 51st Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Fates in front of the burning car at Kuwait Intl Rally (2018).

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