

Local

Kuwaiti students value their training experiences in Spain

Kuwait Airways launches direct flights to Madrid

MADRID: Kuwaiti students cherished their experiences in Spain on Thursday with the positive atmosphere and welcome they received during their academic and training experiences, underlining that Spain is a friendly country that offers wide options for growth and development in various fields. This was on the sidelines of their attendance at the Kuwait Airways celebration of launching permanent direct flights to Madrid on Wednesday at the Kuwaiti Embassy in the Spanish capital, on the invitation of Kuwait's Ambassador to Spain Khalifa Al-Kharafi.

In an interview with KUNA, Naira Ramadan, a citizen who studies civil aviation in the Andalusia region of Malaga, said she chose Spain thanks to its suitable climate to learn and master aviation, in addition to Spain's friendly and helpful people. She is about to finish her studies, which lasted around two years, she added, expressing happiness about the new direct flight, pointing out that the strategic partnership with Air Europa is a very crucial step.

Direct flights will make it easier for students, residents and tourists to travel, as Spain is one of the most vital touristic destinations with great demand from Kuwait, she underscored. She encouraged those who wish to learn to fly to come to Spain, while underlining the importance of having some knowledge of the Spanish language to ease communication with its people.

Abdullah Al-Mutairi, an officer on scholarship from the National Guard, said he traveled to Spain to obtain a bachelor's degree in Spanish translation at the Andalusia University of Granada. He told KUNA that he studied Spanish for a year at an academy in Madrid before going to university, say-



MADRID: Kuwait's Ambassador to Spain Khalifa Al-Kharafi with Kuwaiti students studying in Spain. — KUNA photos

ing he was sent on scholarship with four other officers to study translation. Mutairi is ambitious to continue his academic studies and obtain a master's degree in translation, then a doctorate to serve the Kuwait National Guard, Kuwait and its people, appreciating the welcome he received in the cities of Madrid and Granada.

Speaking to KUNA, Fawzia Al-Awadhi, a Kuwaiti chemical engineering trainee, said she was sent with several colleagues through a training program for newly graduated engineers to train at international companies. After the first phase of the training program, which included 15 courses in Kuwait, she was sent to Spain to train at the Tecnicas Reunidas company in Madrid, where there are several courses that

can be taken. She arrived in Spain at the start of September, she said, adding that training in international companies for six months is the second phase of the training program, which ends with the third phase of working in the private sector in Kuwait.

She appreciated the welcome she received in Spain with a positive atmosphere, considering that vocational training is a great opportunity to enhance skills, while encouraging more graduates and scholars to come to Spain. The Kuwaiti students thanked Kuwait's embassy for all the facilities provided to them so that they can take on new academic experiences in Spain.

Kuwait Airways Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Maen Razouqi on Wednesday announced launching



Kuwait Airways Chief Executive Officer Maen Razouqi addresses the gathering.

a new direct flight to Madrid due to high demand for this destination. On the sidelines of the celebration at the Kuwaiti Embassy, Razouqi told KUNA that Madrid is considered to be the capital of Europe and a main tourist destination for most Kuwaiti travelers. He added the partnership with Air Europa will help serve new destinations to Kuwaiti and European passengers, as the number of Kuwaiti tourists is steadily growing.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Spain Khalifa Al-Kharafi said Spain is the number one destination for Kuwaitis. He estimated the number of Kuwaitis who visited Spain this year at over 65,000. He added this move will enhance bilateral relations under the wise leaderships of both nations. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti ministers and senior officials participate in the Saudi Embassy's celebration of National Day. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait shares National Day joy with Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Mohammad Al-Fares said that Kuwaiti people are delighted to share with the Saudi people their joy on the kingdom's National

Day. In statements to reporters during his participation in the Saudi Embassy's celebration of the 92nd National Day of the Saudi Arabia, Fares said this is an occasion dear to all Kuwaitis.

Fares, also Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, wished the kingdom further progress and prosperity. He extended his warmest congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Mohammad bin Salman and the Saudi people on the National Day. — KUNA

UN official affirms Kuwait's role in bolstering peace

KUWAIT: United Nations' Secretary General Representative to Kuwait Tariq Al-Sheikh said on Wednesday that Kuwait's history is teeming with humanitarian values, adding that it sets an example in spreading the culture of peace. This came in press statement during opening ceremony of World Peace Day held at UN House in Kuwait, where he added that Kuwait's continuous efforts in local and international policies counter challenges around the globe and in the region specifically.

Sheikh clarified that UN General Assembly declared

September 21 as World Peace Day by observing 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire. Achieving peace requires building communities able to boost security and prosperity away from conflicts and according to values of equality, Sheikh said. He added that some of these conflicts coincided with natural disasters of climate change and health crises, which further aggravated the suffering of people and required international intervention to alleviate their burdens.

Kuwait Development Fund official Abdullah Al-Musaibeh spoke of the fund's role in easing the suffering of people by offering aid through direct grants or collaborating with UN organizations. Chief of UN's International Organization for Migration Mazen Abul-Hassan added that celebrating World Peace Day reinforces the concept of coexistence and rejects racism. He added that Kuwait is an essential partner in peace bolstering operations through its active participation and collaboration on several joint projects. — KUNA

Info minister: Setting plans to meet media challenges 'important'

CAIRO: It is important to exert great effort in setting clear and objective plans to meet future media challenges, a Kuwaiti minister said on Thursday. Speaking at the 52nd session of the Arab Information Ministers Council, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said preparing and training Arab media cadres was essential for development. He stressed that youth are an essential part of the media equation, indicating that this sector of society should be provided with adequate

opportunities to create within the media realm.

Traditional and digital media have played an integral role in dealing with current crises affecting the world, noted the minister, saying that individuals and society as a whole are tasked with addressing problems positively and coming up with solutions, whether in the media or elsewhere. Regarding Kuwait's media efforts, Mutairi revealed that his country was up-to-date with technology used in media, indicating that Kuwaitis have included this sector in their plans for development.

Mutairi noted that the messages broadcast by Kuwait maintained the state's stances on several issues including the just Palestinian cause. The minister renewed his condemnation of all acts perpetrated by the Zionist occupiers against Palestinians, saying that Kuwait denounced such heinous crimes against not only Palestine, but also human rights. — KUNA

Govt readies financial reform laws, higher fees for expatriates

KUWAIT: The government has prepared a set of laws that it will approve and send to the new National Assembly as a priority. "The laws will include changes to laws concerning foreign investors, public debt, increasing revenue through amending taxes on companies, increasing rental rates and reducing non-investment expenditures, such as salaries and subsidies, which will be replaced with a law that provides equal salaries to Kuwaitis with the same specialty, as well as employment laws that will force private companies to hire citizens at a specific percentage and increase yearly fines on companies that hire expatriates," sources told Kuwait Times

"One of the most important laws after which the

government will adopt after the economic reforms supporting investment projects such as the northern economic zone, development of islands and Silk City, new regulations for rectifying the demographic imbalance and approving a new iqama law, as expatriates will pay double the fees that citizens pay," sources added.

"Iqama fees will increase along with fees for visit and family reunion visas. Moreover, treatment charges at the health ministry will increase in some sectors, and the government is about to impose private health insurance on all expatriates and transfer private sector employees to private hospitals," the sources said.

The government will temporarily receive expatriate patients working in the public sector initially, but they too will be subsequently transferred to private hospitals within less than a year. Moreover, electricity tariffs are also going to be increased for expat residents, and for those Kuwaitis who own more than one house. "The new iqama law will be approved early in the next Assembly as it is one of the laws that are ready and have been previously approved by most candidates," the sources concluded.

Kuwait pavilion in Ramallah witnessing great attendance

RAMALLAH: Kuwait's pavilion at the Palestine International Book Fair, which is being held on the grounds of the National Library in the city of Ramallah, is witnessing a great turnout by visitors of all ages. The Kuwaiti pavilion includes tens of books on the history of Kuwait and various editions of Al-Arabi Magazine published by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters as part of its participation, along with the That Al-Salasil bookstore. Kuwait was the guest of honor at the exhibition's 10th edition in 2016, and was also the guest of honor at the Amman International Book Fair a few weeks ago. — KUNA



RAMALLAH: Kuwait's pavilion at the Palestine International Book Fair. — KUNA

