



**LOCAL 6**  
Survey reveals thousands of bachelors in private residential areas

# THE TIMES

KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE



## FDI and implementation key to '2035' success

**Staff Report**

High-level meetings and strategy formulation that remain merely a paper exercise will not achieve sustainable development goals, says a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

cautioned the UN body that has been set up to promote investment and enterprise for sustainable and inclusive growth around the world.

The focus of World Investment Report (WIR) on the importance of institutional capacity building for effective formulation and implementation of policies is especially

development strategies.

Speedy and efficacious implementation of strategies are also critical in responding to challenges and seizing opportunities presented by globalization, and in attracting and retaining foreign direct investments (FDI) essential to spur sustainable development and growth. The inflow of FDI helps to build and upgrade infrastructure and industries, it connects to international markets and drives innovation and competitiveness in the local market. But the volatility of global markets and rapid shift in flow of FDI, means that Kuwait needs to take effective decisions and then act on them rapidly and decisively.

The latest WIR 2018 publication reveals that Kuwait clearly missed the boat when it came to FDI inflows in 2017. The report finds that Kuwait was the least attractive destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states when it came to FDI flows in 2017, drawing in US\$301 million – a fall of 28 percent from the \$419 in 2016, and just a minuscule percentage of the \$2.8 billion that it attracted in 2012. More troublingly, given that a significant chunk of outward investments are state-owned funds, the FDI outflows from Kuwait in 2017 nearly doubled from the \$4.5 billion in 2016 to \$8.1 billion last year.

*Continued on Page 6*



In its flagship annual publication, World Investment Report, the UNCTAD notes that effective implementation of strategies is crucial to a country's development and growth. "But this implementation requires efficient and empowered institutions, built-in mechanisms for feedback and lessons learned, flexible and adaptive policy monitoring, and correction systems,"

relevant to Kuwait, as it goes about unfurling its New Kuwait 2035 strategic development plan. Authorities in Kuwait need to realize that adopting new development strategies is only the first-step; having the right people, institutions and mechanisms, to monitor and provide feedback and to effectively implement the policies, are even more vital to the success of



### Kuwait calls for collective action to achieve sustainable development

**Staff Report**

Sustained political will and comprehensive collective action by the global community are needed in order to achieve Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, said Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi was speaking at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 organized by the UN Economic and Social Council. The forum was held from 9 to 18 July at the UN Headquarters, under the theme of 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'.

In his opening remarks at the forum, Al-Otaibi said, "I trust the United Nations and its working agencies are capable of taking up the responsibility to follow through with implementation of sustainable development goals."

He also expressed his concerns over the many challenges and dangers facing the contemporary world, such as poverty, underdevel-

opment, and the spread of diseases, terrorism, conflicts and violations of human rights.

This year's High-Level Political Forum reviewed progress towards the SDGs, with focus in particular on specific goals, including ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6); ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7); making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11); and ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12).

In addition, the forum discussed progress in other SDGs, such as protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, combatting desertification and, halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG 15); and, strengthening the means of implementing and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17).

*Continued on Page 4*

### Higher oil prices lower appetite for debt-fueled expansion

Oil and gas producers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE plan to spend more than \$600 billion on energy projects over the next five to 10 years, shows a new report on the construction activity in the region.

Oil and gas producers, pipeline operators and refiners in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that



together form the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc, borrowed \$6 billion through loans and bonds in the first half of 2018, the slowest start in four years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The relatively low-key borrowing was in contrast to the energy companies in the United States that issued a record

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# Indian Embassy releases update on engineers' situation

The Indian embassy has released an update on the issues concerning Indian Engineers in Kuwait. This is in continuation of this Embassy's messages on this matter posted on its website.

As announced in the last notification in June, a Kuwaiti delegation had visited India towards the end of last month. Extensive discussions took place between the representatives of all the concerned authorities dealing with engineering education in India, both from the Government and the education sector, and the Kuwaiti



delegation. The tour included relevant field visits as well. Both the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Human Resource Development were intensely involved in the discussions, clarifying and responding to various queries and concerns that the Kuwaiti side had expressed.

In particular, the issue revolving around the accreditation by NBA was comprehensively and satisfactorily addressed by the Indian side.

The matter is now going through the process of internal consultations/approvals within

the Kuwaiti system. The Embassy expects a satisfactory resolution of the matter soon.

Indian Engineers in Kuwait are requested to await the anticipated decision by Kuwaiti authorities, with the same composure and great maturity displayed so far.

As conveyed earlier, cases of individual grievances/renewal of residency validity etc. may please be brought to the attention of Shri K.K. Pahel, First Secretary, at e-mail pol.kuwait@mea.gov.in, giving their contact details.

## Ethiopian Airlines resumes flights to Eritrean capital Asmara



On the eve of reestablishing relations between the two sisterly countries, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Ethiopian Airlines Area Manager Kuwait Samson Arega visited the Eritrean Embassy in Kuwait and was warmly welcomed by the Charge d'Affaires at the embassy Simon Teclesenbet. Both parties engaged in wonderful and fruitful discussions.

As Ethiopian Airlines resumed its flights to the capital of Eritrea, Asmara, the Eritrean community in Kuwait can now enjoy daily flights from Kuwait via Addis Ababa to Asmara with the technologically advanced

## Contracts signed to renovate, maintain several roads

Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi signed on 19 July three contracts worth KD 18.079 million (about US\$ 59.6 million) to enhance and maintain roads in the governorates of Al-Ahmadi, Hawalli and Al-Assima.

The ministry said, in a statement that the first contract, worth KD 7.629 million, was signed to develop the roads in Al-Ahmadi



governorate, including Al-Eqaila, Al-Dahar, Al-Mangaf and Al-Sabahiya. The second contract, which includes Hawalli governorate areas Hateen and Al-Shuhada, was signed at KD 5.368 million.

The third contract was signed to maintain the roads and main streets of the capital governorate including Al-Daiya and Al-Khaldiya areas with a total of KD 5.082 million.

## Abandoned public buildings cost government millions in loss

Amid warnings against wastage and the belt-tightening policy, several massive buildings that cost the government millions of dinars are deserted without internal or external activities. Those buildings are still waiting for employees and visitors to open their doors before they become dilapidated or a technical report declares them unfit for use.

A survey of some government buildings and facilities at various locations in the country revealed that many of the buildings are lying empty without use, regardless of the huge sums spent on their construction.

Investigation revealed that the buildings have not been used following suspension of the handing over procedures for some reasons, while many of them have been deserted for several years in a way that exposes them to vandalism and looting. One of the buildings



is a multi-storey car park constructed for employees of the Government and Manpower Restructuring Project.

The structure sitting on 8,295 square/meters area can conveniently accommodate 1,300 cars and serve 600 employees plus 300 visitors. The park is so expansive that it can serve a nearby school as well. Another building belonging to Farwaniya Residence Affairs Department next to the Government and Manpower Restructuring Project's car park was constructed to serve the Ministry of Interior. The project was executed in 2016 but it remains under lock and key until now, while visitors are forced to carry out their transactions at Dhajeej where citizens and expatriates face a hard time conducting transactions due to congestion, in spite of the new building having been furnished and ready for use.

The third building, which was completed in 2013, belongs to the Food and Nutrition Department affiliated to the Ministry of Health at Sabah Health Region. The edifice, which cost KD 6 million, has yet to be connected to power. Untouched for five years, the building has lost its essence and remains secluded. One of the buildings within the premises of South Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Clinic was meant to serve pregnant women but officials declared it unsuitable for pregnant women after the furnishing, because it has staircase.

The structure, which cost the government over KD 3 million has since been abandoned and wearing down to the point of destruction. The abandoned structures include the General Customs Administration building that has been forsaken for 33 years and stands among other structures in Shuwaikh like a ghost.

The government decided to construct a separate building for the General Customs Administration in 1985 and contract was duly awarded in that regard. The administration took delivery of the project after execution, but a report submitted by Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research with affirmation by the Ministry of Public Works and Kuwait University declared it 'unfit for use and prone to collapse'.

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# PAM refutes KD40 salary controversy

The post of former minister of Education Dr. Ahmed Al-Mulaifi on his Twitter account where he alleged that a gas station attendant receives a monthly salary of KD 40 went viral on social media and drew reactions from Twitter users.

Several questions were raised about the contracts signed with the attendants who work at fuel stations. The relevant department of

Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) received requests for information related to this issue.

Informed sources denied that the monthly salary of a gas station attendant is KD 40, and explained that the PAM enforces a law that rejects any contract with salary less than KD 75, as this is the minimum salary for workers of private and oil sectors as per a ministerial decision. The daily then conducted a field tour

to investigate the truth behind the salaries of fuel station workers. It was discovered that the salaries vary from KD 40 to KD 100.

They are not paid in cash but are deposited in the bank accounts of the workers after deducting the housing allowance, transportation costs and costs of their daily meals provided. This means the attendants receive only a small amount in the end. The daily also discovered

that most of the workers depend on the tips from some customers, and they are obligated to work during the hottest times of the day when temperatures reach 50 degrees centigrade.

Sources from PAM affirmed that the Kuwait law banning workers from working outside in the heat during the hours from 11 am to 4 pm are not applicable to attendants in fuel stations, as they work under the shade.

## Kuwait Continental Hotels announces Summer Promotions



To get through the hot summer, Kuwait Continental Hotels group has prepared a surprise of amazing offers for their prestigious guests.



The General Manager of the Hotels Group, Kamal Hussein announced a range of summer offers, which include a complimentary breakfast and dinner buffets with free facilities such as free transfer from / to airport, shuttle

services to and from shopping centers, internet and business center facilities, and a hookah lodge, pool and health clubs. Kuwait Continental Hotel made the announcement of summer promotions at a party in the presence of all the participating companies to thank and honor them for their support of its Summer Offer 2018.

The hotel has tied up with Aqua Park, the water park, to arrange for free tickets for its guests. The Hotel also offers free use of Meeting Room and Health Club for the guests during their stay at the hotel. The Hotel has also made arrangements with many famous companies such as Jovial Watch co., Ajmal Perfumes, Aldur Almanthor Perfumes, Abraj Al Mubarakiya, Daraat Sara, Alsaed Stores, Future Renting Car Co., Qortuba Furniture, Al Hazeem Co., ladies Golda Beauty Salon and Heven Man Beauty Center, Almahrosa Café, Continental Restaurant Sea Food and Continental Darbar Restaurant for a range of discounts and special offers for its guests.

## OneNess holds medical camp in collaboration with IDF and KMA

The 'OneNess Association' that serves Indians in Kuwait by promoting sociocultural and humanitarian activities, organized a medical screening camp in collaboration with Indian Doctors Forum (IDF) and Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) at the Indian Community School in Salmiya on 6 July. This was one of the association's efforts to promote the importance of service to the community irrespective of cast, creed or color.

Organized by Naresh Lahoria, Incharge, OneNess Association, Dr. Preeti Jolly, Member, OneNess Association and IDF and Dr. Sunny Varghese, Community Secretary, IDF, along with other active members of the association the camp attended to over 200 community members.

About 30 volunteers gathered at the camp and put in a tremendous effort to clean and organize the venue. There were dedicated rooms for registration, vital statistics and initial blood checkups and various specialties. Every room had the required equipment for basic medical examination with screens put in place for patient privacy. A dark room was also set up for ophthalmology and vision testing.

Out of all the individuals screened, a large



number of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiac cases were detected and referred for further follow-up with medical professionals.

## IMA- Summer Islamic Classes go on outdoor picnic



Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Salmiya Unit commenced Summer Islamic Classes (SIC) right after Eid-ul-Fitr and received an overwhelming response with the total students enrolled reaching 225. Several students comprising of both boys and girls from different age groups and nationalities attend the classes to learn Islamic education during the on-going

summer vacations. SIC recently organized a picnic for the students to visit Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre located at Maidan Hawally near Al Shaab Leisure Park.

At the cultural centre, the students visited the Space Museum, Science & Technology Museum, Natural History Museum, Arabic Islamic Science Museum and Fine Arts Centre.



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# Dining IN KUWAIT

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will provide guests with exceptional food and a cozy atmosphere so you always feel at home while enjoying her delicious meals. The Cheese Cakes are heavenly and boast choices like Lemon, Pistachio or Mango, or pick the mini option and savor every bite. Find the tastiest and best home-made food here.

**Popular dish:** *Homemade Zaffron Cheesecakes*



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## CONCRETE



Have fun with your breakfast with the creative breakfast menu at Concrete restaurant. Delight in their servings of Mushroom Benedict, and Turkish Kaymak or perhaps relish their Avocado poached egg. Their take on French toast is also dripping with goodness. Each dish is attractive,

and flavorsome. Their lively breakfast menu is enticing with such delectable items like Creamy Cheese pancakes, Shakshoka or the tartness of meat like Short Ribs Benedict. The dishes are also beautifully garnished with fruits, and sauces. The food is so good, you will think about breakfast every day.

**Popular dish:** *Potato Benedict*



Located at Mubarak Al Kabeer Street, Kuwait City. Call: 22062207

Every week, our 'Dining in Kuwait' section features selected restaurants in the country that provide sumptuous cuisines from around the world. Want to feature your restaurant in our 'Dining in Kuwait' section and reach out to our wide reader base? Email us at [editor@timeskuwait.com](mailto:editor@timeskuwait.com) with a brief about your restaurant along with images in high resolution.

## Thought for the week

“ Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Rosa Parks  
American Civil rights activist

## Healthy food cooking ideas

### Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

Eating smart is about learning to ditch the junk food, and make healthier food choices that give your body the nutrient-dense fuel it needs. With just a few small changes to your cooking routine, you can cut out the sugar, salt and cholesterol while introducing more flavor and healthy ingredients to your dishes. Let's start with a list.

**Spice it up:** Go for a few tasty herbs or spices rather than the heavier salt or sugar filled condiments for adding taste to your food. Fresh herbs and spices add more flavor to your cooking than salty, fat-filled sauces or dressings. With regards to the choice of dried or fresh herbs, when cooking with oil, water, or fat; dried herbs are preferred because of how easy the flavors interact with the food, but with fresh herbs, you want to solely use in recipes that don't require high-heat cooking. As for spices, since they contain large amounts of flavor, be sure to use in small quantities for the full effect.

**Opt to bake:** Anything you choose to fry can be baked as well, without as much oil. Read up on good recipes for baked fries, baked sweet potatoes, broccoli, zucchinis or you can go the roasted route and roast your favorite vegetables as side dishes instead. Also, grilled cheeses like halloumi cheese works as well, and it delivers a good dose of protein.

**Skip the salt:** Rather than salt, utilize citrus sauces, balsamic vinegar or vegetables broths to work in you food. This tip also allows you to manage your blood pressure.

**Add little oil:** Use extra virgin olive oil instead of butter. First start by cooking your meal with little oil, then add some olive oil at the end to reduce the formation of trans fatty acids, a major cause of cholesterol. Any oil that is heated becomes hydrogenated, and is so called trans fatty acids. Except for raw food, never use olive oil when frying your food. If you need



to use oil, use cooking sprays or apply a small amount of oil with a pastry brush. Liquids such as stock, lemon juice, fruit juice, vinegar or water are healthier ways to fry your food instead of using oil.

**Go whole grains:** In addition to standards grains like whole wheat bread, try nutrient-dense grains like barley and oats for a change and an extra dose of chromium, magnesium, B vitamins and Folic Acid. There are many health benefits associated with these nutrients.

**Color your plate:** The more colorful your choice of fruits and vegetables in your lunch and dinner, the more cholesterol-regulating phytonutrients and antioxidants they contain. To eat healthy, you also have to be willing try new varieties of fruits and vegetables, and learn to cook them in a manner that they taste good and retain their nutritional value. To get an idea, here is an example, the color yellow and orange usually found in squash and some tomatoes mean a high level of vitamins C and A, which are good for your eyesight.

To subscribe to my diet programs, don't forget to log in to:  
[www.eatlikemira.com](http://www.eatlikemira.com)

Hello Mira, I appreciate your weekly advice column. During the summer, I crave cold sodas and oily fast food, but I want to eat healthy. Could you tell me what is the best diet to follow to control your cravings during the heat of the summer months?

Hello, there is no diet to follow; it is just a matter of healthy choices and following a wholesome lifestyle. Instead of cold sodas, I recommend you stick with diet soda or make some cold lemonade with sweetener. You can make homemade drinks that contain fruit like healthy smoothies or juices. Enjoy cold frozen yogurt as a snack rather than fries or hamburgers. Regarding the fast food, you need to decrease your intake; you should eat good fat oils like nuts, avocados, olive oil, grilled food, which is lighter, and stick with tasty salads rich in leafy vegetables. And, of course, don't forget to drink a lot of water.



Mira is a go-to source for nutrition and wellness and has joined The Times Kuwait team in a new weekly column discussing nutrition and answering queries. You can send in your questions to [askmira@timeskuwait.com](mailto:askmira@timeskuwait.com)

# Kuwait calls for collective action to achieve sustainable development

Continued from Page 1

Elaborating on the specific challenges, ALOtaibi said that environmental risks such as drought, desertification, lack of resources, pollution and climate change, all contributed in threatening international peace and security, and increased the suffering of many people around the world. "Kuwaiti diplomacy is based on promoting international cooperation in all fields of development. It has always been keen to devote its efforts and capabilities to achieve the ambition of developing countries in improving their living status," he added. He went on to

point out that, Kuwait had taken many technical and operational measures to overcome obstacles hindering sustainable development. "On top of these measures is the introduction of the environmental return system, which aims to create a framework for ensuring environmental sustainability as being one of the foundations of development planning," he said.

The forum, which adopts political declarations that are negotiated inter-governmentally, also heard 47 countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews. These reviews, which are country-driven, country-led individual assessments, facilitate

the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A ministerial declaration issued at the end of the High-Level Political Forum stressed that, three years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, progress has been made across some of the goals and targets, but it has not been at the pace required to achieve this ambitious agenda and has been uneven across countries and regions. The forum urged for accelerating progress toward all targets, in particular those with a timeframe of 2020.

The declaration also noted that the

commitment to leave no one behind was at the core of the 2030 Agenda and should be a guiding principle at all levels to shift the world onto a resilient and sustainable path. Leaving no one behind requires addressing the specific needs of people in vulnerable situations but also supporting their empowerment and participation in decision making that impacts their lives, added the declaration.

The high-level forum also recognized that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.



## LuLu Hypermarket launches ASEAN Fest 2018

**L**uLu Hypermarket, the leading regional retailer, launched ASEAN Fest 2018 with a grand ceremony at its Al Rai outlet on 18 July. The event was inaugurated by diplomats from several ASEAN embassies in Kuwait in the presence of top LuLu management and staff, as well as a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were the Ambassador of Vietnam H.E. Trinh Trim Manh, the Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Dusit Manapan, the Ambassador of Brunei H.E. HJ Ahmed HJ Jumat, the Charge D'Affaires at the Philippine Embassy Mohammad Noordin PN Lomondot, and the Charge D'Affaires at the

Republic of Indonesia Mr. Gantosori Tanjung. A traditional cultural program involving artistes from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries was held on the occasion to highlight the rich and colorful culture and tradition of the countries that comprise the 10-nation bloc.

The 11-day festival, which is slated to end on 28 July, is being held across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait and offers special prices on a wide range of products imported from select ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Among the food products available at special prices during the ASEAN Fest are offerings from



leading South East Asian brands such as Mama Sita's, Datu Puti, 555, Silver Swan, Skyflakes, Blue Elephant, Rukkun, Kokola, UFC, Jack 'n Jill.

The latest ASEAN Fest promotion from LuLu Hypermarket is yet another engaging



event that allows the brand to interact with its multi-national customers and respond to their changing tastes and interests, while providing them with quality products at competitive prices.

### Priority should be given to Kuwaitis to hire domestic workers says MP

**M**P Khalil Al-Saleh has asked Dura Company for Recruitment of Domestic Workers to give priority to citizens who want to hire domestic workers.

He wondered why the company allowed for expatriates to recruit

domestic workers while citizens are waiting in line. He stressed it is unacceptable that citizens continue to wait considering the current domestic workers crisis and the long wait for services provided by the company.

### A valid driving license needed to renew car registrations

**A** new rule was introduced by the Ministry of Interior that stipulates citizens and expatriates cannot renew their car registrations or buy new cars without a valid driving license. According to a circular issued by the Directorate General of Service Centers, a citizen or an expatriate will only be allowed to renew the registration of his car or buy new car with a valid driving license.

A local daily reported that security sources revealed that when an expatriate changes his jobs, his driving license becomes void and he will have to apply for a new one. The circular also mentioned that for the expat to obtain a driving license, his new job designation has to meet the relevant conditions for issuing a license that have been set forth by the ministry.

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# Survey reveals thousands of bachelors in private residential areas

**M**P Ahmed Al-Fadhil enquired about the reasons behind the government's delay in finding solutions to the problem of bachelors living in private residential areas.

He explained that a survey revealed that a large number of these bachelors are laborers who were under the contracts of cleaning companies and, service contracts and stay in Kuwait after completing the task for which they were brought to Kuwait and become 'loose laborers'.

The lawmaker stressed the importance of establishing labor cities, indicating that this step will not only solve the problems related to the

presence of bachelors in the residential areas but will also increase the value of the properties from where the bachelors are evacuated. He affirmed the need to obligate contractors to submit documents that prove the laborers who were brought to Kuwait on fixed contracts have left Kuwait after their work was completed.

MP Safa Al-Hashem pointed out that the wide presence of bachelors represent a warning sign of danger especially in Farwaniya with about half million bachelors and Khaitan with about 92,000 bachelors. She emphasized the negative consequences of the spread of this phenomenon



on the Kuwaiti society and the security of the country, urging the government to take relevant actions to curb this phenomenon such as through establishment of labor cities.

Furthermore, MP Abdullah Fahad said the issue of bachelors requires prompt and logical solutions, indicating that this issue has dangerous social, economic and security consequences. He stressed the need to construct labor cities which should be supplied with all relevant services. In addition, MP Khalil Al-Saleh also highlighted the dangers behind bachelors living in private residential areas.

## CEE Network commences advanced culinary classes



**C**ommunity Events and Entertainment (CEE) Network ends its introductory course on 13 July after students finished their twenty (20) hours of basic Baking and Pastry under Masterchef trainers Mario Asuncion and Joelyn Tambo-ong. The classes, which are held every Friday from 9 am till 12 noon at the Food Academy of a retail Hypermarket in Shuwaikh, and is organized in collaboration with members of the Philippine Chefs Society Kuwait Chapter.

Fourteen Filipino students from different work sectors in Kuwait will receive their first certificates from CEE Network on Friday morning indicating 20 hours of completed basic culinary course Introduction to Baking and Pastry. The Philippine Chefs Society Kuwait Chapter mentors the students with more than 8 trainers present in each class along with the masterchef trainers who delivered techniques with procedures and ingredients. Manuals are currently given out each Friday itemizing topics, discussions, ingredients and procedures designed by CEE Network.

The second month will provide more intricate

and detailed topics with specialized techniques in cake decorating. New Masterchef Cris Ricafort, pastry and baking chef who graduated from Lyceum University of the Philippines and studied in Le Foodist in Paris, France.

He is a certified HACCP trainer, former pastry chef of La Baguette and currently works as Head Pastry Chef at Royal Movenpick Catering Services. Lecturer Joelyn Tambo-Ong, a graduate of Culinary Art at St Paul College, a former professor and trained in Tennessee USA will also be in the team for the advance class.

The advanced class will run for four weeks and Masterchefs hopes the students will receive a deeper understanding and knowledge of pastry and baking and become more skilled in developing their techniques in cake decorating and creativity. "With the strong basic foundation they learned from the first phase of the course, it will be easy for them to learn the details," commented Ricafort.

Registration for advance classes on Pastry and Baking are currently going on and interested students may call: 65879555 / 65019059.

## Higher oil prices lower appetite for debt-fueled expansion

Continued from Page 1

\$74.3 billion in debt to drive their resurgent shale production in the first six months of this year. The differing debt appetites between the six Arab exporters and US shale producers reveal that, following higher oil prices that has so far recorded an 18 percent increase this year, GCC oil exporters are now relying more on cash and less on external financing for their existing operations and new projects.

The relatively low-level borrowing by the GCC states in the first half of 2018 follows a banner year of borrowing in 2017. Energy industries in the GCC countries, which together pump about 17 million barrels per day, borrowed a record \$28.7 billion in 2017, with nearly half of that (\$12.8 billion) borrowed in the first half of that year. With lucrative external assets and copious wealth funds garnered during high oil price days, oil and gas producers in the GCC have also historically been less dependent on debt that their counterparts in the US. In another divergence between hydrocarbon producers in the GCC states and those in the US is that in the US borrowings tend to rise along with oil prices to finance drilling activity, while Gulf Arab producers seek debt when prices are low, and companies have to remit more money to state coffers to help plug budget deficits.

Oil industry analysts say that having raised the funds they needed last year, the GCC states are unlikely to raise more debt instruments in the near-term, especially given the high prevailing oil prices.

Ironically, higher crude prices are also spurring the debt-fueled gush in US shale production. According to data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), the US was currently pumping a record 10.9 million barrels a day, and has averaged 10.4 million barrels per day so far this year. Shale producers in the US appear to be convinced that the shale boom is more sustainable, and hence the rush for more debt.

Recent official announcements show that oil and gas producers in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE plan to spend more than \$600 billion on energy projects over the next five to 10 years. While some of that will be financed by debt, especially for refineries and petrochemical plants, borrowings are nevertheless likely to be subdued in 2018 because many of the projects will not be launched anytime soon, say industry-watchers. Latest available data show that so far this year the biggest borrowing in the GCC has been by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company that floated a loan for \$3 billion.

In second place is Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company that borrowed about \$1.3 billion to finance the construction of its liquefied natural gas import terminal. In the UAE, oil field services provider Shelf Drilling Holdings and borrr Drilling took out a combined \$1.25 billion loan, while in Saudi Arabia, the joint venture Saudi Aramco Total Refining & Petrochemical Industries Company issued a \$150 million revolving credit line.

## FDI and implementation key to '2035' success

Continued from Page 1

Despite planning, promising and encouraging others to invest more in the local economy, government money appears to be going in the other direction.

Interestingly, in the six-nation GCC bloc, with the exception of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the other four states increased their FDI inflows in 2017. The UAE attracted the highest FDI to the region with \$10.4 billion, up 7.8 percent from the \$9.6 billion in 2016. Oman followed with an investment flow of \$1.9 billion — around 11 percent higher than the \$1.7 billion it attracted in 2016. Qatar saw \$986 million in FDI inflows against \$774 million, an increase of 27.4 percent from a year earlier. Bahrain displayed the largest positive shift in FDI inflows in the region, going from \$243 million in 2016 to \$519 last year, representing more than a doubling in inflows.

Inflows of foreign investment to Saudi Arabia in 2017 stood at \$1.4 billion, though this was the third highest inflow to the GCC, it was nevertheless a sheer drop of over 80 percent from the \$7.5 billion that the Kingdom drew in 2016. Incidentally, the only two countries in GCC that displayed a fall in FDI inflows in 2017, also reported a fall in real GDP growth, with growth dropping to minus 0.7 percent in Saudi Arabia and to minus 2.9 percent in Kuwait last year. Though, in the case of Kuwait, the country's Central Statistical Bureau later claimed that the real growth was 1 percent based on its estimation of inflation, the fact remains that real productivity growth in the country has been quite dismal for a while now.

The WIR 2018 points out that the recent

changes in global oil prices, the efforts of oil-rich countries in GCC to promote economic diversification, and political and geopolitical uncertainties will continue to shape FDI inflows to the region in the years ahead. Higher oil prices since late 2016 have led to improved state revenues in many oil exporting countries, but it has also resulted in a watering-down of necessary economic reforms and a slack in implementing strategic investment policies, to the detriment of future economies of concerned countries.

In its overall global assessment of FDI flows, the WIR 2018 notes that in contrast to accelerated trade and GDP growth in 2017, international flow of investments tumbled to \$1.43 trillion last year, a drop of nearly 24 percent from the \$1.87 trillion in 2016. The FDI flows to developed and economies in transition fell the most, while those to developing economies remained stable at \$671 billion, or 47 percent of total global FDI flows. Inward FDI flows to developed economies also fell sharply, dropping by 37 percent to \$712 billion in 2017. In addition, FDI to transition economies declined by 27 percent to \$47 billion, the second lowest level since 2005, reflecting geopolitical uncertainties and sluggish investment in natural resources.

Other highlights from the WIR 2018 are that flows to developing Asia, which includes China and India, remained stable at \$476 billion, with the region regaining its position as the largest FDI recipient in the world. In the same period, FDI flows to Africa slid to \$42 billion, a drop of 21 percent from 2016, with most of the FDI decline coming from large commodity exporting countries.

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# France are world champions

*France won the Fifa World Cup for the second time by overcoming Croatia's bold challenge in a thrilling final in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium. Didier Deschamps' side repeated the success on home soil at France '98 by a victory margin that hardly looked possible as Croatia stood toe-to-toe with the favourites for an hour.*

Croatia also felt their luck deserted them, but ultimately France ran out victorious to erase the memories of the loss to Portugal in the Euro 2016 final in Paris.

Croatia, however, showed unbreakable spirit and even threatened a comeback when Mandzukic took advantage of France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris hesitating over a clearance to pull a goal back.

But France closed out the win to bring redemption for Deschamps after defeat at the Euros two years ago, sparking wild celebrations and ensuring Lloris lifted the World Cup. France are the team for all seasons - possessing an all-round quality that has carried them to this World Cup triumph. When that is added to an element of good fortune, it can prove a deadly combination.

Croatia will complain bitterly that Griezmann went down theatrically for the free-kick that led to Mandzukic's own goal, and they will also feel Perisic's handball was not clear-cut enough for VAR to make that decisive intervention just before half-

two swift hammer blows from Pogba and Mbappe.

Croatia had done it the hard way to reach this final, winning on penalties in the last 16 and quarter-final against Denmark and hosts Russia respectively before requiring extra time to beat England in the semi-final. Yet they showed no signs of tiredness as they tore into France from the first whistle, and even when the game looked out of reach they never once let their heads drop, threatening an unlikely comeback when Mandzukic cashed in on Lloris' error. It was not to be but world-class midfielder Luka Modric has illuminated this World Cup, while the energy, commitment and threat of Perisic stood out here. Croatia's footballers and their coach will return home as national heroes - a status they fully deserve after their contribution to this spectacular World Cup and their all-out approach to this final.

## World Cup 2018 - the stats

Deschamps is the third person to win the World Cup as both a player and a manager, after Brazil's Mario Zagallo and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer.

France became the first team to score four goals in a World Cup final since Brazil beat Italy 4-1 in 1970.

Croatia are the first team to lose in their first appearance in a World Cup final since the Netherlands in 1974 (2-1 v Germany).

Mandzukic is the first player to score an own goal in a World Cup final.

Mbappe (19 years 207 days) is the second youngest player to score in a World Cup final, after Pele for Brazil in 1958 (17 years 249 days).

Griezmann has scored 10 goals for France in major tournaments - only three players have scored more for Les Bleus (Michel Platini - 14, Just Fontaine - 13, Thierry Henry - 12).

Perisic has been directly involved in 11 goals at major tournaments (7 goals, 4 assists), more than any other Croatia player.

Perisic became only the second player to both score a goal, and concede a penalty in a World Cup final, after Marco Materazzi for Italy in 2006.

Pogba became the first Manchester United player to score in a World Cup final, and the first Premier League player to do so since Emmanuel Petit in 1998.

Pogba's goal for France was the first scored from outside the box in a World Cup final since Marco Tardelli for Italy v Germany in 1982.

Mandzukic is only the second player in World Cup history to score a goal and an own goal in the same match, after the Netherlands' Ernie Brandts against Italy in 1978. Mandzukic became the fifth player to score in both World Cup and European Cup/Champions League finals after Ferenc Puskas, Zoltan Czibor, Gerd Muller and Zinedine Zidane.



In one of the most exciting World Cup finals of the modern era, played out to a soundtrack of thunder, Croatia and France delivered an enthralling spectacle that brought the highest goal tally in a final since 1966, a pitch invasion, and a controversial intervention from the video assistant referee that had a huge influence on the outcome.

France took the lead after 18 minutes when Antoine Griezmann's free-kick deflected in off Mario Mandzukic's head - but Croatia were by far the better side in the first half and deservedly equalised courtesy of Ivan Perisic's left-foot finish.

Croatia were left nursing a burning sense of injustice when France restored their lead seven minutes before half-time through Griezmann's penalty, awarded by referee Nestor Pitana for handball against Perisic after a lengthy delay while VAR was consulted. In a compelling second half, France looked to have wrapped it up with two strikes in six minutes from Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe either side of the hour mark.

time. What is not in doubt, however, is the sheer quality this France side possesses, a potent attack the spearhead for a strong midfield and outstanding defence. When Croatia threatened to come back once more early in the second half, Pogba and Mbappe's strikes from the edge of the area past the static Danijel Subasic - who still looked less than fully fit after injuring a hamstring in the quarter-final against Russia - proved the defining passage of this final. France celebrated joyously at the final whistle after claiming the sport's greatest trophy once more, with Deschamps - the coach whose conservative methods have often brought criticism - tossed high into the air by his players.

Croatia return home as beaten World Cup finalists but their approach to this match will have won the hearts of neutrals and earned them a prolonged standing ovation from their fans at the final whistle. Zlatko Dalic's side were the better team for the first hour despite trailing, and were pushing France back when they were hit by those





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**GROUP A**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
URUGUAY	3	0	0	5	9
RUSSIA	2	0	1	4	6
SAUDI ARABIA	1	0	2	-5	3
EGYPT	0	0	3	-4	0

Group A (W) vs Group B (R)

URUGUAY
PORTUGAL

**GROUP C**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
FRANCE	2	1	0	2	7
DENMARK	1	2	0	1	5
PERU	1	0	2	0	3
AUSTRALIA	0	1	2	-3	1

Group C (W) vs Group D (R)

FRANCE
ARGENTINA

**GROUP E**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
BRAZIL	2	1	0	4	7
SWITZERLAND	1	2	0	1	5
SERBIA	1	0	2	-2	3
COSTA RICA	0	1	2	-3	1

Group E (W) vs Group F (R)

BRAZIL
MEXICO

**GROUP G**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
BELGIUM	3	0	0	7	9
ENGLAND	2	0	1	5	6
TUNISIA	1	0	2	-3	3
PANAMA	0	0	3	-9	0

Group G (W) vs Group H (R)

BELGIUM
JAPAN

**GROUP B**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
SPAIN	1	2	0	1	5
PORTUGAL	1	2	0	1	5
IRAN	1	1	1	0	4
MOROCCO	0	1	2	-2	1

Group B (W) vs Group A (R)

SPAIN
RUSSIA

**GROUP D**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
CROATIA	3	0	0	6	9
ARGENTINA	1	1	1	-2	4
NIGERIA	1	0	2	-1	3
ICELAND	0	1	2	-3	1

Group D (W) vs Group C (R)

CROATIA
DENMARK

**GROUP F**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
SWEDEN	2	0	1	3	6
MEXICO	2	0	1	-1	6
KOREA REPUBLIC	1	0	2	0	3
GERMANY	1	0	2	-2	3

Group F (W) vs Group E (R)

SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND

**GROUP H**

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
COLOMBIA	2	0	1	3	6
JAPAN	1	1	1	0	4
SENEGAL	1	1	1	0	4
POLAND	1	0	2	-3	3

Group H (W) vs Group G (R)

COLOMBIA
ENGLAND



**FIFA WORLD CUP 2018 the numbers at final whistle...**

Number of matches played	<b>64</b>	Successful passes.....	<b>49,651</b>
Number of Goals scored	<b>169</b>	Average goals per match .....	<b>2.6</b>
Yellow cards ...	<b>219</b>	Average passes per match .....	<b>775.8</b>
Red cards .....	<b>4</b>	Average yellow cards per match .....	<b>3.5</b>
		Average red cards per match .....	<b>0.06</b>

**Top three scorers**

<b>6</b> goals <b>Harry Kane</b> (England)	<b>4</b> goals <b>Antoine Greizmann</b> (France)	<b>4</b> goals <b>Romelu Kukaku</b> (Belgium)
--------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

Most number of goals scored (Belgium) .....	<b>16</b>	Most goal attempts (Brazil) .....	<b>27</b>
Most number of attacks (Croatia) .....	<b>352</b>	Most distance covered (Croatia) .....	<b>72</b>
Most number of successful passing (England) .....	<b>3336</b>	Most successful passes (Spain) .....	<b>485</b>
Best defending (Croatia) clearances, tackles and saves .....	<b>301</b>	Most saves (Belgium) .....	<b>27</b>
Most goals in a tournament (Belgium versus Tunisia) .....	<b>7</b>		
Most goal attempts (Belgium versus Tunisia) (Tournament average 18.5) .....	<b>31</b>		
Most cards shown (Belgium versus Panama) (Tournament average 3.5) .....	<b>8</b>		
Most passes successfully completed (Spain versus Russia) (Tournament average 775.8) .....	<b>1235</b>		

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# France World Cup star Mbappe to take crown from Messi and Ronaldo

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo need to 'hand over their crown' as the world's best players to teenage France forward Kylian Mbappe, says former England defender Rio Ferdinand.

Mbappe, 19, scored his side's fourth goal as France beat Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup final in Moscow, and won the tournament's best young player award.

Paris St-Germain forward Mbappe is only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final after Pele in 1958. Ronaldo, 33, and Messi, 31, have been considered the best players in the world for a decade, winning the past 10 Ballon d'Or awards between them.

Mbappe scored four goals in Russia as two-time winners France were crowned world champions for the first time since 1998.

Former Germany striker and manager Jurgen Klinsmann, speaking on World Cup Match of the Day, said Mbappe looked like he had been playing in France's team 'for 10 years'.



Some are just getting to know the teenager, but the truth is 19-year-old Mbappé has already had quite an impressive career, starting when he was a babe. Growing up in the northern Parisian suburb of Bondy, Mbappé practically lived at the local soccer club, where soccer pros asserted he was a star from day one. Mbappé's dad Wilfried, originally from Cameroon, is a soccer coach who started working with Mbappé when he was just a tot. His mother, Algerian-born Fayza Lamari, was also an impressive athlete, playing Division 1 handball in Bondy in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Mbappé's own generation is no exception to the sporty family tradition. His adopted older brother, Jirès Kembo, plays professionally for Turkey, and his little brother Ethan, seven years younger than Kylian, is a member of Paris Saint-Germain's under-12 team.

After he won on Sunday, Mbappé said this is only the beginning. "I want to do even better things," he told reporters, in French. "But being world champion is a good start."

# Harry Kane wins Golden Boot and Luka Modric the Golden Ball



England captain Harry Kane has won the Golden Boot after finishing as the World Cup's top scorer with Croatia's Luka Modric winning the Golden Ball for being the player of the tournament.

Belgium midfielder Eden Hazard was the second-best player, with France forward Antoine Griezmann third. His French team-mate Kylian Mbappe won the Young Player Award.

Belgium's Thibaut Courtois was awarded the Golden Glove for being the leading goalkeeper.

Former Tottenham midfielder Modric scored in Croatia's opening two matches - a 2-0 win over against Nigeria and then the 3-0 victory against Argentina - and also made one assist as he guided his country to their first World Cup final, which they lost 4-2 against France.

Atletico Madrid striker Griezmann won the Golden Boot at the 2016 European Championships with six goals and scored four and made a further two at this World Cup.

Paris St-Germain forward Mbappe, 19, enhanced

his growing reputation with a series of fine performances that saw him awarded with a silver ball for winning the Young Player Award.

He scored the only goal in France's 1-0 group win against Peru, netted twice in the 4-3 win over Argentina in the last 16 and grabbed France's fourth goal in the final.



Chelsea's Courtois helped Belgium finish third with a number of fine performances in goal to earn the Golden Glove Award. He kept clean sheets in the group win over Panama and the two matches against England and made a number of vital saves in the wins over Japan and Brazil.

Kane is the second Englishman to end as the top scorer in a World Cup

after Gary Lineker scored six goals in 1986.

Mbappe and Griezmann, who both scored in France's 4-2 final win over Croatia, ended on four goals apiece, two behind Kane.

Russia's Denis Cheryshev, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Belgium's Romelu Lukaku also scored four times.

Kane, the Premier League top scorer in two of the past three seasons, also became the first Englishman since Tommy Lawton in 1939 to score in six consecutive internationals, although he did not net in England's last three matches in Russia.



Kane's goals all came in England's first four games, with three from the penalty spot.

Despite being the top goalscorer in Russia, Kane still finished seven goals short of the tally set by France's Just Fontaine in Sweden in 1958.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Killer Algorithms



**Cori Crider**

US lawyer who investigates the national security state and the ethics of technology in intelligence. She is a former director of international human rights organization Reprieve.



Warnings about the risks posed by artificial intelligence seem to be everywhere nowadays. From Elon Musk to Henry Kissinger, people are sounding the alarm that super-smart computers could wipe us out, like in the film 'The Terminator'. To hear them talk, you would think we were on the brink of dystopia, that Skynet is nearly upon us.

These warnings matter, but they gloss over a more urgent problem: weaponized Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already here. As you watch this, powerful interests – from corporations to state agencies, like the military and police – are using AI to monitor people, assess them, and to make consequential decisions about their lives. Should we have a treaty ban on autonomous weapons? Absolutely. But we do not need to take humans 'out of the loop' to do damage. Faulty algorithmic processing has been hurting poor and vulnerable communities for years.

I first noticed how data-driven targeting could go wrong five years ago, in Yemen. I was

in the capital, Sana'a, interviewing survivors of an American drone attack that had killed innocent people. Two of the civilians who died could have been US allies.

One was the village policeman, and the other was an imam who had preached against al-Qaeda days before the strike. One of the men's surviving relatives, an engineer called Faisal bin Ali Jaber, came to me with a simple question: Why were his loved ones targeted?

Faisal and I traveled 7,000 miles from the Arabian Peninsula to Washington looking for answers. White House officials met Faisal, but no one would explain why his family got caught in the crosshairs.

In time, the truth became clear. Faisal's relatives died because they got mistakenly caught up in a semi-automated targeting matrix. We know this because the US has admitted that its drones attack targets whose identities are unknown.

That is where AI comes in. The US does not have deep human intelligence sources in Yemen, so it relies heavily on massive sweeps of signals data. AI processes this data and throws up red flags in a targeting algorithm. A human fired the missiles, but almost certainly did so on the software's recommendation.

These kinds of attacks, called 'signature strikes', make up the majority of drone strikes.

Meanwhile, civilian airstrike deaths have become more numerous under President Donald Trump – over 6,000 last year in Iraq and Syria alone.

This is AI at its most controversial. And the controversy spilled over to Google this spring, with thousands of the company's employees protesting, and some resigning, over a bid to help the Defense Department analyze drone feeds. But this is not the only potential abuse of AI we need to consider.

Journalists have started exploring many problematic uses of AI: predictive policing heatmaps have amplified racial bias in our criminal justice system. Facial recognition, which the police are currently testing in cities like London, has been wrong as much as 98 percent of the time. Shop online? You may be paying more than your neighbor because of discriminatory pricing. And we have all heard how state actors have exploited Facebook's News Feed to put propaganda on the screens of millions.

Academics sometimes say that the field of AI and machine learning is in its adolescence. If that is the case, it is an adolescent we have given the power to influence our news, to hire and fire people, and even kill them.

For human rights advocates and concerned citizens, investigating and controlling these uses of AI is one of the most urgent issues we face. Every time we hear of a data-driven policy decision, we should ask ourselves: who is using the software? Who are they targeting? Who stands to gain, and who to lose? And how do we hold the people who use these tools, as well as the people who built them, to account?

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## SHOWCASING FUTURE OF HOSPITALITY

*Branded luxury hotels and resorts that bear a multiplicity of stars on their epaulettes are a dime a dozen in the area. Standing out in the midst of this regional hospitality opulence is the Al Areen Palace & Spa in Bahrain which offers a one-off experience unlike any other.*

Unless one experiences the ambiance, offerings and service at the resort it is difficult to appreciate just how much it differs from other luxury hospitality sites in the region. The Times Kuwait recently had the opportunity to visit the property and experience first-hand its various unique offerings...

A less than 30-minute ride from Bahrain International Airport takes us

to Al Areen Palace & Spa. Reflecting traditional Arabian architecture, the resort seamlessly blends Bahraini history and culture with traditional Arabian charm and hospitality with contemporary flair, to offer elegance and refined allure along with every conceivable luxury. Spread across more than 131,000 square meters, the resort features 78 luxuriously appointed spacious villas, made up of 22 two-bedroom Royal Pool Villas and 56 one-bedroom Desert Pool Villas, each with its own private courtyard, temperature-controlled swimming pool and Jacuzzi.



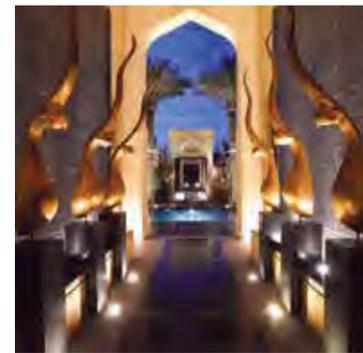
Located in a secluded and serene area with the surrounding desert separating it from the noise and bustle of city life, the resort is nevertheless adjacent to a number of entertainment and leisure venues. This allows the resort to offer guests the best of both worlds – indulgent relaxation in isolated intimacy, as well as easy access to a unique mix of activities designed to entertain every member of the family.



The resort abuts the Al Areen Wildlife Park and Natural Reserve, and the Lost Paradise of Dilmun, Bahrain's biggest water park, while being adjacent to the Bahrain International Circuit, the Middle East's first-ever Grand Prix circuit. The resort is also within a 5- to 15-minute distance of popular sports and leisure arenas, such as the world's tallest indoor skydiving

wind tunnel at Gravity, the Bahrain Sailing Club, the Royal Golf Club and the Al Zallaq Beach, one of the few truly public beaches in Bahrain.

The first thing that one notices about the family-focused, wellness-oriented destination is their individualized approach to service. You are not just a faceless entity and referred to among staff as "Guest



in room number XYZ wants fresh towels." You are identified and addressed by your name, and this makes a huge difference in the quality of service, and in how it is provided.

A highlight of the stay at Al Areen Palace & Spa is the resort's multi-award-winning wellness center and its 'Live your Life' program. The wellness center which boasts the Middle-East's largest spa facility also has the world's most extensive spa and hydrotherapy garden. The Live your Life program offers integrated healthcare services that seamlessly combine Western and Eastern medicines with the latest health reviving technologies. Certified therapist and health professionals are on hand to offer a suitable therapy aimed at relieving your stress and reviving your spirits.

The wellness-center provides separate treatment rooms and facilities that include a vitality pool, ice igloo, foot spa, the world's largest

modern-day built Hammam and a hydrothermal garden. The Hammam, which sits beneath a grand dome and draws its inspiration from ancient Middle-Eastern gardens and baths, offers a holistic approach to physical and spiritual wellbeing, while providing them with a range of water therapies. For its part, the Hydrothermal Garden, described as a lush and tranquil sanctuary of wellness and rejuvenation, offers the therapeutic benefits of an array of hydrothermal facilities.

Dining options at the resort include international cuisine at the Rimal, succulent East Asian specialties at Keizo, and fusion dining of Khaleeji and Indian dishes at the Saffron. Set against backdrop of the serene desert and the stillness of the pool, dining on the culinary delights provided by the restaurants is an occasion to cherish and remember. The resort also provides In-villa Dining that allows you to enjoy the exceptional fine cuisine from the comfort and privacy of your private villa.

Besides providing secluded luxury and wellness therapies, the Al Areen Palace & Spa also provides the perfect romantic setting for an Arabian wedding or reception. The resort offers an extensive range of facilities that include five different indoor banquet venues, a pre-function area, an outdoor tent (Al Qasr), and two restaurants that can be customized to host uniquely themed weddings and events. A talented team of event specialists assist the staff to ensure every detail of your event is planned and executed flawlessly.

When you next plan a visit to Bahrain, one of the most visited countries in the Middle-East, or you simply want to experience a totally different 5-star hospitality experience, try the Al Areen Palace & Spa, we assure that you will not be disappointed.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Fossil-Fuel Doublespeak



**Lili Fuhr and Hannah McKinnon**

Lili Fuhr heads the Ecology and Sustainable Development Department at the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Hannah McKinnon is Director of the Energy Futures and Transitions Program at Oil Change International.



Since the Paris climate agreement was signed in 2015, too many policymakers have fallen for the oil and gas industry's rhetoric about how it can help to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Tall tales about 'clean coal', 'oil pipelines to fund clean energy', and 'gas as a bridge-fuel' have coaxed governments into rubber-stamping new fossil-fuel projects, even though current fossil-fuel production already threatens to push temperatures well beyond the Paris agreement's limit of well below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that in 2016, investment in the oil and gas sector totaled \$649 billion, and that fossil-fuel subsidies within the G20 countries amounted to \$72 billion. And by 2030, investments in new gas projects across G20 countries are expected to surpass \$1.6 trillion.

Clearly, the industry has pulled out all the stops to expand production and profits before the world moves to a decarbonized economy. And so far, it is succeeding, because it has convinced governments of multiple falsehoods.

For starters, there is the claim that natural gas can be a 'bridge-fuel' to a stable climate even though its climate impact often equals that of coal, or worse. In reality, a 'dash for gas' would consume almost two-thirds of G20 countries' combined carbon budget by 2050. Worse, new gas production often displaces not coal, but wind- and solar-energy projects, both of which are now cheaper than coal and gas in many regions. The fact that most new investments in gas production assume at least a 30-year operational timeline should be evidence enough that they are not geared toward reducing emissions anytime soon.

“Governments that know better should not be helping fossil-fuel companies profit from the mounting climate crisis. The industry's spin machine threatens to trap us all in a dangerous status quo.”

One would expect the European Union to lead the way toward a decarbonized future. But, if anything, it seems to be doing the opposite. Since 2014, the EU has allocated €1 billion (\$1.16 billion) to the natural-gas sector. And though the European Commission's proposed 2020-2027 budget would reduce such funding, it would allow member states to continue spending taxpayers' money on fossil-fuel production. Yet, according to a study by British climate scientists Kevin Anderson and John Broderick, in order to meet its climate commitments, the EU must phase out all fossil fuels by 2035.

Another industry canard is that income from oil and gas expansion is needed to fund the transition to a clean economy. This incoherent claim has underpinned policy in Canada, where the authorities continue to push for major

new tar-sands pipelines. Most recently, the government stepped in and paid the Texas-based energy firm Kinder Morgan \$3.4 billion for a 65-year-old pipeline in order to ensure its planned expansion, which the company had deemed too risky.

This use of public funds is particularly objectionable because it threatens to lock in the very energy sources that are driving dangerous climate change. Implicit in any major new investment in energy infrastructure is that operations will continue for decades, as even if demand and prices fall dramatically, an owner or investor will prefer some income return on that capital rather than nothing. As a result, politically and legally, it is much harder to shut down a project than to stop it before it starts.

A third ingredient of fossil-fuel flimflam is so-called clean coal, often relying on carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. Governments and the energy industry have long framed CCS as a silver bullet for climate change, and thus as a perfect excuse for postponing meaningful reductions in fossil-fuel use. And now, CCS is even being promoted as an enabling technology for magical schemes that can 'suck' carbon out of the atmosphere.

CCS was originally developed for enhanced oil recovery (EOR), whereby pressurized CO2 is pumped into older oil reservoirs to extract otherwise inaccessible crude oil, significantly boosting production, and thus greenhouse-gas emissions. The technique has been used for more than 40 years, particularly in the United States. But it is costly in terms of both money and energy: a coal-fired power station that adopts CCS must burn even more coal in order to produce the same amount of energy.

The main reason that oil companies have become such strong proponents of CCS is that it offers them a source of subsidized CO2 for use in EOR. Companies such as Shell and Statoil have spent decades and billions of dollars on CCS research and development, and all they have to show for it is a few commercial-scale CCS operations. It is already clear that CCS is commercially viable only when used for EOR, which means that coal itself will never be a clean fuel, even if modern filters can be used to reduce particulate air pollution.

A final claim often made by oil and gas companies is that they can execute any given project more 'cleanly' than anyone else. Energy companies have been racing to announce new technologies and measures that supposedly improve the efficiency of their current operations, as if that should give them the right to increase production unabated.

But, as with the rest of the industry's doublespeak, this logic more often than not leads to further lock-in, as firms sink ever more funding into unproven negative-emissions

technologies and other measures that will perpetuate dependence on fossil fuels. For example, the Canadian province of Alberta, home of the tar sands, is investing \$304 million explicitly to "help [oil sands] companies increase production and reduce emissions."

At a time when science and expertise are increasingly being dismissed as elitist conceits, governments that know better should not be helping fossil-fuel companies profit from the

mounting climate crisis. The industry's spin machine threatens to trap us all in a dangerous status quo. The global climate movement is redefining leadership on this issue, but nongovernmental organizations and activists alone cannot usher in a decarbonized future. Governments that claim to be committed to the Paris accord must offer a robust plan for phasing out fossil fuels, rather than supporting that sector's continued expansion.



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# SLOVENIA

## A destination of wonder

*An earthly paradise of snow-capped peaks, turquoise-green rivers and Venetian-style coastline, Slovenia enriches its natural treasures with harmonious architecture, charming rustic culture and sophisticated cuisine. Here are some activities to do on your visit to Slovenia.*

**Mount Triglav:** This is Slovenia's highest peak, it appears on the nation's flag and folk here do not consider themselves true Slovenes until they scale old 'Three Heads' at least once. There are as many as 20 different ways to reach the peak, but unless you are extremely experienced, it is best to follow the trail from the Pokljuka Plateau south west of Bled. A strong climber could make it up and down in 12 hours, but it is best to spend the night in one of two mountain huts closer to the summit.



**Postojna Cave:** Postojna Cave is Slovenia's most visited sight for its formations of stalagmites and stalactites are unrivalled anywhere and it is home to the endangered Proteus anguinus, a blind salamander known as 'the human fish' because of its pinkish skin colour. Created by the Pivka River two million years ago, the 'cave' is in fact a series of caverns, halls and passages 20.6km long. Visitors get to see 5.7km of it on a 1 1/2-hour tour - 4km via an underground train and the rest on foot on a path with some gradients but no steps.

**Vipava Valley:** The Vipava Valley is also home to ideal paragliding conditions. You do not need any prior knowledge or training to take a tandem flight with a qualified instructor. Once in the air



you can relax as the wind carries you up and back down the Valley, enjoying views out over the Gulf of Trieste and the Julian Alps. The average flight lasts between 20 and 50 minutes, depending on the weather conditions. Also popular is the Hike and fly experience which involves a guided hike up the valley before strapping on your parachute and gilding back down to the bottom.



**Ljubljana Castle:** This is the one sight in Ljubljana you simply can't miss - in every sense. Crowning a 375m hill south of the Old Town, the castle is an architectural mishmash, but most of it dates from the early 16th century when it was largely rebuilt after a devastating earthquake. You can roam the castle grounds for free, but you will have to pay to enter the Viewing Tower, with its 12-minute Virtual Castle film and the remarkable Chapel of St George (1489). Next door is the Slovenian History Exhibition, which guides you through the past via historic objects and multimedia exhibits.



**Sečovlje:** Salt-making has been one of the traditional mainstays of Slovenia's coastal economy. If you want to learn more about it, head for the salt pans at Sečovlje, south-east of Portorož. They now comprise the 750-hectare Sečovlje Salina Nature Park, criss-crossed with dikes, channels and pools once used to collect, drain, wash and grind salt from the sea. In the centre is the wonderful Saltmaking Museum, which focuses on all aspects of salt-making and the lives of salt workers and their families. Salt is still produced in the traditional way here - up to 2,000 tons a year. You can experience being 'saltpan worker for a day' for €25 in summer, but only in good weather.

**Radovljica:** The lovely town of Radovljica, 50km north-west of Ljubljana, boasts wonderful 'folk baroque' and views of the Alps.



## Slovenia, Europe's surprising new foodie hotspot

**F**or a small country, the variety of tastes for a foodie is incredible. Alpine dishes are a total contrast to those found along the Adriatic coast, while foods in the Karst region and Pannonian Plain offer yet more flavours and cooking techniques. In the summer months there are myriad food festivals and open kitchens celebrating food in all its glory.

And recently, with the rise of home-grown super chef Ana Roš, Slovenia is definitely the one to watch in European gastronomy. Slovenia has the good fortune of being nestled between Italy, Austria and Hungary,



absorbing food culture from all its neighbours, creating something of a melting pot of influences and flavours.

Food is a huge part of the culture too, so to really understand Slovenians, it is vital to eat with them and enjoy the food that has developed in different areas. Today there are 24 separate gastronomic regions, with over 170 distinguishable dishes and a wide variety of tastes for every palette. Hearty, rustic foods such as soups and stews, with dumplings and a variety of home-grown breads are the perfect reward for long walks in the beautiful countryside. Roast potatoes are such a big deal in the country that there is even a Roast Potato Festival to celebrate the humble spud.

Sunday lunch is the perfect opportunity to enjoy hearty roast meats with vegetable and salad side dishes - look out for Slovenian pumpkin seed dressing on big, healthy salads, a particular favourite of the natives.

For hiking and biking energy in the mountains, try traditional porridge made with soured milk, favoured by shepherds and found in the kitchens of the mountain huts that dot the landscape.

Make sure you leave room for dessert, though, because the cakes, tarts and strudels are delectable. Look out for Sirova zafkr(n)jača, a type of cheesecake, but like none you will have ever tried before. Layered cakes, leavened sweet breads and pastry tarts are all popular last courses.

Warming stews and rustic potato dishes are a big part of the country's traditions, but much of Slovenia's food is light and summery, with a big focus on using fresh ingredients grown locally. Salad is an important dish so look out for local areas' takes on it. And other lighter bites to try include frika - an omelette made with potatoes and cheese, and šmorn, a scrambled pancake.

Slovenia can also thank its blossoming bioculture, with fresh, unpolluted waters and protected landscape for some of its most delicious fish and vegetable dishes.

Linhartov trg, the main square, is lined with houses dating from the 16th century and has been called 'the most homogeneous old town core in Slovenia'. Koman House at No 23 has a baroque painting on its facade of St Florian, the patron saint of firefighters, and Mali House next door has a just visible picture of St George slaying the dragon. But the main sight here is in Thurn Manor at No 1: the Beekeeping Museum.



# Doing things differently rekindles pleasure

The old phrase 'Same old same old', and its more modern acronym 'SOMO' among the Twitterati crowd, in reference to something that remains the same, especially when it is boring, takes on a whole new meaning in light of recent research.

Over time many of us find the same routine or situation in our daily life becoming boring or tiring, whether it is our job, daily commute or something more mundane as the furniture at home or the foods we eat. One way to regain pleasure from the activities we once enjoyed and help shake us out of a sense of complacency, is to try doing it differently, says researchers at the University of Ohio and the University of Chicago, at the end of their study on the subject.

The scientists base their conclusions on the findings of several experiments that they conducted, and which assessed different activities, including individual eating and drinking habits, as well as social activities.

In one experiment, the researchers worked with 68 people who were told that they would be taking part in a project about "helping people eat more slowly." Half of the volunteers were asked to eat 10 pieces of popcorn using their hands, while the rest of the participants ate the same number of popcorn pieces but using chopsticks to pick them up. At the end of the experiment, all of the participants were asked to rate how much they had enjoyed eating the popcorn, as well as

how flavorful they thought it was and how much fun they had had eating it.

It turned out that the chopstick-wielding eaters found the experience more enjoyable than their counterparts, who tackled the snacks in the normal way. The clues to this enjoyment was found in the report filed by individual participants. The chopstick users believed that the unusual technique allowed them to feel more focused on the eating and therefore more appreciative of the taste. "When you eat popcorn with chopsticks," one wrote, "you pay more attention and you are more immersed in the experience. It's like eating popcorn for the first time."

When the researchers repeated the experiment, though, all the participants seemed to enjoy the popcorn just as much, no matter how they ate the snack. The researchers content that this could be because, "chopsticks boost enjoyment as they provide an unusual first-time experience, not because they provide a better way to eat popcorn."

In another experiment, the team worked with 300 participants, asking them to rate their experience of drinking water when they drank it the way they normally would versus when they had it in a "fresh, new, and fun" manner of their own invention.

The researchers discovered that the participants who drank water in unusual ways — from a wine glass, for instance, or from an



envelope, or even lapping it up like a cat — said that they enjoyed it more than those who stuck to a normal water-drinking method.

The research team also conducted another experiment that involved asking some volunteers to watch a very short video three times in a row. In the first two viewings, all the volunteers watched the video in a regular way twice in a row, rating their enjoyment in each instance.

For the final viewing, a third of the study participants were instructed to watch the clip using 'hand goggles', which involved forming 'lenses' with their thumbs and index fingers. They were also asked to simulate a first-person experience by all moving their heads in unison with the movements of the motorcycle. Another third of the group watched the video flipped

upside down, and the remaining participants watched it in a normal way for the third time in a row. Participants who watched the clip through 'hand goggles' rated their enjoyment the highest, while those who watched it in the conventional way reported having lost interest in it by the third viewing. Those who watched the video flipped upside down said that they had not enjoyed it very much — while this type of viewing was unusual, the researchers note, it was also uncomfortable, which explains their lack of enthusiasm.

To confirm that those who used 'hand goggles' had a higher enjoyment of the video itself — not just of the funny experience — the scientists told all the volunteers at the end of the experiment that they could download the clip and keep it, if they wanted to.

Three times as many people who had watched the clip through 'hand goggles' downloaded it as participants who had viewed it in other ways. The 'hand goggle' viewers felt that the video was better because they got to pay more attention to what they were watching and were more immersed in what they were doing than they would have otherwise, concluded the researchers. The study shows that it may be easier to feel pleasure from an activity that was becoming stale by doing it differently. Trying something differently is also a whole lot better, and definitely less wasteful, than buying new things to replace a lost sense of pleasure from something old or familiar.

## Spending time outside is good for you



Health experts have been advising us to spend more time outside for ages. This lifestyle recommendation got a new boost last week with researchers at the University of East Anglia in the UK releasing a new report that shows exposure to greenspace reduces the risk of type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, premature death, preterm birth, stress and high blood pressure.

For the study, 'green space' was defined as any open, undeveloped land with natural vegetation, as well as urban greenspaces, which included urban parks and street greenery. The team analyzed how the health of people with little access to green spaces compared to that of people with the highest amounts of exposure.

The study found that spending time in, or living close to, natural green spaces was associated with diverse and significant health benefits. The researchers found that exposure to greenspace also significantly reduced people's level of salivary cortisol — a psychological marker of stress. The data derived from over 140 studies involving more than 290 million people from 20 countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Australia, Japan and the US, also revealed that populations with higher levels of greenspace exposure were more likely to report good overall health over the long-term.

In Japan, a therapy that is increasingly gaining popularity is 'forest bathing', which involves

participants spending time in forests or other large greenspaces, either sitting or lying down, or just walking around. Researchers admitted that they had no specific idea as to why greenspaces were beneficial to overall health.

Researchers believe that people living near greenspace likely have more opportunities for physical activity and socializing, or the exposure to a diverse variety of bacteria present in natural areas may also have benefits for the immune system and reduce inflammation in humans. Research from Japan suggests that phytoncides — organic compounds with antibacterial properties — released by trees could explain the health-boosting properties of forest bathing.

We often reach for medication when we are unwell but exposure to health-promoting environments is increasingly recognized as both preventing and helping treat disease. Our study shows that the size of these benefits can be enough to have a meaningful clinical impact, said a member of the research team.

He added, "We hope that this research will inspire people to get outside more and feel the health benefits for themselves. Hopefully our results will encourage policymakers and town planners to invest in the creation, regeneration, and maintenance of parks and greenspaces, particularly in urban residential areas and deprived communities that could benefit the most."

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