



## DIPLOMAT

Kuwaiti investments  
in Benin set to increase

3



## LOCAL

ASEAN textile  
exhibition opens

11



## LOCAL

Indian Embassy celebrates  
Onam as part of State  
facilitation event

16



# Deportations are not the answer



## THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

The deportation in mid-August of around 20 expatriates for committing the 'environmental crime' of dumping construction waste material and hazardous liquids in undesignated areas, once again raises the contentious issue of non-judicial administrative deportations in Kuwait.

Administrative deportations have often come under criticism from international and local human rights organizations, and have been cited against Kuwait by the United Nations and other entities concerned with migrants and international migration. Though news of the recent environmental deportation was reported widely in local media, no one seemed to consider the legal and human rights aspect of such deportations, or to ask the pertinent question: Did

the 'environmental crime' warrant the disruption of the lives and livelihood of these deportees?

A statement last week by the Director of the Environmental Inspection and Control Department, at the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Nada Al-Dabbashi said that deportation of the expatriates for breaking the environmental law, will serve as a deterrent for other workers who may commit similar violations. Deterrent or not, the proportionality of the 'crime' and its punishment is what rankles observers. Moreover, there was no mention in the EPA statement on whether the companies and individuals involved in generating and ordering the transfer of the construction waste were punished.

Al-Dabbashi did add in her statement that citizens and company owners who are proven to have violated the environmental law will be issued a penalty ranging



between KD5,000 and KD 50,000. What was left unsaid in this explanation is that the hefty fines would be waived, if the citizen or company owner agreed to a reconciliation order and paid a relatively small amount as a fine

to the EPA. For reference, in the case of those found in violation of environmental rules related to outdoor camping sites, the reconciliation order fine is only KD250, even though the maximum legally stipulated penalty is

around KD5,000. Environmental deportations are not a one-off instance; in recent weeks there has been a spate of similar disproportionate administrative deportations based on changes to residency and work laws. The Ministry of Interior has reportedly listed several new offenses in addition to earlier ones that would lead to immediate deportation of involved expatriates. Besides dumping waste and construction material in undesignated places, expats would also face deportation for fishing in Kuwait Bay without a permit, driving without a license, or picking up or dropping passengers from highways and main streets by bus and taxi drivers. In addition, deportation awaits those violating public morals; those arrested for working at a place other than of their sponsor; or for not working without renewing work permits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Worldwide Partner

Transfer to Visa cards via  
Al Muzaini Exchange with  
**ZERO FEES**

for the chance to  
**WIN TWO VIP TICKETS TO  
FIFA WORLD CUP 2022™**

Courtesy of Visa





# PACI provides latest stats on population, workforce

Latest data on population and workforce made available by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) show the country's total population at the end of June 2022 stood at 4.46 million. This marks an increase of around 79,000 people from the figures at the end of December 2021, when the population was 4.38 million.

The figures further reveal that in the first six months of this year a total of 65,288 new expatriates entered Kuwait, taking the number of foreigners in the country to 2.96 million, up from the 2.89 million at the end of 2021. Meanwhile, the number of Kuwaitis increased by 13,400, to mark an increase from 1.48 million citizens at the end of 2021 to over 1.5 million by the end of June 2022.

Of the total population of 4.46 million at the end of June, 34 percent were citizens, while expatriates accounted for the remaining 66 percent of the population. Among the top expatriate communities in Kuwait, Indians who numbered over 863,000 accounted for



29 percent, followed by Egyptians in second spot with their numbers totalling 610,860 or 21 percent of the expat population.

Data from PACI also provided figures on the total workforce and the major nationalities that

comprise the labor market. The authority noted that 43 percent of the total population, or 1.9 million people, were in the country's workforce at the end of June 2022. Of this total workforce, 25 percent were in the public sector and the remaining 75 percent were employed in the private sector.

A breakdown of the labor market based on nationalities in both public and private sectors reveals that 448,300 or 24 percent are Kuwaitis. In second spot were Egyptians who accounted for 447,850 workers, or a further 24 percent of the workforce, followed by Indians who formed 23 percent or around 429,290 of the total workforce.

In the public sector, the total number of employees reached 483,200, of which 77 percent were Kuwaitis, followed by Egyptians who formed 8 percent of the workforce. In third place were Indians who accounted for 5 percent of workers in the government sector.

Meanwhile, the total number of workers in the private sector climbed to 1.42 million, with

Egyptians topping the list at 29 percent, followed by Indians at 28 percent, and Bangladeshis at 11 percent. Kuwaitis came as the fourth largest segment of workers in the private sector, accounting for 5 percent of the total workforce in the private sector.

The data also disclosed that the total number of domestic workers in Kuwait until June 2022 was 693,220, constituting 36 percent of the total workers. Among domestic workers, nearly 94 percent were from just four countries — Indians (46%), Filipinos (24%), Bangladeshis (12%) and Sri Lankans (12 percent).

Another population fact that emerged from the PACI data was that of the 65,288 expats who newly arrived in the country since the start of the year, 29 percent are Indians, 21 percent are Egyptians, 8 percent are Bangladeshis, 8 percent are Filipinos, 5 percent Syrians, 5 percent of Saudis, 3 percent Pakistanis, 3 percent Sri Lankans, 2 percent are Jordanians and 15 percent represented other nationalities.

## Coops to support, promote local produce

Cooperative societies are to support and promote local agricultural products by purchasing, subject to availability, at least 75 percent of their needs by participating in the daily auctions of approved local marketing outlets, said Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development Fahd Al-Shariaan.

A decision to this effect was issued last week, which also stipulates that the products purchased through these auctions must be sold to consumers at a profit of no more than 20 percent to the cooperatives. The cooperative is also obligated to pay the dues of a supplier

within a period not exceeding 15 days from date of supply, and has to affix a barcode along with country of origin, weight and name of the item sold through the coop, and the price of each agricultural product should be clearly displayed in front of its outlets. Article 10 of the resolution stipulates that the association performs a daily price comparison with a number of at least 3 cooperative societies and provides the observer with a certified statement in this regard, provided that the names of the approved associations are changed weekly to compare prices.

In Article Eleven, local agricultural products approved by the competent authorities are exempted from all conditions and restrictions placed by cooperative societies on other products. The Cooperative Monitoring and Inspection Department at the ministry should also be provided with a monthly report on the extent to which the association respects



the obligations imposed on it pursuant to the new resolution, along with a detailed list of the names of the suppliers with whom the cooperative dealt during the previous month.

The new decision is expected to correct

shortcomings in the direct purchases by cooperatives from Kuwaiti farms, and will contribute to supporting and increasing competitiveness in the market, which will reflect positively on the interests of consumers by lowering prices and improving quality of products offered by coops.

In other news related to cooperative societies, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has requested the Ministry of Social Affairs and Community Development, to postpone elections of cooperative societies, so that they do not clash with the parliamentary elections scheduled for end of September.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Musallam Al-Subaie issued a circular in this regard which states that elections for cooperatives may not be held from next Sunday until 23 October and that the dates for holding elections will be announced later.

## Al Muzaini announces winners of Transfer & Win Promotion

Al Muzaini Exchange, the leading exchange house in Kuwait, organized a grand event at The Avenues Mall on 17th June to announce the winners of the mobile application promotion, for which the mega prize was a Mercedes A200 along with several cash prizes.

The "Transfer and Win" promotions was a three month long promotion during which anyone transferring using their mobile or web application would automatically enter a draw to win prizes up to 100,000 USD. The event

was hosted by Mr. Ali Choker Kuwait's favorite talk show presenter and attended by a huge audience along with Al Muzaini Management.

The host kept the crowd engaged with his excellent sense of humor and activities such as quizzes and contests to the delight of the participants who won many spot cash prizes. In the run up to the main event, there were many activities organized through the day such as face painting, balloons for kids, instant Q&A, games with prizes to keep the passerby's engaged.

This year also marks the 80th years of Al Muzaini's presence in Kuwait. During this special event the company also unveiled its latest offering their, 2in1 Self-serve Kiosk Machines which can conduct remittances and also dispense select foreign currency banknotes which is a first in Kuwait.

Hugh Fernandes, General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange said: 'We are delighted to organize such an event and would like to congratulate all the winners of the Transfer and Win promotion. We are also extremely proud to unveil our self-serve 2in1 Kiosk machines during the event. Our commitment and number one priority is to always deliver a great customer experience.'



## MoCI warns against indulging in online forex trades

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in a tweet posted on its official Twitter handle, warned people to beware of 'forex' trading advertisements, pointing out that the Central Bank of Kuwait has already cautioned people from engaging in, as it is a high-risk system.

In its awareness tweet, the MoCI noted that these advertisements exploit the images of some celebrities for marketing, in order to attract customers. The ministry urged people not to be taken in by such advertisements and conduct trading through these unauthorized fake platforms.

The ministry explained that 'Forex' is a decentralized global market that uses various means of communication to exchange currencies and take advantage of price differences in operations related to buying and selling of currencies.

EPA records rampant environmental



violations

Environment Public Authority (EPA) has recorded over a hundred environmental violations, since the authority launched its latest monitoring campaign of desert areas. These include establishment of camps without permission and the dumping of waste in areas other than those designated for this purpose.

A total of 111 environmental violations were recorded within the 11 day period from 14 to 25 August the most of them related to infringement of Article 41 of the Environmental Law. This article prohibits among others: grazing cattle or exploiting land in irrigated agriculture land, or indulging in any other activity that harms the quantity or quality of vegetation cover, which could result in desertification or the deterioration of the desert environment.

Article 41 also prohibits the destruction of crops, plants, trees or the uprooting of trees and wild plants from any areas, as well as the plucking of flowers from public squares, streets and public facilities. Crops, plants and trees, pluck flowers from squares, streets and public facilities, or uproot trees and wild plants from any areas, reports a local Arabic daily.

The minimum fine for infringing Article 41 is a fine of KD250.





# Kuwaiti investments in Benin set to increase

**“Benin is a calm and secure country with stunning surroundings”**

By Reaven D'Souza  
Managing Editor

Since his arrival in January 2017, Ambassador of Benin H.E. Moudjaidou Soumanou Issoufou has been spearheading the drive to further strengthen bilateral relations between his country and Kuwait in all domains. In particular, he has been keen to increase Kuwaiti investments, both from state entities and individual investors, in the numerous lucrative sectors of Benin's economy.

His zeal for pushing the interests of his country above all else was evident even as we began this interview; when requested to tell us a little bit about himself, the ambassador demurred and said he would much rather talk about Benin and its attractions, so as to give readers an introduction to his country. “My country is beautiful with stunning surroundings, a storied history and very welcoming and kind people. Benin is located in West Africa, with an area of 114,763 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 13 millions, the vast majority of whom are young Beninese.

“The country is bordered by Togo to the west, Burkina Faso and Niger to the north-west and north-east respectively, Nigeria to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Benin, through its port, is the main gateway to non-coastal countries of West Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and also for Nigeria despite it being a democratic coastal country. This makes my country a crossroads for West African countries. I would also like to add that like Kuwait, Benin is a calm and very secure country.

“On a personal level, having previously held several positions of responsibility, namely that of Minister, General Manager of a Company, Special Advisor to the President, Technical Director, Commercial Director and other posts, the challenges I had to face

are multiple and multifaceted. Unfortunately, we cannot talk about it in this interview; however, I would like to emphasize that these challenges were an important source of experiences that serve me today in my position.

“I arrived in Kuwait on 17 January, 2017 and my impressions of both activities and relations with authorities at various levels of Government are good. I have very good ties with the departments with which I collaborate the most, especially the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As far as the Kuwaiti people are concerned, they are very friendly and social, especially during my visits to the ‘diwaniyahs’ and also to the mosques where I pray regularly. I feel a friendship and also, it would be remiss of me if I did not thank them for their various humanitarian actions and support, through NGOs, for populations affected by natural disasters and difficulties throughout the world. May Allah reward them.”

Speaking on the aspect of bilateral relations between Benin and Kuwait in various fields since the opening of embassies in both countries, the ambassador said: “Benin and Kuwait have maintained very good relations since 1978 and this facilitated the opening of embassies in both countries. Bilateral relations were augmented after the installation of our embassy here in Kuwait, and Kuwait was the first Gulf Cooperation Council country to open its embassy in my country. Currently, following the reforms undertaken by the Government of Benin, several of our embassies have been closed, but the embassy in Kuwait is kept open and is among only twelve Benin Embassies operating around the world now.

“Results of our bilateral cooperation are especially perceptible in the fields of agriculture, infrastructure and drinking water supply. All of this testifies and proves how solid the



**Ambassador of Benin  
H.E. Moudjaidou Soumanou Issoufou**

existing relations between our two countries are. We work tirelessly to further strengthen and consolidate them.

“However, the main area in which the Embassy is currently focused on is that of promoting Kuwaiti investment in Benin, where there are several promising niches for businessmen. The other area is that of promoting the supply of qualified and diversified Beninese labor to Kuwaiti companies.”

Elaborating on Kuwaiti investments in Benin, the ambassador stressed that Kuwaiti investments were slowly coming up in Benin. “There are several

Kuwaitis who have expressed their intention to invest in Benin. We are also working to attract and encourage more Kuwaiti investments, especially when we know that the time has come to diversify investments in several sectors, especially in our agro-industry, mining, animal and plant production, and others.

“Among the many sectors in which Kuwaiti businessmen can invest are: Agriculture;

Tourism; Agro-industry; and Mines, as we have abundant supplies of marble, granites, gneiss, quartz and many other ornamental stones which can be used in the

construction sector in Kuwait.

“We call on Kuwaiti investors to approach the Embassy in order to benefit from all the information and facilities within the framework of several investment opportunities in Benin.”

Turning to his country's tourism attractions and potential for investments, Ambassador Issoufou noted: “Beninese tourism is one of the best and most attractive in West Africa, and the Government has made it a priority sector for development and investment. Also, as I mentioned earlier, Benin is a very safe and calm country, enjoying natural and cultural potential, beautiful landscapes, rivers, waterfalls, large forests and Safari.

“As far as places of interest are concerned, there are: Nature reserves, zoos and mangroves; An attractive national park which offers hunting tourism and vision tourism to tourists wishing to see elephants, lions, antelopes, hippopotamuses, monkeys, and other animals; and we also have several historical and cultural museums. Obviously, we are working to attract the greatest number of Kuwaitis to visit Benin and even to invest in this area.”

Speaking about the Beninese community in Kuwait and cultural exchanges between the two countries, the envoy said: “Beninese who are living in Kuwait are not all registered at the Embassy. But I can tell you that there are more than 2,000 according to the entry statistics we regularly get through the Consular Affairs Department of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As I mentioned earlier, there are labor exchange agreements between our two countries, but the one specific to domestic workers has not yet been concluded, and we are working on it.

“On the cultural front there we hope to bring from Benin, two music groups, one modern and the other traditional, to show to the Kuwaiti public a little part of the cultural potential of Benin.”

Our Success is a Reflection of your Trust

**BEST PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN KUWAIT  
FOR THE 12<sup>th</sup> YEAR IN A ROW**

ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL



مستشفى رويال حياة

www.royalehayat.com





# Thought “ for the week

The capacity to learn is a gift;  
the ability to learn is a skill; the  
willingness to learn is a choice

— Brian Herbert

## Eight Healthy Snacks for ‘Back to School’

Ask Mira: Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy



As parents we worry about providing a proper nutritious diet to our children from their early ages so that they grow up strong and healthy. As another ‘back to school’ period looms, many of us may wonder how to pack the perfect healthy and nutritious snacks that are good for our kids and, equally importantly, they will enjoy eating. Read on to discover the best tips, and the perfect school snacks for your kids. From fruity snacks to nutritious bars, your kids will enjoy these tasty ideas.

**Animal chips:** Bake animal-shaped chips for kids that will appear more appealing and more fun for them to eat.

**Rainbow fruit kabobs:** If you are looking for a fun way to make your kids eat more fruits, this idea will work pretty much. Cut and mix several colorful fruits together and place them at the end of toothpicks and pack them along with a healthy yogurt dip swirled with colorful sprinkles.

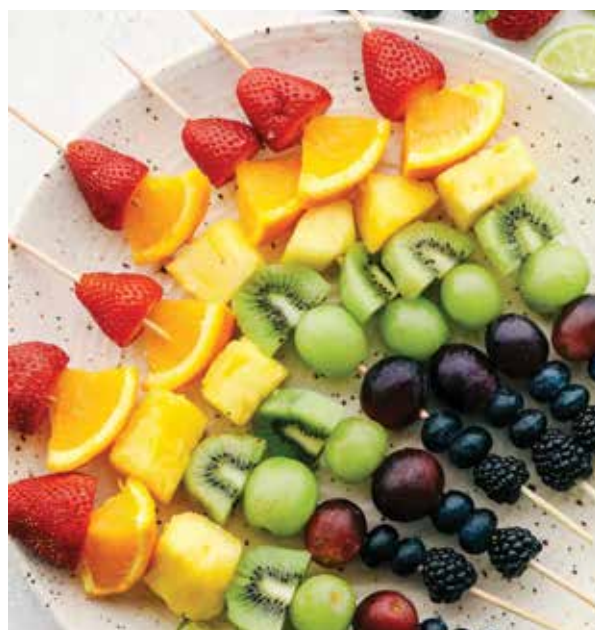
**Popcorn:** Prepare popcorn in advance for your kids, and put them in appealing bags with a few pieces of candies added in, so they get surprised with a random sweet taste for their popcorn.

**Apple peanut butter bites:** Cut some unpeeled green and red apples, so as to benefit from the fiber in the skin, and pack along a small container of peanut butter to use as a dip. They are sure to enjoy the unique combination, and taste.

**Carrot fingers:** Cut and design the carrots. Prepare a delicious dip for it, like cream cheese, labneh, yogurt or any salty dip that children love. You can use a small pot where you can put the fingers and the dip together or just put the dip in a small pot, and the carrots in a small bag on the side. Choose the most convenient option.

**Wheat crackers with hummus dressing:** Children love anything they can dip. Whole wheat crackers are perfect and nutritious accompaniments for dips. Hummus dip is high in fiber and proteins that are good for the health of growing kids.

**Granola bars:** These bars are super nutritious, plus they are considered a sweet as well. They provide your kids



with the much-needed fiber that comes from the nuts and oats. You can add a low-fat milk in the school box so they can have it with the bar. So now this is extra calcium to go along with the healthy fiber.

**Whole Wheat Muffins:** Kids love muffins and whole wheat muffins are the best option because of its high fiber content. Adding blueberries to the muffin-mix, throws in excellent antioxidants as well. Together the fiber and antioxidants combo will satisfy your kids sweet tooth without being high in fat and sugar. They can be made in the blender and can be naturally sweetened with honey or maple syrup.

As you noticed, it is possible to make fruits, vegetables, low fat dairy products and whole grains appealing to your kids, all it takes is imagination to come up with the right combination.

While packing off their snacks and lunch, do not forget to focus on providing children with a healthy breakfast to start off their day. Also, getting children involved in what snacks you pack for them will ensure that the healthy options you prepare for them are actually eaten by them.

*Eat like Mira*  
Create healthy habits, not restrictions

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



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](mailto:infotimeskuwait@gmail.com)

### RECIPE

## Jaggery Wheat Laddu



Quinoa, often called a golden grain on account of its health benefits, is a superbly versatile whole grain with which many dishes can be prepared. In this fresh take on the traditional South Indian sweet dessert, the ‘payasam’, we replace the rice or vermicelli that is usually the main ingredient in payasams with the protein-rich and gluten-free quinoa. To raise the flavor-quotient we then add in a mix of roasted walnuts and strawberry crush as garnish to create a truly exotic dessert.

**Total time:** 1 hour  
**Serving:** 8/10

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup wheat flour
- 2 tbsp gram flour (besan)
- 1 cup fine semolina
- 1¼ cup jaggery finely chopped or grated
- ¾ cup warm milk
- 3 tbsp + ½ cup ghee (clarified butter) as shortening
- ¼ cup finely chopped nuts (almonds, cashew nuts, pistachios)
- 1 tsp cardamom powder
- Ghee for deep frying



Chef Chhaya Thakker

#### Instructions:

Mix together wheat flour, gram flour, semolina and 3 tbsp ghee in a large bowl to form a texture similar to breadcrumbs

Add warm milk and knead to a stiff dough

Pinch small balls of dough and roll into cylindrical shaped dumplings and gently press down on them

Heat enough ghee for deep frying in a thick-bottomed kadai and deep fry all the dumplings till they are golden brown in color

Let the fried dumplings cool slightly and then break them into small pieces

Grind the broken dumplings into fine powder in a blender

If your mixture is very fine you can continue with making the laddus, or else sieve the mixture and grind the larger pieces again

Mix the jaggery into the sieved powder to form the ‘churma’ mixture

Add the hot ghee into the mixture. Keep in mind that if the ghee is hot enough, air bubbles will be generated and you will get a honeycomb-like texture, which is not desirable. Mix in the finely chopped nuts, cardamom powder, and mix well

Form the churma mixture into small balls in the palm of your hand, or use a laddu mold to make them.

Churma laddus can be served immediately or stored in air tight container.



Indian Chef Chhaya Thakker, who has a huge following online on WhatsApp and YouTube will be sharing her favorite recipes and cooking tips with readers of The Times Kuwait. For feedback, you can write to [editortimeskuwait@gmail.com](mailto:editortimeskuwait@gmail.com)



# Ban on e-cigarettes in enclosed, semi-enclosed spaces

Clarifying on the prevailing rules regarding the smoking of tobacco in enclosed or semi-enclosed areas, the Director of Public Relations and Official Spokesperson for the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Sheikha Al-Ibrahim, said that the smoking ban imposed by the EPA pertains not just to the smoking of cigarettes and other tobacco products, but also encompasses electronic cigarettes, electronic hookah and any other tools or equipment used for the same purpose.

She added that the authority urged everyone to follow smoking regulations in enclosed and semi-enclosed public places in accordance with Article 56 of the Environmental Protection Law

No. 42 of 2014 and its amendments. She also warned that failure to adhere to the stipulations of the law would entail penalties on the violators.

Al-Ibrahim pointed out that the authority has been distributing awareness videos that alert smokers and owners of cafes, hotels and other establishments to abide by the law. She also stressed on the need to place clearly visible no-smoking signs at the entrances of public facilities, and in the event that ash-trays are provided outside public buildings, they must be placed at a distance of at least four meters from the entrances.

She also emphasized that all concerned authorities at public entities are obliged to take

the appropriate action to prevent smoking in these spaces, as any violations recorded within these premises could lead to the manager of the establishment being fined up to KD5,000 per violation. Also, if there are private smoking booths provided within these spaces, the booths must comply with all technical specifications and environmental requirements as specified by the EPA. Elaborating on enclosed spaces, Al-Ibrahim said that closed public places refers to places that are in an integrated building where the air enters only through a specific ventilation system. On the other hand, semi-enclosed spaces are those places that are partially covered that are directly exposed to the outside air.



## PMO sets up Economic Advisory Unit

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), is to set up and appoint members to an Economic Advisory Unit (EAU) to be headed by His Highness the Premier Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Announcing this, Abdulaziz Dakhil Al-Dakhil, head of PMO clarified that members to the EAU will be selected from government economic, investment and development institutions, in addition to Kuwaitis specialized in economic affairs. He highlighted the importance of EAU by pointing out that it would help adopt an



advanced approach to support the national economy, and work to attract value-added direct investments, as well as enhance the role of the private sector in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Dakhil added the task of the unit will be to review and develop legislation and policies of economic, financial nature and correcting them towards achieving Kuwait Vision 2035, and ways to diversify the economic base and increase non-oil government revenues, in addition to discussing the national investment map and investment opportunities for national and foreign investors.

Al-Dakhil indicated that the unit will work to strengthen the links between economic, financial, development and operational

institutions, and unify their efforts to promote economic development in the country and stressed the unit will exert care and attention to establish the principle of national economic security to provide a safe and stimulating economic environment for growth and investment and to combat all negative phenomena on the national economy.

He stressed that the launch of the unit will help translate the PMO's strategic objectives to build a national economy that stimulates investment with a diversified production base that enhances opportunities to improve Kuwait's performance within global indicators and accelerate the pace of work to achieve the vision 2035 of the state.

## Public entities come under new supervisory authorities

In line with efforts to enhance efficiency and streamline supervision the government has in recent weeks been transferring the supervisory role of various government authorities and entities to different ministries.

Last week the government announced that the Public Authority of Manpower, which was previously under the Ministry of Justice will from now on come under the Ministry of Interior. Similarly, control over the Agriculture Authority was shifted to the Minister of State for

Cabinet Affairs from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Earlier the affiliation of the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Financial Controllers Authority had been transferred from the supervision of the Minister of Justice to the Minister of Finance. Additionally, a decision was issued to authorize the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Muhammad Al-Faris to chair the Civil Service Commission.

**Open Buffet**

**Darbar RESTAURANT**

**INDIAN BUFFET**

**4.5KD**

**ARABIC BUFFET**

**5KD**

(Soft Drinks & Water Inclusive)

A la Carte menu 7 AM to 10 PM (Indian & Mughlai Cuisines)

**KUWAIT CONTINENTAL HOTEL**

22527300; Ext:5, 94075442 | 94075445

**CHAPITE**

BAKED MASALA PAPER THIN BISCUITS

SLEEK, SPICY & CRUNCHY

#EkAurMario

Follow us on Instagram

**@obtc\_kwt**

Sole distributor in Kuwait

**Al-Othman & Al-Bisher Trd. Co. W.L.L.**

P.O. Box: 22984 Safat 13090 Kuwait

Tel: +965 247 55 073 / 247 55 074

Fax: +965 24760108

Email: obtc\_kwt@qualitynet.net

www.obtc\_kwt.com



# More citizens than residents among youth

Latest statistics from the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) show that the number of citizens are higher than the residents in the 1 to 29 age group, while in all other age groupings, residents overwhelm citizens.

A breakdown of the CSB figures show out of a total of 1,420,836 citizens in the country at the end of 2021, around 61 percent, or 862,171 nationals are in the age group of 1 to 29. Among the total resident population of 2,796,064, only 685,585, or around 25 percent are in the 1 to 29 age group.

The figures also show that except for this youth cohort of 1 to 29, in nearly all other

age segments the number of residents trump citizens. In the 30 to 34 age bracket, there are 105,417 citizens compared to 148,989 for residents.

The number of citizens in the 40 to 44 age segment is 73,841 while the number of residents in this category is 426,758. In the 45 to 49 category there are 71,620 citizens compared to 423,968 residents. Citizens between 50 and 54 years of age number 60,107 while the resident number in this category is 302,941; in the 55 to 59 age segment there are 50,639 citizens compared to 200,962 residents.

The difference in numbers between citizens

and residents appears to diminish as the age component increases. For instance, in the 60 to 64 category, there are 38,667 citizens compared to 126,433 residents; while in the 65 to 69 age segment there are 28,897 citizens compared to 71,248 residents.

Going on to the seventies age group, the figures are 17,661 citizens as against 33,215 residents in the 70-74 age group; and there are 11,089 citizens compared to 13,315 in the 75 to 79 age group. Among those aged 80 and over, the number of citizens is slightly higher than residents, with 10,795 citizens against 10,173 residents.



## Arson blamed for fire at Mina Al Abdullah warehouses

Arson is suspected to be the cause of the fire that broke out in Mina Abdullah last week, damaging warehouses over an area of more than 5,000 square meters and destroying fuels and goods stored there.

The General Fire Force revealed that the incident, which took place last Saturday evening, was investigated by the teams from the Accident Investigation Department. The technical inspection procedures and interrogation of witnesses revealed that the fire in the industrial plots was intentional as the suspect's motive was to cause damage to properties. Authorities were tasked to take all necessary legal actions to apprehend the suspect, with warnings against those who



ordered the suspect to commit the crime, and bring all of them to justice. The General Fire Brigade referred the case file to the Criminal Investigation Department on Tuesday, along with the Fire Brigade's report on the incident.

Earlier, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Khaled briefed the Cabinet on the fire incident at the warehouses in Mina Abdullah. The Cabinet praised the efficiency of the firefighters, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health and the responding parties, expressing appreciation for their sincere efforts to contain the fire, stressing the need to take all precautionary measures in the future.

## CONDOLENCES

**Sirish Ramkumar and Family,  
Sunil Menon and Family,  
Mathew Thomas and Family**

Extend Our Heartfelt condolences to the family of



**BHAGWAN UDHARAM JAGTIANI**

Date of Birth 3 May 1939

**On the sad demise on 30th August, 2022  
May his soul Rest in Peace**

## Market revives as election fever rises

With just three weeks to go before elections on 29 September, the pace of electioneering is gathering steam even as more candidates troop in to register as candidates. As expected, several commercial sectors in the country are witnessing a revival and in some cases a windfall in business following the announcement of elections. The sectors that are enjoying an increase in work, sales and income include the restaurant and catering sector, the printing and advertising businesses, and suppliers of tents, lighting and acoustic equipment.

In addition to the tradition of erecting lavishly equipped election tents that provide all facilities and amenities to the electorate, candidates are vying with each other not only to garner more supporters but also to provide the most lavish and exquisite banquets. Head of the Kuwaiti Federation of Restaurants, Cafes and Catering Fahd Al-Arbash said he expected sales of restaurants and hospitality companies to grow by 10 to 15 percent during the 2022

National Assembly elections.

Everything from the type and size of the tent or hall, through lighting, air conditioning, acoustics, WiFi, and decorative carpets, all the way to the variety and amplex of banquet spreads, as well as 'youth temptations', such as 'sheesha' services and giant TV screens, have become critical in drawing voters and keeping them engaged in interacting with the candidate. Advertisements and banners of candidates are festooning lamp posts and billboards along highways and byways of the country, while media coverage of candidates and their manifestos have increased manifold in recent weeks. An official in a printing press said that printing posters and banners with images of candidates for the National Assembly elections in various sizes, so as to introduce them to their voter base has started in earnest. He added that many printing presses were struggling to keep up with the demand for printing services, and were hiring temporary workers to meet the workload.

## Noon work ban comes to an end

Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) has announced that as of Thursday, 1 September, the ban on people working directly under the heat of the sun, from 11am to 4pm has ended.

Every year the government bans workers, particularly outdoor construction workers, from working during mid-day in the open, under the direct heat of the sun, from 1 June to 31 August, in the





# Private schools cannot dictate buying of books, uniforms

Ministry of Education's Department of Special Education decreed last week that private schools cannot compel students to buy their uniforms and books from specific vendors. This followed numerous complaints by parents that private schools were forcing them to purchase all books and uniforms from specific vendors at exorbitant costs.

The department's Controller of Financial Affairs Hamid Al-Shammari, said in a statement that private schools are not allowed to collect any fees or other expenses

other than the approved tuition fees without prior approval from the Ministry, based on rules and regulations.

Al-Shammari also stressed that students are not required to purchase books, school uniforms, or pay for electronic or transportation services. He added that private schools are not allowed to collect any additional fees for tuition, and that violating schools will face applicable penalties.

He reported that one of the schools in question was contacted and informed of

the complaints against their increase in the price of school uniforms, and forcing parents to buy them. The school then retracted their decision in this matter and left the freedom of choice on where to buy books or uniforms on the parents, n.

Al-Shammari stressed that the ministry will not tolerate any school violating the regulations issued by the Ministry of Education. He warned that offenders will face legal measures once a complaint regarding the matter is received by the authorities.



## Municipality to allocate land for labor cities

Kuwait Municipality has agreed to allocate three sites for the establishment of labor cities that would provide housing complexes for expatriate workers. Each site would have an area of 150,000 square meters, and would be located west of the Pilgrims City in the Jahra Governorate.

The municipality's decision to grant the sites comes in line with implementing the Cabinet's directive in this regard. The Council of Ministers had earlier specified that:

The sites are to be handed over to the 'State Property



Administration' at the Ministry of Finance so as to sell them through public auctions to the private sector.

The decision also stipulates that whoever wins the auction, will have to build the cities within a specific period to be determined by the Ministry of Finance.

A comprehensive traffic study will have to be submitted for approval by the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior. Provisions should also be made to modify the sites and the road network in case they conflict with any services or for any regulatory reasons.

The municipality indicated that work is underway to study the standards for labor cities and housing complexes, as well as the proposed population densities within the works of the fourth structural plan for Kuwait 2024.

## Plan to utilize public spaces as entertainment venues



Setting up new recreation and entertainment venues in the country to provide citizens and residents with places where they can relax and enjoy on weekends and holidays, is now being considered one of the priorities for the new government.

Earlier the Cabinet had assigned the Minister of Finance and Minister of Economic Development Abdul Wahab Al-Rasheed to follow-up on the establishment of the entertainment city project. Last week it was reported that the Council of Ministers is now considering developing an entertainment project on Green Island.

The new initiative of utilizing existing public spaces to develop entertainment projects appears to be a stop-gap arrangement until proper venues are established to provide integrated recreation and entertainment facilities.

Besides the Green Island development, other public venues being considered for entertainment activities include Al-Sabah Park, the Wafra farms, and the Sabahiya Garden at the end of the Jaber Bridge

## TRACKING SOLUTIONS



**Fleet Management of Heavy & Light Vehicles**



**Refrigerated Cargo**



**Route Planning & Dispatching**



**Construction Equipment Management**



**Security Guards**



**School Transportation Management**



**Marine Tracking**



**ReadyMix Operations Management**



**Car Sharing**

### Taking Your Mobility Data Forward

Mobile : +965 555 54083 - 6686 9609  
[www.locationsolutions.com](http://www.locationsolutions.com)

UAE | KSA | OMAN | BAHRAIN | KUWAIT | EGYPT | LEBANON | MOROCCO | EUROPE



Scan & learn more



# Global finserve leader LuLu Financial Holdings opens its milestone 250th branch at Dubai Silicon Oasis

- The Abu Dhabi based LuLu Financial Holdings' (LFH) network spans the GCC region, Indian subcontinent and Asia-Pacific region
- The opening marked the 87th branch of LuLu Exchange in the UAE, and was followed by two more branch openings at Al Majaz and Maaza in Sharjah

Aug 29th 2022 | Dubai: 13 years, 250 branches, 10 countries.

The numbers speak volumes about the ambitious rise of Abu Dhabi based LuLu Financial Holdings (LFH) – a global leader in the financial services industry, which today opened its 250th global branch in Dubai's Silicon Central Mall.

The milestone branch, which adds to the company's growing network across the UAE and nine other nations, was inaugurated by Dr Aman Puri, Consul General of India, in the presence of the holding company's Managing Director, Mr. Adeb Ahmed, and other senior management.

Congratulating the team on their achievement, Mr. Adeb Ahmed said, "Today's opening is a celebration of the amazing journey we have had as a team, and the many opportunities we have converted to emerge as a trusted brand. As one of the leading players in the financial services sector, not just in the UAE but also in our other markets, we have been credited for



being attuned to the sector's needs. Our efforts to bridge the gap between our consumers and our various physical & digital touchpoints are a key part of our growth story, and the 250th branch is a mark of our determination and perseverance to disrupt the global payments ecosystem."

The opening of the milestone branch was followed by two more branch openings on the same day, at Al Majaz and Maaza regions of Sharjah in the UAE.

About LuLu Financial Holdings

An ISO:9001 certified conglomerate, Abu Dhabi based LuLu Financial Holdings has various investments in financial services, including remittances, foreign currency exchange, structured finance for MSMEs and micro finance for retail consumers in India. Cumulatively, it processes annual transactions of over USD \$11 billion, serving over 15 million customers across various regions.

## Gulf states remain wary of US security commitments to region

In a recent exclusive interview with Reconnaissance Research, a leading think-tank in Kuwait, Colby Connelly, a senior analyst at Energy Intelligence — a leader in energy research and information since 1951 — spoke at length about oil and its influences on the geopolitical landscape in the region. Highlighting that oil production capacity of the Gulf region is approaching its maximum levels, Connelly also added that the inability of Kuwait to achieve its oil goals, prevented it benefiting from the current situation in global oil markets.

Asked why the Biden Administration was interested in reviving the Iran nuclear deal, he noted: "One significant benefit of reaching a new Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) would be that European consumers could access unsanctioned Iranian barrels. Additionally, since China and India have eagerly purchased Russian oil that Moscow has offered at a significant discount, Iranian barrels may be more competitive in the European market."

"If a deal were to be reached, we expect Iran to be able to ramp up its oil production quickly, and it is also important to remember that Iran has up to 90 million barrels of crude and condensates in floating storage, which could be brought to market as soon as a deal is reached."

"A deal would also bring prices down, and that would undeniably benefit the Biden Administration, Europe and of course the Iranians. However, while it might seem like a simplistic explanation, it appears too that the Biden Administration is pursuing a renewal of the JCPOA as the most effective way of limiting and monitoring Iran's nuclear activity."

"I don't think it would be too much of a stretch to suggest that Biden would undo some of the progress he may have made during his trip to Jeddah last month if a new JCPOA were to be signed tomorrow."

Speculating on how the release of over US\$100 billion in oil revenues would be spent



Colby Connelly, senior analyst at Energy Intelligence

by the Iranians, Connelly said: "I seriously doubt that the White House is unaware of how Tehran intends to use a potential influx of cash. Therefore I would certainly expect the Biden Administration to highlight the potential security advantages of normalization with Israel as a way of encouraging additional states to join the Abraham Accords, and deal with matters of joint benefit and concern, such as the Iranian threat to name a few."

"However, I don't think this is Washington's ultimate goal. If regional states that have not moved towards normalization with Israel, or who actively oppose doing so hold any perception that the JCPOA is being used to drive them closer to Israel, I would not expect these countries to reward the Biden Administration by publicly joining the Abraham Accords in a move that the White House would undoubtedly claim as a foreign policy success." In response to whether he saw a shift in US policies towards the GCC, Connelly affirmed, "It's impossible to deny that US relations with several of the Gulf states have suffered in recent years, and that security concerns have been a central feature of this problem. A strategic shift definitely began during the Obama years. There is a clear disconnect between what Washington seems to want to achieve in this regard, and

what it can realistically accomplish in the face of a shifting geopolitical landscape. "There is also an important domestic US political angle here too. US presidents are facing an environment in which direct military engagements overseas are incredibly unpopular with the American public, and the idea of defending oil-rich countries in the Gulf is something that looks increasingly unpopular in the US, even if doing so is very much in Washington's strategic interest. Being a democratic nation, the will of the people does matter greatly. "So I expect that Gulf states will continue to be wary of the US security commitment to the region until that commitment is seriously tested again and proven on the ground." Asked about his predictions on the near- and long-term future of oil prices, the analyst noted: "We see prices in the mid-\$90 range during the fourth-quarter of this year, with potential increases during the peak winter months before eventually declining again."

"The Gulf region's production capacity is nearly maxed out; for example Kuwait is nearly at the limits of its production capacity, which as I believe you know has declined by more than 500,000 b/d over the past five to six years, and it now stands at about 2.6 million barrels per day (mb/d). Kuwaiti national oil companies (NOCs) have regularly missed their capacity targets for the last several years, and their increasing focus on more complex and unconventional resources to boost capacity will significantly increase production costs, as well as the carbon intensity of Kuwaiti crude, which has the potential to hurt the competitiveness of Kuwait's oil sector relative to other countries in the Gulf. This does not mean Kuwait's oil sector is beyond repair, but the inability to reach previous targets does prohibit Kuwait from gaining more from the current situation." Elsewhere, we estimate that Saudi Arabia and the UAE hold a combined spare production capacity of around 2.6 mb/d. For reference, we estimate that Iran has

approximately 1.2 mb/d in spare capacity that it could tap if sanctions were to be lifted. Officials from each country have made it clear through OPEC-plus that they are very reluctant to raise their production level to full capacity, and one of the primary reasons given for this outlook is that completely using the remainder of OPEC-plus' spare capacity would drive prices even further high, if a significant unforeseen supply disruption were to take place. Given the volatile state of our world as things stand, this isn't a totally unreasonable outlook; Libya is a perfect example of this, given that political and security volatility there impact its oil output on a regular basis. Additionally, global inventories are also at very low levels going into 2023, with major releases from the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) in the US playing a role here. "While Saudi Arabia and the UAE are working to expand their production capacity by 1 mb/d each, the Kingdom will not complete this expansion until 2027, and Abu Dhabi is targeting completion by 2030. This capacity takes time to come online, and there is no 'quick fix' for this solution from the Gulf without two of OPEC's largest members completely maxing out their spare capacity. "On the demand side, there is a considerable degree of uncertainty heading into 2023. While we certainly expect demand to increase during the winter months due to fuel switching in Europe and potential complications with natural gas supplies, other factors point to a potential downside as well. There is a strong degree of political volatility in many developing countries, and emerging markets tipping into recession is a potential downside, in addition to the major factor of Chinese lockdowns due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Infections typically increase in the winter, and this makes China something of a wildcard for late 2022 and early 2023. With this much potential volatility around demand, it is easy to see why the return of as many as 1 mb/d of Iranian supply would go a long way to cool fears of winter price volatility."





# Tamdeen Group to stage Disney on Ice in Kuwait

Tamdeen Group, the leading developer of projects in Kuwait, said last week that it is all set to launch the world-renowned theatrical show 'Disney on Ice', on the local platform by signing an agreement with SES Live, the regional leader in providing live family entertainment. The event will be held in Arena Kuwait, one of the group's projects, which is within the expansion of the new 360 Mall Kuwait.

The upcoming event is in line with Tamdeen Group's vision of developing the entertainment and sports sector in Kuwait, and taking it to new levels by

hosting international entertainment shows and world-class sports and educational experiences throughout the year, as part of the programs and events of Arena Kuwait. The aim is to provide everything new in the field of entertainment for citizens, residents and visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in line with the general social norms in Kuwait, and after fulfilling all the required conditions and obtaining approvals from the competent authorities.

Disney on Ice, a world-class theatrical show will be held for the first time in Kuwait as part of a tour currently being held in the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia. The staging of the event will mark the launch of a year-long program of many international entertainment events at Arena Kuwait. Arena Kuwait is the largest multi-purpose indoor hall designed and equipped with the latest technologies of international standards to serve the leading companies in the field of entertainment and event management, and to host various types of local and international events such as music, sports, theatrical and cultural performances. It can also host exhibitions, corporate events, graduation ceremonies, award ceremonies and many more.



# LuLu Hypermarket launches 'Ponnonam 2022' promotion

LuLu Hypermarket, the retailer of choice for discerning buyers in Kuwait, is celebrating Onam 2022, one of the main cultural festivals of Kerala, India, with a spate of amazing special discounts and promotional offers.

The traditional ten-day Onam festival, often referred to as 'Ponnam' or 'Golden Onam', is being celebrated across all outlets of the hypermarket with colorful competitions and captivating programs, along with alluring dishes prepared especially for the festival being a highlight during the promotion.

A delightful array of dishes will feature in the main 'Onam sadya' menu that will be available from 7 September at all outlets of LuLu Hypermarket, along with a variety of irresistible 'payasams' (sweet porridges) at very special prices that will be available a day ahead, from 3 September onwards. In addition, Onam flowers imported specifically for the occasion will also be available at all LuLu stores.



Onam festival is also marked with the purchase of new garments and to cater to this need LuLu Hypermarket has arranged one-time special offers on a range of clothing outfits. Stylish sarees and churidars are available with a KD5 free LuLu Shopping voucher on every KD10 worth of purchase, while a variety of curated ethnic

wear 'dhawanis' will be offered exclusively through LuLu outlets.

Underscoring the cultural aspects of the Onam festival, there will be a slew of programs arranged to engage shoppers throughout the 'Ponnam' period. This includes a variety of cultural programs at the AlRai outlet on 8 September that will

be accented with a distinctive 'chenda melam' performance on traditional drums to welcome 'Maveli', the festival's mascot. A dazzling fashion show of kids in traditional Onam outfits will also be held on 8 September at the AlRai branch.

Adding to the festivities, on 9 September there will be a spirited 'vadamvali' (tug of war) competition between selected teams at the AlRai outlet. On 10 September, the last day of the Ponnam festivities, the AlRai store will again witness a 'pookalam' (floral designs) competition, which will display the talents of competitors in arranging flowers in various geometric designs. Also, on the same day and venue, a 'payasa mela' (payasam cooking) competition will be held to demonstrate the payasam cooking capabilities of competitors.

The Ponnam 2022 promotion will no doubt prove to be an exciting, enticing and engaging 'golden' Onam for all shoppers to any of the LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait.

## MUGHLAI DELICACIES

◆◆◆

## & VALUE PACKS









[www.mughalmahal.com](http://www.mughalmahal.com) | [@mughalmahalkuwait](https://www.instagram.com/mughalmahalkuwait)





# Qatar's iconic Museum of Islamic Art to reopen in October



By Hermoine Macura-Noble

Art lovers will be glad to know that the iconic Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Qatar will reopen to the public on 5 October 2022 following an enhancement project and the reimagination and reinstallation of its permanent collection galleries. As the first world class Islamic art museum in the region, MIA will re-open in time for the influx of visitors to Doha for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and provide a more accessible, engaging, and educational experience for guests from all backgrounds.

More than 1,000 objects, including several new collections, will be displayed in the museum's permanent galleries for the first time, alongside the masterpieces for which the MIA has long been recognized. Shortly after its reopening, MIA will present the landmark temporary exhibition titled, Baghdad: Eye's Delight from 26 October 2022 to 25 February 2023. The exhibition will introduce and celebrate one of the world's most influential cities, with glimpses of its heritage as the capital of the great Abbasid caliphs (750-1258 CE) and its legacy in the 20th century, when the city again became a thriving centre for the arts, culture, and commerce. The display will comprise over 160 objects, including loaned works from Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City and the Louvre Museum, Paris. The immersive

exhibition design includes scenographic elements, including a depiction of the River Tigris on the floor of the exhibition that serves to connect the different themes.

"This new enhancement will benefit generations of visitors, providing an even more meaningful experience and allowing guests to explore the rich vast history of the Islamic World as told through our

unparalleled collection," shared MIA Director, Dr. Julia Gonnella.

The reimaging of the collection galleries introduces a comprehensive visitor trail, creates expanded interpretive materials to help understand the masterworks, and provides new mobile and child-friendly resources to make the museum more accessible for families and younger guests.

The galleries are organised according to



broad historical and cultural themes, periods and geography, and will explore the great traditions of Islamic craftsmanship. MIA will also introduce a new section on Islam in Southeast Asia and focus on the connection between different cultures through exhibits on the trade of commodities and the exchange of ideas across the Islamic World and beyond.

"The opening of the Museum of Islamic Art in 2008 was a transformational moment for Qatar, marking the nation's emergence as a new global cultural destination. With the planned reopening, we are excited for locals to have a chance to rediscover the museum, and we invite visitors who are coming to attend World Cup matches to experience this foremost expression of our heritage and culture," said Sheikha Al Mayassa Al Thani, the founder and chairperson of Qatar Museums, the government entity that oversees various museums and exhibition in Qatar.

Highlights at the museum include the Blue Qur'an, the Cavour Vase, the Varanasi necklace, the Ramayana manuscript for Hamida Banu Begum, and the Franchetti tapestry.

Visitors can also discover the origins and spread of Islam, with galleries devoted to the Qur'an and its history, the Muslim Community, learning and education within Islamic cultures and finally an examination of the expansion of Islam to both Eastern and Western countries.

The museum also features a wide variety of materials used in Islamic art, including carpets and textiles, manuscripts, ceramics, wood, ivory, metalwork, stone and glass, spanning Spain and North Africa to the Far East from the earliest Islamic period to the 20th century CE. Highlights from these galleries include early Hijazi Qur'an fragments, the sitara of the Holy Ka'ba, the Moroccan arch, a precious copy of al-Sufi's treatise on the fixed stars, the Abbasid blue-and-white bowl, the Seljuq stucco panel, the Doha Hind, and the post-Islamic Spanish ceiling.

The newly created 'Family Trail' is a key component of the gallery refurbishments and aims to engage young visitors on topics that relate to their own lives and experiences. Utilising new technologies, interactive displays and multi-sensory applications further engage visitors, children and adults alike, throughout the museum.

Hermoine Macura-Noble



The first Australian English speaking News Anchor in the Middle East. She is also the Author of Faces of the Middle East and Founder of US-based 501c3 charity - The House of Rest which helps to ease the suffering of victims of war. For more from our Contributing Editor, you can follow her on Instagram, here.

PREMIER  
WEEKLY  
NEWS  
MAGAZINE

Follow us on  
**twitter**

**@thetimesq8**

For latest News Updates please visit [www.timeskuwait.com](http://www.timeskuwait.com)





# ASEAN textile exhibition opens

**E**mbassies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuwait, in collaboration with Sadu House, inaugurated a week-long ASEAN Textile Exhibition and Craft Workshop on 1 September at the premises of Sadu House,

The Exhibition is aimed at promoting ASEAN textiles, among the world's unique textile heritages, to the Kuwait public by showcasing the superb fabric, local garments and handmade cloth in both fashionable and national dresses. The exhibition of textiles from ASEAN — a political and economic union of 10 member states in Southeast Asia — features exquisite fabrics and elegantly crafted products from the group of nations.

These include silk and cotton material and garments from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, all of which are famous for these fabrics, and garments from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei in the unique Batik designs particular to these three states, as well as tribal design fabrics from the Philippines.

The week-long exhibition will also feature daily workshops, including lessons on the Indonesian art of making Batik designs, silk cloth flowers creations of Thailand, bracelet weaving techniques of the Philippines, and Malaysia's traditional headgear folding technique. The workshops will be held daily in Sadu House and is open to the public.



## Badr Al Samaa Group announces expansion plans



A meeting of the Board of Directors of Badr Al Samaa Medical Center at the Crowne Plaza Hotel last week decided to enlarge the current facility in Farwaniya, as well as expand into other areas in Kuwait such as Salmiya, Hawally and Fahaheel by 2025.

The meeting was attended by members of the board, Dr. Mohammad PA, Abdul Lateef, and CEO Sharath Chandra, as well as Branch Manager Abdul Razak and nBusiness Associate Dr. Fahad Khalifa.

Badr Al Samaa Group has 26 medical centers across GCC and employs over 6,000 personnel, who together serve more than 20,000 patients each day. The Group is committed to its pledge to provide, "More than Health Care... Human Care" to people in Kuwait.

Established in 2017, Badr Al Samaa

Kuwait offers a wide range of specialty medical services to people in the country, including Urology, Orthopedics, General Surgery, Pediatrics, ENT, Dentistry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Cosmetology, as well as General/Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Radiology, Laboratory, Pharmacy and Call Center.

The Board of Directors meeting was coordinated by Ms Sana from Branding & Media Marketing, Marketing Executive Rahajan, (Marketing Executive), Ms. Sherin of Telemarketing & Social Media, Marketing Coordinator Ms. Preema, Field Marketing's Qadr, Insurance Coordinator Tasir, (Accounts Manager) Jijumon and the Branch Manager Abdul Razak, along with heads of all departments at Badr Al Samaa Medical Center.

### Heart Check-up Package

**Package Includes**

- D-Dimer
- CRP -(C-reactive protein test)
- Troponin I -( Cardiac screening test)
- ECG
- Total Cholesterol

**12KD ONLY FOR**

**Limited Period Offer**

**FREE** GP Doctor Consultation

**20%** 20% Discount on Further Investigation

**5%** 5% Discount on Samaa Al Kuwait Pharmacy

**FOR ENQUIRIES CALL OR WHATSAPP ON**

**60689323 60683777 60968777**

Farwaniya Block No 4, Street -39, Near Farwaniya Garden - Kuwait Tel: 24759250/70/80



# Free Speech Is Not a License to Kill



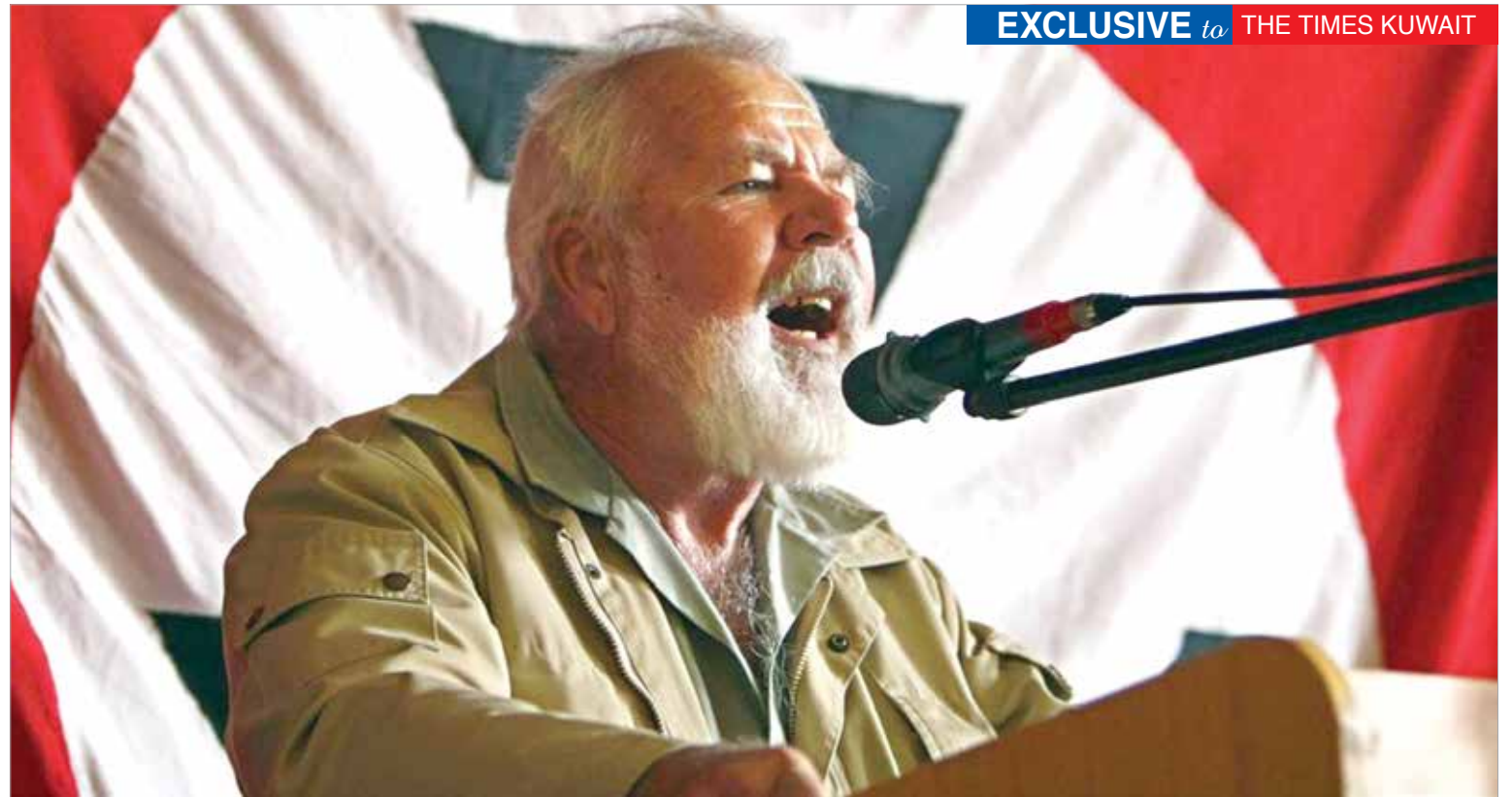
**Ian Buruma**

Author, most recently, of *The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit*.

**H**adi Matar, the 24-year-old Lebanese-American charged with attempting to murder the British author Salman Rushdie, appears to have been acting on his own. Matar claims to be an admirer of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian supreme leader who issued the murderous fatwa against Rushdie in 1989 following the publication of the author's novel *The Satanic Verses*. But there is no evidence that the attacker is linked in any way to the Iranian government. Nonetheless, at least one commentator has called the assassination attempt an "act of state-promoted terrorism."

That description sounds about right. State-promoted is not the same as state-sponsored, much less state-directed. Even though the Iranian government has not in fact tried to kill Rushdie, Khomeini's fatwa still stands, and the state must bear some responsibility for inspiring murderous fanatics like Matar.

Killers or would-be killers have been fired up by violent language before, of course. Anders Breivik, the Norwegian who murdered 69 young



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

people at a social-democratic summer camp in 2011, was an avid reader of writers who warned that Muslims, coddled by European liberals, posed a dire threat to Western civilization. Does this mean that individual writers and bloggers whose output convinced Breivik that he should kill to save the West were partly responsible for

his horrific deeds?

Much has been said, and rightly so, about Rushdie's defense of free speech, and the price he has paid for his fortitude. In the United States, the Constitution protects right-wing activists who claim to be 'at war' with Muslims or leftists, whom they see as an existential

Neither Rushdie nor any other writer or thinker should be constrained by this. People must be protected from imminent danger, and perhaps, as is the case in Europe, also from personal defamation or insult, but there is no reason why particular ideas and beliefs should be protected from criticism or even ridicule.

There is, however, another distinction to be considered. The impact of speech depends on who says what to whom.

Even though Breivik may have been inspired by extreme anti-Islamic or anti-liberal views promoted by certain individuals, those writers and bloggers are not responsible for the murders he committed. One might criticize them for not considering the possible consequences of spreading fear and loathing. They could be morally culpable. But their views carry no authority. The danger is far greater when a politician or a religious leader stokes hatred. The consequences of Khomeini's fatwa are patently clear. The Japanese translator of *The Satanic Verses* was murdered in 1991, the book's Italian and Norwegian translators barely survived violent assaults, and Rushdie's would-be killer nearly succeeded.

But Iranian clerics are not the only culprits. US politics is now being inflamed by verbal violence that is just as lethal.

Open and democratic societies depend on a consensus that conflicting interests and competition for power can be resolved peacefully. Changes of government, after lawful and fair elections, must be accepted. Those who hold opposing political views should not be treated as existential enemies.

But that is not a view widely shared within the US Republican Party, much of which remains in thrall to former President Donald Trump. Extremist GOP members of Congress routinely describe Democrats — and even Republicans who defy Trump — as "traitors." During his 2016 election campaign, Trump himself called for his opponent to be "locked up." Various Republican politicians have talked about a "civil war" having begun, and emphasize citizens' duty to take up arms. The consequences of using this kind of language became evident on 6 January, 2021, when a violent mob took Trump and his political boosters at their word and stormed the US Capitol.

There is a difference between cynics or deluded fanatics expressing extreme opinions and people in positions of authority doing so. Individuals who spread lies and invective on the internet or television are repellent and sometimes dangerous, but political and religious leaders who stir hatred authorize people to kill.

“

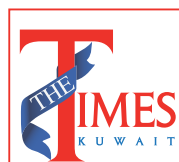
There is a difference between insulting someone and offending them. Whereas an insult is a deliberate attempt to wound, to offend is to hold an opinion that someone might find offensive, even though no offense is intended

menace to America and the Christian way of life, so long as the culture warriors do not create 'a clear and present danger' They may not threaten violence against any individual, because that would pose 'a real, imminent threat', but they can freely spout their hatred of any creed they want.

European laws on free speech are tighter. In France, and many other European countries, it is prohibited to 'defame or insult' a person or group on the grounds of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. You may say that Islam, Christianity, or any other religion is abominable, but you may not insult an individual for his or her belief.

There is a difference between insulting someone and offending them. Whereas an insult is a deliberate attempt to wound, to offend is to hold an opinion that someone might find offensive, even though no offense is intended. A writer can be held responsible for an insult, but not for an offense. There is no evidence that Rushdie intended to insult anyone in *The Satanic Verses*, but he offended many people, whether they read the book or (usually) not.

But, for many people, religion is much more than a set of rules or beliefs to which they adhere. Like nationality, it can constitute the core of a person's identity. When someone's sense of self is challenged, they quickly take it as an insult, even if none is intended.



Join Us in Our New  
**Telegram Channel**

<https://t.me/thetimeskuwait>



For the latest news and updates please subscribe to our Telegram channel.

Credible. Insightful.  
Accurate.  
The right news,  
right in time.



# Rays of Hope in the Climate Struggle



**Christiana Figueres and May Boeve**

*Christiana Figueres is a former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where she oversaw the landmark Paris agreement on climate change.*

*May Boeve is Executive Director of 350.org.*

**W**e have grown accustomed to grim climate news. Despite scientists' warnings and communities' protests, catastrophic floods, record-breaking heat waves, devastating wildfires, and famine-inducing droughts are becoming increasingly frequent.

But, occasionally, a pleasant political surprise encourages policymakers and activists to press on in the fight against global warming. The recent passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which will accelerate America's clean-energy transition, is a case in point.

We have experienced similar uplifting moments before. In the months leading up to the adoption of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the United States and China announced a joint plan to slash emissions that helped pave the geopolitical path to that historic deal. In 2014, hundreds of thousands of Americans participated in the People's Climate March in New York City, confounding all turnout estimates and prompting the then United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak out and emphasize how important protests are.

Like the IRA, these victories seemed to come out of the blue. But social movements help to bring about such progress, and can grow stronger when the political winds shift in their favor.

Moreover, the new US law could not be better timed, because the pace picks up for the climate movement at this time of year. A few weeks from now, heads of state will gather in New York for the UN General Assembly, which will be followed by a mayoral summit in Buenos Aires, the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Climate negotiators are used to entering such gatherings determined to declare progress at any cost and use sheer force of will to keep the focus on climate justice. In recent years, youth activists have called our bluff. One cannot say that efforts to tackle the climate emergency are sufficient when politicians do little more than talk.

But the IRA's passage means that — at this late hour in the fight against global warming — we can prepare for forthcoming meetings with something new and tangible in hand. The US is the largest historical emitter of planet-warming gasses and in recent years has been one of the main laggards in international fora aimed at addressing the problem. But the IRA keeps the Americans in the game in the run-up to this year's international climate talks.

The new law not only puts the US on course to reduce its own pollution sharply, but also will likely drive down the prices of renewable energy. That will make it easier for many emerging economies and low-income countries to adopt renewables rather than build more coal-fired power plants.

Notwithstanding political obstacles to progress, there are signs around the world that things are moving in the right direction. The European Union wants the share of renewables in its energy mix to reach at least 40 percent by 2030. India's transport sector, which



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

accounts for 14 percent of the country's overall emissions, has leapfrogged ahead by joining the First Movers Coalition, which aims to decarbonize heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30 percent of global emissions. Colombia's recently elected government has laid out a hugely ambitious

a massive anti-poverty program and people everywhere forever connected climate policy with their well-being.

We are still far from where we need to be in addressing climate change, but we are a big step further along from where we were at the beginning of 2022. The IRA is not perfect — a

glaring flaw is the absence of funding to help poorer countries adapt to climate change — but it demonstrates that enormous domestic obstacles can be overcome. COP27 is around the corner, and leaders must come to the table with a sense of responsibility and tangible evidence of their commitment to act.

“

While fossil-fuel companies reap unprecedented windfall profits, soaring energy prices are causing misery for the world's most vulnerable people and have driven millions more into poverty for the first time

climate and environmental justice agenda that promises to end the country's destructive model of resource extraction.

Significantly, China's solar industrial boom has enabled the price of renewable energy to fall to new lows. In Brazil, wind and solar energy generation increased in 2021 and now account for over 13 percent of the country's energy mix, exceeding the OECD's clean-energy indicator for that year.

Political breakthroughs on climate issues can happen overnight, unforeseen. For years, the fossil-fuel industry has been determined to convince us that we cannot live without coal, oil, and natural gas. But the spike in energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown that we simply cannot continue to feed our addiction.

While fossil-fuel companies reap unprecedented windfall profits, soaring energy prices are causing misery for the world's most vulnerable people and have driven millions more into poverty for the first time. Even in developed countries, lower-income families may have to choose between food and heat this winter.

Just as the IRA seeks to protect the US population from volatile fossil-fuel prices and their knock-on effects, every other government must fulfill its responsibility to safeguard its citizens. If they do, historians will regard this moment as the time when the US unleashed

## Its Arabic, but with an indian twist

A platter you will just fall in for

PERI PERI ALFAHAM KANTHARI ALFAHAM CREAMY ALFAHAM BBQ ALFAHAM MEAT KABAB

**Order Now!**  
9220 4029, 9220 4030  
Near Thakkara Restaurant and Lulu Center (old) Fahaheel

Connect with Us



# Is the World's Financial Firefighter Ready?



**Ngaire Woods**

*Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford.*

The world needs to prepare for a cascade of financial crises across emerging and developing economies. The writing is already on the wall, with Ghana, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka currently queuing at the International Monetary Fund's door. Wealthier countries must now equip the IMF — the world's financial firefighter-in-chief — to prevent and manage the spread of crises. They could start by ensuring that the Fund has the resources to stop lower-income economies adopting beggar-thy-neighbor policies that destroy other countries' livelihoods and threaten political and economic stability.

As the US dollar strengthens and global growth slows, many poor-country governments that are already seriously overstretched by COVID-19, and by the food and energy crises sparked by Russia's war in Ukraine, must now contend with depreciating currencies and rising borrowing costs. And support from China is declining as the country's new political priorities, zero-COVID policies, distressed property market, demographic pressures, and structural reforms cause its economy to grow at its slowest rate in four decades.

Adding fuel to the fire, foreign investors are withdrawing funds from emerging markets at a record pace. As a result, many of these countries are burning through the foreign-exchange reserves that they had carefully built up after previous crises.

Major economies should now be taking several practical steps. During the 2008-09 global financial crisis, for example, G20 leaders agreed to create a 'trillion-dollar IMF' that would have the means to slow and contain the spread of the crisis. This involved letting the IMF borrow from a group of willing countries, as well as increasing the Fund's capital to SDR477 billion (\$621 billion).

The IMF has additional lines of defense. In January 2021, its New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) scheme, under which 38 countries have agreed to lend to the Fund should the need arise, was doubled in size and extended until 2025. The IMF also has bilateral borrowing agreements, the extension of which is currently being negotiated.

Furthermore, countries agreed in August 2021 to a general allocation of \$650 billion in SDRs, the largest in the Fund's history. The allocation was intended to boost the global economy's



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

“ Middle Eastern energy producers, for example, are set to receive up to \$1.3 trillion in additional oil revenues over the next four years, and stand to gain quiet leverage by agreeing to increase their lending to the IMF ”

resilience and stability and to assist vulnerable economies that were struggling to cope with the COVID-19 crisis. But, because SDRs are distributed according to countries' IMF quotas, which depend heavily on their GDP, the measure's impact has been limited.

In previous financial crises, the IMF has played a key role in helping to sustain a minimum level of confidence, thereby reducing the costs of containing and managing the crisis. Given volatile markets, fleeing investors, and financially overstretched governments, there is a strong case for again bolstering the IMF's firepower.

For starters, the G20 countries should commit to doubling the IMF's core capital. That means a twofold increase in each country's contribution (which is proportionate to the size of its economy). Such negotiations have been tricky in the past, because fast-growing economies will insist on gaining greater quota shares (influence) at the IMF, as Japan, Saudi Arabia, and China have done over the years. The far-reaching 2010 reforms involved substantial changes and although geopolitical tensions have risen further since then, those changes have paved the

way for a further increase now.

The need for the IMF to play a central role in managing a global crisis is one of the few areas on which G20 countries might agree. They should do this soon, because ratifying and implementing any new set of quotas will take time — five years, in the case of the 2010 agreement.

A second, more immediate step would be for the IMF to enhance its borrowing arrangements with richer countries through the above-mentioned NAB and bilateral agreements. Middle Eastern energy producers, for example, are set to receive up to \$1.3 trillion in additional oil revenues over the next four years, and stand to gain quiet leverage by agreeing to increase their lending to the IMF.

A third possibility is either to sell off some of the IMF's gold holdings, or for countries to agree to another general SDR allocation. But, again, the bulk of an SDR issuance goes to the largest economies (which have mostly chosen not to redistribute them to countries in need). Moreover, there are limits to countries' willingness to exchange their hard-currency reserves for SDRs.

A far less discussed (and more controversial)

option would be for wealthier countries that do not borrow from the IMF to reduce the amount the Fund pays them for providing it with credit. In 2020, the IMF spent SDR546 million remunerating members' reserve tranche positions, and a further SDR90 million on interest expenses. This is now set to increase, as both the IMF's credit outstanding and the SDR interest rate rise.

Lastly, the IMF, like its sister institution, the World Bank, could tap the capital markets — something it has never previously done. The World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides loans to low- to middle-income countries by borrowing 4-5 times its equity capital in the market. Even the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's concessional financing vehicle for the poorest countries, relies on capital markets to maximize its financing, although on a much smaller scale.

Both the IBRD and the IDA have AAA credit ratings, enabling them to minimize their cost of capital. Their experience, as well as that of other multilateral borrowers, suggests that the IMF could issue AAA-rated debt and leverage its equity, as well as its record of never reporting a credit loss in its 78-year history.

Powerful countries in the IMF, especially the G20, must now seriously consider what is at stake. Like the forest fires ripping through the Northern hemisphere this summer, financial crises spread quickly. Managing them effectively will require adequately equipping the IMF ahead of time with well-positioned reserves and firebreaks.



**THE TIMES**  
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

To receive your  
**FREE Pdf** copy every week  
directly to your inbox,  
send an email to  
**subscribethetimes@gmail.com**

For latest News Updates please visit  
**www.timeskuwait.com**



# Cosmetic treatment: a booming trend in the Arabian Gulf

The demand for cosmetic procedures has doubled in the last ten years in the Arab regions. In fact, at least 60 percent of Kuwaiti women aged 15 to 55 spend conscientiously on everything related to cosmetic and laser procedures, while treatments for gynecomastia and forehead wrinkles are the most popular among men.

Non-surgical cosmetic procedures have become essential in many Arab and Gulf societies, especially among women. With its increasing popularity, beauty centers and clinics pop out everywhere, offering attractive packages.

Most cosmetic procedures in Kuwait specialize in Botox, fillers, threads, rejuvenation, and fat injection. The services also include rhinoplasty on the one hand, and liposuction on the other, especially with widespread obesity. Sleeve operations also result in weight loss and make some major changes to the body, as well as, to the person's lifestyle, such as pressures at work and delay in sleep.

On the other hand, the prices for undergoing cosmetic procedures vary due to the variety of techniques not only from one clinic to another, but also from one specialist to another. The specialized devices used can also factor in the cost of the treatment.

The emergence of modern technology has birthed many alternatives to surgical operations that give the desired results. These alternatives include the fruit acid filler, Botox, as well as, the vaser device, which made breakthroughs and reaped benefits in the field of liposuction.

Dr. Muhammad Saad, a local plastic surgeon, said that the demand for cosmetic procedures has doubled during the past ten years in the Gulf countries, in general, and in Kuwait in particular, where the data showed that between 50-60 percent of Kuwaiti women from age 15 to 55 spend on cosmetic and laser procedures.

Dr. Saad said that the upsurge in cosmetic procedures generated a competitive atmosphere between centers and hospitals, each promising to provide better medical services and utilize advanced technologies in performing surgeries. This commercial rivalry naturally resulted in the booming of the plastic surgery industry in Kuwait, especially in terms of leveling up the efficiency of the services.

The acquisition of the latest medical equipment, provision of advanced surgical methods used in plastic surgery, and conducting of medical seminars and conferences, raised the standard of efficacy of Kuwaiti plastic surgeons and newly-graduate specialists in the field.

As to what are the widely used techniques, Dr. Saad explained that currently, more reliance is placed on filler injections, Botox, rejuvenation needles, tightening and facelifts, which stimulate the body to produce collagen.

"Collagen regenerates skin tissue and treats contractions and sagging, as well as, limits the effects of aging. It advances age and delays its appearance. It is considered an alternative to surgical operations in many cases, especially in some cases where



Plastic surgeon Dr. Muhammad Saad

exposure to general anesthetic is not suitable due to health problems or social conditions," Dr. Saad said.

"There is also a face-tightening and contouring without surgery, and defining the face to look more naturally youthful, such as defining the jaw and eyelids, and lifting both cheeks. This process is done in addition to tightening and defining the neck to get rid of wrinkles, contractions and sagging skin by using Botox and the tightening needle. It does not leave behind bruises and swelling, avoiding the dangers of general anesthesia and wound problems, especially for clients with diabetes and chronic diseases such as

heart and high blood pressure," he added.

Dr. Saad emphasized the availability of safe materials, such as the filler of fruit acids with Botox. He noted that it gives the required results in a single session, and lasts for an entire year, adding that it can also quickly restore the surgical area without any side effects.

Cosmetic treatments are not limited to women as some treatments are also available for men. According to Dr. Saad, the appearance of wrinkles in the forehead area is one of the leading inconveniences among men. Botox is used to naturally hide wrinkles in a single session without any side effects. Gynecomastia also causes inconvenience to men because of its unappealing appearance, especially during summer and spring. For such cases, techniques are used to break up the gland and remove it using a vaser device.

The single session rhinoplasty without surgery is witnessing a great demand, especially with the dawn of modern technologies as an alternative to surgical intervention. The treatment gives quick results particularly with the use of filler, Botox, and cosmetic threads. The results can be seen after only one session and without any bruises or puffing, so that the client can quickly return to their daily routine.

Some, especially those with obesity, resort to liposuction and re-injection to improve one's appearance and obtain a slender and sculpted bodily feature. Many modern devices give ideal results in only one session and are the most preferred by clients, particularly the vaser device.

## Deportations are not the answer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last week, it was also reported that the Ministry of Interior had begun to activate Article 16 of the Foreigners' Law, which stipulates the deportation of any resident who has no apparent source of income. This follows several raids by security personnel on makeshift markets, and arrest of street vendors, and bizarrely, of customers frequenting these venues. It appears that irrespective of whether those arrested have valid residency papers or not, if an expatriate is apprehended in makeshift markets or is found engaging in an illegal workplace, they face the prospect of being summarily deported.

Data from different sources show that around 15,000 expatriates found in violation of residency and other laws have been deported since the start of the year. Of these, more than 10,000 were in violation of the residency law and were marginal workers residing illegally in the country. The large number of marginal workers points to one demographic characteristic that Kuwait shares with its neighbors in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries — all of them host a large expatriate population, many of whom live illegally.

In Kuwait, expats and their families account for nearly 70 percent of the population. Latest available statistics also indicate that only around 55 percent of Kuwaiti citizens of working age are employed, compared to over 85 percent of non-Kuwaitis. The demographic imbalance and the high unemployment rates among nationals have been used as justifications for increasing the pace of Kuwaitization of jobs in public and private sectors, as well as for calls from sections of the public and lawmakers to deport expatriates.

Retrenching foreigners and deporting expats is obviously not the answer to unemployment among nationals, and to adjusting the skewed demographic structure. The sense of entitlement — by virtue of nothing more than being born a citizen — precludes many young Kuwaitis from engaging in manual, outdoor

work, or seeking employment in the more competitive and merit-based private sector. Instead, many among the national youth cadre entering the labor pool each year prefer to wait it out for an opening in the public sector, while enjoying the generous unemployment benefits provided by the State.

Experts have warned that in a country with a demographic makeup such as Kuwait, where three in four of the population is a foreigner, it is not feasible to remove nearly a million foreigners and replace them with nationals. Nor is it practical to turn the demographic ratio to 70:30 in favor of nationals, as some have suggested. Evidently, it is far easier to stand up and holler, "let's throw the expats out", than to sit down and do the numbers. If someone did take the time and effort to do the latter, they would soon realize it was not realistic to implement the former.

It bears underscoring that deportation is a powerful tool that the authorities should wield judiciously and with greater restraint. Rather than seeing deportation as a deterrent, it would be more effective if the concerned entities work to deter the underlying circumstances that give rise to these errant practices. While no one will dispute the right of the State to arrest and deport residency violators and the largely unemployed marginal workers, the State also has an obligation to stop the proliferation of visa traders who provide visas that enable marginal workers to enter Kuwait, but then do not provide them with the due employment.

Reports citing Interior Ministry officials have noted that sponsors of marginal workers who are apprehended and deported will have a block placed on their file with the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The block will be removed only after the concerned sponsors adjust their status with PAM and the commerce ministry, and also pays for the air-ticket that was paid for by the Ministry of Interior to deport the workers. In this arrangement everyone appears to come up on top, except for the worker — the interior ministry gets reimbursed, PAM and the

ministry gets the violator's status rectified, the errant sponsor is once again free to ply their trade, and the worker gets deported.

The expatriate who probably paid a large sum to obtain a visa to Kuwait, not only loses the money he paid but also gets deported in the bargain. To echo the earlier question, is this a fair and equitable application of the law? But then, whoever said the law is about fairness. The Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR) has on numerous occasions deplored such unfair administrative deportations and called on the government to halt them. The KSHR describes these deportations as "oppressive" measures against the expatriate community that violate the basic principles of human rights. The group warned that the measure could tarnish the Gulf state's image abroad at a time when its human rights record is under scrutiny.

In its latest annual report on human rights practices worldwide, the United States State Department noted that in Kuwait the laws allow authorities to administratively deport a person without judicial review. The report added that this law is often broadly used and subjects noncitizens charged with noncriminal offenses, including some residency and traffic violations, to administrative deportations which they cannot challenge in court. However, noncitizens charged in criminal cases face judicial deportation only after a court hearing, which they can challenge in a higher court.

The Amiri Decree 17/1959, enacted before the country's independence in 1961, governs the residency rules for expatriates in Kuwait. The law consists of 28 articles along with amendments to these articles incorporated over the years. The law allows government authorities to administratively deport a person without judicial review, but requires the person to be a threat to national security or harmful to the state's interests.

In 1996, Kuwait also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which obliges the country among others to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to due process and a fair trial. Article 13

of the Covenant provides that "an alien lawfully in the territory of a State party to the present Covenant may be expelled therefrom only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with law and shall, except where compelling reasons of national security otherwise require, be allowed to submit the reasons against this expulsion and to have his case reviewed by, and be represented for the purpose before, the competent authority or a person or persons especially designated by the competent authority."

What this implies in simpler terms is that the Covenant obliges states signing or ratifying the document to ensure that migrant workers lawfully residing within their territories shall not be expelled unless they endanger national security or offend against public interest or morality. The Covenant also underlines the right of migrants to have their expulsion order reviewed by the relevant judicial authority, and does not differentiate between administrative and judicial deportation.

In addition, Kuwait is also a signatory to the 2004 Arab Charter on Human Rights, which affirms the principles contained in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenants on Human Rights. The significance of signing on to the Arab Charter is that, unlike other human rights documents perceived as being conceived by the 'West', this was an instrument formulated and negotiated by states of the region for the region.

Article 26(2) of the Arab Charter notes that an alien lawfully in the territory of a State party may be expelled only pursuant to a decision reached in accordance with law. In addition, the alien must be allowed to submit a petition to the competent authority, unless compelling reasons of national security preclude it. Dumping waste construction material in undesignated spots, or fishing in Kuwait Bay without a permit, or illegal street vending, cannot by any stretch of imagination be construed as being a 'threat to national security'.





# Indian Embassy celebrates Onam as part of State facilitation event

A grand Onam festival was celebrated on 1 September, at the Embassy of India, as part of the State facilitation event on the south Indian state of Kerala.

Delivering his inaugural remarks on the occasion, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, H.E. Sibi George extended warm greetings to all Indians in Kuwait on the occasion of Onam festival. Ambassador also noted that over the years, Onam has become one of the most celebrated and most awaited festivals of India in Kuwait not only by the Indian community but also by many Kuwaitis.

He highlighted that Onam had indeed become one of the national festivals of India transcending the regional, linguistic and even religious and cultural diversities. He remarked that "by celebrating Onam, we are celebrating our history, our civilizational ethos, our family values and above all the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (World is one family).

Ambassador added that despite the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, India continues to be the fastest-growing large economy in the world and is also emerging as a global hub for manufacturing and innovation. India is moving towards a knowledge-based society, which aims to build a five trillion-dollar economy by 2025. In terms of Purchasing Power Parity, India is today the third largest economy in the world while in terms of GDP, it is the fifth largest economy. He recalled that in the last two years, India has emerged as the 'Pharmacy of the World' by spearheading the fight against COVID-19 pandemic by supplying COVID-19 pandemic related medicines to over 150 countries, and the 'Made in India' vaccines to over hundred countries including the State of Kuwait.

Ambassador said that India currently celebrates 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the 75th



anniversary of India's independence, even as it marches towards an 'Amrit Kaal', the next twenty-five years, to achieve the target to make India a developed country by 2047, on the hundredth year of India's independence.



On the occasion of the State Facilitation Event highlighting Kerala, he invited all to visit Kerala in their next trip to India as every small township and every village in Kerala have something unique to offer for visiting tourists.

He highlighted that visiting Kerala is a unique experience since it is the place where West met the East, where history was made, where the world came to shop, where St. Thomas came to introduce Christianity, where the Cheraman Juma Mosque, which was built in 629 CE, which makes it the first mosque in India. In addition, he noted, "Kaladi in Kerala is the birthplace of Adi Shankaracharya, which the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited today."

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador George drew attention to the various art forms of Kerala, from 'Kathakali' dance to the martial arts of 'Kalari Payattu', which makes Kerala unique. He also highlighted the role Kerala is playing today towards the well-being of the world including Kuwait through the healing touch of Ayurveda. He invited the Kuwaiti friends to include Kerala in their next itinerary to India, along with other sought-after destinations like Delhi, Goa, Agra and Jaipur.

A tailor-made detailed video highlighting the trade opportunities, tourism potential and technological prowess of Kerala was showcased during the event. A cultural program was also organized on this occasion. Ambassador thanked the members of the Executive Committee of Indian Business Promotion Council, Friends of Kannur Expats (FOKE), Anjali School of Dance, Srishti School of Classic Dance and Indian Community for taking active participation in organizing the event.

The ambassador then felicitated the winners of the Quiz competitions during the event. The event witnessed enthusiastic response with people from different walks of life in Kuwait participating virtually as well as in person. A sumptuous traditional Onam 'sadhya' or feast was served to all the guests.

