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## Fiscal, structural reforms help trim budget deficit



**K**uwait's annual budget for fiscal year 2016/2017 (FY16/17) with a projected official deficit of KD8.7 billion, or 26 percent of GDP, recently received approval from the National Assembly. However, analysts believe the deficit is likely to be significantly smaller, given that the base price of \$35 per barrel of oil, used as the basis for the budget, is below the average price.

According to analysts at the country's leading commercial bank, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the deficit, before the mandatory transfer to the Future Generations Fund (FGF), is likely to be in the range of 13 percent. The bank also notes that in order to partially tide over the third consecutive budget deficit brought about sustained low oil prices, the government is expected to

issue sovereign bonds, in addition to introducing much needed structural and fiscal reforms.

A review of salient features in the budget reveal that total revenues for FY16/17 at KD10.2 billion are lower by 16 percent from a year earlier. Despite a slight increase in oil production to 2.8 million barrels per day, the budget projects oil revenue which makes up 89 percent of total revenue to decline. On the other hand, non-oil revenue, which makes up 11 percent of total revenue, is budgeted at KD1.6 billion, up 11 percent from the previous year. But experts believe that this oil revenue decline is again based on an assumed price of \$35 per barrel, compared to \$45 in the last fiscal. With oil currently trading at over

*Continued on Page 14*



## Rents slide as realty sector experiences market corrections

**E**xpected summer slow-down of real estate activity exacerbated by advent of holy month of Ramadan in June, saw sales across all realty sectors down by 22 percent from the same six-month period of last year. Experts believe this sales sluggishness is in line with an ongoing gradual correction in the market that has been going on since 2015.

Sales transaction in the residential sector was down 24 percent year-on-year (y/y) while sales in dinar terms dropped by 27 percent y/y to KD 88 million. Home sales accounted for 63 percent of the sector's transactions while plots made up the remaining 36 percent. The benchmark NBK

residential home price index, which has been trending downward since the beginning of 2015, notched 165.2 points down from its peak of 186 points in January 2015.

Meanwhile, the investment-building sales (smaller apartments bought as investment), which accounted for 55 percent of total transactions, had a slight upward momentum with total sales tipping KD73 million. While this was an uptick of 15 percent compared to the previous month, sales were still down 40 percent y/y. In the commercial sector, though sales were higher than the previous year in dinar terms, it was slightly lower in volume from the same period last year.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# The Education Roadmap to 2030



**Helle Thorning-Schmidt**

A former Prime Minister of Denmark, she is the Chief Executive of Save the Children and a Commissioner on the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity.

When I visited the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan earlier this year, I met with children who told me what education means to them. For Syrian youths who have been forced from their homes and have lost everything, education is about more than qualifications or test scores; it embodies their hope for the future.

Children like those in Zaatari, and millions of others around the world, are central to the work of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, which I joined last September. This commission is committed to the fourth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal, which aims, by 2030, to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

This goal is still a distant prospect for far too many children. With so many development issues demanding our attention, policymakers should bear in mind that education is not just a good in itself; it is also a catalyst for many other development gains.

As the old African proverb goes, if you educate a girl, you educate an entire nation. Ensuring access to quality education for children, especially girls, will lead to fewer child marriages and less child labor and exploitation. And education has long-term societal benefits: aside from increased political engagement, educated children contribute intellectual capital and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities when they grow up, boosting economic growth.

Tackling the education challenge needs to start from two principles



*Education has long-term societal benefits: aside from increased political engagement, educated children contribute intellectual capital and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities when they grow up, boosting economic growth.*

embedded in the goal.

First, 'for all' means that we must focus on the children who have been left behind. Millions of children are out of school or are receiving a substandard education because of who they are or where they live. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than other children in the countries to which they've been displaced. And in all but two African countries, girls remain less likely than boys to complete a primary education. Getting these children into school will require new approaches that directly address their exclusion and make schooling genuinely accessible and relevant.

Second, 'quality': Education must be effective, so that children actually learn. For the 61 million children who are out of primary school, formal education is beyond reach. But, just as urgently, more than one-third of children of primary-school age - 250

million - are not learning the basics, according to the UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Half of these children have been in school for at least four years. We must address the barriers to learning, both in the classroom and at home, by improving the quality of teaching and classroom conditions and teaching parents how they can support their children's education.

Upholding these two principles will require increased investment. Last year, UNESCO calculated that governments must double education spending as a share of national income to achieve the 2030 goals. This will require increased revenue from taxation and stronger efforts to collect what's owed. Donors also need to live up to their aid commitments and target aid more effectively. For example, less than one-third of education aid goes to Africa, even though the region accounts for almost two-thirds of out-of-school children. Moreover, at

the moment, education budgets are often regressive, with almost half of spending in the poorest countries allocated to the most educated 10 percent of the population.

Fixing education investment requires action in two key areas.

First, we need equitable financing, with more investment in early childhood care and development, where there is the biggest potential for returns. Budgets must be focused on the most excluded children, and primary education must be free at the point of use, so that every child can learn. We also urgently need more transparency and accountability, so that budgets are visible and communities have a say in school governance.

Second, we need to strengthen domestic education systems so that governments see themselves as the guarantor of accessible, quality schools for their citizens, rather than abdicating that role to outside development agencies. In particular, we should push for partnerships between government and business to boost domestic resources for education, and eliminate illicit capital flows that deprive governments of the means to fund it, such as tax evasion and money laundering across national borders.

With these priorities in mind, the education commission will deliver its recommendations at the UN General Assembly on September 18, when the Secretary-General will receive and act on them. The education commission will have succeeded if we are able to leverage the funding and political will to ensure that every child learns, regardless of their income, location, or social status. Our work will not be complete until that happens.

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# Embrace a world free of nuclear weapons

To mark the UN International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August, an international conference is to be held on that date in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The day also marks



the 25th anniversary of the decision by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to close down the country's only nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. To mark the occasion, the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United States published the commentary reprinted below.

As we have underlined on many occasions, we are living in deeply uncertain times. Our



world faces complex challenges and threats that put at risk all we have achieved and all our hopes for the future. The global economy

remains weak. While we may have agreed on the threat that climate change poses, we are still a long way from taking the collective action needed. Extremist groups put at risk our safety and stability. And their menace is linked to nuclear weapons.

Last month, the new British Prime Minister Theresa May, reminded us that "the nuclear threat has not gone away, if anything, it has increased." Former U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry also warned that the nuclear threat is greater today than during the Cold War. These stark warnings are based on concerns that terrorist groups, such as ISIS, are actively seeking to get hold of the material and technology to build nuclear weapons. The international community must step up its counterterrorism efforts to prevent these evil and dangerous groups from achieving their objective.

Of course, it is not all bad news. There has been a significant global reduction in nuclear weapons and nuclear material stockpiles. Dozens of countries are now free of weapons-grade materials. Central Asia is among the regions which are nuclear weapons-free zones, thanks to the initiative of Kazakhstan and its regional partners. But there are still approximately 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world.

It is against this background that Kazakhstan, and the world, is to mark the 25th anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. It is an event with a huge significance for our country, which is one of the few to have suffered the horror and devastation that nuclear explosions cause. It is why Kazakhstan has taken

the lead in the global campaign to move to a world free of nuclear weapons.

The international conference "Building a Nuclear Weapons Free World" which takes place in Astana on Aug. 29 - the exact anniversary of President Nursultan Nazarbayev's decision to shut down the test site as Semipalatinsk and now the UN International Day against Nuclear

Tests - will add much needed impetus to this important goal. It comes after President Nazarbayev published his manifesto setting out a blueprint for a world without nuclear weapons by 2045 and told the UN this must be the cause of our time. The conference comes at an important time. The newly established UN Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament is preparing to submit its report to the General Assembly on how multilateral

progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons can be made. In addition, the discussions can feed into the preparation for the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, which will begin in two years.

The Astana conference has attracted senior figures from nations that possess nuclear weapons, as well as non-nuclear-weapon states. Political and religious leaders, experts in the field of disarmament, as well as representatives of civil society, international and regional organizations, will take part in the discussions.

As U.S. President Barack Obama has said, moving to a world without nuclear weapons won't be easy. It requires the courage to take the steps, however small, to achieve this ambition over time. We must hope that the discussions in Astana help us plot the next stage of this journey.



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## Rents slide as realty sector experiences market corrections

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Sales for the month totaled KD30 million, which was up 15 percent y/y but with this amount coming from sales of five transactions, one less than the same period last year. Meanwhile, Secretary of Kuwait's Real Estate Association, Qais Al-Ghanem, said that contrary to what is expected at this time of the year when apartment rents usually go up on the back of the end of summer vacation and schools reopening, this year there has been a rent drop in many areas.

In Salmiya, rents dropped by an average of KD60 compared to two months ago. Al-

Ghanem predicted further drop in rents given a 30 percent decrease in price of investment lands in many areas, including Hawally, Salmiya and Farwaniya, with supply exceeding demand.

"Landlords usually wait for September and October to rent their empty apartments," Ghanem said, adding that the story is likely to be different this year as rents are expected to see a notable decrease. "The real estate market has been saturated following the boom in construction investment buildings, and rents will eventually go down following years of rent bubbles," he indicated.



# Drawing up a template for Continental Free Trade Area

Experts from the African Union Commission (AUC), supported by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), met on the sidelines of the 14th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was held from 17 to 22 July in Kenya, to work on the draft text of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Agreement.

This followed a decision by the 27th African Union Summit which was held in Rwanda to negotiate the CFTA, based on a template that provides room for wider consultation of stakeholders in national forums. The template agreement would also ensure efficiency in the CFTA

negotiations, allowing the tight deadline of 2017 to be met.

The template will also provide a pan-African approach to the negotiations, differentiating this continental milestone from the 'business as usual' approach and limited ambition. In particular, it will facilitate the engagement of all African countries on a level playing field by taking the CFTA process to the capitals and stakeholders on the ground.

The UNCTAD 14 saw experts offering a plethora of insights, including why extractive industries' policy should ensure their revenues are used to particularly "transform the



lives of those in the local area where the extraction is taking place"; why regional integration among African

countries grows innovation, which enhances competition; and, how boosting agricultural productivity

could bring about transformational effects for the continent.

The CFTA, which is expected to be in place by October 2017, will bring together fifty-four African countries with a combined population of more than one billion people and a combined gross domestic product of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

With the CFTA, African leaders aim to, among other things, create a single continental market for goods and services, free movement of business persons and investments and expand intra-African trade. The CFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise levels.

## Gender-parity proposed for elective positions in Kenya

A fresh attempt to achieve gender-parity in elective positions was made last week when a motion to table a bill on the two-thirds gender

bill, seeking to entrench the two-thirds gender rule, failed to sail through the National Assembly three months ago. Proponents of the

missed opportunity to comply with constitutionally specified timeline of 27 August. The new bill now before Senate presents a renewed opportunity to realize the rule.

To make it more palatable to the opposition, the Sijeny Bill has provided a sunset clause and also limited the number of times that a woman could benefit from being nominated under this mechanism.

For its part the government said it was committed to implementation of the principle, not only in the pursuit of constitutional compliance, but in the genuine conviction that empowering women was crucial to the development of the nation.

The law is meant to balance the composition of elective offices in Kenya to ensure there is equity in the government by not allowing one gender to hold more than two-thirds of elective positions.



rule, was presented before the Kenyan Senate by nominated Senator Judith Sijeny.

A previous government sponsored

bill attributed the failure to intense lobbying by opposing members and lack of proper information to the public. That defeat resulted in a



## ECA and UNITAR offer free online learning course

When it comes to social development indicators, Africa is a paradox of high unemployment and poverty coexisting with robust growth. Structurally transforming African economies will require trade-induced industrialization to play a greater role in growth of the continent.

In order to provide interested stakeholders with a better understanding of how trade can serve as an instrument of accelerated industrialization and structural transformation in Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) together with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), has partnered with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to offer a free instructor-led e-Learning course based on ECA's Economic Report for Africa 2015 (ERA 2015).

Earlier, during the first semester of 2016, the IDEP had organized a first round of seven short courses for mid-career and senior level African

policymakers. These courses were part of IDEP's portfolio of short courses organized on a yearly basis and aimed at addressing topics of importance to Africa's development.

The short courses, held at the IDEP headquarters in Senegal, included topics on agricultural and industrial policies, international trade and negotiations, data analysis, development planning and macroeconomic modeling.

In the framework of these training programs, 177 policymakers from 45 African countries were trained. All the five African sub-regions were represented and the continental coverage ratio was 83 percent and the number of female officials trained was 69, which reflects IDEP's sustained efforts to attract female participants in its programs, given the relatively low number of female applicants.

Registration for the new online course on trade-induced industrialization will be open from 9 September, 2016.

## Uganda MPs set to get new luxury cars

Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, announced that by October, each of the 427 members of parliament would receive Shs150 million (US\$45,000) each to buy cars of their choice to travel to their constituencies. This largesse is expected to cost the taxpayer in excess of Shs64 billion, or around \$20 million.

The issue came to the fore when parliamentarians had a heated exchange with the Executive members over a decision by the ministry of finance to exclude the amount needed for the vehicles from



the 2015/16 budget on the grounds that it had 'overshot' its budget ceiling.

The standoff in parliament was 'resolved' following Ms. Kadaga's announcement. Though no details

were available on how the agreement was reached, it has been reported that it involved the country's President Yoweri Museveni directing the finance ministry to mobilize money by introducing a supplementary budget to bankroll the venture.

With 22 new districts expected to be created between 2016 and 2019, the additional 22 MPs will require an extra Shs3.3 billion (\$980,000) for their vehicles, raising taxpayers' expenditure on MPs cars from about Shs40 billion (\$12 million) in 9th Parliament to nearly Shs70 billion (\$21 million) in the 10th Parliament.

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# Philippine Overseas Employment to impose stricter measures on agencies violating guidelines

**Ricky Laxa**  
Staff Writer

Department of Labor and Employment Undersecretary Circao Lagunzad III, during his recent visit to the Philippine shelters in Kuwait, said, "It is alarming to know that we have nearly five hundred wards in the shelter, definitely moratorium is never out of the table for discussion but this seriously needs consideration immediately after a composite team consisting of different representatives from various government agencies make their assessment after their visit to the shelters within this coming months".

With two existing shelters located in Hateen and Faiha, the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Renato Pedro Villa told the Philippine press that having such a huge number of runaways with different cases is definitely alarming and that the visit of two top Philippine officials was essential to evaluate the situation. Mr. Lagunzad III however told the Philippine

media during a press conference at the Philippine Embassy that moratorium is now subject for consideration depending on what grounds the moratorium will be implemented. Mr. Lagunzad also admitted that having such a huge number in the shelter is definitely a good ground to discuss further the issue of moratorium.

In an interview with the Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Hans Cacdac, The Times was told that the department will impose stricter measures to agencies that violate and fail to comply with guidelines and directives. "The rules and guidelines have been there from the beginning and they are very simple to understand and follow. Yet many still refuse to adhere to the directives. This time we will do the necessary to ensure that these agencies follow the guidelines and directives" commented Mr. Cacdac.

Househelpers, known among overseas Filipino workers as the most vulnerable to abuse and weaker



protection for human rights, are currently being deployed to Kuwait via recruitment agencies from Philippines and in partnership with their local counterparts. Several violations such as neglect of workers, substitution of contracts, physical, sexual and mental abuse from their deploying agencies, falsification of documents such as change of age of worker, and other

essential documents, failure to provide support to deployed workers while in the shelter and absence of monitoring the house helpers' situations and threat of incarceration should they refuse to return to their employers, have been leveled against the agencies.

Previous Philippine Labor Attache David Des Dicang, who is now currently working in Qatar, has imposed a zero

deployment for agencies that have wards in the shelter.

Such drive has caused a decrease in the number of runaways and more attention has been given to wards in the shelter. It was also recorded that during his tenure as Labor Attaché, the number of wards in the shelter have never reached such an alarming number and it had once gone down to less than a hundred.

Current Philippine Labor Attaché Atty Cesar Chavez has scheduled dialogues and meetings with the wards to update them on their cases and legal situations. Leaders of Filipino Community in Kuwait are currently rallying to petition Chavez to extend to another term; however an advocate group that strongly pushes for moratorium organization 'Sandigan' and other members of the media oppose the petition to extend the Labor Attaché's tenure. There are 220,000 Filipinos in Kuwait engaged in different jobs and 70% of the population is household helpers with an average of 10-15 runaways every week seeking refuge in the shelter.



## Maurya Kala Parisar and Indian Embassy to commemorate Hindi Diwas and Dinkar Birthday

The Indian Embassy in collaboration with Maurya Kala Parisar will commemorate both Hindi Divas (14 September) and the birth date (23 September) of Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, by organizing a program at the Indian Embassy Auditorium on 30 September.

The program will include 'Dinkar Poetry Awards 2016' by Maurya Kala Parisar between 1pm and 6pm, followed by an appreciation of Hindi Achiever of each school and an award distribution ceremony. Then, a Mushaira by known poets of Kuwait at 7pm in addition to a Kavi Sammelan. The Ambassador of India to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain will grace the occasion.

Entries are invited for Dinkar Poetry Awards, a competition for students to win prizes for Hindi Poetry Recitation and Original Hindi Poetry.

On this occasion Maurya Kala Parisar is also inviting two well known poets from India: Dr. Upendra Nath Pandey and Khursheed Akbar.

**The categories for the event are:**

**Categories (A):** Class IX to XI: Original poetry in Hindi by students

Poetry should be written by the student and submitted along with the entry.

(An image of handwritten work by mobile can be submitted.)

**Category (B):** Class VI to VIII: Recitation of Hindi poetry by students.

**Category (C):** Class IX to XI : Recitation of Hindi poetry by students.

**Guidelines:** Two to three minutes will be given to read the poem or a part of the poem can be read.

Last date for submission is 15 September at 5pm.

Entries are free of cost and can be sent by email to mauryakala@gmail.com

Entries should include name, class, school, contact number and email along with a copy of the poem for category A and author and poem name (without full poem) for category B and C.

Schools will be entitled to nominate two entries in each category (total six) for direct inclusion in the main competition. Schools and individuals can also submit open entries which may be screened.

The prizes are for individual students. Teachers and schools with large number of participants and winners will also be appreciated. The competition will be judged by those with experience in imparting Hindi education, reputed poets and authors of Kuwait. All students, teachers and schools are invited to submit their entries.

For more information: Contact - Afroz Alam (60977773 or 66272697); Afsar Alam (60785490), Abhay Kashyap (66443900) Sabir Ansari, Vivek Sinha (50074001) or mail to mauryakala@gmail.com

## Anotah launches the 2016 Fall/Eid Collection

Anotah, a leading regional fashion and lifestyle boutique, known for its luxurious mix of extravagance and elegance, has revealed its 2016 Fall/Eid collection, which was inspired by the vivacity of a dream. The collection brings kids, teens and ladies all the beauty of this season's colors and prints just in time for the Eid Al Adha celebrations next month.

The collection was revealed during an event which featured an exclusive appearance by fashion icon and social influencer Mrmr, who provided attendees and customers with fashion tips that helped every shopper find their style with the Fall/Eid collection.

Adding a touch of delight during the event, Anotah ensured that customers walked away with expert fashion tips and special gifts on purchasing any item of the Fall/Eid collection to celebrate the launch of the collection. The evening was lively with entertainment, beautiful decor and hors d'oeuvres from Dean & Deluca to set the mood.

The collection is made with the highest quality of fabrics, infusing neutral solid colors like navy and olive, burgundy and salmon backed by bold prints and stripes, and inspired by the Caribbean sky and ocean. Ladies eyeing the special occasion



wear will be inspired by the elegance of the collection, which involves embellishments such as pearls and crystals. Inspired by the colors and moods of the 1990's, Anotah's Teen collection is comprised of modern Parisian prints to help every young lady stand out from the crowd.

Anotah's kids Fall/Eid collection is fit for a dreamy little princess, featuring cute and fun prints, spots,

statements and florals in flowy fabrics and structured shapes.

Anotah has introduced a new line of everyday fashion called Simply Anotah, which is special for its economical pricing.

Anotah's outlets are located at The Avenues mall, Souk Sharq mall, Al Fanar mall, Al Bairaqq mall, Al Muhallab mall, and Kuwait Magic mall.



# Turkey looks to Gulf Nations to support tourism

In the lead up to the public holidays marking Eid Al Adha in September, the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism is looking to visitors from Gulf countries to offset the recent slump in the nation's tourist numbers. The ministry is turning to visitors from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, which have in the past represented the highest volume of

visitors to the nation.

"In spite of recent events, there are no security concerns in tourist destinations in Turkey. These facilities are, and will continue to be, completely safe. Hospitality services remain undisrupted and the comfort of foreign citizens visiting the nation continues to be a priority to us," said Salih Ozer, Attaché of Culture

and Information from Turkey to the UAE.

In recent years, the influx of tourists from the Gulf region into Turkey has surged; visitors from the region are estimated to contribute as much as six per cent to the Turkey's average annual tourism revenue. In fact, an impressive 582,698 Gulf tourists visited Turkey in 2014. "We hope that the upcoming Eid

Al Adha holidays will help boost tourist revenue. Especially, since the safety and comfort of tourists is being handled with the utmost care," adds Mr. Ozer.

As per the World Travel and Tourism Council, tourism created 580,000 jobs directly in 2014 in Turkey, which translates to 2.2 percent of the nation's total employment.



## New Indian restaurant, Vasantha Bhavan opens in Kuwait

Vasantha Bhavan, a new Indian restaurant, was inaugurated on 18 August, by the Ambassador of India to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain accompanied by Ali Al-Zaben and S. Ramadoss, Chairman and CEO of Global Technology Company. The new restaurant will contribute its own touch to the culinary diversity of Kuwait. The exclusive Indian vegetarian restaurant is offering a range of popular delicacies from across the various states of India. Their comprehensive menu is designed

to tantalize and stimulate both traditional and sophisticated palates. They give importance to quality and hygiene to safeguard their customers' health while maintaining reasonable prices. Vasantha Bhavan will soon be starting a home delivery service and a catering service for parties and events. They also plan on expanding their branches to different parts of Kuwait.

The restaurant is currently located in Mahboula, Building No. 98, Street 221, Block 2, behind Sarah Complex.

## Anisha helps publish NZ book, Herbie's Boys

Anisha Andrew Thomas, a resident of New Zealand, has been actively involved in Herbie's Boys, a publication started by the alumni of Lincoln University. The publication contains extensive details on the Rural Field Cadet (RFC) Scheme, which was a five-year government funded education scheme that in addition to other facilities provided a Diploma in the fields of Agriculture, Valuation and Farm Management following an 8-month intensive course.

The Scheme, which ran from 1941-1971, aimed to train farm advisers and develop the skills of personnel in the NZ government departments that oversee agriculture and farming in the country.

Since the inception of this publication, Miss Thomas has supervised and worked passionately on different parts of the publication; provided technical assistance, handled data management and the flow of information of the RFC group. Most recently, she ensured that the magazine was properly proof-read and contained the relevant matter before the print date. She was extended a special appreciation in the book's acknowledgements for her dedication and focus on the project.

Miss Thomas, daughter of Andrew and Lorraine Thomas, and former resident of Kuwait, is presently working at Lincoln University as Alumni and Development Officer. In her



Anisha Andrew Thomas

professional capacity, she maintains and encourages the relationship between the Lincoln alumni through her administration of the alumni website and database, in addition to organising a variety of events and reunions. She also energetically operates the Lincoln University's annual campaigns, designs and publishes the alumni newsletter and advances University and alumni engagement through a vibrant social media presence.

She has fond memories of her childhood in Kuwait, but attended boarding school - Good Shepherd International School in Ooty, India. Triumphant in many endeavours as the Sports Captain for her schools' team for 5 years, one of her major achievements was breaking the state high jump record for the Inter division and also the 400m record in the senior division. She completed her High School in Kuwait English School before moving abroad for University studies to Christchurch, New Zealand where she worked diligently for a Bachelor of Commerce with Hotel Management and Marketing at Lincoln University NZ, one of the Top 500 in world QS ranking.

During her vacations, she interned at The Times newspaper, where she was immersed in the various functions of the newspaper business. She is grateful for the experience that helped her sharpen her journalistic skills and be a positive influence in the Herbie's Boys publication.

## Pigeon sold for a record KD23,000

A pigeon was sold in Kuwait for a record KD23,000 (\$76,330) in an auction, prompting sharp criticism on social media. The pigeon is a roller known locally as 'Gallabi', a breed famous for performing spectacular air acrobatics.

A video of the auction that went viral on social media showed how the bids gradually reached the record figure amid pronounced enthusiasm by participants.

However, and despite the popularity of the Gallabi and reference to them as being among the most expensive pigeons in the world, media users were critical of the "astronomical" amount.

"Such a figure would make sense only if the pigeon had gold wings," Asmar, a user, said. "After all, it is



just a bird and people should be reasonable."

Brains poured scorn on the buyer. "His brain is as small as that

of a pigeon," he said. "He should have offered the money to the poor and the needy who would put it to a good use and help themselves, instead of wasting them on a bird."

Compassionate, a Saudi user, said that he was concerned the "quest for fake fame" would push people towards trivialities.

"I can see that the circus about paying shocking prices for beauty camels is now moving on to pigeons. I cannot begin to believe that at a time when some people are having problems putting food in their mouths, others are paying so much money for a pigeon."

Khalid contributed to the debate by posting that he expected a pigeon that fetched such a price to "be able to speak several languages".



## The Gym Team organizes Zumba seminar for full house crowd

Ricky Laxa  
Staff Writer

Four remarkable certified fitness trainers took the stage Friday morning at Chai Al Dhaha Ballet studio of Radisson Blu Hotel and led a full house class to an hour and half of pure energy and fun. Pag Ibig Fund and Seba Med representatives graced the occasion and distributed products and information to members.

Karen Joson, Nimfa Gacer and Mynnah Dy of Champions Health Club, Stella Munch of Mabroor Gym and Donnalyn Ilagan of Steam Gym were the main presenters during the class. Gem Pangan, a relatively new personal trainer delivered a brief warm up followed by Ilagan with five sets of Zumba routines.

Munch on the other hand, known for her funny and entertaining moves, amused everyone with her Latin grooves. Dy took the last portion of



the workout with a heartwarming song, leading everyone to cool down after a tough workout. All presenters joined in on stage and received applause from the crowd.

Seba Med products were distributed to everyone and Pag Ibig Fund sponsored the light snacks and water after the workout. Max Restaurant and Bahay Kubo are expected to distribute loyalty cards

and snacks after the class next Friday. The date for the global Zumba has not been selected and the venue in the hotel has not been confirmed. The announcement will be made at the earliest. The Gym Team also announced its newest social media page. You may follow their activities and announcement on Instagram: theygymteamkuwait and Facebook: The Gym Team.

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## Rules

to follow and  
mistakes  
to avoid when  
preparing frittata

A well-made frittata is one of the world's most perfect foods. It is cheap, quick-cooking, and an efficient vehicle for leftovers—not to mention equally delicious at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. But a poorly-made frittata is just tragic – it is spongy rather than custardy, dry, and flavorless. Avoid these common frittata mistakes and get yourself a mouth-watering result.



**Use some dairy and make it full-fat:** Dairy turns an ordinary omelet into a delicious, creamy egg cake. So when it comes to choosing what type of dairy you want, let your creativity guide you: Whole milk, sour cream, yogurt, or crème fraîche are all great options. Just be aware that anything less than a full-fat product will produce a less-unctuous frittata.

**Do not wing the egg-dairy ratio:** Frittatas are easy to make, but that does not mean you can throw caution to the wind and guess at the proportions. For every dozen eggs you use, you will need a half-cup of dairy. Six-egg frittatas get a quarter-cup. Want to go smaller than that? Do not bother. The beauty of a frittata is that it serves a crowd and keeps well. Use too much dairy, and the eggs will be too loose. Use too little, and you will miss out on the creamy-luscious goodness.

**Use the right pan for the job:** Whatever oven-safe pan you choose, be aware of how well it conducts heat.

Because it retains heat well, a heavy pan like a cast-iron will continue to cook your frittata after you remove it from the oven. Pull it from the oven before it is completely finished. Here, the size does matter. A 12-egg'er should ideally be cooked in a 10-inch pan. Scale down for smaller frittata. If

you wish to prepare a smaller frittata but do not have the pan, go ahead with the larger one, but be aware that the frittata will be thinner and will cook faster.

**Fully cooked (most) add-ins:** A frittata makes use of fully-cooked leftovers like last night's roasted potatoes or this morning's leftover sausage. But if you are starting from scratch, it is best to fully cook any addition that might release moisture into the eggs—mushrooms, tomatoes, and summer squash or zucchini are common 'wet' culprits than can water down your eggs. Sauté them separately. This also holds true for aromatics, like onions, and sturdy veggies, like raw potatoes. Do not be afraid of getting a little color on the vegetables: That is what makes them so delicious!

**Do not overbake:** A good frittata should have the texture of custard: trembling and barely set. An over-baked frittata, in contrast, will have all the textural appeal of a kitchen

sponge (and its interior will look strikingly similar). You may want a deep golden-brown top, but the reality of it is, when the crust is golden, the interior is over-baked. If you must have a tanned top, game the system by sprinkling cheese over it in the last few minutes of cooking time. Or stick the almost-finished frittata under the broiler for a few minutes. Set your oven to 176 degrees Celsius, and cook for 20-30 minutes, depending on size and thickness. Play it safe and check the frittata five minutes before it is supposed to be done.

**Season early and season well:** Be sure to season your eggs with salt and pepper before adding them to the pan. A surface-level sprinkling of salt will not penetrate the rest of the frittata. And if you are adding other tasty treats to the frittata, season them separately. Adjust accordingly if you are including already-salty ingredients.



**Choose your cheese wisely:** Although all cheese is delicious, not all cheese is created equal. Know what function you want your cheese to perform. If you are after an oozing texture, then pick cheese that have superior melting quality: Cheddar, gruyère, and fontina. A soft cheese, like ricotta, does not melt as well, but it is perfect if you are into dense pockets of gooeyness. A harder, aged cheese, like Parmesan or Pecorino Romano, adds a sharp hit of salty, nutty flavor, but it is not a prime melter. Save it for a sharp wallop of flavor on top.



## Ice cream tips and tricks

### 1 Making Custard

Using a heavy-bottomed saucepan will help the custard cook evenly. As you stir, always scrape the bottom of the pan to prevent a layer of overcooked custard from forming. Once the custard is done, strain it to ensure a smooth texture.

### 2 Churning

Make sure to chill the custard before pouring it into the ice cream maker so that it churns properly. The ice cream is ready when it holds its shape but still sags slightly when the machine is stopped. It will not be as firm as store-bought ice cream until you freeze it.

### 3 Scooping

For perfect scoops, freeze the ice cream in a loaf pan until firm. To serve, run an ice cream scoop down the length of the pan, heating the scoop briefly in warm water between scoops.

# Kuwaiti graduates seek high paying jobs in energy and banking sector

A regional survey that polled young Kuwaiti graduates on their career preferences found an overwhelming majority selected high paying jobs as their main objective when choosing a career.

The survey, conducted by international employment research company Universum over a period of six months, was part of the firm's Middle East Talent Survey 2016. The six-nation survey conducted across Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, aimed to gauge the attitudes of university students about employers and what prompted their decision-making when it came to career choices.

The Kuwait survey gathered responses from 709 male and female students in five universities throughout the country. The majority of respondents were studying in fields related to banking/commerce, followed by engineering/IT and humanities/liberal arts/education/law.

When asked what they looked for in their future employers, the majority of respondents across genders and degree subjects said they sought high future earnings, with the average expected monthly salary for the students being KD1,012. High salary



was followed by on-the-job training and a company that respects its staff.

The survey findings offer employers a key insight into the priorities of Kuwait-based students. The overwhelming choice of students for high future earnings over other factors including on-the-job training, opportunities to travel, and a creative work environment, firms offering leadership opportunities, should be a reminder to firms that while an innovative working environment, and the chance to travel overseas, might be popular among graduates, they risk losing out on top talents who are likely to opt for more competitive salaries.

When comparing priorities between genders, the survey showed that while women rated opportunities for overseas travel and the need for a creative work environment high on their list of priorities, men listed 'respect for its people' and 'prestige'

as their other key preferences. The desire for performance recognition was another leading preference among business/commerce and engineering/IT students.

In terms of respondents' personal career goals, the desire for work/life balance was a leading ambition among business/commerce students. The objective to be creative and entrepreneurial jumped four places from Universum's 2015 survey to rank second, making it a more desirable goal than job security and leadership opportunities.

When asked to name their favored career industries, more than half of business/commerce students chose the banking sector, followed by professional services. When naming their ideal employer, the majority of respondents studying these subjects chose Kuwait Oil Company. Google, Kuwait Investment Authority and



National Bank of Kuwait were also highly sought after companies to work for, the survey found.

Turning to engineering/IT students, the ambition to be creative and entrepreneurial was the most commonly mentioned personal career goal, jumping four places from the 2015 survey. The majority of engineering/IT students chose the energy sector as the industry they would ideally work in after graduating. Engineering and manufacturing, aerospace and defense, and software and computer services were

also popular choices. Kuwait Oil Company was the top choice among engineering/IT students with close to half of respondents selecting the energy giant. Google, Apple, Q8 and Microsoft made up the top five.

"The survey reveals that employers face a daunting task if they are to attract the best graduates away from Kuwait Oil Company. However, the survey also revealed that more and more Kuwaiti students are seeking the chance to be creative and innovative in their careers, which is something that smaller companies can offer.

# Lulu Group to invest INR 2,000 Crore for project in Kerala

Lulu Group, the Abu Dhabi-based international retailer, is developing its second Lulu Shopping Mall, hotel and international convention in Kerala capital Thiruvananthapuram. Spread over 19 acres of land located at the National Highway in Akkulam, this will be the second biggest shopping mall in the country after the Lulu mall in Kochi.

"Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation stone for the mixed use project in a glittering function presided over by the Leader of Opposition, Ramesh Chennithala and other prominent personalities including ministers, MPs, MLAs," said Yusuff Ali MA, Managing director of Lulu Group. Slated to



open by early 2019, it will house Lulu hypermarket as anchor store and will include some of the best brands in fashion, cosmetics, home furnishing, jewellery, and will also feature an amusement center, multiplex, and the biggest food court.

Being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,000 Crores (US\$ 300 million), LuLu Mall has a built up area of more than 2 million square feet in four floors along with a hotel and Convention center. The project is the largest private investment in Kerala in recent times.

In his speech, Kerala Chief Minister assured all of his support in making this project a grand success and provide jobs to the educated youth of Kerala.

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## Uzbekistan

# Historical land looks ahead to a historic future

The birth of a new nation and its eventual transformation into a modern society is usually accompanied by tumultuous and often tragic events. In the case of Uzbekistan, the extensive changes that have taken place since the country's independence on 1 September 1991 have been peaceful and amazingly vibrant.

As Uzbekistan celebrates its 25th anniversary of independence, it is worth noting that the country's quarter-century of independence fades in comparison to its remarkable history of over 3,000 years. Cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand and Tashkent were centers of governance, scientific studies, flourishing trade and high culture, thousands of years before such social and civil structures gained traction in the Western world.



**Mr. Bakhromjon ALOEV**  
Head of Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the State of Kuwait

The country's first and incumbent President Islam Karimov, speaking about Uzbekistan's independence once stated: "From the first days of our independence the revival of the huge, priceless, spiritual and cultural heritage, created by our ancestors in the course of many centuries, was the most important task, raised to the level of state policy. We regard the revival of spiritual values as an organic, natural process of growth of national consciousness, a return to

the spiritual beginnings of our nation, to its roots."

He noted that the independence for the Uzbeks is the opportunity to be in charge of their own destiny, the destiny of their country, its natural, economic and intellectual resources and to use the enormous material and spiritual potential for the benefit of the people while taking a notable place among the international community.

This internalizing and externalizing of its beliefs and values have led the country to formulate a foreign policy that aims to develop friendly relations and cooperation with countries around the world. Uzbekistan pursues these policies while steadfastly maintaining stances that include resolving all conflicts through peaceful negotiations, non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, and non-alignment with and non-participation in military blocs under any circumstances.

Demonstrating its openness to the world and its commitment to the universal principles of human rights, Uzbekistan joined the United Nations on 2 March, 1992. Since then the country has been promoting its peaceful policy and firm determination to follow the principle of international law. It is party to all major international agreements in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and has been actively promoting UN efforts to ensure global and regional security.

Following its joining of UNESCO in 1993, the country has embarked on cooperating with the UN organization to preserve and develop the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan. Sites and monuments in historical cities such as Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara have been included in the list of World Heritage Sites, while the cultural space of Boysun, Navruz and Kattaashula have been identified as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.

Today, the country is a full participant in over one hundred respected and influential international structures, including



*Uzbekistan is a state driven by the principles of humanism, ensuring civil rights and freedoms of citizens, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, social status and political opinion... Today all our compatriots... regardless of their nationality or profession have the right to declare with their heads proudly held high that they contributed to the success and targets reached by our Motherland.*

— President Islam Karimov

the organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO is a platform that aims to strengthen stability and security, as well as develop economic cooperation in Central Asia through open and constructive dialogue and partnership among the six countries of the bloc and countries in the region.

In 2015-2016, Uzbekistan has for

the third time been chosen for the presidency of the SCO, and, at the organization's meeting in Ufa in 2015, President Karimov vowed to help fight all forms of terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations; strengthen and develop mutually beneficial cooperation among the six countries and ensure the steady growth of the organization's credibility on the international arena.

Throughout its 25 years of independence, Uzbekistan has held firm to its humanistic and moral values. The country's constitution asserts that "democracy in the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be based upon common human principles, according to which the highest value shall be the human being, his life, freedom, honor, dignity and other inalienable rights."

Respect for human rights and diversity is not only enshrined in the constitution but is an integral element in the daily life of the country's multi-ethnic population. Equal rights and opportunities for development of their ethnic identity, language, customs and traditions, as well as opportunities for cultural exchanges are provided to all people living in Uzbekistan.

The state's policy to ensure the preservation and strengthening of the historical multi-ethnicity of the country is enshrined by its Constitution and upheld by other legal documents such as the country's Declaration of Independence and its Law on Citizenship and Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations. Since independence, Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with more than 130 countries worldwide. Through bilateral and multilateral agreements with these countries and by complying with all international agreements and initiatives aimed at peace, security, stability and sustainable development around the world, Uzbekistan has cemented its role as an important and integral part of the international community.

Uzbekistan's move forward along a path of democratization and liberalization of its society and economy, as well as the country's dynamic growth and its achievements in assuring a high quality of life for its citizens and ensuring the well-being of the population, have earned the country respect and appreciation from the world body and earned it the right to be counted as a reliable and influential member of the global community.



## Uzbek model

# ECONOMIC MIRACLE WORTH EMULATING

*Since its independence on 1 September 1991, Uzbekistan has chosen a unique form of economic and social development under the 'Uzbek Model', which aims to evolve the country into a socially-oriented market economy. As Uzbekistan celebrates its 25th anniversary, we look back at a quarter-century of balanced and targeted, political, social and economic policies by the country's leadership. These astute policies and strategies have helped the country achieve an excellent harmony between the level and quality of life for the nearly 31 million people of Uzbekistan.*

The Uzbek Model of reform and development, which continues to drive the country's economic and social transformation, can be traced back to five principles created and promoted by the government of President Islam Karimov.

The first principle of giving priority to economy over politics ensured that economic reforms were not hindered by any ideologies, dogmas, postulates or obsolete stereotypes.

The second principle which emphasized the role of the State as the main impetus for reform, allowed the government to be in charge of setting priorities, developing and monitoring directions and consistently implementing reforms.

The third principle underlined the rule of law in all spheres of society and this stressed that the democratically adopted constitution and laws must be respected by all without any exception. The fourth principle which highlighted the importance of pursuing a strong social policy provided all citizens with reliable and resilient social protection.

The final principle accentuated that the state's transformation into a market economy should be implemented in a gradual, phased and evolutionary manner and in line with economic laws.

The five principles, which emphasize strong qualitative growth and realistic reforms to the economy, along with prudent fiscal and monetary policies, have led to an economic miracle in Uzbekistan. Today, the country is not only one of the largest producers of gold and cotton, but also is among countries with largest reserves of gold, uranium, tungsten and copper, as well as being among the top ten producers of natural gas.

Within the short span of a little over two decades, the country's economy has grown over five times and, despite doubling of population in the same period, its per capita GDP has increased four-fold to around US\$7,000. In the last ten consecutive years, the country has reported a budget surplus that has brought



about macroeconomic stability.

The economic diversification has also taken Uzbekistan's economy, which relied on export of agricultural products, mainly single-crop cotton, to an exporter of multiple high-value processed and manufactured products. From being dependent on food and energy imports, the country has not only achieved full self-sufficiency in food and energy but has also become a net exporter of wheat, fruit and vegetables.

The five principles also helped usher in much-needed structural transformation and diversification of Uzbekistan's economy. With an emphasis on increasing the manufacturing sectors role in the economy, annual capital investments have steadily exceeded 23 percent of GDP. These investments have been channeled into automobile manufacturing, railway engineering, consumer electronics, textiles, food processing and pharmaceuticals, as well as to the oil and gas industry.

Currently, more than 60 percent of industrial output, and close to 80 percent of the country's exports, come from products designed by high-tech industries. Many manufacturing companies are being built from scratch in cooperation with

global multi-national companies who are eager to utilize the raw materials and talented human resources readily available in Uzbekistan.

**Business Climate:** Twenty-five years of economic and political stability have ushered in a business climate that has grown increasingly attractive to foreign investors. A new phase of reforms, which saw the creation of special financial packages, tax privileges and guarantees based on international legal frameworks have led to a surge in capital inflows into the economy, as well as seen the introduction of advanced technologies and modern management techniques in the country's industries.

At the legislative level, the introduction of a new principle of priority for the rights of entrepreneurs, including foreign investors, in their relations with government, law enforcement and regulatory authorities has helped further boost investor confidence in the country. In 2015, Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to the country was in excess of \$15 billion, which was 9.5 percent higher than in 2014.

Today, foreign investors from over 90 countries have invested in more than 5,000 enterprises in the country,

including some of the world's leading global corporations that have invested in high-tech industries manufacturing consumer and industrial products for domestic and international markets.

In recent years, small business, which now constitute over 90 percent of all business and account for 56.7 percent of the country's GDP, has become the driving force behind Uzbekistan's phenomenal economic growth story. A dynamic service industry is also promising to propel the country's economy; the services industry which accounted for less than 33 percent share of GDP at the time of independence has grown to over 54.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the country's coherent and comprehensive policies, as well as the implementation of market and institutional reforms in the agriculture sector, have resulted in Uzbekistan going from being an importer of food stuff in 1991, to a regular exporter of high-quality wheat, fruits and vegetables. Reclamation of irrigated land, rational and careful use of scarce water resources and increasing soil fertility have allowed the agriculture sector to grow over 7 million tons of wheat and more than 17 million tons of fruits and vegetables that allow it to export foodstuff to more than 120

countries worldwide.

Reforms to the tax structure in the country have brought about a single tax rate for small industrial enterprises that has decreased by more than three-fold, from 15.2 percent to 5 percent. Consistent reduction of tax rates, broadening of the tax base and the liberalization of the tax administration have also resulted in the total tax burden on the economy dropping from over 45 percent to less than 20 percent today.

**New reforms:** The country's path of evolutionary economic reforms implemented in a phased manner has seen the introduction of further innovative reforms in 2015. The government of President Karimov has now developed and approved the implementation of new economic restructurings designed to take the country forward during the 2015-2019 period. These reforms include, reducing the role of state sector in the economy; fundamentally improving the business environment and introducing modern corporate management practices; implementing structural reforms to the economy, as well as modernizing and diversifying industrial production; deepening localization of production for finished goods, components and raw materials; developing and modernizing infrastructure and reducing energy consumption through introduction of energy-saving technologies and sustainable energy sources in all sectors of economy and social sphere.

Economic restructuring will see the state sector's role in the economy significantly diluted by the sale of over 1,000 state-owned enterprises to the private ownership. Other measures include, closing down hundreds of inefficient state-run companies and leasing out government-held land to the private sector on transparent and competitive basis. These moves are expected to increase the role of private sector in the economy from its current 82 percent to 86 percent and provide a sharp incentive for economic efficiency.





25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of the  
Independence Day

Republic of  
**Uzbekistan**



## Beyond the Silk Road

The cradle of culture for more than two millennia, Uzbekistan is home to a spellbinding arsenal of architecture and ancient cities, all deeply infused with the fascinating history of the Silk Road. In terms of sights alone, Uzbekistan is Central Asia's biggest draw and most impressive showstopper. Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva never fail to impress visitors with their fabulous mosques, madrasas and mausoleums, while its other attractions, such as the fast disappearing Aral Sea, the fortresses of desperately remote Karakalpakstan, its boom town capital Tashkent and the ecotourism opportunities of the Nuratau Mountains, mean that even the most diverse tastes of visitors can be catered for. Uzbekistan is an extremely friendly country where hospitality remains an essential element of daily life and you will be made to feel genuinely welcome by the people you meet.

**Tashkent:** The capital of Uzbekistan and its most cosmopolitan city, Tashkent, due to its position in Central Asia has over the centuries come under the influence of various dynastic periods. The city, which was built, destroyed and then re-built by various rulers down the



ages became one of the major trading centers along the Silk Road on account of its multi-ethnicity and strategic location. To this day, the city remains one of the largest exporters of cotton, silk and textiles to Eastern Europe. Mild winters lure an enormous number of mountain-skiers to the Chimgan Mountains located in the province. Tashkent also holds the Uthman Qur'an, the earliest written copy of the Islamic holy book, which has been located in the city since 1924.

**Ancient Samarkand:** The historic city of Samarkand is one of the planet's longest inhabited cities. Positioned at the crossroads of the world's greatest trade routes, the city has a multi-millennial history. The sands of this town have seen Alexander the Great ruling it and centuries later Turkish invaders sweeping in Islamic art and culture. Samarkand was the route that merchants and traders traveled with plenty of goods: spices, ivory, silk and even gold was transported between West and East.

Also transported were religions and philosophies. The city was famed for being an Islamic center for scholarly studies and has many Islamic schools. Mesmerizing tile work, soaring blue domes and a massive sense of scale are the rule here, including at Tamerlane's own resting place, the Gur-i Amir.



**Medieval Bukhara:** An economic and cultural centre dating back 25 centuries, Bukhara was once one of the largest cities of Central Asia for its position on a rich oasis at the crossroads of the Silk Road. Wander through the dusty winding streets of Bukhara's citadel, where dozens of azure onion domes dot the skyline. Once a particularly Sufi city, Bukhara was home to over one hundred Madrasas and two hundred mosques. The city's most impressive sights include the mausoleum erected as a family crypt for Ismail Samanid, founder of the Samanid dynasty who ruled Bukhara in the ninth and tenth centuries. The labyrinthine old town is a great place for a wander, but do not miss the 5th-century fortress, home of the last Emirs of Bukhara, or the 47m-tall Minaret that impressed Genghis Khan almost eight centuries ago.

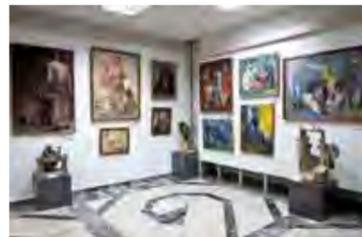
**Khiva:** One of Uzbekistan's great caravan cities requires a long desert journey but it is worth the trip to wander the almost-perfect walled city of the slave-trading khanate. An excursion into the surrounding desert takes in the enigmatic ruins of a dozen medieval fortresses. Khiva is at its best by night when the moonlit silhouettes of the tilting columns and Madrasas, viewed from twisting alleyways, work their magic. Walk through the Abdulla Khan Madrasa to the Islom Hoja Madrasah and minaret - Khiva's newest Islamic monuments, both built in 1910. You can climb the minaret. With bands of turquoise and red tiling, it looks rather like an uncommonly lovely lighthouse.

**The Registan:** This ensemble of majestic, tilting madrasas - a near-overload of majolica, azure mosaics and vast, well-proportioned spaces - is the centerpiece of the city, and arguably the most awesome single sight in Central Asia. The Registan, which translates to 'Sandy Place' in Tajik, was medieval Samarkand's commercial centre and

the plaza was probably a wall-to-wall bazaar. The three grand edifices here are among the world's oldest preserved madrasas, anything older having been destroyed by Genghis Khan.

**Khudayar Khan Palace:** The Khan's Palace, with seven courtyards and 114 rooms, was built in 1873, though its dazzling tiled exterior makes it look so perfect that you would be forgiven for thinking it was as new as the modern park that surrounds it. Just three years after its completion, the tsar's troops arrived, blew up its fortifications and abolished the khan's job. Today, six courtyards remain and their 27 rooms collectively house the Kokand Regional Studies Museum, with displays of varying degrees of interest, and rudimentary signage in English.

**Savitsky Museum:** This museum houses one of the most remarkable art collections in the former Soviet Union. It owns some 90,000 artifacts and pieces of art - including more than 15,000 paintings - only a fraction of which are actually on display. About half of the paintings were brought here in Soviet times by renegade artist and ethnographer Igor Savitsky, who



managed to work within the system to preserve an entire generation of avant-garde work that was proscribed and destroyed elsewhere in the country for not conforming to the socialist realism of the times. The museum has impressive archaeological, ethnographic and folk art collections to match its collection of paintings, as well as high-quality temporary exhibits. The huge collection is rotated every few months, so you could visit many times and continue to see new works.

**Chorsu Bazaar:** Tashkent's most famous farmers market, topped by a giant green dome, is a delightful slice of city life spilling into the streets off Old Town's southern edge. There are acres of spices arranged in brightly colored mountains; Volkswagen-sized sacks of grain; entire sheds dedicated to candy, dairy products and bread; interminable rows of freshly slaughtered livestock; and - of course - scores of pomegranates, melons, persimmons, huge mutant tomatoes and whatever fruits are in season.

## Uzbek model: Economic miracle worth emulating

Continued from Page 11

**Education:** The country has also embarked on large-scale educational reforms and a national program of training aimed at developing its human resources. The free and universal education system that the country inherited at the time of its independence



means that Uzbekistan has a literacy rate of over 99 percent. Under the new program, a universal 12-year compulsory free education, which includes 9 years of study in secondary school and 3 years of training in specialized professional colleges and academies ensure each student gets professional training in two or three trades that are in demand by the labor market. In the higher-education sphere, cooperation and technical collaboration with leading universities abroad and agreements with several international partners, have allowed the 58 universities and other institutions of higher learning to benefit from the latest advances in the teaching and learning fields that meet the needs of the younger generation and allow them to realize their full potential.

As the employment of fresh graduates is of common concern to the state, private businesses and the individual, a new setup has been introduced that will include the head of the educational institution, the head of the district administration, and an employer. Specialized offices have been established in all districts with over 200,000 companies and businesses being involved in this program. The president has on more than one occasion reiterated that the steady improvement of well-being of the level and quality of life for all citizens will always be the top priority of the government. With this in mind, more than one million new jobs will be created each year, with over 60 percent of them in the rural areas and more than 12,000 homes are to be built in rural areas. Over the years, several hundreds of thousands of families have been provided with modern and comfortable housing with provisions of electricity and natural gas.

With all these economic and social factors going in its favor, it is no wonder that that there are very few countries in the world that can match Uzbekistan's economic indicators. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) acknowledged this when it said that Uzbekistan

provides a high economic growth over a long period and that an active investment policy and structural reforms effectively protect the country from economic slowdowns witnessed elsewhere.

The country is currently ranked fifth in the world among countries with rapidly growing economies. The economic miracle about by the Uzbek model of economic growth and development, in the relatively short span of twenty-five years, has won the country and its leadership accolades and admiration from all over the world.

**The year of healthy mother and child:** Following its independence in 1991, Uzbekistan has pursued a policy of protecting and supporting the health of its citizens. Promoting the health of mothers and infants, which has been a large part of the state's health policy, has led to a stable reduction in child and maternal mortality. The overall infant mortality rate has decreased from 34.6 percent in 1990 to 10.8 percent in 2014. During the same period, maternal mortality rate dropped from 65.3 to 19.1 per 100,000 live births.



Uzbekistan is celebrating 2016 as the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child. Key priorities during the year will be strengthening of families, mother and child health and the upbringing of a healthy and comprehensively advanced generation. The celebrations, which are being held under the motto of, 'Healthy mother and child are the basis of a happy family, and a happy family is the foundation of the prosperous society' has several programs designed to strengthen awareness and promote a healthy lifestyle among the public.

With around \$200 million earmarked for promoting the 'Healthy Mother and Child' model, a number of measures are being adopted to improve the health culture among the population, strengthen work on sanitation and hygiene, improve health protection and on enhancing care appropriate care for pregnant women, young mothers and newborns. Authorities are also looking at various steps aimed at improving legislation and regulatory framework for protecting the family, motherhood and childhood; ensuring the interests of women; increasing the role of women in the upbringing of a healthy child and strengthening the family institution so as to ensure the upbringing of a harmoniously developed generation.

Obituary

# Ibrahim Shuhaiber



Prominent Kuwaiti educationist and businessman Ibrahim Shuhaiber passed away on 22 August, 2016. The Shuhaiber family held the final rites for the deceased on 24 August at St. Paul's Church in Ahmadi, which preceded a burial at Sulaibikhat cemetery.

The family held a three-day period of condolence-acceptance on 24 to 26 August. May his soul Rest in Peace.

In 1968, Mr. Shuhaiber, along with a group of expatriates under the guidance of the then British Consul, founded the English School Fahaheel (ESF) in Mangaf. An enterprising businessman, he was also instrumental in forming several business enterprises in Kuwait.

When ESF opened, more than 48 years ago, there were no English curriculum schools in south Kuwait, with the possible exception of a school run by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for children of its employees. Over the years, ESF has maintained its position as one of the country's top schools, thanks to its emphasis on high academic standards

which has in turn led to consistently excellent exam results. In 2014, in honor of his contributions to education in Kuwait, Mr. Shuhaiber, as owner and Chairman of ESF, was appointed to the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), which was presented to him by British Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Matthew Lodge. He was also presented the Award of Merit by the British Business Forum for his efforts in upholding excellence in British education.

Speaking on the occasion of receiving the Award of Merit, Mr. Shuhaiber said: "I am extremely proud to have supported the cause of British education in Kuwait for 45 years." He

added, "I always feel so very proud when school alumni return to tell us of their experiences since leaving the school and the success of their careers."

He attributed the school's continued success "to the high standard of teachers it has been able to recruit from the UK and to the school's overall understanding of Kuwaiti culture and traditions." Excellent academic results and strong links with the community also contribute to sustaining ESF's popularity.

He was also selected to serve as the Chancelier Commandeur of the Cha'ne des Rôtisseurs, an international society founded in Paris in 1950. The Kuwait chapter of the Cha'ne, which was formed in 1982 and now has nearly a hundred active members, brings together culinary and hospitality professionals and non-professionals who share in the 'spirit' of the Society and who appreciate and enjoy its values.

## Middle-class Kuwaiti families spend average of KD35,000 on weddings

The average cost of a wedding for middle-class families in Kuwait is estimated to be over KD35,000 a year. Around 50 wealthy families reportedly spend between KD 250,000 and KD 1 million on at least one of their children's weddings,

revealed a study by a top wedding organizer in Kuwait, reported a local newspaper.

As for the total cost of weddings for Kuwaitis, it is estimated that over KD 235 million is spent each year.



## Harley-Davidson rolls out powerful new touring motorcycles

Harley-Davidson redefined touring by unveiling the all-new Milwaukee-Eight™ engine, the ninth Big Twin in its history, plus all-new front and rear suspension for its Model Year 2017 Touring motorcycle lineup.

The new Milwaukee-Eight engine, the ninth Big Twin design in the company's storied lineage, is a clean-sheet design that combines the classic look, sound and feel of Harley-Davidson Big Twin engines

with improvements in every aspect of engine performance.

Moreover, all-new front and rear suspension components enhance the comfort, control and performance of all 2017 Harley-Davidson Touring model motorcycles. New emulsion-technology rear shock absorbers offer 15 to 30 percent more pre-load adjustment than previous standard Touring shocks, with a single knob to hydraulically adjust pre-load.

## Make your own rules with Centrepoin't's Back to School Collection

Centrepoin't, the region's largest family fashion retailer, has just launched its back-to-school collection that has everything you need to stay on trend for the school year.

The new collection includes everything from backpacks and water bottles to pencil pouches and stationery items in an array of attractive designs and affordable prices. Moms can relax this Back to School season, as Centrepoin't has you covered with all your back to school shopping needs in one destination.

Babyshop's selection of Back to School merchandise is every child's dream; featuring popular characters such as Superman vs. Batman, Minions, Frozen and Marie the Cat. The entire showcase also features the widest range of licensed character merchandise across ages with a huge selection for both boys and girls. Lifestyle's collection of backpacks, trolley bags, lunch bags, pencil pouches, note books and water bottles are the top selling products for teenagers and pre-teens this season. The range sports popular products from

brands in attractive prints and colors. Shoe Mart's offerings makes back to school shopping easy, with an eclectic range in sporty kicks. Extending the Back to School selection, Splash is offering a full range of backpacks, pouches, pencil cases, iPad bags, headphones, caps, sling bags and canvas bags for trendy teens. The Back to School collections are available at all Centrepoin't stores located in Al Rai, Avenues, Hawally, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibikhat, Kuwait City and Khaitan.



## IEI Kuwait Chapter conducts technical seminar



The Institution of Engineers (India), Kuwait Chapter conducted a technical seminar on 22 August at the auditorium of Kuwait Society of Engineers at Bneid Al Gar.

M/s Green Flame Gas Co, a leading player in the Oil and Gas industry, sponsored the seminar. Company CEO Engr Bashar H Al Qattan attended the seminar along with other prominent

dignitaries from Kuwait Society of Engineers as well as a large number of member and guests.

IEI Chairman Dr. Rumane in his welcome address appreciated members for their important role in participating in such knowledge-sharing sessions.

The seminar had two technical sessions. First session was delivered

by Engr Sunil Pullarcot, who spoke on the topic 'Manufacture, Inspection and Testing of Pressure Vessels' and the second was delivered by Engr Muhammad Alamgir on the topic 'Importance of HSE in Industry'. Seminar concluded with the presentation of mementos to speakers and sponsor, followed by dinner.



## KKM presents Konkani Musical Show

Kuwait Konkani Mogi (KKM) presents its Konkani Musical show titled, 'The Hidden Pearls of Konkani Stage in Kuwait' to be held on 9 September, at 5:00 pm at the Salmiya Indian Model School (SIMS).

The event will feature comedy stars from Goa, Mumbai, Bahrain and

Kuwait in addition to solo songs by Peter V. Fernandes, entertainment by Kenny, and comedy by Luis Bachan, Ambe and Brian. Seats are limited. For gate passes and further information: Contact Agnelo Rebello: 50796693, Jennifer Marshall: 94495885 and Domic Fernandes: 66468570.

# UAE investors attracted to oil, gas bids in India

India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said last week that it hopes to attract wider participation from international investors and oil companies, including those in the United Arab Emirates, to the bidding process for 67 discovered small oil and gas fields in India.

The new initiative is in line with the government's target of reducing import dependency of oil and gas by 10 percent by 2022. With an annual oil demand of 1.5 billion barrels and a surging per capita energy demand, oil imports currently account for 78 percent of India's domestic consumption.

India is seeking to boost its domestic oil and gas production from the discovered small oil and gas fields (DSOGF) owned by national oil companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited, which could not be monetized earlier. The fields are now being offered for international bidding by the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH), the technical arm of India's Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry.

The 67 discovered small fields now up for bidding lie across 40 contract areas spread over nine sedimentary basins on land and in shallow and deep water areas. The area extending



over 1,500 square kilometers is said to hold 625 million barrels of oil and gas reserves. Of the 46 contract areas, 26 are on land, 18 offshore in shallow water and two in deep water. While 28 discoveries are in the Mumbai offshore, another 14 are in the east

coast's Krishna Godavari basin.

In March, India government approved the new oil and gas exploration policy based on a revenue-sharing model, as opposed to cost-and-output-based norms earlier.

Saying that the auctions would

usher a more transparent regime of resource allocations and greater ease of doing business, Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum, K.D. Tripathi, noted that under the new Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, progressive administrative and fiscal

procedures have been introduced in sync with best international practices.

The new model will replace the controversial production sharing contracts through which oil and gas blocks were awarded to those firms promising to do maximum work on the block. The latest bidding round, which opened on 15 July, will close by October 31.

Atanu Chakraborty, director general of DGH, said operators would have autonomy and flexibility for unit development in case of reservoirs extending beyond contract area or for joint development of common infrastructure. They will be issued a single license for exploration of conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons and will have the freedom to sell oil and gas at 'arms-length' market prices. There will be no cess and custom duty on crude oil.

Operators will also be given full freedom for marketing and pricing for production from the awarded contract areas. Technical capability is not a pre-qualification criterion for bidding. Exploration will be allowed during entire contract period of 20 years, which is mutually extendable for up to 10 years. There will not be any restriction on exploration activity during the contract period, he said.

## Over half-million pilgrims already in Saudi Arabia

A total of 656,748 pilgrims coming from abroad to perform Hajj have arrived in the Kingdom as of Friday, the General Directorate of Passports in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced.

In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the directorate said 641,896 pilgrims arrived by air, 7,748 came by land, 7,104 by sea. Of the total arrivals, 232,330 or 35 percent came from the South Asian region, which includes Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The figure on pilgrims from South Asia was provided by the Foundation of Guides of South Asian pilgrims through its spokesman Omar bin Siraj Akbar, SPA said. Pilgrims started arriving on August 8. Hajj will be on the second week of September. Meanwhile, scholars have praised the decision of the Saudi Council of Ministers to bear the cost of Hajj and Umrah visa fee for first-time pilgrims. The scholars pointed out that

this showed the desire of the Kingdom to ease the load of Muslims and provide a safe and well-organized Hajj.

Abbas Shoman of Al-Azhar University in Cairo said the decision eased the financial burdens of Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. It also gives those who are unable to pay the visa fees for Hajj and Umrah the chance to perform pilgrimage. He commended the Kingdom's efforts in assisting the performance of Hajj and Umrah through spending on projects that make both safer and more comfortable. Others commended the decision of the Council of Ministers, saying it reflected the Kingdom's wish to ease the burden on Muslims and organize Hajj. They said the Kingdom's leadership had increased services provided to pilgrims and had come up with speedy solutions for problems so that pilgrims were able to perform their worship in a serene, safe and easy manner.



## Fiscal, structural reforms help trim budget deficit

Continued from Page 1

\$40 per barrel, they expect actual oil revenue to be 35 to 40 percent higher than official projections, and to be mostly the same as in the year before.

Though expenditure in the new budget is reduced by 1.5 percent to KD18.9 billion, the two chapters that account for the largest share of expenses — wages and salaries (chapter 1), and miscellaneous and transfers (chapter 5) — are to grow by 2.7 percent and 1.5 percent respectively. Meanwhile, expenditure in the goods and services (chapter 2) and the projects, maintenance and land purchases (chapter 4) are set to decline by 14 percent and 13 percent

respectively. Despite the lower oil price scenario, overall government capital spending is expected to maintain healthy levels.

Though the budget allocation of KD2.2 billion to chapter 4 and to transportation and equipment (chapter 3) is down by 8.4 percent from a year earlier, a draft budget had allocated KD1 billion under chapter 5 for on-budget development plan projects allocated for the year. This results in total on-budget capital spending to rise by 2.7 percent to KD3.3 billion.

Meanwhile, the spending pace on government development plan projects, the bulk of which are off-budget, is picking up. Among these projects are those in the oil sector and

those in public-private partnerships (PPP), including around KD2.25 billion that have been awarded so far this year and another KD8.4 billion expected to be awarded before the year ends.

The National Assembly also approved financing part of the budget deficit by issuing KD5 billion in local and international bonds and sukuk during FY16/17. The Ministry of Finance has also said it intends to borrow KD2 billion through dinar issuances in the local market. The government already raised KD900 million in government bonds and sukuk during the first four months of FY16/17. The ministry plans to borrow a further KD3 billion from international markets, through instruments denominated in foreign

currency. The rest of the deficit will be financed by withdrawals from the General Reserve Fund (GRF), which along with FGF, is managed by the country's sovereign wealth fund manager, the Kuwait Investment Authority.

The government is also keen to push through fiscal and structural reforms in a bid to reduce the persisting budget deficits and address other imbalances in the country's economy. These plans include implementing significant cuts in subsidies and introducing a corporate income tax and a value added tax (VAT). In line with these reforms the National Assembly approved increases in electricity tariffs to take effect from September 2017, electricity and water

subsidies currently eat up over half the subsidy bill. The tariff reform, even in its watered-down version should help save the budget around 1 percent of GDP.

Meanwhile, the government is believed to be looking to introduce new taxes to boost non-oil revenues, including a 10 percent corporate tax on local and foreign companies. The new tax, expected to come into force by 2019 and projected to broaden the tax base, will replace existing taxes on corporate earnings. The government is also preparing to introduce a 5 percent VAT in conjunction with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. Both measures which require further legislation is already behind schedule.

# Reform or Divorce in Europe



**Joseph E. Stiglitz**  
Nobel laureate in economics and  
Professor at Columbia University and  
Chief Economist at the Roosevelt  
Institute, his most recent book is  
*The Euro: How a Common Currency  
Threatens the Future of Europe.*



To say that the eurozone has not been performing well since the 2008 crisis is an understatement. Its member countries have done more poorly than the European Union countries outside the eurozone, and much more poorly than the United States, which was the epicenter of the crisis.

The worst-performing eurozone countries are mired in depression or deep recession; their condition – think of Greece – is worse in many ways than what economies suffered during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The best-performing eurozone members, such as Germany, look good, but only in comparison; and their growth model is partly based on beggar-thy-neighbor policies, whereby success comes at the expense of erstwhile ‘partners’.

Four types of explanation have been advanced to explain this state of affairs. Germany likes to blame the victim, pointing to Greece’s profligacy and the debt and deficits elsewhere. But this puts the cart before the horse: Spain and Ireland had surpluses and low debt-to-GDP ratios before the euro crisis. So the crisis caused the deficits and debts, not the other way around. Deficit fetishism is, no doubt, part of Europe’s problems. Finland, too, has been having trouble adjusting to the multiple shocks it has confronted, with GDP in 2015 some 5.5 percent below its 2008 peak.

Other ‘blame the victim’ critics cite the welfare state and excessive labor-market protections as the cause of the eurozone’s malaise. Yet some of Europe’s best-performing countries, such as Sweden and Norway, have the strongest welfare states and labor-market protections. Many of the countries now performing poorly were doing very well – above the European average – before the euro was introduced. Their decline did not result from some sudden change in

their labor laws, or from an epidemic of laziness in the crisis countries. What changed was the currency arrangement.

The second type of explanation amounts to a wish that Europe had better leaders, men and women who understood economics better and implemented better policies. Flawed policies – not just austerity, but also misguided so-called structural reforms, which widened inequality and thus further weakened overall demand and potential growth – have undoubtedly made matters worse.

But the eurozone was a political arrangement, in which it was inevitable that Germany’s voice would be loud. Anyone who has dealt with German policymakers over the past third of a century should have known in advance the likely result. Most important, given the available tools, not even the most brilliant economic czar could have made the eurozone prosper.

The third set of reasons for the eurozone’s poor performance is a broader right-wing critique of the EU, centered on eurocrats’ penchant for stifling, innovation-inhibiting regulations. This critique, too, misses the mark. The eurocrats, like labor laws or the welfare state, didn’t suddenly change in 1999, with the

creation of the fixed exchange-rate system, or in 2008, with the beginning of the crisis. More fundamentally, what matters is the standard of living, the quality of life. Anyone who denies how much better off we in the West are with our stiflingly clean air and water should visit Beijing.

That leaves the fourth explanation: the euro is more to blame than the policies and structures of individual countries. The euro was flawed at birth. Even the best policymakers the world has ever seen could not have made it work. The eurozone’s structure imposed the kind of rigidity associated with the gold standard. The single currency took away its members’ most important mechanism for adjustment – the exchange rate – and the eurozone circumscribed monetary and fiscal policy.

In response to asymmetric shocks and divergences in productivity, there would have to be adjustments in the real (inflation-adjusted) exchange rate, meaning that prices in the eurozone periphery would have to fall relative to Germany and northern Europe. But, with Germany adamant about inflation – its prices have been stagnant – the adjustment could be accomplished only through wrenching deflation elsewhere. Typically, this

meant painful unemployment and weakening unions; the eurozone’s poorest countries, and especially the workers within them, bore the brunt of the adjustment burden. So the plan to spur convergence among eurozone countries failed miserably, with disparities between and within countries growing.

This system cannot and will not work in the long run: democratic politics ensures its failure. Only by changing the eurozone’s rules and institutions can the euro be made to work. This will require seven changes:

- Abandoning the convergence criteria, which require deficits to be less than 3 percent of GDP.
- Replacing austerity with a growth strategy, supported by a solidarity fund for stabilization.
- Dismantling a crisis-prone system whereby countries must borrow in a currency not under their control, and relying instead on Eurobonds or some similar mechanism.
- Better burden-sharing during adjustment, with countries running current-account surpluses committing to raise wages and increase fiscal spending, thereby ensuring that their prices increase faster than those in the countries with current-account deficits.
- Changing the mandate of the

European Central Bank which focuses only on inflation, unlike the US Federal Reserve, which takes into account employment, growth, and stability as well.

- Establishing common deposit insurance, which would prevent money from fleeing poorly performing countries, and other elements of a ‘banking union’.
- Encouraging, rather than forbidding, industrial policies designed to ensure that the eurozone’s laggards can catch up with its leaders.

From an economic perspective, these changes are small; but today’s eurozone leadership may lack the political will to carry them out. That doesn’t change the basic fact that the current halfway house is untenable. A system intended to promote prosperity and further integration has been having just the opposite effect. An amicable divorce would be better than the current stalemate.

Of course, every divorce is costly; but muddling through would be even more costly. As we’ve already seen this summer in the United Kingdom, if European leaders can’t or won’t make the hard decisions, European voters will make the decisions for them – and the leaders may not be happy with the results.

THE TIMES KUWAIT

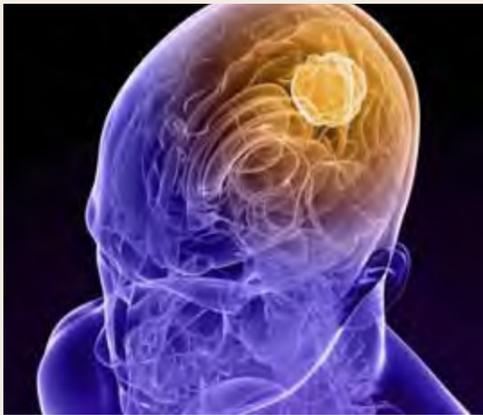
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## Stem cell therapy helps restore brain cells



**W**hen a person suffers from a stroke, blood flow to the brain is interrupted, causing brain cells to die within minutes due to lack of oxygen. In some cases, this can result in paralysis, speech and language problems, vision problems, and memory loss, depending on the location of the blockage of blood flow and how much tissue is involved.

A stroke on one side of the brain will result in neurological effects on the opposite of the body. For instance, a stroke on the right side of the brain could lead to paralysis on the left side of the body, and vice versa. A stroke in the brain stem can affect both sides of the body and could leave the patient in a so-called locked-in state, where the patient is unable to speak or move the body below the neck.

Now a new study by researchers from the University of Southern California show that stem cell therapy increases nerve cell production in mice with brain damage due to stroke.

The researchers say their therapy is a combination of two methods. One involves surgically grafting human neural stem cells onto the damaged area, where they are able to mature into neurons and other brain cells. The other therapy uses a compound called 3K3A-APC, which has been shown to help neural stem cells that have been grown in a petri dish grow into neurons.

The team used mice for their experiment, and they found that a month after inducing stroke-like brain damage in the mice, by disrupting blood flow to a specific brain area, those that had received both the stem cells and 3K3A-APC performed much better on motor and sensory function tests, compared with mice that received only one of the treatments or neither.

The researchers also observed that the mice given 3K3A-APC had more stem cells survive and mature into neurons. Moreover, mice given the stem cells and 3K3A-APC had more neuronal connections - synapses - that linked those areas, compared with the mice given the placebo.

Researchers now want to pursue another clinical trial to examine whether the treatment combination can encourage the growth of new neurons in human stroke patients to improve function. They say that if that trial is successful, it could be possible to test the therapy's effects on other conditions, including spinal cord injuries.

## Preventing obesity and eating disorders in teens

**P**hysicians and parents can help prevent obesity and eating disorders among teenagers by avoiding focusing attention of teens' weight or dieting and instead encourage a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

This new approach was developed in response to increasing concern about teenagers' use of unhealthy methods to lose weight. Teens who indulge in these unhealthy methods to lose weight, including with use of vomiting, laxatives and diuretics to control weight, may not fit the image of eating-disorder patients, since most are not excessively thin. However, their quick, substantial weight loss can trigger medical consequences seen in people with anorexia nervosa, such as an unstable heart rate.

The new advice is important in part because, although childhood



obesity rates have begun to drop, obesity rates in adolescents have not declined. Helping teens maintain healthy weights without veering toward obesity or an eating disorder is more challenging than it is for young children. Adolescents are also dealing with other issues, such as teasing from peers and body-image concerns that may lead them to try unhealthy weight-loss methods like fasting or diet

pills and end up in a vicious circle of more weight gain.

Physicians and parents can implement five evidence-based strategies to help teenagers avoid both obesity and eating disorders. Three of these recommendations focus on behaviors to avoid: Parents and doctors should not encourage dieting; should avoid 'weight talk', such as commenting on their own weight or their

child's weight; and should never tease teens about their weight. Two recommendations focus on behaviors to promote: Families should eat regular meals together, and parents should help their children develop a healthy body image by encouraging them to eat a balanced diet and to exercise for fitness, not weight loss.

Scientific evidence shows that teens who diet early are more likely than their peers to be overweight later. And calorie-counting diets can deprive growing teenagers of the energy they need, and this often leads to symptoms of anorexia nervosa, which may even become life-threatening. Family meals, on the other hand, protect against weight problems as it gives teens an opportunity to see their parents modeling healthy eating.

## Safety issue behind tattoos and permanent makeup

**I**n many places, tattoos are becoming quite popular. For instance, research conducted across the 28-nation European Union (EU) bloc found that the number of people with tattoos increased from 5 percent in 2003 to 12 percent in 2016. It was found to be particularly



popular among young people with 30 percent of 16 - 34 year-olds in the EU having one or more tattoos. In the United States, 40 percent in the same age group were found to sport at least one tattoo.

With nearly 60 million people sporting tattoos in the EU, health authorities there are now beginning to examine the safety aspects behind these body displays, especially the inks used in

tattoos and other permanent makeups.

The permanent colored inks introduced into the skin during tattooing results in the body being exposed over a long-term to chemicals in the inks and to their degradation products. There is currently no specific EU legislation on tattoos or permanent makeup products (semi-permanent tattoos used to resemble make-up).

Most tattoo inks contain a combination of several ingredients and more than 100 different colorants and 100 additives are currently in use. The pigments used are not specifically produced for tattoo and permanent makeup applications, and generally contain impurities.

New studies show that over 80 percent of the colorants in use are organic chemicals and more than 60 percent of them are a certain type of pigments, known as azo-pigments, some of which can release cancer-producing by-products called aromatic amines. These amines can be produced as a result of degradation process in the skin, particularly under solar/ultra violet radiation exposure or laser irradiation.

The new findings could lead to EU imposing restrictions on the inks used in tattooing so as to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals.



## Improving taste of foods without using fat, sugar or salt

**S**cientists may be closing in on a way to let consumers savor the sweet taste of cake, cookies and other culinary delights without the sugar rush.

Researchers have found that several natural aromatic molecules, associated with odor compounds in foods, could be used to trick our brains into believing that desserts and other foods contain more fat, sugar or salt than they actually do. Most consumers know that they should be eating more healthful foods made with reduced amounts of fat, sugar and salt. But this is problematic because these are the very ingredients that make many of the foods we like taste so delicious. Scientists believe aromas can help compensate for the reduction of fat, sugar and salt in healthful foods and make them more appealing to consumers.

Aroma plays a vital role in how we perceive food: you can try this out, by pinching your nose closed while you eat; chances are you will not be able to taste anything. Based on this fact, food companies have long used chemical aromatics, essential oils and botanical extracts to enhance the flavor of food and beverages to boost sales.

Recently, scientists have turned their attention to using aromas to improve the taste of foods made with reduced amounts of fat, sugar and salt, which many consumers normally avoid because of the bland flavor. By optimizing the food reformulation process, scientists hope to allow the food industry to produce food that is healthy and well-liked by consumers.



Milkshakes

## HOOKAH Lounge Cafe

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Ice Cream

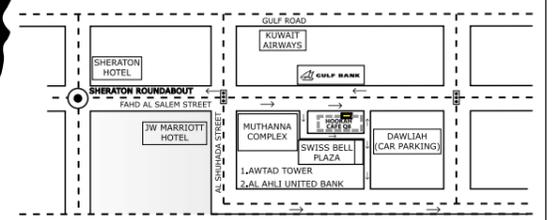


Turkish Coffee



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# Explore Turkey's top attractions



*Packed to the brim with ancient monuments leftover from a parade of conquerors and endowed with showcase scenery that never fails to impress, Turkey is a dazzling destination that straddles Asia and Europe. Its vibrant culture, famed cuisine and vast history wow all who venture here while its glorious landscapes - from the sun soaked Mediterranean to the mighty mountains and arid steppe - are a highlight in themselves. Whether you want to lap up the Byzantine and Ottoman glories of Istanbul on a city break, laze on the beach, delve into history wandering through ruins such as Ephesus or see some of the world's most surreal panoramas in Pamukkale and Cappadocia, this country has attractions galore.*

**Ankara:** Turkey's capital city, Ankara, is a sprawling, modern city home to government buildings, commercial businesses, universities



and foreign embassies. Located right in the center of the country and the Anatolia region, Ankara is an important transportation hub, linking travelers to other major destinations in Turkey. The city itself offers a lively arts and culture scene with a large concentration of

museums, including the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations.

**Istanbul:** Once serving as the capital of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires, Istanbul today is the largest city in Turkey and one of the largest in the world. Istanbul stretches across a narrow strait that connects Asia and Europe, making it the only city in the world spanning two continents. Impressive architecture, historic sites, dining, shopping, nightlife and exotic

invading Persians and Greeks. Much later Christians sought refuge in Cappadocia's tunnels and caves. Today, some of the caves in the region are actually hotels and cater to tourists.

**Rüstem Paşa Camii:** Designed by the renowned architect Sinan in 1561, the Rüstem Paşa Camii is perhaps one of the most striking mosques in the city. The interior is covered with gorgeous İznik tiles featuring floral

**Aya Sofya:** Renowned as one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, the spellbinding Byzantine glory of the Aya Sofya Museum (Hagia Sophia) is not only Istanbul's top sightseeing attraction, but also one of the top sites in Turkey. The staggering bulk of its exterior is rimmed by the delicate minarets added after the Ottoman conquest while the sumptuous and cavernous frescoed interior is a grand reminder of old Constantinople's might and power.

Byzantine artistry with its rock-cut churches, chapels and monasteries is 1km uphill from Göreme's centre.

**Topkapı Palace:** A visit to Topkapı Palace leads you into the fantastical, opulent world of the sultans. It was from here that the leaders of the



Ottoman Era carved out an empire that would extend up into Europe and down through the Middle East and into Africa. The interiors with their decadently exuberant tiling and lavish jeweled decor are an unforgettable peek into the Ottoman's powerbase.



**Lycian Way:** Turkey's first and most-established long-distance footpath, the Lycian Way follows the coast for 500km, from Ovacik, near Fethiye, to Antalya. Views over an impossibly blue sea are mesmerizing, while the path itself undulates through peaceful olive groves and scented pine forests, past impressive remains of ancient amphitheatres and tombs, and over trickling streams, with the occasional stop off for a well-earned swim.



atmosphere all make Istanbul one of the best places to visit in Turkey. The Old City is where most of the city's impressive historic sites are found, which include the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapı Palace.

**Cappadocia:** Situated in Central Anatolia, Cappadocia is best known for its fairytale landscape of unusual formations resembling chimneys, cones and pinnacles. Natural processes such as ancient volcanic eruptions and erosion have all sculpted these odd formations over the ages. Thousands of years ago, mankind added remarkable touches to the landscape by carving out houses, churches and underground cities from the soft rock. The Hittites were the first to chisel out underground tunnel complexes, seeking safety from

and geometric blue designs on a white background, some enlivened by vivid red details. This is also one of the smaller and more welcoming mosques in Istanbul, located just back from the Eminönü waterfront where you can grab a fish sandwich and watch the anglers on Galata Bridge.

**Blue Mosque:** The instantly recognizable minarets, imposing bulk and prominent position on the Istanbul Skyline combine to make the incredible Sultanahmet Camii one of the most famous and visited monuments in the city. The biggest draw is its interior, adorned with more than twenty thousand, predominantly blue-hued İznik tiles, from which its more common Western name of the "Blue Mosque" is derived.

### Istanbul Archaeology Museums:

This superb museum showcases archaeological and artistic treasures from the Topkapı collections. Housed in three buildings, its exhibits include ancient artifacts, classical statuary and an exhibition tracing Istanbul's history. There are many highlights, but the sarcophagi from the Royal Necropolis of Sidon are particularly striking.

The complex has three main parts: the Museum of the Ancient Orient which has a collection of pre-Islamic items gathered from the expanse of the Ottoman Empire, the Archaeology Museum which houses an extensive collection of classical statuary and sarcophagi plus a sprawling exhibit of documenting Istanbul's history and the Tiled Pavilion, where one can find a display of Seljuk, Anatolian and Ottoman tiles and ceramics dating from the end of the 12th century to the beginning of the 20th century.

**Göreme Open-Air Museum:** One of Turkey's Unesco World Heritage Sites, the Göreme Open-Air Museum is an essential stop on any Cappadocian itinerary and deserves a two-hour visit. First an important Byzantine monastic settlement that housed some 20 monks, then a pilgrimage site from the 17th century, this splendid cluster of monastic

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## BEST MAKEUP *tricks*

**M**akeup can work wonders on your features, and completely change your appearance. Women who are beauty obsessed are always on the lookout for the best makeup tricks. Learning some pretty invaluable lessons can totally change your makeup game and update your beauty game. Read on for some makeup tricks that will give your tired old regiment a boost, and some secrets that have been taken from pro makeup artists.

**Hack your mascara to create extra-dark eyeliner:** If you want super intense liner—like blacker than black—dip an angled liner brush into the deposit at the top of your mascara's wand and swipe it on top of or in place of your regular pencil liner.

**Skip putting highlighter on the top of your nose:** Putting a dab of highlighter on the tip of your nose is not a good look. This move doesn't work on 95 percent of people since it actually will make your nose look longer and wider.

**Manipulate your liner to change your eye shape:** When lining your eyes, make the line thinner in the center and thicker toward the outer edges—with a tiny flick up and out at the end. It gives your eyes a seductive feline shape if that is what you are going for. If the liner is thick in the center as well, you get a rounder shape.

**Try putting blush on before foundation:** Apply a bright liquid or cream blush first and then, a thin layer of foundation. It gives you a perfectly natural soft flush that won't get splotchy or streaky even in the crazy August heat.

**Mix moisturizer with your foundation:** Adding moisturizer to your foundation on the back of your palm and then applying it with a makeup sponge gives you a nice glow.

**Always put concealer on your nose:** Everyone always applies concealer under the eye area to hide under-eye bags, but women should know that using it to conceal the redness around your nose is also a pro move.

**Use highlighter strategically:** Make sure to apply highlighter sparingly on the face where the sun would naturally hit, rather than all-over. The best places to use a highlighter stick is on the bridge of your nose, upper areas of your cheekbones, and brow bones. On the cupid's bow also provides an amazing finish.

**Pay attention to how you comb your eyelashes:** When you want to open up your eyes and look youthful, comb your eyelashes towards your inner eye; when you want to look sultry, like an Italian screen siren, comb your hairs towards the outer corner.



**A**re you shuffling through your closet, looking for something cute to wear on a random morning? You are probably overthinking your outfit choice when you already have the pieces you need to make an adorable outfit, thanks to your collection of trusty jeans and T-shirts. These clothing items can be easily styled for both casual and fancy situations. The difference is in the use of accessories and outer layers. So instead of shelling out on one more impulse buy as soon as a social situation arises, it is time to get creative with your current lineup.

**Statement metal:** The absolute easiest way to upgrade your

## Revamp your JEANS and T-SHIRTS

favorite jeans and tee is with a killer necklace. Picking a flare silhouette over your go-to skinny jeans helps switch up the look a bit, and a gold or silver plated bag adds some edge to your weekday outfit.

Amp up the metallic with a funky pair of shiny sneakers. Then, play up a cool vibe with a denim jacket embellished with some chic hardware such as zippers and chains, to add to a look that is practical and breezy.

**Monochrome with a twist:** Pick a t-shirt in one tone and use the color as the palette for your entire outfit. If you gravitate towards a bright color, select one such colored t-shirt and wear varying shades of the color. Though your shoes and purse have to be in the same color family to fulfill the theme, introduce a little interest with a different texture for your accessories such as leather or snakeskin. A minimalist canvas provides the



perfect backdrop for the boldest of accessories.

You can even mix and match different hues of the same colors. For example, if you want to wear all pink, wear a soft pink on top and a pair it with a bold, flashy pink pair of jeans or skirt. This way, your look will stay fun and fresh.

**Chic and easy:** There is a very simple way to put an outfit together if your old t-shirts are the graphic or striped kind. Just add on a layer or two. Take your favorite striped tee and jeans, and add an eye-catching jacket, killer booties and some bling. You are now ready for anything.



Another way to dress; throw on some attractive outerwear like a cool poncho or wrap or cardigan. Make it fresh with a crisp pair of jeans, your favorite neck tee, and some pretty see through slippers. A final touch of some fancy earrings will take your whole look up a notch.

**Y**ou think bottom lashes don't matter until you meet someone with the most beautiful ones you have ever seen, and suddenly, you feel like you are missing out on a beauty trend. Then you start paying them the same mind as your upper lashes and you wonder why you neglected them. If you badly crave beautiful, bottom lashes that stand out, and add to the beauty in your beauty regiment, read the following tips.

**Use waterproof mascara:** A waterproof formula is the only way to go; otherwise, you will pay a dear price by way of raccoon eyes. Bottom lashes can touch the under eye concealer and the oil in the product can break down your mascara, leaving you with little spots or smudges under the eye, so be careful. You can also further shield the area by setting it with loose powder.

**Use a smaller lash wand:** Because you are working with a more congested surface area, having a thinner, more tapered mascara wand will make sweeping from root to tip, and getting those hard-to-reach lashes, easier. A slew of brands have developed mascaras just for this purpose.

**Change the way you apply it:** Lashes of different shapes and sizes completely change the way your eyes look. So when you are applying mascara, don't just go up and down, but experiment with the

## Get the best bottom lashes

**'diagonal' method:** Pull the brush through at an angle and spend extra time at the corners. It gives you a more wide-eyed look that might be more flattering to the bottom lash line.

**Amp things up with false lashes:**

They can be trickier for bottom lashes, but there is a major payoff. For a natural, fuller-looking bottom lash, you can use individual lashes or clusters without a band.

However, if you want to get full on celebrity style with it, you can use a natural-looking lower lash set (be sure to try out different lengths, amounts of fullness, and arrangements) with clear bands, cutting them in half, and using tweezers to place them as close to the lash line as possible. If you want to lock them in, swipe on one coat of waterproof mascara.



**Try brown mascara:** If you're not looking for a statement per se, go for a brown-hued mascara on the bottom lashes as it is softer and more flattering up close.

**Try layering:** Layer waterproof mascara on top of your regular formula to make your mascara last longer and make it easier to remove at the end of the day. Waterproof formula is great at holding the shape and keeping your mascara from smearing throughout the day. However, since it is difficult to remove, try applying your normal mascara first and finishing with a coat of waterproof product.

**Use handy tools:** Place a spoon below your eye with the curved side facing out, and then apply your mascara like you normally would to your lower lashes. That way, the mascara will land on the back of the spoon rather than your skin. This trick also works when applying mascara on your upper lashes.



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# WhatsApp to start sharing user data with Facebook

WhatsApp, the popular messaging service that was bought by Facebook in 2014, has announced that it will begin sharing data, including individual's phone numbers with parent company Facebook.

WhatsApp, which has always touted its strong stance on privacy, appears to be bending its own rules to accommodate the demands of its parent. Though WhatsApp has always claimed that, "Respect for your privacy is coded into our DNA, and we built WhatsApp around the goal of knowing as little about you as possible," apparently even DNAs do change.

Putting a positive spin on this clear violation of its privacy policies,

WhatsApp said that sharing this information means Facebook can offer better friend suggestions by mapping users' social connections across the two services. What it left unsaid in the spin, is that this sharing of info would permit Facebook to deliver more relevant ads for their clients.

In addition to users' phone numbers, WhatsApp said it would share analytics data with Facebook so as to help track usage metrics and fight spam. The messaging app says it also wants to explore how businesses can use WhatsApp to contact customers. WhatsApp says that users will be able to "manage these communications," and that this would not lead to third-party banner

ads on the service.

Despite these assurances, WhatsApp's users are still likely to feel annoyed that the company is sharing information with Facebook. Part of the app's popularity has always come from its unobtrusive and unprofitable business model, which gives users an easy way to communicate without having their data used to serve ads.

However, there are two ways of getting around the new move by WhatsApp. The first way can only be done if you have not accepted the new terms. When the pop-up from WhatsApp emerges asking if you agree to the new terms, do not click 'agree', instead navigate to the smaller sized 'read more' option and un-tick the box that says 'Share my

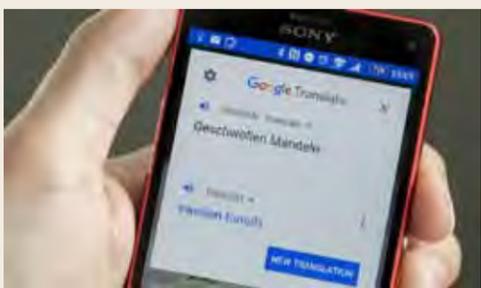


WhatsApp account information with Facebook.

If you have already accepted those new terms, you can still opt out - as long as it is within 30 days. You can do that by heading to the settings menu in the app, and pressing on

the account tab - there you will find a 'share my account info' button that you can un-tick to revoke your permission.

Another annoying feature that many people who have removed WhatsApp from their devices often complain about is that WhatsApp does not offer you the choice of deciding who to invite to its service. It sends out an invitation on your behalf to everyone on your contact list without so much as a "by your leave". Moreover, you do not have the option to remove that person from the list that WhatsApp sent invitation to; if you do, then they will be removed from your contact list as well. So much for privacy protection and immutable DNAs.



## Google translate works without internet connection

International travelers owning iOS devices can rejoice as Google Translate now begins to work without an internet connection on their devices as well. The feature was available on Android devices earlier.

That means you can now communicate across languages without having to use the internet or data. The app works with 52 languages. Google also added a Tap to Translate feature for Android, which allows users to translate text within other apps, saving users the task of copying and pasting words from one app or browser into Google Translate. This works well with apps like WhatsApp, whose chat features are popular with international users.

Google Translate, of course, is not without errors in accuracy, but it is vastly superior to thumbing through a phrase book. There is also now a Words Lens feature in simplified and traditional Chinese, making it the 29th language on that system. This feature allows users to hold their phone screens in front of words on signs, menus, packages or buildings and see a translation displayed on the phone screen.

More than 500 million people currently use Google Translate.

## Men surpass women in phone dependency

A research conducted by the University of Würzburg in Germany and Nottingham-Trent University in England, on behalf international software security group Kaspersky Lab, found that people left on their own in a waiting room lasted an average of only 44 seconds before reaching for their smartphones. Women managed to hold-out for 57 seconds while men managed to stay away for only 31 seconds.

To delve deeper into our own perceptions about companionship with digital devices, after ten minutes the participants were asked how long they thought it had been before they reached for their phone. Most people said between two and three minutes, highlighting a significant disconnect between perception and actual behavior. The immediacy of information and interactions delivered through our smart devices make them much more of a digital companion and connection to the outside world than a piece of technology.

Additional research conducted by the



universities suggests that this compulsion to check our phones could be as a result of fear of missing out (FOMO) on something when not online. In an accompanying survey, participants that used their phones more intensely admitted to a higher level of FOMO.

The more participants use their phone the more they are afraid they are missing out when they are not accessing it. It is not clear which attribute fuels which - do people use

their phone more because they are afraid of missing something, or is it because they use it so much that they worry they are missing out.

The study also found that the more we use our phones, the more stressed we become. But surprisingly, when participants were asked about their overall happiness, there was no difference between light and heavy users. So the stress caused by smartphone usage does not seem to have a major influence on our well-being in general.

During the 10-minute waiting session, participants used their smartphone on average for almost half the time (five minutes). As previous research by Kaspersky Lab demonstrated, we rely heavily on mobile devices these days as an extension of our brains, using them as tools so we do not have to remember facts anymore. The majority of respondents, for example, could not remember their current partner's phone number but could still recall their home number from when they were ten.

## Orbi WiFi system eliminates dead signal spots in homes

Netgear announced last week that its new Orbi WiFi System eliminates wireless blind spots in smart homes. The system, which is similar to using a network extender, has a dedicated band for communication with the satellite devices.

An Orbi WiFi system consisting of one router and one satellite can cover a home of up to 372 square meters in area. The initial Orbi system will be available in September for US\$400. Netgear's future plans include offering kits with more satellites for larger

homes, as well as satellite add-ons for the Orbi system. Each satellite provides up to 186 square meters of coverage.

The Orbi system has a dedicated quad stream 1.7-Gbps 5-GHz band for connecting its router and satellites, and offers 802.11ac AC3000 WiFi speeds of up to 3 Gbps.



The router and the satellite both have four Gigabit Ethernet ports and one USB 2.0 port. The Orbi system features IPv6, dynamic DNS, port forwarding, parental controls and access point mode that allow it to offer advanced WiFi security with automated updates. Security is a critical issue for many consumers, and some are willing to pay extra for it.

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# Global Shapers Survey

## an eye-opener on youth perspectives

*"We are becoming increasingly aware that solutions to our global challenges must purposefully engage youth, at all levels – locally, regionally, nationally and globally. This generation has the passion, dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit to shape the future."*

– Professor Klaus Schwab

Founder and Executive Chairman World Economic Forum

It is official; last July was the hottest of 1639 months on record. It marks the 15th straight month that the global temperature record has been broken. Last month also was the 379th consecutive month with temperatures at least nominally above the 20th century average. Even though the El Niño warming episode is over, Earth's heat streak is continuing unabated. Climate change is happening; what were once considered potential impacts are increasingly being felt around the world.

Today's young people, who are likely to experience the brunt of any future impact of climate change, are rightly enough deeply concerned on this issue. In a recent survey which polled young people aged between 18 and 35, the majority (45.2%) believed climate change and destruction of natural resources to be the most serious issue facing the world today.

Among the Oceania group, which includes Australia, New Zealand and other small Pacific Ocean island-nations that are more susceptible



was available in nine languages, including all UN languages, included both members of the Global Shapers Community (2,000) and young people who are not members of the Community (24,000). The 2016 survey was broader than previous surveys as it was open to all young people everywhere. This democratic approach provided a better and more important view on the diversity of perspectives among young people worldwide.

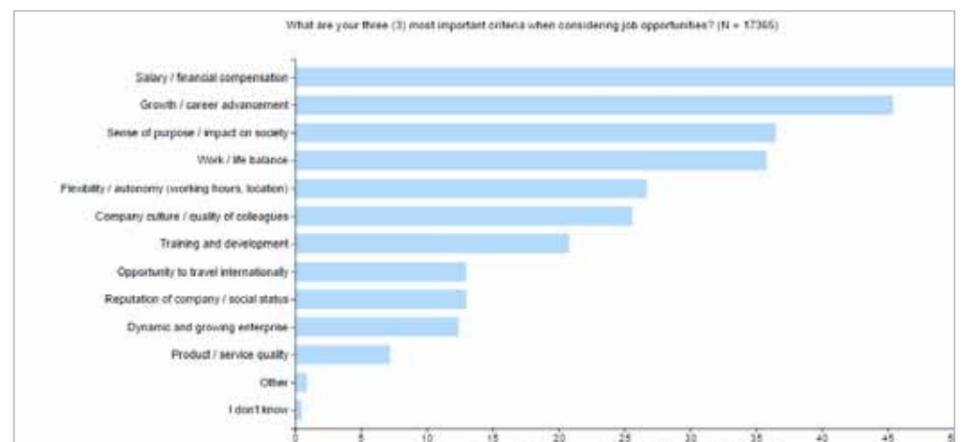
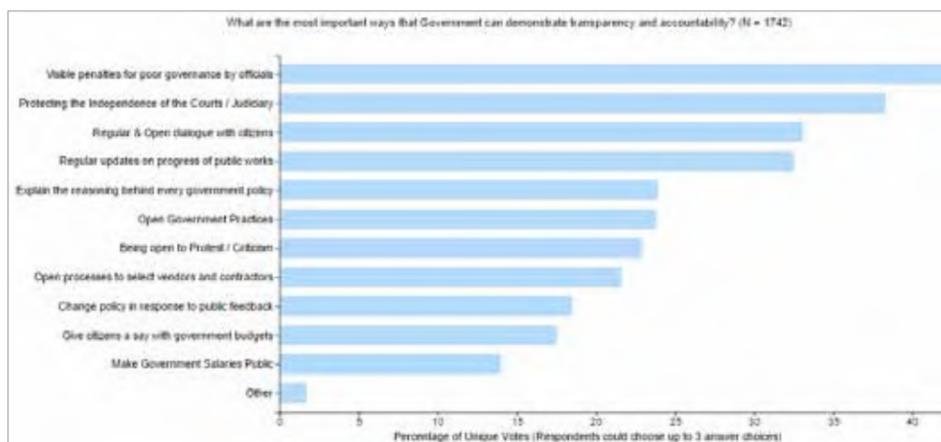
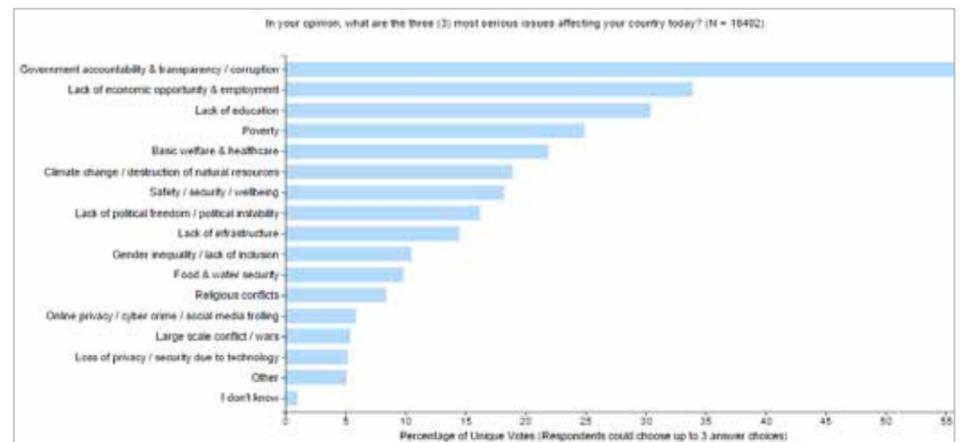
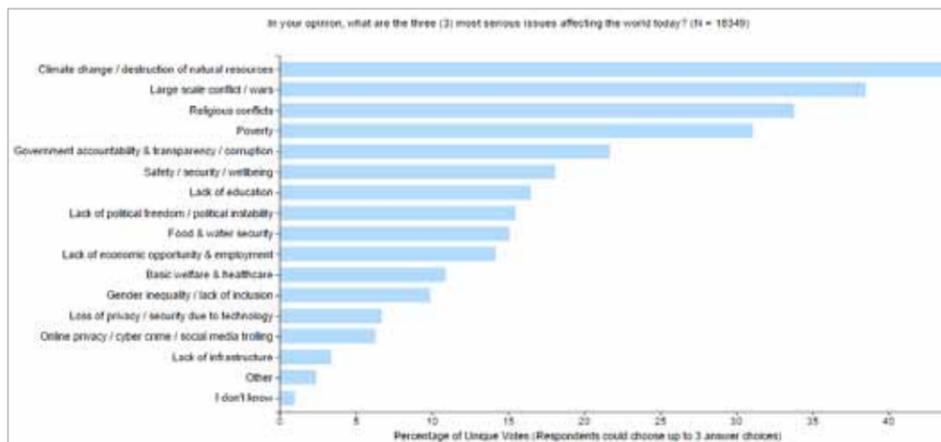
The questions in the survey were designed to highlight perceptions, as well as to provide action-oriented recommendations in five areas:

**Economy and Global Outlook:** Youth perspectives on how major socio-economic trends are reshaping the future of the global economy.

**Technology and Innovation:** How technology is transforming and redefining the modern life.

**Governance:** Governance, attitudes to governance and recommendations for related issues.

**Values and Society:** Explore how modern values are evolving or



to climate variations, a larger percentage of respondents (61.7%) understandably thought climate change to be the top priority.

However, when it came to their own countries, 57.3 percent held the view that government corruption and the lack of accountability and transparency was the most serious problem. When asked about the most important factor contributing to inequality in their country, 58.5 percent of respondents again believed it was corruption and lack of transparency. This widely-held disapproving view among the young on corruption and accountability

deficiency in administrations should be an eye-opener to governments around the world.

When asked about how governments can become more accountable and transparent, 43.5 percent called for visible penalties for poor governance by officials, 38.3 percent believed protecting the independence of courts and judiciary was important and 33.1 percent said regular and open dialogue with citizens was critical. Respondents were allowed to choose up to three answer choices.

Asked to respond on what was the most important criteria for them

when it came to making a career choice, 54.1 percent opted for salary and financial compensation over growth and career advancement (45.4%) and sense of purpose or impact on society (36.5%).

The annual survey on youth perceptions was conducted by Global Shapers Community, a network of international hubs led by young people with a drive to make a contribution to their communities. This year's survey titled 'The Voice of Youth', gathered responses from more than 26,000 young people aged between 18 and 35 from over 170 countries and territories.

Global Shapers was founded in 2011 as one of several multi-stakeholder community initiatives at the World Economic Forum. Other community-based initiatives include the Young Global Leaders, the Global Agenda Councils, and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs.

Members of the Global Shapers community are united by a common desire to channel their tremendous energy and enthusiasm into building a more peaceful and inclusive world, by ensuring their actions have impact and that their voices are heard.

Respondents to the Global Shapers Annual Survey 2016, which

changing in the era of the fourth industrial revolution.

**The Role of the Private Sector:** Perspectives on the role of business in society and thoughts on jobs, organizations and related issues.

The results from the survey are a powerful vocal reminder of what young people think about the world around them and what they want to do about it. The hope is that leaders and governments around the world will take not and use the results of the survey to guide them while forming policies and implementing actions so as to build a better world for all.