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Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Amiri Hospital sets new benchmarks for digital healthcare services in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Amiri Hospital, one of Kuwait's most established medical facilities, has leveraged new network architecture from Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, to pioneer new innovations and standards in digital health, telemedicine and in-patient care in Kuwait.

The implementation has resulted in 99.9 percent network availability, enabled introduction of remote healthcare, staff mobility, and other digital healthcare services, facilitated 60 percent reduction in hospital footfall while serving same patient volumes and increased appointment efficiency by 120 percent.

The IT Infrastructure supports the Health Informatics Platform, employing best of breed solutions and integrating with existing systems, delivered through the Kuwait based systems integrator - Ms Virtus Informatics Company WLL.

"To enhance our operations, we were seeking a HIMSS EMRAM Level 5 certification and aimed to establish ourselves as a Smart Hospital that offers digital services and advanced technologies for patient care. We recognized that a secure, reliable, and high-performance network infrastructure would be essential to achieving this ambition," said Dr Ali Al-Alanda, Director of the Hospital.

"The Aruba architecture, designed, successfully deployed and NOC managed by the company's partner in Kuwait, has enabled an SLA of 99.9 percent at Amiri Hospital," said Eng Mazayad Al-Ardi, IT Manager of the Capital Governorate.

In line with its Digital Transformation vision, the hospital now delivers all services - including registration, appointment setting, and prescription management - through the Digital Gateway "Derwaza". "We have set up the Gateway for the convenience of our patients with seamless and secure access, and high-performance for a remarkable user experience," he said.

With a pervasive wireless coverage now in place, underpinned by a robust and scalable wired network, Amiri Hospital has been able to introduce new and innovative technologies to enhance patient care. "We have implemented over 50 portable devices, that give our medical practitioners instant secure access to patient records, wherever and whenever they need it," said Dr Raed Syed Hashem, Head of Disaster Management Team. "This not only empowers our staff to perform their duties more effectively, but it also serves as a highly visual example to patients, of Amiri Hospital's commitment to pioneering the latest digital

technologies."

The COVID-19 pandemic best demonstrated the value and capabilities of Aruba's infrastructure. "Nearly overnight, we had a pressing need to serve thousands of patients remotely," said Dr Hashem. "We suddenly had to manage remote network access for thousands of people, and the platform not only delivered the performance we needed, but also effectively protected the network from the fifty plus attacks and malicious access attempts we typically faced each day," he added.

During the lockdown, the hospital successfully migrated 80 percent of its services to digital channels and consequently were able to reduce the footfall by 60 percent while still offering world class care to its patients. As pandemic related restrictions were lifted, Amiri Hospital managed to maintain this reduction in footfall while enhancing patient and staff satisfaction. "Today, we still have over 400 patients per day who receive remote consultancy. This is not only more convenient, but it has also enhanced appointment efficiency by 120 percent as we have been able to manage scheduling and staff utilization in a far more effective manner," he said.

The Hospital's IT team is looking to continue to use Aruba's solutions in further innovative projects. It is currently assessing Aruba's Meridian



Dr Raed Hashem

mobile engagement platform to facilitate wayfinding and location-based services around the hospital to enhance patient experience while also preventing overcrowding in corridors and other common areas. It is also testing an asset management system based on Aruba Asset Tags, to enable better inventory management and prevent equipment like oxygen tanks and wheelchairs from going missing.

"Because it works silently in the background, the network isn't something staff and patients think about unless something goes wrong. The platform has given us the confidence to deliver innovation, at scale and at an accelerated pace," said Dr Hashem. "With the wellbeing of our patients ultimately dependent on our network and digital services, this translates to better care and outcomes," he concluded.

Kuwait vaccinates nearly 30,000 in one day

KUWAIT: Health workers in Kuwait have administered COVID-19 vaccine shots to 29,979 people on Monday, as the Ministry of Health scrambled to vaccinate mall workers around the country. Meanwhile, the ministry announced Monday recording 861 new coronavirus infections and three related deaths in the previous 24 hours. The figures took the total cases in the country up to 292,490 and deaths to 1,696 respectively as of Monday, noted the ministry's spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He pointed out that some 1,004 more people had been cured of the virus over the same period, raising the total of those who have overcome the disease to 278,824. The number of people hospitalized with the virus stood at 11,970 as of Monday, with 191 of them in intensive care units, he added. Dr Sanad revealed that some 7,570 swab tests were conducted over the same period, bringing the total to 2,467,673. — KUNA

News in brief

Oil union burns Zionist flag

KUWAIT: Members of the Kuwait Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Union burned a Zionist flag during a press conference Monday night. A number of MPs attended the event which the union organized to express support for Palestine.

Oil price up

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by \$1.85 to \$68.54 per barrel on Monday, as opposed to \$66.69 pb Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Globally, the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate followed an upward trend, going up by 75 and 90 cents respectively to \$69.46 and \$66.27 per barrel.



Embassy announces Japanese government scholarships for 2021

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Japan in Kuwait is pleased to announce that the government of Japan offers scholarship to those who wish to study at Japanese universities as undergraduate and research students. The Japanese Government Scholarship was established in 1954 in order to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries as well as to make an international contribution to the intellectual field. All Kuwaiti citizens who meet the qualifications are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is Monday June 21, 2021. Only soft copies, PDF format, and sent by email to the embassy, will be accepted. The application process consists of document screening, written exams, and personal interview.

Undergraduate Students

Requirements	Age	Years of Study	Fields of Study
• Completed 12-year school curriculum • Good academic standing	Born on or after April 2, 1997	5 years From April 2022 to March 2027	• Natural Sciences • Social Sciences and Humanities

* Five years of study including one year for studying the Japanese language.

Research Students

Requirements	Age	Years of Study	Fields of Study
• Completed 16-years of school education	Born on or after April 2, 1987.	From September 2022 to Mar 2024.	Field of study majored at university or related to it.

*Years of study might extend depending on the major category.

NBK continues to support vaccination centers in Kuwait

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to support Ministry of Health's vaccination efforts in facing COVID-19. NBK provided fridges to five different vaccination centers in addition to Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref Area. These five centers are located in Farwaniya, Al-Assimah, Hawally, Al-Ahmadi and Al-Jahra governorates.

NBK volunteers will tour around to ensure that water is delivered on daily basis to the fridges in the selected governorates. The fridges are part of NBK's donation that included previously Golf Carts to provide free rides for elderly patients and people with disability from and to the parking area as well as shelters to the outdoor waiting areas at the Kuwait Vaccination Center in Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref.

"NBK is a key supporter of government vaccination efforts", said Talal Al-Turki, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager. "NBK has long been engaging in launching and managing numerous campaigns and social development initiatives."

Turki expressed his sincere appreciation to the national efforts in providing support to face the COVID-19 pandemic. "Throughout the bank's history, we have been committed to meeting our responsibilities towards society and to support the efforts of

governmental institutions and civil society for the farewell of our community," he noted. "Since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NBK continued to fulfill its social responsibility in line with its sustainable growth."

It is worth mentioning that in response to the pandemic, NBK donated KDI million to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to purchase medical devices and ventilators in addition to deploy a field hospital fully equipped with the latest medical equipment, an ICU, a medical laboratory, a radiology center, and a fully-equipped pharmacy. NBK maintains its leading position among the private sector institutions through its commitment to fully support social programs in the areas of healthcare, childcare, social, environmental, sports and education.



Talal Al-Turki



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Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621

E: info@kuwaittimes.net