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Silk City, Bubiyan Island attracts foreign investments

STAFF REPORT

Kuwait is committed to realizing the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into an international trade and financial hub and to achieve Kuwait's vision of New Kuwait 2035. Central to this strategic plan is the development of Silk City, or Madinat Al-Hareer as it is known in Arabic, which will be the largest marine front project in the world, and the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port that are designed to bring Kuwait on the world map of tourism, commerce and investment.

First phase in the development of Silk City located in Subiya area across Kuwait Bay in northern Kuwait, and in the five Kuwaiti islands lying off the Kuwait coastline, was inked in mid-February during a visit to Kuwait by a high level Chinese delegation headed by Vice



Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, Ning Jizhe. The delegation met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who is spearheading the country's New Kuwait 2035 strategic plan.

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His Highness the Amir great example of Moral Leadership



BY H.E. FRANS POTUYT
Ambassador of
Netherlands to Kuwait

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES KUWAIT

Many nice words have been said about His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the festive month of February. And, rightly so, as he is

an icon of stability, humanity and moderation. Whilst all over the world populism seems to be taking over, one should be grateful that via a system of hereditary succession, far away from being democratic, such a wonderful leadership has emerged.

In Holland opinion polls give our King more than 80 percent support. Somewhat odd, as we believe ourselves to be free-thinking rational democrats. The issue is that there is little admiration for our politicians, perhaps comparable to the situation in Kuwait. To make themselves known they present themselves in

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Indian Medical Expo to be held on 17 and 18 March

The Indian Embassy will be holding a high-profile Indian medical exhibition at the Radisson Blu Hotel on the 17 and 18 of March, which will witness the participation of several leading Indian hospitals and top-notch healthcare providers from several cities in India.

The medical expo will provide an opportunity for citizens and residents in Kuwait to interact with top Indian healthcare providers and see the world class, top quality health care provided at the best value by the Indian medical industry.

The exhibition will also facilitate networking and information exchange opportunities between healthcare professionals from India and their counterparts in Kuwait.

The Indian medical expo serves as an excellent platform for people seeking high-quality cost-effective healthcare services, as well as recuperative and rejuvenating treatments in India. The event allows for direct interaction between those seeking medical attention and healthcare providers from India. Specialist physicians and hospital management professionals, hospital and nursing home representatives will be on hand during the expo period to offer professional advice on medical services and the best facilities available in India for a wide range of ailments.



Among the leading hospitals and healthcare centers that are participating in the 'Best of Indian Healthcare Expo 2019' are Apollo Hospital, Saifee Hospital, Mumbai, Iqraa Hospital, Unity Care and Health Services Pvt Ltd, Advancells & Hinduja Hospital, Aster Hospital, Somatheeram Ayurveda Village, Children's Hospital, Mumbai, Ayur Green, A.J. Hospital, Mangalore, Eastbound Discoveries Pvt Ltd, Manipal Health Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, Max Super Specialty Hospital, New Delhi, ITL



World, Kuwait, M/s Sals Perfect Plan, Mumbai, Meitra Hospital Calicut and Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, and many more.

Recent advances in medical, scientific and technological fields have impacted the healthcare industry and resulted in cutting-edge solutions to treat and manage life threatening communicable and non-communicable diseases. Providing medical care using the latest equipment and treatment modalities, along with rapid advances in communication, transport and information technologies has promoted India as a major medical tourism destination among the global healthcare community.

An exceptionally talented pool of medical specialists and a large cadre of professional healthcare personnel have also placed India among a handful of nations that can deliver high-tech solutions to healthcare problems in a cost-effective and efficient manner. It is no wonder then that India is the destination of choice for international patients seeking high-quality medical care that is either too expensive, or not available in a timely manner, in their own countries.

Medical Tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of healthcare industry in India and is poised to grow both in volume and significance in the years ahead. A growing number of hospitals and medical care facilities, health insurance companies, medical tourism companies and facilitators in India, as well as hospitals and medical specialists abroad and international travel agencies, are promoting India as the ideal venue for cost-effective and high-level healthcare, as well as for rejuvenating recuperative treatments.

Each year millions of people travel overseas looking for best quality affordable medical treatments for themselves or their loved ones, and Kuwaitis are no exception. It is estimated that the country spends in excess of a billion dollars annually to treat citizens abroad, while hundreds of others seek overseas medical care at their own expense.

India, which provides state-of-the-art healthcare facilities, cost-effective treatments and world-renowned specialists in various medical fields, is fast becoming the ideal venue for Kuwaitis seeking overseas medical treatments. In addition to the close proximity and ease of travel, the centuries-old interactions between people of the two communities have led to mutual respect for the cultures and customs, as well as developed enduring trust in the capabilities and capacities of both nations.

The 'Best of Indian Healthcare Expo 2019' is a welcome opportunity for patients and their caregivers in Kuwait to make timely choices regarding the best and most cost-effective treatments that are readily available in Indian hospitals and healthcare centers.

The exhibition will also feature tourism

opportunities from renowned travel companies that will help facilitate complete packages for patients and visitors.

The exhibition is being held in association with the Indians Doctors Forum (IDF), Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



US cancer center stops receiving Kuwaiti patients

Anderson Cancer Center, one of the leading cancer treatment centers in the United States, has refused to receive Kuwaiti patients, pending the payment of the accumulated dues by the Ministry of Health.

The head of the Kuwait health office in Washington Dr. Ali Al-Enezi in a letter to the Director of the Overseas Medical Treatment in Kuwait has made a request not to send any more cancer cases to the Anderson Center.

He added, the office will transfer the patients who have appointments at the Anderson Center to other hospitals and soon provide the Overseas Medical Treatment Department with new dates of appointments for patients.

Sources said that the Ministry of Health had recently asked the Cabinet to approve KD200 million in addition to its annual budget to cover the monthly payments of health offices overseas and meet its obligations to international hospitals. The

Health Ministry had pointed out that some specialized centers and hospitals abroad have sued the subsidiary offices of the ministry abroad, as a result of nonpayment of dues in spite of repeated reminders to pay the bills.

According to sources the Anderson Center is one of the most prestigious cancer centers in the United States and in the past eight years has been ranked six times as the best in the care of cancer patients.



Lulu Hypermarket launches 'Celebrate Kuwait' promotion



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its month-long Hala February promotion under the banner of 'Celebrate Kuwait', with festivities also marking the country's upcoming National and Liberation days. Famous Kuwaiti TV host Salah Al-Rashed inaugurated the event on 20 February at Lulu's Al-Qurain outlet in the presence of top management from Lulu Hypermarket, special invitees, media representatives and a large gathering of well-wishers.

As part of the country's National Day celebrations, a special cultural program was held where performers enchanted onlookers with their representation of Kuwait's traditions and culture. A second inauguration was held on 23 February at Lulu's Al-Jahra outlet.

During the Hala February promotion, which runs at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets, a range of attractive activities and promotions offer an enticing incentive to shop at Lulu outlets. Discover amazing low prices and big discounts on an assortment of products, in addition to exclusive prices on selected 'product of the day' and 'brand of the week' items. Digital aficionados can avail of the best discounts on the latest electronic gadgets

during the 'Digital Expo'. Shoppers can also take advantage of the Farm Fresh produce sale, where fresh fruits and vegetables are available at attractive prices.

Returning for another year, the much-anticipated promotion on the special occasion, Lulu's unique 'Trolley-Free' promotion that will run from the 21 to 26 February. The exciting promotion allows lucky customers to win back the full cost of contents in their trolley after a shopping spree at the hypermarket's outlet. During the six days of this promotion, lucky winners will be picked at random by the point of sale (POS) system at all the check-out points, and they will walk away with the contents of their trolley fully free of cost.

Since its inception, LuLu Hypermarket has displayed its commitment to customer satisfaction by tailoring shopping experiences to suit shopper preferences, particularly on special occasions. The brand has also consistently launched innovative and exciting promotions that offer a variety of products at competitive prices, which has prompted customers to make LuLu Hypermarket their preferred retail destination.

His Highness the Amir great example of moral leadership

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Highness the Amir, amongst his people, in the region and in the world. His wise and humble personality makes Kuwait a highly respected country. I am proud that my boss, the Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok, as well as our Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, recently held intensive consultations with His Highness the Amir.

A last remark to conclude. Moral leadership is never a goal in itself. It should inspire others to give up their daily bickering. I already mentioned that in Holland the King is more trusted than the politicians. Our mayors are appointed by the King, after wide and due consultations; and see: our mayors enjoy more confidence from the citizens than every other institution. At the end people do not like extremism and empty talk.

Moral leadership should inspire all of us to take rightful and just decisions acceptable to all reasonable people. An ongoing challenge, for the entire world, with His Highness the Amir as example!

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DDI organizes health awareness outreach program



Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), the leading diabetes center in the region, recently organized a health awareness outreach at the American International School to promote awareness about diabetes and its related complications to all the students and staff.

A specialized multifaceted team from the Institute was present during the outreach program to provide consultations, checkups

and glucose testing. Organizing such outreach events stems from the Institute's mission to address the diabetes epidemic in Kuwait, through focused diabetes research, integrated prevention, training, education and treatment. DDI, which was established by the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), was inaugurated in 2006 by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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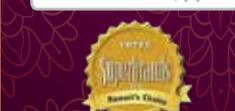
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Dining IN KUWAIT

For a complete list of featured restaurants, visit
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Thought for the week

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.

- Kofi Annan

Breakfast Fix



Start your day right with breakfast offerings from Breakfast Fix. Feast on tasty mini buns and wraps, pancakes and the fix combos that include Partner Fix with two mini buns or wraps, 2 additions and one pancake fix. There is also the Trio Fix and the Group Fix for a larger crowd. Or, you can choose to build your own Fix from a large selection of ingredients, such as the Beef Bacon Fix

and the Turkey Fix, while vegetarians can pick from the meatless offerings such as Halloumi Fix, Spinach Mushroom Fix or the Cheese and Eggs. You will find their Pancake Fix, especially their Dream Fix — signature homemade pancakes drizzling with lotus spread and served with maple syrup or honey — a true delight. Quench your thirst with their Fuel Fix, a lemonade with mint concoction is very refreshing.

Popular dish: The Turkey Fix

Junkyard in Al Hamra Luxury Center. Call: 1800 050

Peacock



Considered to be among the best Chinese restaurants in Kuwait, and an ode to the variety and depth of Chinese cuisine, the offerings at Peacock, though pricey, provide a wonderful selection that focuses on delectable flavors and textures. Pick your choice of

tasty soups such as Sweet Corn Soup with Chicken, Noodle Soup with Prawns, Wanton Soup with Chicken & Shrimps or the Crab Meat Corn Soup. For the main dish, try out the fried boneless chicken cooked in Szechuan Style or the Mongolian Style Chicken. If you favor noodles and rice then there are other great offerings, such as the rice noodles with beef, shrimps and vegetable; or the restaurant special, Peacock Style Fried Rice. Their flavorful beef options, such as the Chinese style fillet steak and shredded beef with green peppers or the pan fried shredded beef with mixed vegetables, are some of the other delights at the Peacock.

Popular dish: Barbecued Peking Duck

Radisson Blu hotel. Call: 25673440

Doppio



Savor great pizzas, reminiscent of the artful variations proffered by renowned pizzerias in Italy, at the Doppio. A variety of oven-baked pizzas

that offer original flavors of Italy in every bite, include the delicious Hibbzi, Di Napoli, Frodo, Solo, and Marimina. Di Napoli is particularly enticing with its fresh mushrooms, while wood-roasted Marimina pizzas ensure the earthy flavors are retained. Try out interesting combinations, such as Honey B, which is a delicious combination of bacon with honey, or another honey variation, the Ring of Fayaa pizza. The Doppio pizza offers delicious pepperoni and salami in mozzarella cheese, while the Amedeo comes with the tastiest white sauce dousing the smoked turkey toppings.

Popular dish: Amedeo

The M2 at Salhiya Complex. Call: 22451511

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

Super foods for strong hair

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

Unfortunately with our present environment and pollution, having healthy shining and strong hair is not always possible. Bacteria accumulating at the roots can weaken your hair and make it fall. Not only girls suffer from the effects but guys as well.

That is why a proper nutrition, balanced diet and good hair care regular treatment, shampoo and



conditioning) are necessary to ensure strong, long and shiny hair. However, not all foods are good for your hair. You need to choose the right and best food. Let us start.

Salmon and oily fish: One of the main protein our body uses to make hair is Keratin. That is why a diet rich in that protein is a must. Salmon, tuna and fish are the prime lean protein loaded in keratin. Salmon is packed with omega-3 fatty acids, Vitamin B12 and iron that boost the blood flow and promote hair growth. Oysters are also good as they have zinc in them that helps make your hair shiny.

Nuts and walnuts: These two specific kinds of nuts are packed with zinc, magnesium, selenium, Omega 3 fatty acids, and vitamin E. All these vitamins and minerals are a great remedy for your hair to grow fast naturally. Regular intake of nuts and walnuts will also prevent your hair from shedding and improve the health of your scalp.

Dark green leafy vegetables: Sebum is the oily substance secreted by our



hair follicles which works like natural hair conditioner. It is mainly present in all dark leafy vegetables like spinach, rocket, leek and parsley. These foods are also rich in iron that increase the blood flow.

Whole eggs: Eggs are extremely rich in sulphur, zinc, iron, selenium, phosphorous iodine and magnesium. They also contain Vitamin B-1, B-2, B-12, biotin and choline. All these nutrients are essential and very important for the overall health of your hair.

Carrots: Carrots are rich in vitamin A

Mira is a go-to source for nutrition and wellness and has joined The Times Kuwait team in a new weekly column discussing nutrition and answering queries. You can send in your questions to infotimeskuwait@gmail.com



a super-hot chili, increase the cayenne and top the chili with fresh jalapeño. For a smokier chili, add a dash of smoked paprika.

The cooking liquid: After coating the veggies in the spices, add the cooking liquid. Using only canned tomatoes and their juices makes for a too-thick,



acidic, tomato-forward chili. Hence, combine it with green chilies and their juices (which lend a mild heat) and vegetable broth (or water), which you will add in two additions to control the thickness of your chili.

Diced tomatoes give you small, distinct pieces of tomato in every bite (and fire-roasted adds a boost of smoky flavor). But you can substitute the same amount of crushed tomatoes, tomato purée, or even whole peeled tomatoes (crush them between your fingers as you add them in) if it pleases you.

The beans: Three cans of beans lend just the right heft to this chili. Pick and choose from kidney, pinto, black, garbanzo, cannellini, or even lima beans or black-eyed peas.

Committee to expedite eviction of bachelors

In order to accelerate the work of the committee tasked with addressing the phenomenon of housing singles in private and model housing areas, the Chairman of the Committee Ammar Al-Ammar has invited government agencies to nominate their representatives in the committee to conduct its work which is expected to begin in early March.

The mechanism of the committee's work will be



systematic, studied and well directed to target the eviction of singles from private and model housing areas, and to find alternative places for them, Al-Shoula said.

He added that in the past several obstacles had prevented the solution to the problem of singles and the Committee will face great challenges to find a way out

before the start of the meetings, especially as the solutions will be comprehensive involving all branches of the Municipality and the Ministry of Interior to ascertain the implementation of the decision.

The other solution that would eliminate the abuses currently occurring in private and model housing will be to hold the inspector in charge of his work accountable and refer him for investigation immediately especially since most



of the complaints claim that they are not taken seriously because of the favoritism of some inspectors.

Anotah launches revamped store with Dalalid x Anotah S/S collection



Anotah, a leading regional fashion and lifestyle brand is re-opening with a new concept which features the exclusive Dalalid x Anotah Spring Summer collection now available in stores.



The brand is known for its luxurious mix of richness and subtlety, extravagance and elegance, with one of its largest stores at Souq Sharq mall.

This season, Anotah's collection takes its lead inspiration from an

electric mix of street wear and opulent loungewear in fresh, contemporary silhouettes. The collective spirit, which is a central part of the brand, was included in this season's campaign with multigenerational models representing the diversity built in Anotah.

The collection includes color block in bright, prim shades of candy pinks, imperial to neon yellows with richer tones of teal and orange. Bold photographic prints with a bright mix of geometric scarf prints and eclectic animal patterns make up for the collection's empowering variety. Anotah provides the perfect wardrobe to make a lasting impression.

Anotah has consistently appealed to particular women who are looking to piece together a selection of fashionable outfits with minimal effort and at reasonable prices. Anotah defines its brand by the phenomenal women associated with it.



ICAI Kuwait organizes seminar on entrepreneurship

The Kuwait Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), as part of its continuing professional education initiative for its members held another signature event 'How to be an Entrepreneur'.

The speaker for the evening was Abdulla Hassan, CEO of Dhow Capital

and a renowned Venture capital investor, life-coach and mentor. Mr. Hassan has led investments in startups all over the world and looks for innovative ideas and new trends while deciding on investments. The speaker explained a few simple steps on how to succeed as an entrepreneur. Each step was

explained in simple terms with personal examples and inspiring anecdotes.

Noel Cherian, Chairman of the Kuwait Chapter welcomed the gathering. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the Indian soldiers who lost their lives in the recent terror attack.

Porsche Centre Kuwait welcomes the new Macan



Porsche's most popular models, the Macan, is now available in Kuwait following a comprehensive upgrade. The latest generation was showcased to guests at a special event held by Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company at the showroom. The brand's compact SUV has evolved in terms of comfort and driving dynamics, with two engine versions, the Macan and the more powerful Macan S.

The vehicle dynamics of the Macan remain a principle feature. The

revamped chassis increases driving pleasure, offering stability and improved comfort thanks to newly developed mixed-size tyres, enhanced brakes and the intelligent all-wheel drive Porsche Traction Management (PTM) system. All combined the Macan feels even more like a sports car than ever before.

The range of standard equipment has been further enhanced, thus increasing the attractiveness of the new model. Customers can now enjoy features, such as a panoramic sunroof, automatically

dimming mirrors and ParkAssist with reversing camera in front and rear, at no extra costs.

Drivers have more scope to express their personality too with the addition of four exterior colours – Mamba Green Metallic, Dolomite Silver Metallic, Miami Blue and Crayon.

The new Porsche Macan and Macan S are now available at Porsche Centre Kuwait.

Basic retail prices of KD16,900 and KD22,200 respectively.

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Overseas spending during national holidays exceeds KD100 million



According to sources from the travel and tourism sector, the total amount spent by citizens and expatriates who traveled overseas

during the five-day national holidays is estimated to be around KD115 million. This included the price for tickets, transportation, accommodation, shopping, and entertainment of nearly KD75 per day during the brief holidays.

However, the daily average expense per individual has been reduced by the fact that some Kuwaitis possess houses in the country they travel to and thus save the cost of staying in hotels. Otherwise the average expense would reach up to KD150 per day. The same applies to expatriates as many choose to spend their holidays in their own countries, while only some travel to other countries.

Radisson Blu Kuwait Executive Chef takes over CEE Network Kitchen



RICKY LAXA
STAFF WRITER

Executive Chef of Radisson Blu Hotel Middle East and Turkey, David Harnois, led a full CEE Network culinary class in a three-hour session of hands on cooking of authentic French dishes. Harnois is well-known for his traditional methods and contemporary approach to international cuisine that has attracted many diners at Radisson Blu Hotel Kuwait.

Harnois kicked off the class with a brief introduction that encouraged students to familiarize themselves with the ingredients and procedures of the three main dishes. The authentic French dishes prepared and cooked included Quiche Loraine, Grilled Seabass Sauce Vierge and Pots De Crème Au Choclat. The students worked diligently to produce remarkable

products. "The plating and presentation of the dishes gave an appetizing look to the products and I am very glad to have been invited to do the class," commented Harnois.

"My family dine frequently at Radisson Blu Hotel and I get to see the Executive Chef personally supervise the dishes and the presentation. To be able to be a part of his class is an unforgettable experience as a student of CEE Culinary Class," stated Victoria Behrendt, dental hygienist and student of culinary course.

Members of the faculty of trainers were present during the class to provide assistance to Harnois and ensure that cooking procedures were followed as per recipe.

CEE Culinary Class are held every Friday at the Food Academy of a retail Hypermarket in Shuaikh from 9 am to 6 pm. For more details of courses, call: 65019059

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Kyrgyzstan troupe enthralls with music and dance



A folk music and dance troupe from Kyrgyzstan gave a memorable performance at the Abdulhussain Abdulredha Theater on 21 February.

The event, a collaborative effort between the Kyrgyzstan Embassy in Kuwait and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), was held to commemorate Kyrgyzstan's Independence Day and the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Kuwait H.E. Samgul Adamkulova, Secretary General of NCCAL, Ali Al-Yoha, and Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of Kyrgyzstan, Azamat Jamankulov, along with a large gathering of special invitees attended the event.

Ambassador Adamkulova welcomed the gathering and congratulated Kuwait on the national holidays, while encouraging people to visit Kyrgyzstan.

Minister Jamankulov, who lauded the concert for its high-level production quality, pointed out that the audiences were amazed at the performance by the talented artists participating in the various shows.

During the event, performers in dazzling costumes showcased a variety of traditional folk music and dances, while artists, playing on traditional instruments, enthralled the audience. Adding further enchantment to the show were fascinating circus acts and a fashion show that displayed the best designs of popular designers

from the Kyrgyz Republic. On the sidelines of the event, an exhibition of national clothes and traditional Kyrgyzstan art decor was also displayed.



A high note of the event was the superb performance by Salamat Sadikova, who is regarded as the voice of traditional music of Kyrgyzstan. She has led many performances across several countries.



MoC disconnects 5,357 land telephone lines of MoI

The Ministry of Communications (MoC) at the request of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has disconnected 5,357 land telephone lines belonging to the Ministry of Interior in 18 districts in all governorates of Kuwait.

According to sources at the Ministry of Communications, the disconnection was due to lack of need by the MoI from five districts in the Capital Governorate, three in Farwaniya, two in

Mubarak Al-Kabir, five in Hawalli and three in Jahra..

The source pointed out the annual subscription value of these lines exceeded KD370,000 annually. However, the MoC pointed out that the Interior Ministry would still have to pay the accumulated bills for these lines.



Career aspirations and payrolls: Kuwait leads in lower pay for expatriates



A recent survey by Bayt.com, the leading online recruitment company in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, on payrolls and career aspirations among young professionals in the region showed that over 70 percent of participants view 'salary and fringe benefits' as the most important aspect when it comes to a new job. On the other hand, 42 percent of survey respondents felt 'career growth opportunities' were important. Salaries and career growth were followed in priority by 'job security' and 'work-life balance'

among respondents in the survey. Surprisingly, in a region known for its business acumen there were only 26 percent who preferred setting up their own business; the overwhelming majority (54%) preferred to be employees. Interestingly, the survey also revealed that while 45 percent preferred to retire after the age of 60, only less than a fifth of respondents (14%) chose early retirement before the age of 50, indicating a majority chose the security of remaining the workforce for a longer period.

Data for the 2018 Bayt.com 'Career Aspirations' study was collected online from 22 November to 25 December, 2018 and were based on a sample 3,128 respondents. Countries that participated in the survey included Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, as well as Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia in the Middle-East and North Africa.

A related survey on payrolls in the GCC region showed that on average the expatriate workforce in the Gulf countries is declining. The average

number of expatriates dropped the highest in Saudi Arabia (34.2%) followed by Kuwait which witnessed a decline of 27.7 percent, and the UAE where there was a drop of 26.74 percent.

The survey also showed that average monthly salary of expatriates in the Gulf countries dropped by 26 percent from a year earlier to \$ 8,083. However, the decline was not uniform, with significant discrepancies existing between average salaries across the six-nation gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc. While the average salary of expatriates in Saudi Arabia was \$ 8,560 per month, it was \$8312 in the United Arab Emirates, \$7840 in Bahrain, \$7815 in Oman and \$7790 in Kuwait. Details of average salary in Qatar were not available. The survey found that average salaries fell the highest in Bahrain and Oman(25.2%) during the survey period.

The top two paying jobs for expatriates in the GCC were that of CEO or managing director of a multinational company.

For the top posts, the average salary rose 2.9 percent from \$33,988 to \$34,990, while the average

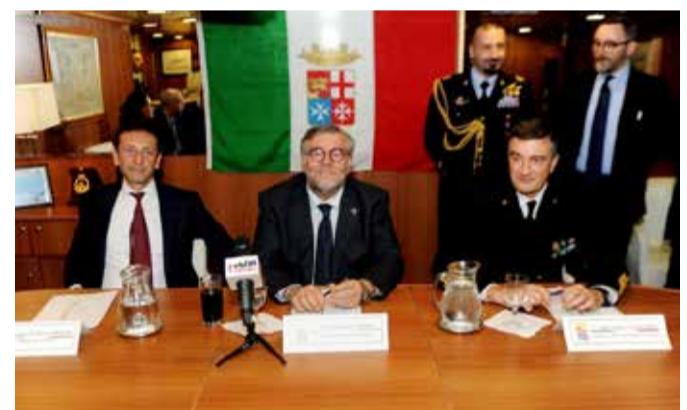
salary of the chief executive / managing director of a local company rose 13.25 percent from \$ 22,031 to \$ 24,950. The survey revealed that the country of origin did not have a significant impact on the salary a CEO received.

However, it needs to be pointed out that the 2018 Payroll Survey was also subject to some changes in the calculations, with several levels of low-wage jobs being added to the index in the latest survey and probably causing the decline in the average salary of expatriates.

Other findings from the latest Bayt.com study show that small and medium local companies in the private sector have the highest hiring potential in the next three months, with 76 percent of them saying they will be hiring.

In addition, around 68 percent of employers said that good 'communication skills in Arabic and English' was the top skill that they looked for in a candidate. The survey also revealed that 'business management' (30%) and 'commerce' (26%) were two of the most sought-after qualifications among employers.

Carlo Margottini concludes visit to Kuwait



Italian naval frigate Carlo Margottini made a brief stopover in Kuwait last week as part of a goodwill visit to the country and to showcase superior Italian naval technology to their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Briefing the media on the visit Italian Deputy Minister of Defense Rafael Fulby, along with Deputy Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Defense Admiral Dario Giacomin, praised the excellent relations between the two countries while emphasizing Italy's commitment to Kuwait's security and stability.

The Deputy Minister disclosed that the friendly visit was part of routine exchange of visits and no agreements were being signed.

The visit was aimed at further strengthening the excellent military and political cooperation between the two nations.

Carlo Margottini is a new generation



technologically advanced frigate and its visit to Kuwait came as part of its visit to other Gulf ports.

Speaking to the media, Kuwaiti Naval Forces Major-General Khaled Al-Kandari remarked



that Italian warships were considered one of the best warships in technological advancements and the Italian frigate's visit to Kuwait came as part of the close cooperation between navies of the two countries.

He noted that Kuwaiti officers and other personnel receive training in Italy, some of whom had already graduated from Italian maritime institutes.

To mark the occasion of the visit a reception was held onboard and was attended by a cross section of guests, including Kuwait navy officials and Italian ambassador H.E. Giuseppe Scognamiglio, and the Italian defense attache in Kuwait.

Saradhi Kuwait celebrates India-Fest 2019



Saradhi Kuwait celebrated its annual mega carnival, India Fest-2019, on 25 February at the Indian Central School, Abbasiya. The carnival, which coincided with Kuwait National Day celebrations, was hosted by Saradhi Kuwait in collaboration with various Indian associations hailing from 14 states of India.

The Indian mega fest, which was being held for the second consecutive year, was marked by numerous activities, including a free medical camp and health checkup by a medical team from Badr Al-Samaa Polyclinic; fashion shows such as Mummy & Me Show, Couples Fashion Show and others, as well as several cooking competitions that were

coordinated and Judged by the famous Chef Noushad from India.

A cultural summit held in the evening began with a welcome speech by the Program General Convenor N.S. Jayan, followed by the event's inauguration by Saradhi Kuwait President K.V. Sugunan. Felicitations on the occasion were rendered by various officials of Saradhi Trust and Saradhi Kuwait.

Among the distinguished guests attending the event were the Chairman of Kuwait Organ Transplant Center, Dr. Mustafa Al-Mousawi, the Chairman of Medical Oncology Department, Dr. Jassim Al-Barak and the management team members from the

various Indian associations participating in the India Fest, as well as media personnel. Leading oncologist at the Kuwait Cancer Center, Dr. Susovana Nair, volunteered in conducting a free cancer screening session for women.

A tribute was then paid to the Indian soldiers martyred in the recent Pulwama attack, with guests and participants offering their prayers and respects at the Amar Jyothi arranged in the venue.

The carnival with all its glamour and excitement continued from morning till late evening without a break. The entertainment and activities broke all language barriers and saw the attendance and participation of over 6000 Indians from various

states of India. The evening was graced by a musical feast by Sheikha, Reeva Maria and renowned drummer Gino K. Jose.

Many of the prominent dance schools in Kuwait staged brilliant performances on the occasion, while a host of other entertainments, including bike shows, games for children, magic shows, DJ shows and a live-kitchen where chefs cooked up culinary delights, entertained the crowd.

Saradhi Kuwait, along with Saradhi Trust and Saradhi Vanitha Vedhi coordinated flawlessly to transform India Fest 2019 into a mega carnival of fun and excitement, memories of which will last for long among the attendees.

Kuwait extends help to flood-affected in Kerala

Kuwait Red Crescent (KRC) delegation headed by Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi and accompanied by Kuwait's Ambassador to India Jassim Al-Najim made a two-day visit on Friday and Saturday to Kerala to extend help to victims of floods that ravaged the state recently.

In a statement released on the occasion, Al-Hasawi said that the KRC teams were distributing humanitarian supplies for the victims of the disastrous



flood that had engulfed the South Indian state in August 2018, with the cooperation of Indian Red Cross Society.

He added that the organization's efforts are based on directives of the world humanitarian leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to support the victims of natural calamities across the world.

For his part, Ambassador Al-Najim who was the guest of honor at the aid delivery ceremony said that KRC represents Kuwaiti people in their generosity and charity, adding that humanitarian support would further cement ties between the two friendly peoples.

The chairman of Indian Red Cross Society's Kerala chapter, V.P. Muralidharan

thanked Al-Hasawi and the ambassador for participating in the relief distribution program and hailed the positive role of KRC in Kerala.

As a result of the floods, considered to be among the worst in Kerala, around 480 people lost their lives and thousands of houses and other infrastructural installations were destroyed.

Zcrew organizes Zumba Masterclass for a cause

RICKY LAXA
STAFF WRITER

Popular Zumba Team comprised of personal and group trainers led by the Philippine Zumba Ambassador to Kuwait Blanche Bravo organized a charity masterclass at the Judo Hall of Qadsia Sport Complex in Hawally. At the helm was visiting Zumba trainer Mark Pastrana, former member of the Streetboys, Philippine's most popular all male dance group. Proceeds of the show were donated to Kabayan Cancer Support Group (KCSG).

The two and half hour masterclass led by different Zumba trainers provided a fun and fitness-inspired experience for the full class with

Pastrana's most popular moves and easy to follow routines and fun regimens. Among those who led the class were Janice Capili, Jennina Tongco, Melanie Formentera, Nympha Laut, Leo Capiendo, MaryAnn Pobre, Marissa Tambis, Jamie Red, Jennifer Malonzo, Mara Ga, Sofia Omar, Melody Domingo and Janseen Idano.

"I would like to thank Blanche Bravo for spearheading this project and giving me this opportunity to come to Kuwait and meet the OFWs and be able to share my skills in dancing and Zumba. I want to thank them for their support to this noble project," stated Pastrana. Bravo in return thanked everyone who participated in the event and those who purchased tickets in support of the project. She also extended her gratitude to

the sponsors namely Pilates and More, Radisson Blu Hotel, Jamsonline, Jollibee, Lbc, My lady's gym, Fitness Professionals in Kuwait, Sebamed, Mid Sign, Pix, Jarallah German Specialized Clinic, Rana Fitness, American Tourister, Echo Home Theater, Kuwait Medical Int., Mr. A Sound System Group.



Global Transit passengers enjoy taste of Addis gratis



Ethiopian Airlines, the largest Aviation Group in Africa and SKYTRAX Certified Four Star Global Airline, is pleased to announce it has extended free transit tour to global passengers as of 1 February.

The new complimentary city tour package organized by ET Holidays, the tour operator wing of Ethiopian Airlines, takes transiting passengers with 6 to 8 hours' time in the running capital, Addis Ababa, on a journey through one of the landmarks of the city, The National Museum, accompanied

with a taste of Ethiopian Coffee and souvenir shopping at affordable prices. It allows them to experience the unique flavors of the political capital of Africa during their brief stay.

Regarding the initiative, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde GebreMariam, remarked, "As travel has gone digital with our innovative technology solutions including Ethiopia Mobile App and online platforms, the huge influx of transit passengers in Addis Ababa, the world's gateway to Africa, can enjoy personalized and end-to-end travel experience. Ethiopian Mobile App enables passengers secure their visa electronically within 4 hours from any part of the world, as well as book their flights, pay online using credit or debit cards, mobile money, e-Wallet and bank transfer, check-in and issue boarding pass seamlessly."

"As we continue to discover and deliver the best for our customers, we are pleased to come up with complimentary offerings to our global transiting passengers and make them feel the real taste of Addis Ababa during their brief stay," he added.

"While promoting Ethiopia, Land of Origins, and its beautiful capital Addis Ababa alike, as tourist destinations, we will keep promoting initiatives tailored to provide our ever growing customer with a unique and unforgettable travel experience," he said.

Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre launches free consultation

Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Farwaniya, Kuwait launches free doctor consultation at their Specialty Clinics as part of their 2nd year Anniversary Celebrations.

Badr Al Samaa has extended their 'Celebrate Health' campaign in Farwaniya, Kuwait to the month of March 2019 during their 2nd Anniversary. Badr Al Samaa is offering free Doctor Consultations at all their specialty clinics like Ophthalmology (EYE), Orthopedics, (Bone & Joint), Pediatrics (Child Specialist), ENT (Ear, Nose & Throat), Dental and General Surgery. Also a 30 percent discount is offered in Lab, X-ray and Scanning services. File opening is free as always. It urges the Kuwait community to 'Celebrate Health' with us.

Badr Al Samaa is committed to encouraging 'Healthy Living' in people in Kuwait. Started in March 2017, with a few doctors and medical staff, Badr Al Samaa



has now grown to a full-fledged medical centre with super specialty clinics like

Urology, General Surgery and introducing specialty services like Colposcopy and Chest Medicine, which is rarely found in other private centers in Kuwait.

"We would like to thank the Kuwait community by offering them free consultation in our specialty clinics which adds value to their health management and treatment in Kuwait."

As we all know, reaching a Specialty doctor in Kuwait at a nominal cost is very difficult and we urge the Kuwait community to make use of this opportunity and 'celebrate health' with us," said Dr. Sharath Chandran, CEO, Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Kuwait during their 2nd year anniversary celebrations at Badr Al Samaa.

The free specialty doctor consultation offer is valid throughout the month of March 2019. For more information, please contact: 24759250/70/80 or 60689323.



Skynet take UGC trophy

The finals of 43rd edition of the United Goans Center Football tournament was held at the Bayan grounds on 15 February. The finalists, Skynet Miracles and United Goans Center (UGC) battled for the winner's trophy. After an exciting and intense match, Skynet took

home the trophy beating UGC by 2 goals to 1.

After the finals, the following players, coaches and teams were recognized for their performance during the tournament.

Man of the match: Sonu from Skynet Miracles
Best Disciplined Team: AKFC
Best Goalkeeper: Martin from Skynet Miracles
Highest Scorer of the tournament: Githin from Indian Strikers
Best Coordinator Award: Thomas from United Goans Center
Best Coach Award: Agnello from United Goans Center

Gene therapy first to 'halt' most common cause of blindness

A woman from Oxford has become the first person in the world to have gene therapy to try to halt the most common form of blindness in the Western world. Surgeons injected a synthetic gene into the back of Janet Osborne's eye in a bid to prevent more cells from dying. It is the first treatment to target the underlying genetic cause of age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

About 600,000 people in the UK are affected by AMD, of whom 350,000 are severely sight impaired. The treatment was carried out under local anaesthetic last month at Oxford Eye Hospital by Robert McLaren, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Oxford.

He said: "A genetic treatment administered early on to preserve vision in patients who would otherwise lose their sight would be a tremendous breakthrough in ophthalmology and certainly something I hope to see in the near future."

Mrs. Osborne, 80, is the first of 10 patients with AMD taking part in a trial of the gene therapy treatment, manufactured by Gyroscope Therapeutics, funded by Syncona, the Wellcome Trust founded investment firm. Those in this trial have what is known as dry AMD, where the decline in sight is gradual and can take many years.

As some people age, genes responsible for the eye's natural defenses start to

malfunction and begin destroying cells in the macula, leading to vision loss. An injection is made at the back of the eye, which delivers a harmless virus containing a synthetic gene. The virus infects the retinal cells and releases the gene.

This enables the eye to make a protein designed to stop cells from dying and so keep the macula healthy.

The early stage trial, at Oxford Eye Hospital, is primarily designed to check the safety of the procedure and is being carried out in patients who have already lost some vision. It is too early to know if Mrs Osborne's sight loss in her left eye has been halted but all those on the trial will have their vision monitored.



The Oxford trial aims to tackle the underlying genetic cause of AMD and might be effective in stopping the disease before people go blind.



Medicating mosquitoes to fight malaria

Mosquitoes that landed on surfaces coated with the anti-malarial compound atovaquone were completely blocked from developing Plasmodium falciparum (P. falciparum), the parasite that causes malaria, according to new research led by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The study showed that atovaquone – an active ingredient in medication that is commonly used in humans to prevent and treat malaria – can be absorbed through mosquitoes' tarsi (legs) and prevents the insects from developing and spreading the parasite. The findings indicate that treating bed nets with atovaquone or similar compounds would be an effective way to reduce the burden of malaria while significantly mitigating

the growing problem of insecticide resistance. For this study, the researchers reasoned that they could introduce antimalarial compounds to Anopheles mosquitoes in a way that's similar to a mosquito making contact with insecticides on a bed net. Rather than kill the mosquitoes, the aim was to give them a prophylactic treatment so that they could not develop and transmit the malaria-causing parasite.

The study found that P. falciparum development was completely blocked at relatively low concentrations of atovaquone (100 µmol per m²) and when mosquitoes were exposed for just 6 minutes, which is comparable to the time wild mosquitoes spend on insecticide-treated bed nets. The researchers had similar success when using other compounds similar to atovaquone. While atovaquone effectively killed parasites, it had no effects on mosquito lifespan or reproduction.

"When we put these data into a mathematical model using real-world data on insecticide resistance, bed net coverage and malaria prevalence, it showed that supplementing conventional bed nets with a compound like atovaquone could appreciably reduce malaria transmission under almost any conditions we had data for in Africa," said Douglas Paton, research fellow and lead author of the paper. "What got us really excited is that it also showed that this new intervention would have the greatest impact in areas with the highest levels of mosquito insecticide resistance."

Growing up in a green area may help support mental health



New research from Aarhus University in Denmark suggests that people who have grown up in close contact with nature are much less likely to develop mental health problems in adulthood than peers who had less access to green space as children.

Did you grow up in a green area? If so, you may be enjoying better mental health than your peers.

According to recent studies, mental health problems have been on the rise in the United

States, with particular increases in cases of anxiety and depression. The reasons behind this worrying trend are as numerous as they are complex, ranging from the evermore stressful demands of modern-day life, such as being constantly 'on call' through email, phone, and social media, to environmental factors, such as pollution.

Researchers from around the world have been trying to disentangle each of these risk factors, so as to get a better idea of what changes are necessary to prevent mental health problems from developing into an increasingly serious, society-wide issue.

Now, a new study from postdoctoral researcher Kristine Engemann and colleagues from Aarhus University in Denmark has found a link between growing up in a natural environment and enjoying better mental health in adulthood. In their research — the findings of which appear in PNAS — they used satellite data from 1985 to 2013 to identify the green spaces in close proximity to the childhood homes of more than 900,000 Danes.

They then correlated these data with this population's risk of developing one out of 16 different mental health conditions throughout adulthood. The researchers found that people who grow up surrounded by green areas have an up to 55 percent lower risk of developing mental health problems as adults than others.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Business and Biodiversity



ROBERT WATSON

Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

At the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos last month, the evidence of mounting threats to nature, and of nature's contributions to people, featured higher on the agenda than ever before. The task for business leaders around the world is to embrace this evidence and start acting as stewards, rather than spoilers, of our vital natural assets.

The latest edition of the WEF's Global Risks Report is correct in concluding that, "Of all risks, it is in relation to the environment that the world is most clearly sleepwalking into catastrophe." But PwC's latest annual CEO survey, also released at Davos, reveals that business leaders no longer include environmental concerns in their top-ten threats to corporate growth.

Such findings reflect an inexcusable myopia on the part of business leaders. The loss of biodiversity – stemming from the destruction of individual species, entire ecosystems, and even genetic resources – is not just an environmental issue; it is also a threat to global development, security, and economic prosperity. Products ranging from coffee to cotton rely on strong, functioning ecosystems and a minimal level of biodiversity. Without a healthy environment, forced migrations, conflicts



over resources, and a range of other direct and indirect disruptions to global trade and commerce become more likely.

According to one estimate cited in this year's Global Risks Report, the annual value of nature's contributions to people – in the form of food, water purification, pollination, protection against floods, and so forth – is \$125 trillion, or roughly two-thirds more than global GDP. Hence, the WEF concludes that biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are both more likely and potentially more damaging to business than most other global threats.

Fortunately, last November, prior to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14), participants in the

Business and Biodiversity Forum recognized the "urgent need for increased collective ambition to halt and reverse biodiversity loss."

To that end, a growing number of firms have committed to such collective action. Many, for example, have signed onto the global Business and Biodiversity Pledge that was introduced at the CBD gathering in Mexico in 2016. And last July, companies meeting in France detailed concrete steps they are taking to safeguard biodiversity as part of the Act4Nature initiative.

By integrating biodiversity concerns into their global growth strategies, and by supporting targets set by the international community, these businesses are helping to lay the groundwork for a major summit in Beijing next year. The delegates who gather for CBD COP15 will decide on global biodiversity targets for the next decade.

Biodiversity pledges by businesses vary. For its part, AXA Insurance Company is developing new ways to account for biodiversity loss in its assessments of financial risk. This, in turn, will help to channel investments toward projects that maintain or reinforce ecosystems. Meanwhile, the French cosmetics company L'Oréal has pledged that, by 2020, none of its products will include ingredients linked to deforestation.

For others seeking to incorporate biodiversity considerations into their decision-making, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' latest regional assessment reports offer a range of evidence-based policy options. And at its next plenary session this coming May, IPBES will release the first global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services since the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005. The new report will place a much stronger emphasis on the role that all decision-makers, including those in businesses, have to play in safeguarding biodiversity.

The scientific and expert evidence is unequivocal: human activities are changing Earth's climate and destroying the natural resources and ecosystems on which we all rely. Businesses, governments, and members of civil society – including indigenous peoples and local communities – all have a duty to reduce and reverse this damage.

But while we all need to work together, the private sector, in particular, must redouble its efforts to protect natural systems and shape the future we want. That will require business leaders with a vision that extends beyond quarterly earnings.

Around the world, customers are becoming increasingly concerned about the wider consequences of production and consumption. By recognizing that business as usual can no longer continue, corporate leaders can usher in a future that is better both for their bottom lines and for our shared natural world.



Notice for Germans concerning the elections to the European Parliament

The election of Members of the European Parliament from the Federal Republic of Germany will take place on 26 May 2019.

Germans who reside outside the Federal Republic of Germany and no longer have a domicile within the federal territory may be eligible to vote in the election.

In addition to fulfilling the electoral requirements applicable to all voters, they must

1.1 on election day have been domiciled in one of the other member states of the European Union¹ for the past three months or more, or have had their habitual residence there for that period (residence in the Federal Republic of Germany immediately prior to residence in such country counts towards this three-month requirement),

or

1.2 either, within the last 25 years and after attaining the age of 14, have been domiciled without interruption in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least three months or otherwise have had their habitual residence there, or for other reasons have acquired a personal and direct familiarity with the political conditions in the Federal Republic of Germany and be affected by them²;

2. be registered on a voters' register in the Federal Republic of Germany. Registration is only possible upon application. The application must be made on an official form and should be submitted soon after publication of this notice.

Applications not received by the competent municipal authority before 6 May 2019 cannot be accepted (Section 17 (1) of the European Election Regulations).

Application forms and information sheets are available online from the Federal Returning Officer (www.bundeswahlleiter.de). They are also available at:

- the diplomatic missions and career consular posts of the Federal Republic of Germany
- the Federal Returning Officer at the following address: **Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, Zweigstelle Bonn, Postfach 17 03 77, 53029 BONN, GERMANY**
- district and municipal returning officers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Further information is available on the website of the Embassy (Consulate General) of the Federal Republic of Germany www.kuwait.diplo.de/wahl³.

Kuwait den, 19.02.2019

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik

Deutschland Kuwait

Consular Section: Salem Al Mubarak St., Symphony Tower 2, Block 2, Floor 8,
Salmiya, Tel.: 25770755



Bekanntmachung für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europäischen Parlament

Am 26. Mai 2019 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten des Europäischen Parlaments aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und im Bundesgebiet keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u. a. Voraussetzung, dass sie

- 1.1 am Wahltag seit mindestens drei Monaten in den übrigen Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Union¹ 1 obeneine Wohnung innehaben oder sich mindestens seit dieser Zeit dort gewöhnlich aufzuhalten (auf die Dreimonatsfrist wird ein unmittelbar vorausgehender Aufenthalt in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angerechnet) oder
- 1.2 entweder nach Vollendung ihres 14. Lebensjahres mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eine Wohnung innegehabt oder sich sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben und dieser Aufenthalt nicht länger als 25 Jahre zurückliegt, oder aus anderen Gründen persönlich und unmittelbar Vertrautheit mit den politischen Verhältnissen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland erworben haben und von ihnen betroffen sind²;
2. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden.

Einem Antrag, der erst am 06. Mai 2019 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 17 Abs. 1 der Europawahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter sind online auf der Seite des Bundeswahlleiters (www.bundeswahlleiter.de) verfügbar. Sie können auch bei

- den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
- dem **Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, Zweigstelle Bonn, Postfach 170377, 53029 BONN, GERMANY**,
- den Kreis- und Stadtwahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Kuwait auf seiner Internetseite www.kuwait.diplo.de/wahl³.

Kuwait den, 19.02.2019

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik
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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Risky Retirement Business



CARMEN M. REINHART AND CHRISTOPH TREBESCH

Carmen M. Reinhart is Professor of the International Financial System at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Christoph Trebesch is Professor of Macroeconomics at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

The challenges posed by an aging population are manifold, and they are neither new nor unique. The populations of Italy and Japan have been declining for some time, and in the United States, numerous state governments' large unfunded pension liabilities are a chronic problem.

While low interest rates in most advanced economies have held down governments' borrowing costs, they pose significant challenges for pension asset management. In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, returns on Japanese, German, and other European sovereign bonds have been negative for some

“ Regardless of whether yields in advanced economies rise, fall, or stay the same, core demographic trends in the coming years imply that pension costs will continue to balloon. ”

time. Short-term interest rates on US Treasuries may have drifted higher as the Federal Reserve began to unwind its post-crisis stimulus policies (and may edge higher still after the Fed's current pause), but longer-term US interest rates remain low by historical standards.

The two decades after World War II, as one of us has documented, were also characterized by low real returns on government bonds in both the US and elsewhere. Unlike now, however, that era boasted a much younger and faster-growing population. Furthermore, households had trivial debt levels by modern standards. The solvency of pension plans was not yet a concern.

Regardless of whether yields in advanced economies rise, fall, or stay



the same, core demographic trends are unlikely to change in the coming years, implying that pension costs will continue to balloon. Since the creation of the US Social Security system in 1935, Americans' life expectancy has risen by almost 17 years, while the retirement age has risen by less than two years. In 1946, the assets of pensions amounted to about 29% of US GDP; they have almost quadrupled since then.

Understandably, the search for higher yields has become a higher priority, even for fully-funded pension plans. When unfunded liabilities (which represent the assets that pension funds will have to purchase in the future to meet their obligations) are included, the magnitudes soar even higher.

The search for higher returns has led US pension plans (excluding that of the federal government) to tilt toward equity markets in recent years. This trend has been evident among other investors as well, including some of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds. But our recent work with Josefina Meyer suggests that another asset class can provide real long-term returns above those of "risk-free" US government securities.

In our study, we focus on external sovereign bonds and compile a new database of 220,000 monthly prices of foreign-currency government bonds, covering 91 countries, traded in London and New York between 1815 and 2016. Our main insight is that, as in equity markets, the returns on external sovereign bonds (largely bonds issued

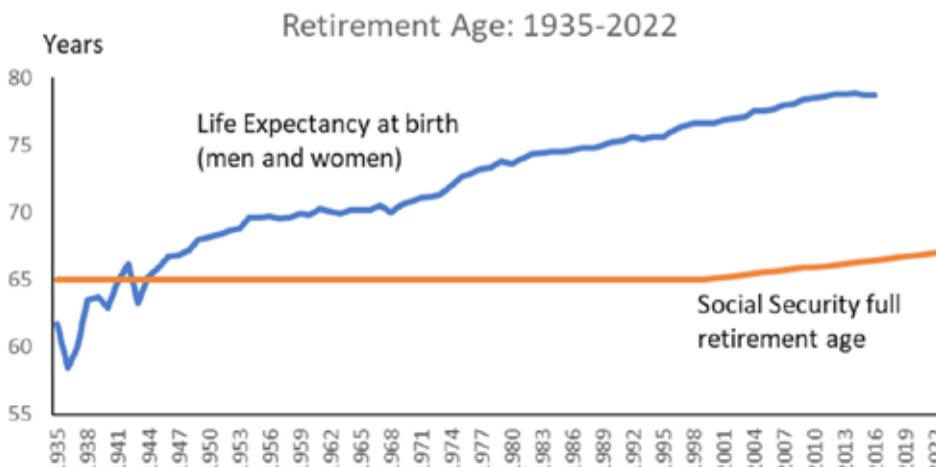
by emerging market countries and now-advanced economies) have been sufficiently high to compensate investors for risk.

Real ex post returns on external sovereign bonds averaged 7% annually across two centuries, including default episodes, major wars, and global crises. An investor entering this market in any given year received an average excess yearly return of around 4% above US or British government bonds, which is comparable to stocks and higher than corporate bonds.

The observed returns are difficult to reconcile with the degree of credit risk in this market, as measured by historical default and recovery rates. Based on our archive of more than 300 sovereign debt restructurings since 1815, we show that cases of full repudiation of sovereign debt are relatively rare and mostly connected with major revolutions (Russia in the early twentieth century, China's Maoist regime, Cuba, and the European countries that fell under Soviet control following World War II). For the full asset class over two centuries, the typical haircut investors suffer in debt crises is below 50% – a smaller haircut than Moody's estimates for US corporates over the past century.

The main driver of the higher ex post real returns is the comparatively high coupon these sovereign bonds offer. Beyond the return history itself, there is the fact that emerging and developing economies now account for about two-thirds of global GDP, compared to just one-third 50 years ago, when portfolio diversification was almost entirely a domestic affair. Adding to the attractiveness of a portfolio of emerging-market sovereign securities, its returns are not perfectly correlated with equity returns. Moreover, there is evidence that creditor rights and enforcement powers in external sovereign debt markets have increased in the wake of recent US court judgements.

These findings are not an invitation to embrace indiscriminate risk taking. Another wave of sovereign defaults may be ahead of us, and sovereign bonds can become highly illiquid in distress. Nonetheless, our results highlight the long-term gains from diversification into a growing but relatively under-studied asset class. And for pensions, the risks of relying on assets that offer negative or only very low long-term real returns are no less serious, especially as they compound over time.



Sources: Historical Statistics of the United States, Social Security Administration, and World Bank.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

A Bright Future for Africa's Girls



NKANDU LUO

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Education gives young people the tools they need – from cognitive and social skills to self-confidence – to succeed throughout their lives. For many African countries, including my home country of Zambia, burgeoning youth populations make delivering high-quality education to all particularly urgent. But success will be possible only with a sharp focus on girls and women.

Education plays a central role in determining girls' and women's capacity to claim economic, social, and political rights and status in society. That is why it is so important that countries place the education and empowerment of girls and women at the top of their political agendas.

For Zambia, that decision is already paying off. Women now occupy powerful positions previously dominated by men, including Chief Justice, Head of the Drug Enforcement Commission, President of the Constitutional Court, Vice President, and Finance Minister. Zambian



top levels of power. Not everyone wants to or can be a CEO or political leader. Gender equality is fundamentally about choice: giving women the same breadth of opportunities that men enjoy. Education gives girls and women the knowledge they need to make informed choices about the life they want – to become a homemaker or scientific researcher, for example, or a small business owner or the head of a multinational corporation – and the skills they need to achieve it.

To support this effort, Zambia's government has increased its investment in building technical secondary schools for girls. Moreover, to boost education quality, it has been recruiting teachers, with a focus on women. So far, 1,265 female teachers have been hired, compared to 744 male teachers.

The Zambian government has also strengthened its "re-entry policy," focused on helping young mothers return to school after childbirth. And it is buttressing its efforts with legislation, including the Gender Equity and Equality Act and an amendment to the Zambian Constitution Act. A bill to curb sexual and gender-based violence is also in the

pipeline. Zambia's progress challenges outsiders' assumptions about what it means to be a woman in Africa. It should serve as a model for neighboring countries seeking to bolster development by improving gender equality, and as a source of hope for girls and women everywhere, giving them the confidence to dream big.

But our work is far from finished. We not only need more women to be playing decisive roles at all levels of society; we must also close educational-attainment gaps between, say, urban and rural girls.

Nevertheless, the future looks bright. For one thing, with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 4, United Nations member states have committed to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030, with a focus on eliminating gender disparities.

For another, high-profile figures have thrown their weight behind initiatives promoting education – and, in particular, girls' education. Notably, Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, is now a patron of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the only accredited organization representing higher education (more than 500 universities) throughout more than 50 Commonwealth countries. Among the ACU's key areas of work is gender equity.

This is an obvious fit for the duchess, a vocal feminist, who has used her platform to encourage the empowerment of young women, including through education.

For example, speaking to a group of students at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji last October, she declared, "Everyone should be afforded the opportunity to receive the education they want, but more importantly the education they have the right to receive." She then underscored the added importance of this objective for "women and girls in developing countries."

The duchess has previously worked with organizations like One World Vision and has been an ambassador for UN Women. Perhaps most important, she has the star quality that captures young people's attention. With her compelling personal story – in which she found her own success, lived her values, and defied expectations – she is the epitome of the modern woman, and an inspiration to girls and women throughout Africa.

The advocacy of figures like the Duchess of Sussex, together with a strong commitment from governments and NGOs, suggests that the future of our young girls is bright. Now more than ever, African women can look forward to lives they choose for themselves.

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President Edgar Lungu is experiencing his own "Blair's babes" moment (British Prime Minister Tony Blair was once photographed surrounded by 96 of the 101 female Labour MPs elected to the House of Commons in 1997) without the patronizing slogan.

Of course, promoting gender equality is not just about getting women into the

Silk City, Bubiyan Island attracts foreign investments

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The fact that the development of the Silk City is being led by Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is a clear indication that the government is committed to seeing the project taking off at the earliest and to prepare Kuwait for the challenges of the next generation.

During the visit by the Chinese delegation, Mr. Jizhe and delegation members held talks with CEO of the Apparatus for Developing Silk City and Bubiyan Island, Faisal Al-Medlej, members of Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the Supreme Planning Council Dr. Khalid Mahdi and other top government officials. The talks focused on ways to enhance bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries and to activate memorandums on developing Silk-City and five other Kuwaiti Islands. The Chinese side is reported to have expressed keenness to accelerate the implementation of the construction and development of Mubarak port, and implementation of the Silk City project, which will positively affect the economic development of Kuwait and neighboring countries.

Speaking to the media following the visit by the Chinese delegation, Faisal Al-Medlej, noted the project was intended to transform Kuwait into an international financial, trade and cultural hub, in line with the vision of His Highness the Amir. He added that in the coming period, Kuwait will focus on attracting foreign

investments in developing economic activities, as well as achieving security and stability for the region by creating the most suitable atmosphere for foreign investors. Last week it was reported that Kuwait was planning to establish a \$10 billion Kuwait-China Silk Road Fund to invest in projects related to the Silk City and islands development, as well as for strategic investments in China and in other countries through which the 'Belt and Road Initiative' is expected to pass. The Kuwait-China Silk Road Fund will reportedly be financed in equal measure by Kuwait and China, while also working with strategic partners in China to arrange debt financing that could see the total investment capacity of the fund raised to as much as \$30 billion.

Kuwait signed the first cooperation agreement with China for developing Silk City and Bubiyan Island as part of China's One Belt and One Road Initiative in June 2014 and a second round of agreements were signed in November 2018. Speaking after his meeting with the Chinese delegation in February, Khaled Mahdi said, "Silk City and development of the islands is the signature project in the development plan for New Kuwait 2035. However, among the prerequisites for the signature project to be realized are the creation of a special economic zone law, a private-sector finance model, and the master plan."

In the wake of the visit by the Chinese delegation in February, the two sides also agreed to cooperate with the Chinese Construction and Communications

Company to initiate the collection of information, and to develop a work program for the investment, implementation and operation of first phase of the project either through long-term leasing or through Public-private partnerships.

The first phase of the Silk City project, located in Subiya area, across Kuwait Bay in northern Kuwait is expected to cost in excess of US\$82 billion and will include an international airport, a rail network, a logistics and industrial hub and a free-trade zone for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port on Bubiyan Island. The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port on Bubiyan Island is expected to serve the interests of major countries in the Middle East and Asia including Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran. In addition, the port will be one of the closest sea ports to Central Asia.

The Silk City mega urban area construction project when completed in various phases over a 25-year period, will span over 250 square kilometers and will include the iconic one-kilometer high residential and commercial tower, Burj Mubarak al-Kabir, which will be one of the tallest buildings in the world. Other developments in the area will encompass a nature reservation spread over two square kilometers, residences, hotels and retail facilities, an Olympic Stadium, duty-free area beside the new international airport, as well as a large business center, conference areas, environmental areas, athletic areas, and areas that concentrate on media, health, education, and

industry. The total development cost for the Silk City which is projected to be over \$130 billion will be spread over various phases. When fully ready, the project will house over 700,000 people and create 45,000 new job opportunities. The Silk City will be linked to Kuwait City across Kuwait Bay by the 24 kilometer long Al-Jaber Bridge that is nearing completion. The bridge will decrease driving time from Kuwait City to Madinat al-Hareer to seventeen minutes rather than the current one-and-a-half-hour drive around Kuwait Bay.

On a cautionary note, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently warned that Kuwait needs to implement deeper reforms to secure adequate savings for future generations despite forecasts of stronger growth in its non-oil economy. It said Kuwait's non-oil growth is set to increase to about 3.5 percent in 2020, from 2.5 percent last year, as higher oil prices is expected boost capital spending.

But the IMF urged greater reforms, saying that even if implemented fully and on time, the measures under consideration would not close the intergenerational equity gap. The IMF pointed out that the government's non-oil balance would fall well short of levels needed to ensure equally high living standards for future generations — a gap of 13.5 percent of non-oil GDP by 2024. Additional fiscal consolidation will therefore be needed to close this gap, which would also reduce financing needs and preserve liquid buffers, the IMF noted.

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Migration Myths vs. Economic Facts



MAHMOUD MOHIELDIN , DILIP RATHA

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On December 19, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly voted to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, with 152 votes in favor, five votes against, and 12 abstentions. Supporters hailed the Compact as a step toward more humane and orderly management of migration, yet opposition remains formidable.

The Compact is not a legally binding treaty, nor does it guarantee new rights for migrants. In fact, the Compact's 23 objectives were drafted on the basis of two years of inclusive discussions and six rounds of negotiations, focused specifically on creating a framework for international cooperation that would not interfere excessively in countries' domestic affairs.

Because of misunderstandings about the Compact, it is worth taking a closer look at the migration challenge – and the vast benefits that a well-managed system can bring to host countries and home countries alike.

Migration is motivated, first and foremost, by lack of economic opportunities at home. With the average income level in high-income countries more than 70 times higher than in low-income countries, it is not surprising that many in the developing world feel compelled to try their luck elsewhere.

This trend is reinforced by demographic shifts. As high-income countries face population aging, many lower-income countries have burgeoning working-age and youth populations. Technological disruption is also putting pressure on labor markets. Moreover, climate change, as indicated by a recent World Bank report, will accelerate the trend, by driving an estimated 140 million people from their homes in the coming decades.

But, contrary to popular belief, nearly half of all migrants do not move from developing to developed countries. Rather, they migrate among developing countries, often within the same neighborhood.

Moreover, return migration is increasing, a fact that is often overlooked,



often because migrants were denied entry into the labor market or their work contracts ended. For example, the number of newly registered South Asian workers in the Gulf states declined significantly – by anywhere from 12% to 41% – over the last two years.

Between 2011 and 2017, the number of potential returnees in Europe – asylum-seekers whose applications were rejected or who were found to be undocumented – increased fourfold, reaching 5.5 million.

Over the same period, the number of potential returnees in the United States more than doubled, to over three million. Return migration from Saudi Arabia and

exceed an entire year's income for a migrant worker in some destination countries – to unscrupulous labor agents to find employment outside their own countries. That is why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include a target to reduce recruitment costs.

Migration also delivers major economic benefits to home countries. While migrants spend most of their wages in their host countries – boosting demand there – they also tend to send money to support families back home. Such remittances have been known to exceed official development assistance. Last year, remittances to low- and middle-income countries increased by 11%, reaching \$528 billion, exceeding those countries' inflows of foreign direct investment.

Migrants sending money home pay, on average, 7% of the total of the transfer itself, owing to weak competition in the market for remittance services – a result of stringent regulations intended to combat financial crimes like money laundering – as well as reliance on inefficient technology.

Achieving the SDG target of reducing transfer costs below 3% – which would support progress toward the target of increasing the total volume of remittances – will require countries to address these weaknesses.

We are closely monitoring these often-overlooked ways that migration can support development, owing to their links to SDG indicators. But recent research busts other

Figure 1: Remittances exceed ODA and FDI flows to low- and middle-income countries

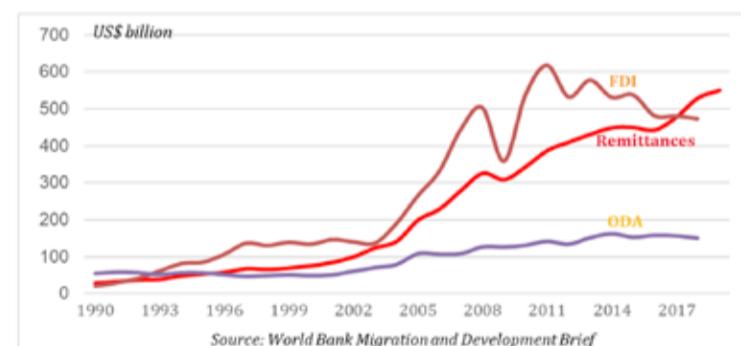
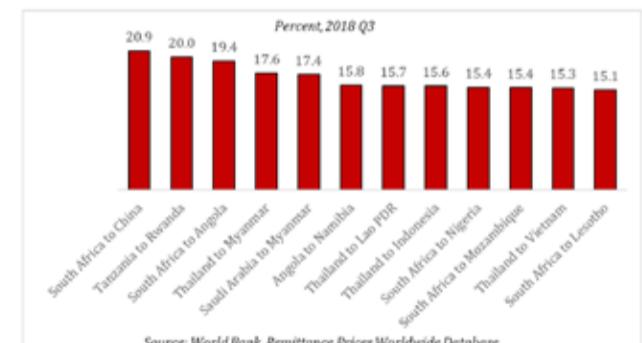


Figure 2: The cost of sending \$200 can be exorbitant



South Africa has increased as well.

Those migrants who remain in their host countries make substantial contributions. Although the world's estimated 266 million migrants comprise only about 3.4% of the global population, they contribute more than 9% of GDP.

To achieve this, migrants must overcome high barriers to economic success. For example, unskilled workers, especially those from poor countries, often pay very high fees – which can

Globally, the largest recipient of remittances is India (\$80 billion), followed by China, the Philippines, Mexico, and Egypt. As a share of GDP, the largest recipients were Tonga, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Nepal. The increase in remittances during 2018 was due to improvement in the labor market in the US and the recovery of flows from Russia and the Gulf States.

But the potential of remittances to support sustainable development is not being met. A major obstacle is the high cost of transferring money.

migration myths as well, showing, for example, that migrants neither impose a significant fiscal burden on host countries nor depress wages for lower-skill native workers.

Migration flows are increasing – a trend that is set to continue. Fragmented migration policies shaped by popular myths cannot manage this process effectively, much less seize the opportunities to spur development that migration creates. Only a coordinated approach, as envisioned in the Global Compact, can do that.



Tie-dye trend

It started with t-shirts, but now the tie-dye trend covers a range of clothing items from oversized T-shirt dresses to denim. The famously hippy print is even applied to feminine silhouettes such as mini dresses and A-line skirts. From the more sophisticated color combinations to the rich fabrics and the unexpected shapes, the new tie-dye is more elevated and fashion forward.

Start off with colors in the same family as your tie dye, and work with the color scheme to design your ensemble.

Here are some tips to help you.

Pick the best piece: Fabrics can be the starting point of any look, so choosing the right fabric is an important element to keep in mind when choosing your statement piece. The tie dye has an allure unlike most other prints, and the key is to wear it in a manner that highlights your inner style. You have the option of oversized co-ords, drawstring dresses and tunics, or even sweaters and silky two-pieces.

Also, luxury tie-dye feels like an oxymoron, but the designs created by tie-dye are a 2D texture on their own,

and combining that with a soft velvet enhances the dimensions.

Try a splash of color: If tie-dye to you is an overwhelming swirl of sherbet hues, try easing into the trend with something a bit simpler, a sleek dress with a toned-down tie-dye detail.

Layer a slip dress One easy way you can bring tie-dye into cooler months is with strategic layering. While bright yellows and oranges might not be the usual hues for winter months, layer your tie dye slip dress over a turtleneck. For extra chilly days, throw a chunky knit over the top for the best effect.

Pair with jeans: One easy ensemble to fall back on is pairing a bright tie-dye tee with a pair of jeans. High-waisted vintage jeans are ideal for a weekend look or sleek black jeans work if you're looking to venture into groovy workwear.

Stick to neutrals: A surprisingly sophisticated way to wear tie-dye is to skip those high-saturation colors for a bit

more of a neutral take. A simple skirt or pair of pants in a stripe pattern are easy to style with a button-down or chic sweater.

Play with ladylike silhouettes: Keep an eye out for more polished silhouettes, say a midi dress or collared button-down both make for feminine picks. Believe it or not, tie-dye is the ideal way to freshen up your going-out look. Swap out your standard LBD for something with a pop of color and you'll stand out from the crowd.

Wear with polished pieces: Tie-dye can be sophisticated by styling a simple two-tone style with polished pieces like trousers and a tailored blazer. Mix and match colors for a bolder look, or stick to neutrals for the most pared-down take.

Mix and match: Mix and match different variations of tie dye just as you would another print. Say, layer a tie dye unitard underneath a similar dress to mix-and-match tie dye prints. Also, by combining knits, silk, and sheer fabrics, tie dye takes a back seat and lets the fabric textures do the talking. The result is possibly the ultimate fall outfit.

your hair with two non-slip hair clamps, then hit the sheets. The next morning, unclamp, unravel, and shake what your mama (and this tutorial) gave you. Use your fingers to style.

Headband waves: Mist your dry hair with a salt spray (for added hold) and then brush it out to avoid tangles. Next, place a thick, cloth headband on the crown of your head, like a hat, and wrap one-inch sections of hair around the headband, picking up extra hair as you work (almost like a French braid).

Repeat this process on both sides of your head, using bobby pins to secure loose strands. Redampen your hair with another layer of salt spray and go to sleep (or let your hair set for a minimum of one hour).

To finish, remove the pins and gently take down your hair one section at a time. Rake through your waves with your fingertips, then apply a light-hold hairspray if desired.



Wavy hairstyle tips

The soft, tousled, and feminine waves are now the cool-girl staple for 2019, read on for the how to create the prettiest, tumbliest

set of waves using every possible heat tool and hair hack known to the internet.

Flat-iron waves: Using a flat iron to create beach-y waves requires a swift flick of the wrist—and a bit of patience. To start, spritz dry hair with a heat-protectant spray to avoid burning your hair while you get the hang of the technique, then practice first without the flat iron plugged in.

Just separate a section of hair, wrap it once around the outside of an open flat iron before tucking the ends in between the plates, clamp, then slide the iron down the length of the section. Voilà! Easy waves without the stress of twisting your hair into a pretzel.

Dutch-braid waves: If you can make a braid, you can create these heat-free waves. On dry hair, create a three-strand Dutch braid (which is just like a regular French braid, except you cross the pieces under, rather than over, to get that 3D, popped-out effect). Braid straight down the center of your head to

the ends, securing with an elastic band. Next, gently tug at the edges of your braid to fatten it up and loosen it. Sleep tight, then simply shake out the braid in the morning.

Hair-clip waves: On damp hair, roll two-inch sections of hair around your fingers, like you're winding tiny hair rollers, before securing at the root with a few bobby pins.

The size of your loops is totally up to you, but the smaller they are, the tighter your curl will be. This process can take up to one hour, but results can last for several days. The next morning, start by taking out a few curls at a time, then fully brushing them out.

Donut waves: On dry hair, tie off your hair into a high ponytail using an Invisibobble (to avoid creases), then smooth a hydrating serum through the tail.

Next, grab a hair donut and place it over the base of your ponytail, before wrapping your hair around it, weaving strips over and under the donut. Secure

Eyeliner can make your eyes look bigger



Faking bigger eyes is a covetable makeup trick that just about every beauty enthusiast has mastered. There are so many easy ways to make your own eyes bigger and brighter using only eyeliner and mascara. Ahead, find some simple looks that use eyeliner and a tinge of mascara to get those rounder, enviable eyes.

Preparation: All the eyeliner advice in the world won't make a bit of difference if you're starting out on a canvas of dark circles and uneven skin tone. Make sure to follow these four steps to get your eyes ready to look their best: Dab on lightweight eye cream to hydrate. Focus only on the area under the eyes, not lids (as this will cause makeup to smear). The cream should absorb quickly and leave your skin feeling smooth but not greasy.

Apply a color corrector to neutralize dark circles with a small brush. Make sure to go up to the lashline, as well as the inner corner of the eye to lighten the dark area by the nose. Let the color sit on your skin instead of blending in. Pat concealer directly on top of the corrector. This will virtually erase any darkness and create a smooth, clean palette for your eye makeup. Use your ring finger to blend the concealer carefully. Keep concealer from sliding away throughout the day with powder. Choose a translucent powder and lightly dust it all over the face.

The best looks

Shimmery Bright: Use a bright metallic liner to outline the outer half of the top and bottom lash lines. Concentrate at the outer corners to help flick lashes upward, as this will create the illusion of an upturned eye.

Peachy keen: Line the inner rim of the lower lid with a flesh-toned pencil to give the illusion that the whites of your eyes are rounder. Apply mascara to your upper and lower lashes to finish the look.

Less liner: Line the bottom lash line from the outer corner halfway inward with a dark neutral color. Stay as close as possible to the lashline. Next, ignore the upper lash line entirely and just apply mascara to bottom and top lashes. Tip: Skip this if you have round eyes, which look best when the top lash line is darker and thicker.

Upturned ends: Draw a super-skinny strip of black liquid liner along the base of your upper lashes. Stay as close to the lash line as possible. Try the L'Oréal Telescopic Liquid Eyeliner for this step. When you get to the end, flick up and out to make the eyes appear larger.

Halfway haute: Using black liner, start at the center of the top lash line and draw out, making it thicker at the outer corners. The thickness makes it look like your eye shape extends to where the liner is. Use a soft shadow brush to smudge and soften the line slightly.

Lighten up: Color your waterline with white eye pencil to instantly open them up. Dab a bit of pearly highlighter on the inner corners of eyes and underneath brow bone. Curl lashes and apply two coats of mascara.

Tip: This look works on smaller eyes only if you add dark liner to the upper lash line. Otherwise, it doesn't create enough depth to make eyes appear larger.

New 5G network to change the world

In 2019, a big technology shift will finally begin, a once-in-a-decade upgrade to our wireless systems that will start reaching mobile phone users in a matter of months.

But this is not just about faster smartphones. The transition to new fifth-generation cellular networks — known as 5G for short — will also affect many other kinds of devices, including industrial robots, security cameras, drones and cars that send traffic data to one another. This new era will leap ahead of current wireless technology, known as 4G, by offering mobile internet speeds that will let people download entire movies within seconds and most likely bring big changes to video games, sports and shopping.

Officials in the United States and China see 5G networks as a competitive edge. The faster networks could help spread the use of artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies.

Samsung recently demonstrated prototypes of 5G smartphones that are expected to operate on both Verizon and AT&T networks. Many other manufacturers are racing to follow suit, though Apple is not expected in the initial 5G wave. Analysts predict that iPhones with the new technology won't arrive until 2020.



An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

Strictly speaking, 5G is a set of technical ground rules that define the workings of a cellular network, including the radio frequencies used and how various components like computer chips and antennas handle radio signals and exchange data. To get the benefits of 5G, users will have to buy new phones, while carriers will need to install new transmission equipment to offer the faster service.

Qualcomm, the wireless chip maker, said it had demonstrated peak 5G download speeds of 4.5 gigabits a second, but predicts initial median speeds of about 1.4

gigabits. That translates to roughly 20 times faster than the current 4G experience.

The 5G speeds will be particularly noticeable in higher-quality streaming video. And downloading a typical movie at the median speeds cited by Qualcomm would take 17 seconds with 5G, compared with six minutes for 4G. There is another kind of speed, a lag known as latency that may become even more important. With 5G, which uses newer networking technology, latency is reduced down to a few milliseconds. It was also designed to deliver signals more reliably than earlier cellular networks, which today frequently drop bits of data that aren't essential for

tasks like watching movies on a phone.

That improvement could bring many benefits, notably in fields such as virtual reality. The highest-quality VR applications now typically require bulky headsets that are connected by wire to nearby personal computers that generate 3-D images. With 5G, that would be off-loaded wirelessly to other machines, freeing users to move and making it easier to develop goggles the size of eyeglasses, said Cristiano Amon, president of Qualcomm's semiconductor business. In the related field of augmented reality, people could point a smartphone camera at a football game and see both live video on the display and superimposed player statistics or other data, said Patrick Moorhead, an analyst at Moor Insights & Strategy.

And 5G's impact extends to medicine and other fields that increasingly rely on high-speed connections.

Countries expected to follow the United States with 2019 rollouts of 5G include Britain, Germany, Switzerland, China, South Korea and Australia, according to a timetable compiled by Qualcomm. Still, 5G's full benefits are not expected until American carriers upgrade key central switching equipment, which may not happen until late 2019 or sometime in 2020.



TikTok is launching a series of online safety videos in its app



On the heels of news that TikTok has reached 1 billion downloads, the company is launching a new initiative designed to help inform users about online safety. TikTok's various privacy settings and other controls they can use within its app, and more. Instead of dumping this information in an in-app FAQ or help documentation, the company will release a series of video tutorials that are meant to be engaging and fun, in order to better resemble the other content on TikTok itself.

The safety series, called 'You're in Control', will star TikTok users and make use of popular memes, in-app editing tricks and other effects, just like other TikTok videos do. The videos will appear in the app and be available through the new @tiktoktips account.

The videos will focus on a range of privacy, safety and well-being settings and other safety-related policies. This includes TikTok's Community Guidelines, how in-app reporting works, plus other settings for protecting your privacy, how to control comments, settings to manage your screen time and more.

They are not exactly your traditional how-to videos, however.

Instead, the videos showcase what is often more serious issues — like being overrun with unwanted messages — in a humorous fashion. For example, in the video about configuring your message controls, angry commenters are depicted as shouting passengers on an airplane while the user is depicted by an overwhelmed flight attendant.

"Too many DMs?" the video asks. The flight attendant snaps his fingers, which causes most of the passengers to disappear. The scene returns to peace and quiet. It is a simple enough analogy for TikTok's younger user base to understand. This is then followed by a screen recording that shows you how to turn off messaging within the TikTok app's settings. Other videos have a similar style.

It sets a tone for what TikTok wants to promote — a community for 'positive vibes' where everyone feels 'safe and comfortable'.

At launch, there are seven of these short-form videos in the safety series, which will launch in the TikTok app in the US and UK on Wednesday. In time, the company plans to add other tutorials and expand the series across its global markets, it says.

How well TikTok can execute on user privacy and safety as the app grows still remains to be seen. But, so far, TikTok has been better reviewed by child safety advocates than you might expect. The launch of the video series comes at a time when TikTok's growth is surging. The app recently surpassed a billion installs across the iOS App Store and Google Play, including Lite versions and regional variations, but excluding Android installs in China, according to data from Sensor Tower.

Roughly 25 percent of those installs are from India, the report said. And around 663 million of TikTok's total installs occurred in 2018, which made the app the No. 4 most downloaded non-game for the year.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Coffee, Cocoa, and the Cutting Edge

**STEVE HOLLINGWORTH**

Steve Hollingworth is President and CEO of Grameen Foundation

That morning ritual loved by millions, a simple cup of coffee, may one day be a thing of the past. New research shows that 60% of the world's 124 species of wild coffee face a mounting threat of extinction, mostly as a result of deforestation. This potential loss of genetic diversity would, in turn, limit the ways in which coffee could be adapted to a changing climate and disease threats.

It's not just coffee that is in danger. Deforestation is also threatening cocoa and the future of chocolate. Forest loss in the Amazon is eliminating wild relatives of cocoa, while in West Africa it is quickly depleting soils and making crop cultivation much harder. Soil depletion, along with aging trees and the increased risk of pests and disease, is threatening the livelihoods of the already-poor small farmers who produce the vast majority of the world's cocoa and coffee.

With 25 million coffee producers and up to six million cocoa farmers (and their families) worldwide, any effort to end this cycle of human and natural-resource poverty must match the size and scope of the problem. Fortunately, the smart use of cutting-edge technology makes it possible to take on the challenge.

New initiatives must help farmers rapidly adopt sustainable practices and increase the productivity of existing



agricultural land, so that they can improve their own wellbeing and ease pressure on forests. Efforts to alleviate poverty among farmers also need to address gaps in financing, agricultural training, and tools for advance planning.

This is where technology can play a key role. Data, digital and remote-sensing technology, and the Internet of Things represent the future of agriculture, and are already in use on big farms in rich countries. But technology can also help small farms in poorer countries, where innovative approaches must be developed, piloted, supported, and scaled.

Africa has produced numerous ingenious examples of this. In Ghana, collaboration between agribusiness, civil society, and academia has led to SAT4Farming, which uses digital and remote-sensing technology to create

farm development plans (FDPs) for smallholders. Developed by Grameen Foundation in partnership with the Rainforest Alliance and Mars, the digital FDP incorporates farm data such as environmental conditions, household financing, and production levels, and applies "smart logic" to generate seven-year plans that guide smallholders' investments. These plans, similar to profit-and-loss statements, are then adjusted every year based on farmers' decisions.

One early adopter of a digital FDP is Peter Opong, a cocoa farmer in Ghana for the past 17 years. Based on its recommendations, Peter began to replace his aging trees. Because of the high costs, he started with just one-quarter of his land, and plans to add another quarter each year until he finishes. Meanwhile, other, less costly steps, such as tree pruning, have yielded quick results.

Peter was fortunate to have the funds to rehabilitate his farm. Many cocoa and coffee farmers do not. And without access to financing,

even the best agronomic advice is for naught. Here, too, radical new approaches are needed.

One such approach is FarmDrive in Kenya, which gives lenders detailed credit scores on smallholder farmers using data from farmers' mobile phones, alternative data (such as a farmer's adoption of good agricultural practices), and machine learning. This information gives lenders greater assurance, boosting available credit for smallholders.

Meanwhile, according to the chocolate manufacturer Barry Callebaut, the financial sector could give farmers access to affordable microcredit to fund good farming practices. The company says replanting just one hectare of cocoa costs approximately \$2,400, and it estimates that thousands of hectares in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire need replanting. Its West African supply chain alone would need some \$250 million in risk guarantees for loans to smallholder farmers. Innovative funding is needed in the coffee supply chain, too. Starbucks, for example, has established a \$50 million Global Farmer Fund that supports farmers financially, including for renovation efforts. The fund has benefited more than 60 cooperatives in eight countries, and over 40,000 farmers.

Financing the transformation of the coffee and cocoa supply chains is a huge undertaking that calls for increased investment at all levels and a variety of approaches, including public-private lending partnerships for mitigating and sharing risks, and specially tailored microloan products and digital tools to assess creditworthiness. The smart use of big data can facilitate such initiatives, and provide deep insights into farmers' needs and capacities.

Today, far more is at stake than the comfort of a bar of chocolate or a morning hit of caffeine. Improving the wellbeing of smallholder farmers and their families could propel millions out of poverty. It also would have a profound, positive impact on both economic development and the ecosystems that support agriculture.

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