



## DIPLOMAT

The business climate  
in Togo is very encouraging  
and conducive

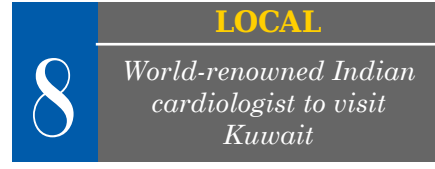
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## LOCAL

Labor shortages  
affect home  
construction work

4



## LOCAL

World-renowned Indian  
cardiologist to visit  
Kuwait

8



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250 Fils

# Visa policies that attract FDI investments



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

Decision by the United Arab Emirates last week to further liberalize its visa and residency programs for foreigners, is yet another step undertaken by the Emirates to enhance its appeal to global investors and attract billions of dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI). The new measures are also expected to encourage more entrepreneurs, skilled workers and global talent to relocate to the UAE.

In what is seen as one of the biggest overhauls of the UAE visa residency system in years, on 5 September, the UAE Government formally ratified

the Golden Visa scheme. The scheme was first announced by UAE Vice-President and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in May, 2019. "The Golden Card is our way to welcome all those seeking to be a part of the UAE's success story and looking to make the Emirates their second home," said Sheikh Mohammed while announcing the project.

The Golden Visa scheme aims to give exceptional workers in the fields of health, engineering science and art, as well as foreign investors, the opportunity to establish deeper roots in the country and allow the nation to benefit from their expertise. The focus is on attracting and retaining global talents and skilled workers, boosting



the country's competitiveness and enhancing flexibility of its job market, while fostering a greater sense of stability among UAE residents and families, noted a government

statement issued on the occasion.

As per the new amendments, entrepreneurs can avail of a Golden Residence, if they own or are a partner in a start-up registered in

the country in the category of small and medium enterprises (SME) that generates annual revenue of not less than Dh1 million. Real estate investors can obtain a Golden Residence when purchasing a property worth no less than Dh2 million (\$540,000), with foreign investors also entitled to obtain the Golden Residence when purchasing one or more off-plan properties of no less than Dh2 million from approved local real estate companies.

The new system will also make it easier for skilled professionals currently working in the UAE and earning salaries of over Dh30,000 (\$8,000) or more a month to gain a Golden Visa.

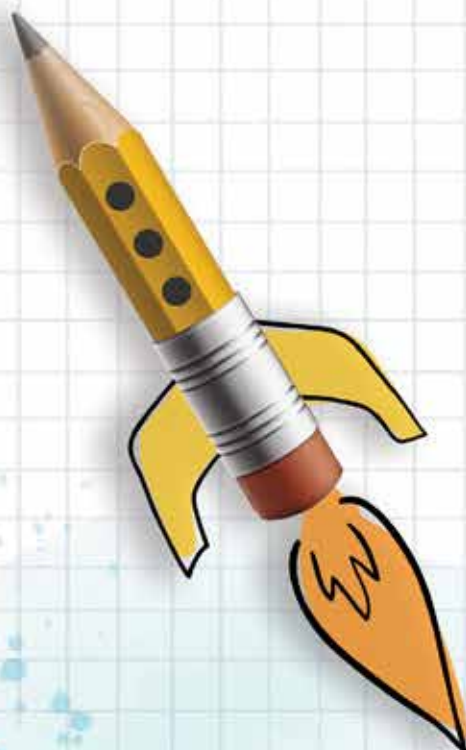
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# Tajikistan celebrates 31st anniversary of Independence

On 9 September, 1991, Tajikistan regained its independence, and the world community recognized Tajikistan as an Independent State.

Thousands of years earlier, the Tajik people had already acquired a national state, in the powerful State of Somoniyon during the Samanin Empire. In 1991, the people of Tajikistan once proved that they are able to preserve the waving banner of their statehood.



Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydov speaking to the media elaborated that on 9 September of this year the Government and people of Tajikistan celebrated the 31st anniversary of their State Independence — a landmark and turning point in the modern history of the country, and a moment of happiness and high dignity for the ancient, creative and glorious Tajik people.

The State Independence has created a unique historical opportunity for their people to unite under their national flag, through cohesive, creative work, to solve the most difficult problems and remove the most difficult obstacles, to lead their beloved country to a stage of sustainable socio-economic development.

Tajiks can proudly say that in the short period since independence, effective steps have been taken to strengthen the pillars of a truly independent, democratic, secular and social state, with the main direction of the state's internal and foreign policies determined in line with national interests. Extensive

programs of development and expansion have been implemented in all spheres of public life, including economic and social sectors.

It is very important to mention that in order to achieve complete independence and recognition as an independent state of Tajikistan, the efforts of the Founder of Peace and National unity, the Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon are very unique.

During the period of Independence, despite the negative impact of crisis factors and various international processes, the economic and social development of the country was ensured.

The Government of the country directed all its efforts to create decent living conditions for every inhabitant of the country, carried out many activities, using all resources and opportunities to solve problems and tasks in social spheres, including science and education, culture and healthcare, problems of youth and women, supporting the needy sections of



society, attracting as many teenagers and youth as possible to quality education, educating them in the spirit of patriotism.

The implementation of such a far-sighted policy contributed to the comprehensive strengthening of Tajikistan's relations with all countries of the world, especially with the countries of the region.

State Independence has brought Tajikistan closer to the world and the world closer to Tajikistan, and the policy of 'open doors' has led to an unprecedented increase in the authority and reputation of Tajikistan at the international level. As a result, for more than three decades,

they have achieved successes that are directly related to the further development of our independent state.

The role of the state, especially in influential organizations, is considered effective and constructive in addressing pressing issues of global and regional importance, such as ensuring security, stability, environmental and climate health. Tajiks are satisfied that most countries recognize the position and initiatives of Tajikistan as a leading country in matters of water, climate and glacier protection, and cooperate with us on this constructive path.

Today Tajikistan has diplomatic and friendly relations with more than 180 countries of the world and is a full member of 57 international and regional organizations.

The State of Kuwait was among the first states of the international community to officially recognize the independence of the Republic of Tajikistan. Also, Kuwait was the first Arab country to which the head of the newly

are on account of the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the leaders, and are developing in the light of it. The bond of friendship and brotherhood of the Leader of the Nation with the late former Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, undoubtedly played a key role in the successful promotion of beneficial relations between the two states.

It should be recognized that the economic and commercial relations between Tajikistan and Kuwait have not yet reached the level of the wishes of the top leadership and the friendly and brotherly people of the two countries. The two countries have wide opportunities for fruitful cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, investment and tourism, and today the relevant authorities in the two countries are trying to establish economic and trade relations using the existing opportunities.

In this regard, on 19 September of this year, the third session of the Kuwaiti-Tajik Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation will be held in Dushanbe, where all aspects of cooperation between officials of the two sides will be discussed, and new areas of cooperation will be identified. It is also expected that several new documents of cooperation will be signed on the sidelines of the Joint Commission. There is optimism that by holding this meeting, the parties will reach the desired results.

On the travel front Tajikistan will soon witness the inauguration of the first direct flight between Dushanbe and Kuwait. The opening of the direct flight will contribute not only to passengers, but also to the development of the tourism industry, increase in bilateral trade exchange and export of Tajik products and goods to Kuwait. The mentioned achievements are undoubtedly the result of the Independence and sovereignty of Tajikistan for 31 years and have become the main basis for changing the image of the state, and increasing its influence and authority in the international arena.

Tajikistan is confident that under the leadership of the Founder of National Peace and Unity, the Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, in the coming years, based on the high constructive spirit of the people, on the basis of a democratic and law-based state, extensive cooperation with the countries of the world and international organizations, will contribute to the country's progress and allow it to take its worthy position among the developing countries of the world.

formed state of Tajikistan paid an official visit. Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the State of Kuwait were established on 31 March, 1995.

Today, Kuwait is one of our important and reliable partners in the region. The main factor in the development and strengthening of good relations between Tajikistan and the countries of the Arab world, including the State of Kuwait, is first of all, the balanced, transparent and verified foreign policy of Tajikistan President, Emomali Rahmon.

It is a source of joy that cooperation and high level relations between Tajikistan and Kuwait

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# Business climate in Togo is welcoming and conducive to investments

H.E. Mohamed Saad OURO-SAMA, Ambassador of Togo

By Reaven D'Souza  
Managing Editor

Ambassador H.E. Mohamed Saad OURO-SAMA arrived in Kuwait almost eight years ago as the first Togolese ambassador to not only Kuwait but the entire Middle East. The calm and affable diplomat has since then made his mark in diplomatic circles and is a well-respected member of the diplomatic corps in Kuwait.

In a recent exclusive interview with The Times Kuwait, Ambassador Ouro-Sama highlighted the growing bilateral relations with Kuwait and opportunities for investments in various sectors of Togo. He also expressed his appreciation for the support extended by Kuwait to the development of his country over the years.

The ambassador began by explaining what led to his shift from a political to a diplomatic career. "My diplomatic career started with the decision by the Togolese Head of State, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, to establish solid diplomatic and especially economic relations with the Middle East and particularly with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

"I was chosen for this post of representing my country in Kuwait and the region, on account of my long experience in the political field, having served for ten years as Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Promotion of the Private Sector in my country. I would like to add that I am the first Togolese ambassador to the Middle East and to the GCC states, and Kuwait has been chosen as the base for expansion of our relations in the Middle East."

Elaborating on his posting as the

first Togolese diplomatic representative to the region, Ambassador Ouro-Sama said, "I was appointed in February 2014, and following my arrival in the country, I presented my credentials to the Amir of Kuwait on 14 May, 2014. Initially, I had to confront several diverse challenges, including the language barrier and the long delay to establish relationships of trust with our interlocutors for rapid actions.

"Since then, we have had very good relations with the government and people of Kuwait so far. We have undertaken many projects, some have developed and come to completion, others are in progress, and we also have other projects in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Amir of Kuwait, the Crown Prince, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the entire government for all the facilities made available to us for the accomplishment of our mission. I would also like to express my gratitude to the people of Kuwait for their friendship."

Turning to trade and his efforts



to develop economic ties and enhance Kuwaiti investments in Togo, the ambassador elaborated: "In the economic field, we have benefited from the Kuwaiti government's several investments in infrastructure of Togo. In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate

late the Kuwait Fund for the tireless work not only in my country Togo but also throughout Africa.

"Currently, foreign trade between Kuwait and Togo is almost nil. We call on all our best wishers to help develop commercial ties between our two countries, as we have a strong export-oriented sector based on agricultural products such as coffee, cocoa bean, and peanuts.

"Togo also abounds in many opportunities for private investments, particularly in the infrastructure field, including roads, schools, hospitals, real estate infrastructure, as well as in the field of agriculture and livestock, and especially in the tourism sector. We wish and expect the strong involvement of private investors for this purpose.

"The business climate in Togo is very attractive and is conducive to encouraging private investment. All arrangements have been made to support and secure Kuwaiti and Gulf investors who will always be welcome in Togo. It is also well known that Togo is a country of

"Togo also abounds in many opportunities for private investments, particularly in the infrastructure field, including roads, schools, hospitals, real estate infrastructure, as well as in the field of agriculture and livestock, and especially in the tourism sector."

peace and security.

"In this regard, it is important to mention that Togo has set up the Adetikope Industrial Platform (PIA), which is a multi-sector industrial park spread over 400 ha. It includes a commercial area, a container park that can contain 12,500



containers, parking for 700 trucks, warehouses, and storage units for all commodities. It is an economic space for foreign investors with a very advantageous tax regime, modern infrastructure, and integrated logistics services. This platform attracts a lot of investors around the world, and we invite Kuwaiti investors to join.

"Another area where my country

Sarakawa wildlife. For its part, our Embassy here is keen to seize every opportunity to promote the potential of tourism in Togo and to boost its growth."

Stressing on the need to enhance people-to-people ties through cultural exchanges between the two countries, the envoy stated: "Unfortunately, till date, there have been no cultural exchanges between Togo and Kuwait. We intend to rectify this situation and plan to invite artists from Togo to Kuwait to show the diversity of our country and its culture. Kuwaiti artists are also invited to perform in Togo."

Ending the interview with a few words on his thoughts about Kuwait and its future, Ambassador Ouro-Sama noted: "Kuwait is a wonderful country, very welcoming and excellent in developing diplomatic relations. Kuwait has a lot of economic potential that Togo can reproduce. It is a great source of investments for development. We once again invite Kuwaiti investors to Togo to seize the multiple investment opportunities that Togo offers."

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# Labor shortages affect home construction work



An acute shortage in laborers, especially skilled workers, has exacerbated the situation of construction companies and worsened the mental and financial worries of building owners. The demand for workers has soared following the delivery of permits to more than 25,000 government housing units in the Al-Mutlaa, South Abdullah Al-Mubarak and South Khaitan residential projects in

mid-March last year.

The shortfall of workers being experienced in the market comes in the wake of tens of thousands of workers leaving the country in the aftermath of the COVID-29 crisis. Many of these workers were not able to return due to government reluctance to readily grant work visas after the pandemic abated.

Construction companies, beleaguered by the shortage in workers in various capacities, have been imploring the authorities for months without avail to liberalize work permit issuance that would enable them to bring in experienced workers from abroad. One construction company owner lamented that he had requested work visas for over 20 workers and after months of waiting was granted work permits for just two workers.

All of this has meant that available laborers in Kuwait are able to command

higher wages and work as freelancers without depending on construction companies to employ them. Street corner contractors have sprouted up in many places, with several workers skilled in specific work forming groups that undertake overall work on residential constructions. The services provided by these street contractors are only a fraction of that charged by construction companies and include carpentry, plumbing, lighting, painting, flooring and cladding works.

Contracting companies have especially decried the existence of such street contractors who they point out work individually without the presence of any legal entity, municipality classification, or commercial headquarters, and noting that there are several cases filed against workers by citizens in courts following inferior quality construction, fraudulent work, breach of contracts and other cases.

The CEO of Rikaz Contracting Company, Khaled Al-Malki, said that with more than 25,000 housing units demanding construction work has caused a huge demand for laborers that the local market cannot deliver. He explained that Kuwait currently needs about 750,000 workers to fill the shortage and the market is finding it difficult to balance supply with demand.

Al-Malki pointed out that the wages of the average worker rose by nearly 100 percent, while that of the technical worker increased by about 200 percent, which causes a strain on the budgets of the owners of the plots, indicating that this directly caused the suspension of work in a large number of plots and the failure to complete the construction due to some workers' exploitation of the conditions, and the lack of adequate oversight by the relevant state institutions.



## EPA committed to enforcing laws on campers

Winter camping season is slated to begin in mid-November this year,

and extend over three months. Ahead of the camping season, the Director of Public Relations and Media Department at the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Sheikha Al-Ibrahim, warned campers not to indulge in violations that impinge on EPA laws.

She added that all areas where camping is permitted will be monitored in cooperation with the Kuwait Municipality and environment police to ensure the implementation of EPA laws. She noted that the EPA will closely follow up any violations such as the construction of earth mounds, the use of cement and excavating camping sites using heavy equipment, and asked campers to stay away from overhead high pressure power lines, and adding that legal measures will be taken against violators.



## Agency reports on completion of government projects

Council of Ministers last week was presented with the latest report from its 'Performance Follow-up Agency' that had been set up to evaluate progress of government construction projects and recommend measures to remove obstructions and bottlenecks in the workflow.

The latest report sheds light on the implementation of 31 projects that come under six ministries and other public entities in the country. The report noted that of the total number of projects that were monitored, 18 have faced inordinate delays in their scheduled work over the past years.

The report pointed out that projects owned by Kuwait University accounted for the largest number of delayed work, with eight university projects facing delays and the completion rate ranging from 64.1

percent to 98.1 percent. This was followed by four projects under the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, which had four residential projects pending with completion rate varying from 83 percent to 98.3 percent. Ministry of Health and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation had three projects each that were held up with rates of completion varying widely.

The agency also noted that it is following up on two projects of the Ministry of Interior, where the completion rate of the building of the General Administration of Financial and Administrative Affairs, which commenced last year has so far reached only 8.6 percent, while the completion rate of the building of the General Administration of Criminal Evidence was 40.6 percent completed.

On the other hand, three works related to the new airport terminal project, managed by the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA), faced delays. These included Package 2 of the new terminal project for building service buildings and roads leading to the new terminal building and parking lots, which was 29 percent completed, and the work is expected to be completed next year.

The other work pending with DGCA was on the construction, completion, furnishing and maintenance of the main new terminal building at the airport, which has so far reached a completion of 62.1 percent. Meanwhile the project for designing and constructing the new runway, reconstructing the eastern runway and related work on infrastructure and services has achieved a completion rate of 72.6 percent.



## ABCK-AmCham hosts networking event with other business groups

ABCK - AmCham Kuwait, a non-profit organization operating in Kuwait since 1985 in collaboration with various foreign business groups in Kuwait held an Inter-Council Speed Networking Event, attended by their respective members and friends.

Besides ABCK-AmCham, other groups attending the event included the Australian Business Group-Kuwait, British Business Forum-Kuwait, Canadian in Kuwait, French Business Council-Kuwait, German Business Council-Kuwait, Lebanese Business Council-Kuwait, Portuguese Business Council-Kuwait, and Spanish Business Council-Kuwait. The event was held with the goal to continue fostering business relationships amongst the different business communities.

The event started with opening remarks by AmCham Kuwait's Board of Directors Member, Omar Ben Naji who welcomed participants and gave a special welcome to the Canadian Ambassador H.E. Aliya Mawani, as well as representatives of other embassies who were present at the event, including the US Embassy, the Swiss Embassy, the French

Embassy, the Kuwait Business Council in Dubai, and other diplomats.

Ben Naji noted that networking events provide an opportunity to meet new people and build relationships within and between councils, as well as help establish and enhance connections between countries of the councils and Kuwait.

The event was a success as it provided participants with an effective way to connect with other businesses and expand their knowledge of the current news and local business market. The networking event concluded with a raffle draw that had several prizes from raffle donors. The first prize was two vouchers from Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre-Kuwait at Lamar and El Publico Restaurants, the second raffle prize was five goodie baskets from SADITA Holding Company, the third raffle prize was five vouchers from Al-Homaizi Foodstuff Industries-Al Rifai Arabia, the fourth raffle prize was two Air Pods from Al-Mulla Exchange and the highlight prize for the evening was provided by IFA Travel and Tourism, a business class ticket to Europe.







From left to right: Mr Nasser Al Ghanim - Chairman City Centre, Mr Ajay Goel - Chief Operating Office City Centre, Mr Mohammed Ghadanfari - Al Tijaria Deputy CEO.



# City Centre opens New Convenience Store Concept City Centre To Go

## Two Stores Inaugurated in Mahboula Residential Towers

Kuwaiti-owned City Centre is pleased to announce the opening of two new branches in Al Tijaria Real Estate Company's residential complexes last week. The two stores were opened on the ground floor of Thatcher and Juman Complexes in Mahboula, and is a new convenience store concept with plans to expand to every residential neighborhood in Kuwait.

Mr. Nasser Al-Ghanim, Chairman of City Centre stated that City Centre To Go is a convenience store concept which features a seamless shopping experience, refined design, and carries the best grocery brands



for the ultimate convenience of life on the go. Unlike other convenience stores, it provides fresh products, such as breads, baked goods and produce, as well as home essentials along with exclusive brands such as Waitrose from the UK.

Mr. Abdul Muttalib Marafie - CEO of Al Tijaria Real Estate Company - expressed his happiness regarding the opening of the new branches of the City Centre Hypermarket and the fruitful cooperation with them, which represents a strategic partnership between the two parties, considering the success of City Centre in Kuwait as a whole.

## Al Muzaini Opens its 124th branch in Aswaq Al Qurain



Al Muzaini Company, the leading exchange house in Kuwait with more than 80 years of experience within the industry is proud to announce the latest opening of its 124th branch in Aswaq Al Qurain Kuwait on Tuesday, 6th of September 2022 by Mr. Hugh Fernandes the General Manager and members of Al Muzaini Management.

Mr. Hugh Fernandes, the General Manager of Al Muzaini Company said: 'We are

extremely delighted to introduce our latest branch opening in Aswaq Al Qurain.

We continually invest in our product to ensure convenience and ease of remittances. Since customers expect excellent service when it comes to money transfers and foreign exchanges, our commitment is towards delivering a Reliable and safe service each and every time and it is our number one priority.

Thought for the week

As much as we need a prosperous economy, we also need a prosperity of kindness and decency

- Caroline Kennedy  
American Author and Diplomat

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# Expats to pay more for services

The recent decision by the Council of Ministers to set a ceiling on financial spending for the next three years comes within the framework of reforms and steps taken to correct economic imbalances and address budget deficit that accrued over the period of low oil prices. The decision also aims to raise the proportion of the state's

non-oil revenues by reviewing the fees for all services provided by the state to citizens and expatriates.

With latest statistics from the Central Statistical Bureau showing the ratio of citizens at 31 percent and that of expatriates at 69 percent, the authorities are reportedly looking at increasing the fees charged for various government



services provided to expatriates.

Ministry of Finance has apparently requested other ministries and departments to determine and provide comprehensive statistics on the costs associated with the services they provide, and the type of beneficiaries so as to segregate the fees charged based on citizens, residents and visitors to the country.



## KCCI holds discussion with visiting Vietnamese delegation

Assistant Director-General at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Imad Al-Zaid, received and held discussions with the visiting Vietnamese economic delegation headed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Vietnam H.E. Ngo Tuan Thang, along with the Deputy Director-General of the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade, Nguyen Phuc Nam. The delegation also included representatives of Vietnamese companies in medical materials, fertilizers, foodstuffs, agricultural products, who held talks with their counterparts in a number of Kuwaiti companies.

During the visit the KCCI stressed on the importance of exchanging visits between the Kuwaiti private sector and its Vietnamese counterpart to develop economic relations between the two countries and their role in promoting economic cooperation and increasing trade and investment exchange.

Al-Zaid praised the existing relations between the two countries, and the need to exert more efforts to develop these ties and push them to new levels that will reflect positively on the peoples of the two countries. For his part, Ambassador Thang

stressed that the embassy will spare no effort in promoting trade and investment relations between the two friendly countries, expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Chamber for its cooperation, which resulted in several visits by Vietnamese official and commercial delegations to Kuwait during the last period.

For his part, Phuc Nam indicated his country's deep interest in forming joint cooperation agreements with Kuwait in various fields, explaining that the main objective of this visit is to provide an opportunity for business owners from both countries to discuss available investment projects and establish bilateral relations that would increase trade exchange between the two friendly countries.

He stressed that his country's government attaches great importance to consolidating cooperation with Kuwait by preparing to export high-quality products in various sectors, especially foodstuffs. At the end of the meeting, the Vietnamese side made a visual presentation on the economy and investment opportunities available in various development sectors of Vietnam.

## KSE delegation to visit India, resolve accreditation issue

A delegation from the Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) is to visit India shortly to hold discussions with concerned authorities with the aim of resolving the issue of accreditation of Indian engineers working in Kuwait.

Last week, Ambassador of India H.E. Sibi George expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the talks he held with the President of KSE, Eng. Faisal Duwaih Al-Atl, on the mechanisms of professional accreditation for Indian engineers with the Society.

While addressing the media, following his meeting at KSE, Ambassador George pointed out that discussions between the embassy and the Society have been continuous and ongoing since two years even during the Corona pandemic period.

He added that Indian engineers were among the highest number seeking accreditation and also received great support from the society in general.

Ambassador George praised the association's upcoming visit to India to resolve all outstanding issues with accreditation. Regarding the Kuwaiti plan to test and accredit workers before they come to Kuwait, the Indian ambassador said, "We agree this procedure should be applied to more than one profession, including with nurses before they come to Kuwait, and we are ready to apply this across the board."

In turn, Al-Atl pointed out that the discussions between the two sides focused on further enhancing cooperation with regard to developing mechanisms for professional accreditation of Indian engineers in Kuwait. Al-Atl revealed the agreement to send a new delegation from the association to India to meet the



concerned authorities was to close the gap in the mechanisms of professional-engineering accreditation in India and work to solve the problems of this accreditation issue.

He revealed that the success of the first phase of the experiment to verify the academic certificates of engineers was through the 'Data Flow' information system that will reduce the time required for the approval of certificates and their professional classification, explaining that this new trend carried out by the association aims to verify and ensure the validity of the qualifications and certificates submitted for accreditation with the association.

Al-Atl stressed that the procedure for verifying certificates is a quality assurance issue and includes all engineers wishing to work in Kuwait and for all nationalities, adding that verification through 'Data Flow' includes both old and newly affiliated engineers.

He explained that the field is open for the accreditation of more audit and accreditation bodies, noting that the multiplicity of academic accreditation bodies in India, in addition to the accreditation of the central government in India, made the task more complicated.

## Fake academic certificates could lead to paying back salaries

Ministries and government entities are said to be pushing ahead with the Cabinet's agenda on examining the educational certificates of public sector employees, and preparing procedures for screening and examining these certificates.

The relevant departments in government agencies will work on preparing proposals and mechanisms to address the issue of looking into the certificates, to submit them to the ministers and approve them, before commencing implementation, explaining that any discrepancies in the certificates will be sent to the Higher Education to verify its validity.

The examination will reportedly target certificates issued from abroad only, and will include a large number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees working in government agencies.

In the event that a certificate, whether



secondary, bachelor, master, or doctorate, is found to have been forged by any state employee, whether Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti, legal measures will be taken against the employee and they will be immediately referred to the prosecution to be held accountable and return all salaries and financial privileges the employee obtained under these certificates without exception.



## Proposal to remove persistent traffic congestion in Salwa

Consistent bottlenecks and traffic jams in Salwa area over the years have led to repeated complaints from residents to no avail so far. Now, in a bid to ameliorate this persistent situation, Nasser Al-Jadaan, a member of the Municipal Council, has submitted a proposal to amend the entrances and exits to Salwa area.

The proposal notes that Salwa has a total population of 81,620 consisting of 28,699 Kuwaitis and 52,921 non-Kuwaitis. However, the traffic woes of residents were exacerbated by the presence of more than 12 schools in the area, which makes its streets and roads regularly jammed at the start and end of school hours.

Al-Jadaan proposed to amend the entrances and exits of the Salwa area by establishing several roundabouts at the entrances to Salwa and connecting the area to surrounding suburbs. He also proposed an entrance to the Messila Bridge separating the Salwa area and the Sixth Ring Road.



# MoE forms cybersecurity team to protect information system

**I**ncreasing cyber threats on government websites and phishing activities have prompted the Ministry of Education to direct its Information Systems Department to form a working team to inspect and monitor security systems, follow up on changes, and requirements for the security and confidentiality of information.

The working team, headed by Chief of the Information Systems Department, Eng. Muhammad Al-Ali, and comprising 10 engineers, has been charged with assessing the security and confidentiality of information and files of all automated systems, networks, communication

systems, and main servers of the ministry, including the main page of the Ministry of Education's website, in addition to conducting a periodic monitoring of the Ministry of Education's network, as well as setting appropriate procedures for authorized login from inside and outside the ministry's network and main servers.

The team has also been mandated to develop a plan to implement technical procedures and special regulations to ensure the security and protection of information within the network from any cyber-terrorism, the use of advanced monitoring and warning systems, and coordination with the specialized

monitors regarding the required process to provide security for the Ministry of Education network and related channels.

The team will also submit a periodic report to the Director of Information Systems Department. The team is also required to study the needs of the concerned monitors for information security solutions, as well as follow up on information security-related incidents.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ali Al-Yaqoub, who is also the Director of Information Systems has reportedly issued a decision that the team leader should be in-charge of submitting periodic reports on the



work accomplished and still pending. In addition, the team is also charged with educating the employees on network risks and the positive use of technology and the internet.

## Nearly half of job applicants seek work in private sector

**A** new report from the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) noted that around 8,467 nationals had registered to seek work in the private sector over the past eight months. The number of Kuwaitis willing to work in the private sector represented 42.2 percent of the total applicants, with 4,894 citizens indicating their desire to work in the government sector.

A break-down of employment of Kuwaitis since the start of the year shows that 21 nationals with Phd degrees were offered jobs with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), with other doctoral degree holders being absorbed by the education and medical sectors in the country.

The report indicated that the private



sector also offered jobs for 173 citizens holding a Master's degree, and they were absorbed by the education, investment,

general trade and contracting sectors.

Meanwhile, the largest number of citizens, 12,120 of them to be specific, were

taken up by the banking sector. The report also reveals that 9,655 diploma holders were employed in the banking and oil sectors. Another facet of national employment shown by the PAM report is that the national labor was concentrated in agricultural and telecommunications companies, in addition to companies working in the field of cars.

According to the report 347 citizens with professional specializations and parallel education are concentrated in mechanical and electrical work, contracting and industries companies, while those with intermediate education were offered jobs in food companies, cooperative societies, security guards, hotels, maintenance and cleaning companies.

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# World-renowned Indian cardiologist to visit Kuwait

## Indian Doctors Forum to host Dr. Naresh Trehan

**E**minent Indian cardiovascular and cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr Naresh Trehan, founder chairman of sprawling Medanta-The Medicity, one of the top-most multi-specialty medical institutes in India, will be visiting Kuwait from 11 to 13 September on invitation by Indian Doctors Forum (IDF) to be the keynote speaker for their Oration programme - Titled Cardiac Surgery 2022 – a Travel Through Time.

During his visit Dr Trehan will speak at the Specialised Chest Hospital on Surgical Management of Heart Failure – assisted devices and management of complications.

He will also speak at the Faculty of Medicine on New Frontiers in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. Having performed more than 50,000

open heart surgeries, he has created a niche in this field. The super-surgeon has a global repute of over 41 years of rich professional experience. Dr Trehan also has countless achievements credited to his name as well.

Dr. Trehan, who graduated from King George Medical College, Lucknow, India moved to the US in 1969 to further his studies at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and went on to practice at New York University Medical Center Manhattan USA from 1971 to 1988. He returned to India and started Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre, before founding Medanta – The Medicity, in 2009.

As one of the most influential persons in the world of healthcare, Dr. Trehan has vast contributions



in the field as well as, in business, including his most recent role in curbing the Covid19 pandemic as a member of the Covid19 Task Force set up by the Supreme Court of India. He also spearheaded the launch of the Medanta Institute of Research and Advocacy for Clean Air and Health (MIRACAH) that advocates to train staff to fight against pollution, inform patients about keeping the air clean, as well as conduct community-based research on air pollution and health.

He is the recipient of various Indian and international awards, including India's prestigious Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award and the Dr. B.C. Roy Award. He has served as personal surgeon to Presidents of India since 1991,

# Visa policies that attract FDI investments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Golden Residence enables the holder to sponsor family members, including spouse and children regardless of their age, and to sponsor domestic workers without limiting their number. There is also no restriction related to the maximum duration of stay outside the UAE in order to keep the Golden Residence valid.

Along with the new Golden Visa, the government also announced a series of other changes to entry and residence visa rules that regulate criteria for those seeking long-term residence in the Emirates. In some cases, these entry permits will now facilitate the entry of skilled and talented people from around the world without the need for a sponsor or host to grant an entry visa.

Meanwhile, in sharp contrast, in mid-August, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in Kuwait issued verbal instructions to its Residency Affairs Department in all six governorates to stop issuing new family and visit visas to expats until further notice. The decision reportedly comes as part of plans to revamp and restructure visa procedures and align them with those on offer by neighboring states, and to meet the country's needs and serve the best interests of its people.

Incidentally, the new directives by MoI come in the wake of an agreement in late March by the National Assembly's Committee for Interior Security and Defense to accept the proposals submitted by the Cabinet to amend laws governing the residency of foreigners and citizenship. The new amendments were expected to improve the country's investment climate and attract foreign investors.

The proposed amendments to Degree No-17 of 1959, which governs the residency of foreigners in the country, would grant foreign investors and individuals owning real estate in Kuwait a residence permit for periods not exceeding 15 years, subject to renewal. The articles of the bill include raising the maximum residency period for expats working in the country to five years, with the provision that would enable foreigners to renew their residency permits for further five-year periods.

It would also permit foreigners visiting Kuwait to temporarily reside in the country for a period of up to three months, and to obtain a renewal of their temporary residency for a period not exceeding one year.

Furthermore, the amendments would permit the children of a Kuwaiti woman married to a foreign national to obtain a residency permit for a period of 10 years that could subsequently be renewed. Currently, the Kuwaiti law on citizenship grants Kuwaiti citizenship to a child only if the father is Kuwaiti as per Article 2 of Royal Decree No. 15 of 1959.

In addition, the proposed amendments to the same decree on Kuwait citizenship stipulates that a foreign female divorcee or widow of a Kuwaiti citizen who does not have children from him, could still obtain Kuwaiti citizenship after 18 years of marriage. Under the current law of citizenship, foreign women who are divorced or widows of Kuwaiti husbands must have children from them to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship. The amendments would also allow a Kuwaiti husband to naturalize more than one wife in accordance with the stipulated conditions and controls.

Finally, the proposed amendments would prohibit Kuwaiti citizens 'from exploiting the recruitment or facilitation of the recruitment of a foreigner', by creating fake employment positions to obtain residency permits for expatriates. It would also prohibit getting financial compensation from foreigners for the visas in lieu of paying them wages, or getting financial compensation from them to renew their employment residency permits, and unjustifiably refraining from paying wages to expats workers in Kuwait.

The proposed amendments to residency and visa rules would however need the final approval from the country's contentious parliament, where voices have already been raised against several conditions stipulated in the amendments. Moreover, less than two weeks after the Cabinet submitted the residency amendments, the government tendered its resignation on 5 April, citing rising disputes with deputies, and ahead of a no-confidence vote tabled against the former prime-minister.

The cabinet's resignation, which was followed by dissolution of parliament, came barely three months after its formation. Kuwait is the only Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) state with a fully elected parliament, which enjoys wide supervisory and legislative powers granted by the Constitution. Over the years the deputies have not shied away from wielding these powers, often without restraint and

irrespective of its consequences on the country. Repeated disputes between elected lawmakers and an appointed government have resulted in several cabinet resignations and parliament dissolutions over the last decade. The political instability has thwarted urgently needed fiscal reforms, discouraged investments, and hindered the country's growth and development relative to its peers in neighboring GCC states.

Ease of relocation to a country for individuals and organizations through simple and effortless residency and visit visa procedures are often considered a crucial criteria to attracting global investors and investments to a country. Though efforts in this direction in Kuwait have now been stalled until the swearing-in of a new parliament, after elections slated for the end of September, the importance of laws that facilitate entry and residency have been highlighted by local and international experts.

The need to ease entry and residency permits was also underlined in an annual report on enhancing the investment climate in the country. Despite scant media coverage, and its seeming insignificance to those elected and selected to run the country, the Sixth Annual report by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), which is responsible for promoting and regulating foreign direct investments in Kuwait, is of import to everyone who has a stake in ensuring the continued welfare and sustainability of the country and its economy.

The executive summary to the sixth iteration of the KDIPA report covering fiscal year 2020-21 notes that despite the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic locally and globally, the authority introduced several proactive measures that helped to attract and approve over KD163 million in direct investments during the review period. The report also noted that during this period the authority granted tax exemption certificates to several licensed investment entities, on the basis of their performance. These tax exemptions facilitate long-term residency permits to investors of these firms.

However, it needs to be pointed out that notwithstanding the diligent efforts of KDIPA, foreign direct investments have played only a relatively small role in Kuwait's overall economy, with the cumulative approved direct investments from the inception of KDIPA in 2015 to the end of March 2021 totaling around KD1.2

billion and FDI stock amounting to only around 11 percent of the country's GDP in 2019. In contrast, according to a report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI stock represented 78 percent of Bahrain's GDP and nearly 30 percent that of Saudi Arabia.

Also, the same UNCTAD report noted that of the \$37 billion global flow of investments to West Asia in 2020, an overwhelming large chunk of \$20 billion was directed to the UAE. The report pointed out that the Emirates continued to liberalize its FDI regime with the promulgation of the 2020 FDI Decree, which further facilitated foreign investment by extending some of the free zone incentives to the broader economy.

To grab a larger slice of a shrinking global FDI market and compete effectively with regional markets vying for investments, Kuwait will need to attract 'quality FDI'. Although the KDIPA has been doing a fairly commendable job in this regard, it needs to proactively promote the country as a distinctive destination that seeks value over volume in investments. It needs to seek out and attract global investments that add quantifiable value to the economy, enhance the skill base and contribute to creation of productive jobs in the local market.

The country also needs to ensure the transfer of technology, knowledge and know-how that boosts competitiveness of domestic firms and enables them to successfully engage in global markets. And to achieve all of this while operating in a socially responsible way and in an environmentally sustainable manner. To achieve these investment goals, Kuwait cannot continue to depend on reactionary measures designed to catch-up with offers and incentives made by neighboring states.

The country needs to drive proactive and forward-thinking strategies and tailor policies that overcome domestic imperfections, and implement measures that achieve its long-term objectives. Global investments should be geared to, and directed towards, driving the diversification of the economy away from its overreliance on oil revenues, encouraging greater private sector participation, and offering meaningful jobs to national youth, while allowing it to compete effectively with regional neighbors who have ambitious investment attracting strategies of their own, but are also not encumbered by parliamentary limitations.



# Fishermen complain of piracy in territorial waters

Attacks on Kuwaiti fishing vessels by armed pirates encroaching on the country's territorial waters, and making away with fish-catch from the boat, equipment on board the vessel, and personal belongings of the fishermen, has been recurring with greater frequency in

recent months.

Highlighting the plight of fishermen, the head of Kuwaiti Federation of Fishermen, Dhafer Al-Suwayan, stressed on the importance of eliminating such piracy and theft inside Kuwait's territorial waters, while at the same time praising the efforts

exerted by the Coast Guard, saying "they continue day and night to protect Kuwait's territorial waters, along with the Kuwaiti army's efforts to protect Kuwait's swallow borders."

Al-Suwayan added that the Fishermen's Union "is in constant contact with the Coast Guard department and the Kuwaiti army to uproot this phenomenon, especially since our waters belong to us and are under the control of the Kuwaiti army, but unfortunately these pirates are increasing and has mastered the art of 'infiltrating and escaping quickly with their loot before the authorities can intercede."

Al-Suwayan pointed out that just last week five Kuwaiti fishing trawlers were robbed in one day, and more than 80 such incidents have been reported since the start of the year, which means that the problem is exacerbating and requires severe measures to be taken to control the pirates.

He explained that "the pirates have weapons and they shoot at the trawlers and force the crew to stop the vessels. They then board the trawlers and steal all the fishing and navigation equipment, mobile phones and other personal belongings, as well as the entire fish-catch."

Al-Suwayan noted that several boat owners have been robbed multiple times



and it is no longer feasible for them to continue re-equipping the boats each time. He also pointed out that this piracy could affect the continuation of the fishing profession, especially since fishermen are increasingly becoming reluctant to go out to sea for fear of their lives.

He stressed the need to find solutions to this problem and called for increasing protection points by the Coast Guard and Kuwaiti Army at sea, to protect the fishermen, so they can continue to fish and provide food security to the nation.

Al-Suwayan also added that there was an urgent need to coordinate with all Gulf and neighboring countries to eliminate these pirates who infiltrate from some neighboring countries."

## Social Affairs Minister proposes allowing in-kind donations

Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development, Fahd Al-Shariaan, has reportedly submitted a proposal requesting to allow charities to collect in-kind donations, as per guidelines set by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Minister submitted the proposal to the Council of Ministers as it needs amending Cabinet Decision No. 867 of 2001, Item No. 7 which stipulated to stop and remove all types and forms of collection of clothing, as well as collection of surplus food available in local markets, mosques, and public endowment places, provided that they are inside mosques only.

Al-Shariaan's proposal came after the Kuwait Relief Society, one of the registered charities, submitted a request to license a project that involves collection of clothes inside Kuwait, in cooperation with a company specialized in selling used clothes, and disbursing the proceeds



to underserved people in developing countries.

The project's concept is for the company to accept used items as in-kind donations by registering the donors in the 'Aounak' electronic application, so that these items are received from the donors registered in the app and disposed of so that the proceeds return to the licensed charity's projects.

## Kuwait tops list of most polluted cities in the Middle East



Kuwait City once again had the dubious distinction of being ranked among the world's most polluted cities and the worst polluted in the Arab world. The latest pollution ranking based on the American Air Quality Index (AQI), and published by the Swiss company IQAir, showed Kuwait ranking eighth globally and first regionally in terms of its air quality.

City of Lahore in Pakistan topped the list of most polluted cities this year, followed by New Delhi in India in second spot and the Chinese city of Chongqing making up the triumvirate of most polluted cities. In fourth spot was the Indian city of Mumbai, followed by the Chinese city Hangzhou in fifth spot, with the Indonesian city of Jakarta, and Bangladesh's Dhaka City taking

sixth and seventh spots respectively.

After Kuwait in eighth spot, came the city of Kathmandu in Nepal in ninth place, and the Chinese city of Wuhan bringing up the rear in the 10 most polluted cities in the world.

The American index measures air quality, according to several criteria: Good (from 0 to 50); Moderate (from 51 to 100); Unhealthy for those who have allergies (from 101 to 150); Unhealthy (from 151 to 200); Completely unhealthy (from 201 to 300); and dangerously bad when air quality dropped to 301 and above.

This indicator measures five major air pollutants: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# What Is Web3 Good For?



**Tomicah Tillemann**

*A former senior adviser to Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, is Chief Policy Officer of Haun Ventures and a former member of the Professional Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under Joe Biden.*

The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control recently sanctioned a technology called Tornado Cash, on the grounds that it "has been used to launder more than \$7 billion worth of virtual currency since its creation in 2019."

Such enforcement measures are nothing new. But what makes this case unique is that Tornado Cash is a piece of open-source software.

Essentially an automated tool, Tornado Cash mixes digital assets and redistributes them to preserve privacy. While we don't know everything about Tornado Cash or why it was created, we do know that large sums of digital assets linked to illicit activity have moved through the protocol since it was launched, including millions stolen by North Korean hackers. Any American who uses the service now faces up to 20 years in prison.

Some believe that such sanctions are necessary to prevent money laundering, while others see them as a sign of government overreach. But whatever one's perspective, it's worth asking why there was a need for a protocol like Tornado Cash in the first place. The short answer is that our financial system is failing to balance privacy and security. Fortunately, this is a challenge that web3 (blockchain) technologies could help to resolve.

As a senior adviser to two US secretaries of state, I spent time in dozens of countries examining how different systems affect individual rights and democracy, and helping to design technologies and applications to strengthen open societies. In the course of this work, I have seen today's finance systems failing by virtually every measure. More than a billion people worldwide, including millions in the US, lack access to basic financial services. Many cannot pay their bills or send money to family because they don't have a bank account or identification, and others simply don't trust financial institutions.



These suspicions are often legitimate. Carrying out transactions of any size requires us to share sensitive information like birth dates, addresses, and Social Security numbers. Regardless of whether you're renting an apartment or a car, that information is routinely abused and compromised. Identity thieves have reportedly been hijacking accounts at Experian

worldwide goes unpunished. But we can redesign our financial infrastructure to offer more privacy and security, without enabling dictators and fraud, by harnessing web3 technologies to unlock new approaches to confidentiality and identity verification.

In most of the world, digital privacy is effectively nonexistent. Either you live in a

digital identities and information, while adding a layer of accountability to help stop bad actors.

To be sure, most web3 protocols have operated at either extreme of the privacy continuum. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum provide full transparency into transactions through public records, while protocols like Tornado Cash attempt to achieve total anonymity by mixing assets from legitimate users alongside those belonging to criminals and rogue regimes.

Fortunately, developers are now gravitating toward a middle ground that protects privacy and upholds basic democratic principles. But designing these systems is too important to leave to the government, the private sector, or civil society alone. The right solutions require a team effort focused on a few key issues.

First, we need clear objectives. At a minimum, these should include giving people more control over their information; ensuring greater accountability concerning how that information is used; and expanding access to financial services generally.

Second, we need technical standards that make it easier and less expensive to establish and secure our digital identities. American and Canadian banks currently spend over \$30 billion per year on identity verification but still usually fail to prevent money laundering. The same web3 tools that enable secure, inexpensive transactions between digital wallets can make it easier and less costly to prove that we are who we say we are. Open standards for validating digital IDs can ensure healthy competition, reducing costs for consumers and encouraging a race to the top for handling data.

Finally, we need financial regulations that can micro-target bad actors while still enabling the secure movement of money to dissidents and others in closed societies. Having spent time with survivors of North Korean slave labor camps, I would never argue that my right to private transactions is more important than their right to freedom. But the two are not mutually exclusive. With creative policies and well-designed web3 tools, we can promote civil liberties and prevent abuse.

Tornado Cash is just computer code. Trying to shut these protocols down will most likely trigger a never-ending game of Whac-A-Mole. Instead, we need a new approach to building digital financial infrastructure that protects individual privacy without undermining security.

“More than a billion people worldwide lack access to basic financial services. Many cannot pay their bills or send money to family because they do not have a bank account or identification, and others simply do not trust financial institutions.”

— one of the three major credit bureaus — simply by signing up for new profiles using the victims' personal information. Another credit bureau, Equifax, exposed the data of 150 million people (or roughly the entire US workforce) in 2017.

The current system works just fine for criminals. A 2011 report by the United Nations found that 99.8 percent of money laundering

country like China, where the government knows everything about you and uses that information to manipulate your behavior for political purposes, or you live in a place like the US, where Big Tech manipulates your behavior for commercial purposes. Over the long term, neither arrangement is compatible with a healthy, open society. But web3 could provide a third way, by allowing us more control of our

## KFAED spends millions in development aid to Africa

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), or Kuwait Fund as it is more popularly known, has contributed over a billion dollars in the form of soft loans for various projects and economic sectors across Africa over the years.

The announcement came during the second edition of the Egypt-International Cooperation Forum that was held in Egypt from 7-9 September. The Forum brought together African ministers of finance, economy, and environment in an attempt to accelerate solutions ahead of 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), which is the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC that will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6 to 18 November of this year.



Speaking on the sidelines of the Forum, Tariq Al-Manes, a Kuwaiti delegation member, said that Kuwait's participation came in response to Egypt's invitation to attend the

event to discuss the consequences of climate change and its devastating effects on the economies of African countries.

He stressed on the importance of the

Fund's participation in these events, describing them as "very useful", during which many mechanisms were put forward to try to mitigate the effects of climate change, in addition to finding mechanisms to try to help African countries to overcome these effects, as well as discuss projects that keep pace with climate change.

Al-Manes added that the Kuwait Fund's interest in African countries dates back to the 1970s, noting that the fund's activity covers almost all African countries. He also pointed out that the Fund's contributions to African countries earlier amounted to more than KD300 million dinars in the form of soft loans for various projects and economic sectors such as roads, transportation, social development, health and education.



# Transforming Education



**Joyce Banda, Danilo Türk, and Jorge Quiroga**

*Joyce Banda is Chair of Human Capital Africa.*

*Danilo Türk is President of Club de Madrid.*

*Jorge Quiroga is a former president of Bolivia.*



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Global Education is in crisis. Today, nearly 300 million children do not go to school, and 800 million young people will leave school without any qualifications. Recent data show that global learning poverty in low- and middle-income countries is estimated to have risen to 70 percent, with more than half of the world's children unable to read or write a simple text at the age of ten and no accredited skills for the workplace when they leave school. Coupled with the 'violation' of children's right to education, evidenced by these high levels of learning poverty, this is bound to have a devastating impact on future productivity, earnings, and well-being for this generation of children and youth, their families, and the world's economy.

This failure to deliver an inclusive and equitable quality education for all puts us at grave risk of failing to achieve the laudable aims of the Sustainable Development Goal for education (SDG4) and of the many other SDGs that depend on it. It also means we are only providing for half of our future.

Education budgets in low- and lower-middle-income countries will have to more than double, to \$3 trillion, by 2030 if we are to achieve SDG4. Unless we address the shortcomings in education investment, the loss in lifetime earnings of the current generation of school-age children and youth is estimated to reach more than 15 percent of today's global GDP (\$21 trillion). This economic cost will be disproportionately borne by low- and middle-income countries and their students, further aggravating already serious intergenerational inequalities and divides, as well as gaps and divides among and within countries.

Despite this recognized demand for investment, countries across the globe have had to cope with the financial pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, now compounded by the food, energy, debt, and currency crises triggered and exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. But the reduction in education spending is particularly damaging, because an educated and skilled workforce is central to achieving economic recovery and growth, escaping poverty, and eliminating the gender and wealth disparities that continue to plague our societies. While the internationally recommended level of spending on education is at least 4 percent of GDP, the

majority of the world's 82 low- and lower-middle-income countries continue to underspend – in some cases, less than 2 percent of GDP.

And, sadly, despite their promises, the official development assistance that rich countries channel to education has been falling, too — from 8.4 percent of ODA in 2010 to just 6.5 percent in 2020. Today, even when the world's education aid is combined, including from bilateral and multilateral sources, it amounts to just \$18 per African child, hardly enough to pay for a textbook, much less a teacher or a classroom.

This month, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene the Transforming Education Summit in New York City. With COVID-19 waning, and in light of the complexity of converging crises, we must shift resolutely into build-back-better

learning, and new pathways for skills training will have a significant impact on the outcomes we are able to achieve — but so will money. One proposal now being considered is for a global education coalition between developing countries and the developed economies that provide donor aid.

Through such a compact, countries would agree to raise education spending in stages to at least 4-6 percent of their national income over a period of five years, and invest at least 15-20 percent of all of their public spending in education.

Sustainable funding for education can be increased through domestic action to reform national tax systems, coupled with international action to close tax loopholes and choke off

“Through such a compact, countries would agree to raise education spending to at least 4-6 percent of their national income over a period of five years, and invest at least 15-20 percent of all of their public spending in education.”

mode and address the enormous challenge of access to education for all, on which much of our future will depend. Without addressing the persistent exclusion of minorities, migrants, refugees, and other marginalized groups in our education systems, the entrenchment of existing inequalities within societies will only deepen, and we will fail to achieve inclusive, peaceful, and sustained development.

Modernization of education systems through better training and rewards for teachers, the application of new technologies and digital

illicit financial flows. Implementing taxation reforms that support equity and redistribution can address critical poverty and inequality challenges in many low- and middle-income countries. In parallel, multilateral institutions can offer enhanced support to encourage the fast-tracking of educational opportunities.

The World Bank's financing facility for low-income countries – the International Development Association (IDA) — could increase the share of its spending on education from 10 to 15 percent by leveraging new resources from

donors and enhanced use of its reflows — the capital returned from past loans. Larger support for schools and teachers in the developing world alone would unlock education opportunities for more than 20 million children every year in the poorest countries.

Most out-of-school children are located in lower-middle-income countries, which host a large share of the world's refugees and displaced young people. But the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the World Bank's financing facility for middle-income countries, currently allocates just 4 percent of its loans to education in lower-middle-income countries (home to 700 million children), down from an already low 8 percent in 2010.

IDA and IBRD funding could be complemented by the International Finance Facility for Education proposed several years ago by the Education Commission in the Learning Generation report. This facility would fund education programs in low- and lower-middle-income countries at low interest rates, akin to that of IDA's credits, using guarantees backed by grants from donor countries through the various multilateral development banks.

Such funding would be additional to bilateral aid from Development Assistance Committee donors who would commit to higher ODA levels. A greater amount of the ODA would be channeled through international and multilateral institutions, including UNESCO, UNICEF, and other UN agencies, and through educational initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait. Funding could be further enhanced by a call for greater and more innovative social-impact investments in the education sector through cross-border individual funding and corporate philanthropy.

Over the next five years, this plan could produce an extra \$10 billion of new educational funds for low-income countries, together with \$10 billion in additional resources for middle-income countries.

In the 2021 Our Common Agenda report, Guterres identifies the need for a second World Social Summit in 2025. This event could serve as a critical platform to support better coordination and more innovative responses to catalyze the type of initiatives needed to transform the education sector globally.

We are so far from achieving our goal of universal education by 2030 that, unless we act quickly and generously, we will fall further behind on our SDG4 commitment to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” We therefore call on countries to support these bold measures.

We can be the first generation in history in which every child goes to school. Instead of developing some of the potential for some children in some countries, we can develop all of the potential for all children in all countries. But we have to act. To achieve this, we urge all countries in the UN family to support this initiative at the summit this month.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Green Development Is Now the Only Option



**Alessio Terzi**

*A lecturer at Sciences Po, is an economist at the European Commission and the author of Growth for Good: Reshaping Capitalism to Save Humanity from Climate Catastrophe*

In the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, this year's energy crisis has intensified the debate over what policies developing countries should be putting first. Some argue that poor countries should focus on development rather than decarbonization; others advocate 'green development', which would involve leapfrogging fossil fuels altogether.

Meanwhile, rich countries, multilateral institutions, and major lenders like China are all phasing out development financing for fossil-fuel projects even as they reopen their own coal-fired power plants. What are developing countries supposed to think?

To capitalize on high oil and gas prices, some are auctioning off their peatlands and rainforests for drilling and mining. Not mincing words, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's lead climate representative recently pointed out that his country's priority is to achieve stronger growth, "not to save the planet."

This way of framing the matter is understandable, given the rich world's longstanding failure to meet its promises and help finance climate mitigation and adaptation in the Global South. But the supposed tradeoff between economic development and green policies is unconvincing — or at least suffers from a high degree of short-termism.

Study after study has shown that the catastrophic effects of unfettered climate change will be felt first and most acutely in poorer countries. (In fact, at the time of this writing, one-third of Pakistan is underwater.) That means there is no viable future scenario in which the Global South will use fossil fuels to escape destitution and invest in decarbonization only later. Following the same path that rich countries took will lead to climate havoc. Like everyone else, poor countries need to contribute as much as possible to the global decarbonization effort not to "save the planet" (which will be fine without us) but to save themselves from even more severe droughts, floods, famines, and instability.

“

Developing countries could end up locked into products and technologies that the rest of the world regards as antiquated or inferior — be it internal combustion engine components, unrecyclable plastics, or fossil fuels.

”

Moreover, the idea that highly polluting economic growth should be prioritized over green investments rests on the premise that there will be a market for highly polluting goods in the future. But looking beyond the short term, it is already clear that a combination of changing consumer preferences, carbon border taxes, sustainability provisions in trade treaties, and various regulatory requirements and labeling standards in rich countries will render pollution-intensive options a bad investment. In this likely future, developing

countries could end up locked into products and technologies that the rest of the world regards as antiquated or inferior — be it internal combustion engine components, 'fast fashion' garments, unrecyclable plastics, or fossil fuels.

It is worth remembering that every single development 'miracle' since the 1950s — be it postwar Japan, the Asian Tigers, Indonesia, or China — was sustained by a rapid expansion of exports that were destined for rich, industrialized, high-consuming countries. No such opportunity will exist for countries that are reliant on highly polluting products. Among the sectors that are instead widely expected to experience exponential growth in the years

ahead are electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, and green hydrogen.

Some remain unconvinced, based on the observation that the only rapid economic growth in human history was powered by fossil fuels. But this is a bit like concluding at the beginning of the twentieth century that "it is not probable that man will ever be able to get along without the horse," and choosing to specialize in horse-carriage technology. What worked in the past will not necessarily work in the future.

Finally, the tradeoff narrative assumes that highly polluting options are cheaper, whereas green technologies are a luxury that only affluent countries can afford. Yet even if this is true at the moment, the gap is rapidly shrinking; the green option will soon be cheaper, too.

This is already true of solar and wind energy in many parts of the world, and EVs, meat alternatives, and other products are sure to follow the same path. Owing to large public and private investments — such as those in the European Green Deal or the US Inflation Reduction Act — green technologies' descent down the cost curve will accelerate, abating the costs of the energy transition worldwide, and making fossil-fueled development relatively more expensive.

Some countries in the Global South are already putting these principles into practice. Ethiopia, for example, aims to reach middle-income status by building a green economy, with investments in afforestation, renewables, and improved transportation systems. And Kenya likewise has become a low-carbon trailblazer.

As Ricardo Hausmann of Harvard University observes, 'green development' is no longer an oxymoron. On the contrary, it is the only realistic option.

To achieve sustained growth, each country must determine how it can best contribute to the global green supply chain, based on its comparative advantages. These may lie in extracting the raw materials needed for the green transition, producing and exporting renewable electricity and hydrogen, or manufacturing advanced green products at home.

Either way, growth in the coming decades will be green. Countries that do not get on board now risk being left behind.





# Childish Morality?



**Peter Singer**

Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the charity The Life You Can Save. His books include *Practical Ethics*, *The Life You Can Save*, *The Most Good You Can Do*, and *Ethics in the Real World*.

Consider the following statements describing our moral judgments:

If a child is hungry, or hurt, the child's parents or friends have a greater obligation to help than a stranger does.

If we have to choose between saving the life of a human or that of a dog, or even many dogs, we ought to save the human.

Almost everyone agrees with these moral judgments, right? Wrong. A sizable group of people disagree. In the past two years, separate studies have compared adults' views on these two issues with those of children between the ages of five and ten years, and found that their responses differed significantly.

Both studies seek to shed light on the formation of our moral judgments, and so to help us to answer one of the Big Questions about morality: is it rooted primarily in our culture, or is it innate?

When anthropologists spread across the globe in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, their reports emphasized the variation in moral beliefs between societies. As a result, the view that morality is a cultural phenomenon became dominant.

In the 1970s, however, evolutionary theorists like E.O. Wilson and Richard Dawkins began to push back against cultural explanations of morality. A great deal of human behavior, they argued, could be explained by genetic selection, not necessarily aimed at the

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Children aged 5-9 take a broader view than adults of the value of life. While most adults chose to save one human rather than as many as a hundred dogs, many children gave as much weight to saving a dog as they did to saving a human.

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preservation of each individual organism, but rather at the preservation of genes that are likely to be shared, not only with offspring, but also with other kin. Thus, moral rules imposing stronger obligations to assist kin rather than strangers would have evolved, along with other rules encouraging reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships.

The evolutionary view of the origins of morality has a lot going for it, including the discovery of precursors of human morality in other social mammals, some of whom, as Frans de Waal showed, clearly have a sense of fairness. And this sense can be more developed than just, “you scratch (or, pick the lice from) my back and I'll scratch yours.” It can mean demanding something rather like equal pay for equal work: “I'm not accepting a food pellet for doing the same task that you gave that other



monkey a grape for doing!”

Evolutionary theory does, however, have great difficulty in explaining the idea that we have obligations to come to the aid of strangers. In my book *The Expanding Circle*, I accepted the evolutionary explanation of the basis of morality, but supplemented it by arguing that our capacity to reason does more than enable us to survive and reproduce: it also enables us to take a universal perspective from which we see that strangers are like us, and disregarding their needs is wrong.

Children certainly seem to think so. One of the two studies, led by Julia Marshall, a postdoctoral fellow at Boston College, shows that children between five and ten years of age say that if a child is hungry or hurt, a stranger has an obligation to help them. Older children and adults, by contrast, are more likely to differentiate between strangers, who do not have to help, and parents or friends, who do.

The study was carried out in Germany, India, Japan, Uganda, and the United States, and in all these countries, younger children thought that strangers ought to help. The main cultural difference found is that in India, Japan, and Uganda, participants gave less weight to the differences between parents, friends, and strangers than they did in Germany and the United States. In Uganda, in fact, older children were even more inclined than younger children to regard friends and strangers as being obliged to help.

The study of priorities regarding saving a human or animals, led by Matti Wilks, a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, also showed that children aged 5-9 take a broader view than adults. But in this case, it was a broader view of the value of life. Whereas almost all adults chose to save one human rather than as many as a hundred dogs or pigs, many children gave as much weight to saving a dog as they did to saving a human, and although the children valued dogs more than pigs, the majority still chose to save ten pigs rather than one human.

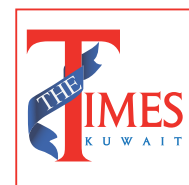
This may shed some light on why some children raised to eat meat refuse to eat it after they discover that meat is the flesh of an animal who has been killed. A video of a small girl doing just that has been viewed nearly eight million times.

Both studies suggest that young children have broad moral sensitivities, both in terms of who should help someone in need, and in terms of the range of beings for whom they are concerned. The studies also indicate that in most cultures, these sensitivities are narrowed during the child's development. Does this narrowing result from the children's upbringing

and cultural immersion, or could it be that the children revise their judgments in the light of greater knowledge of the world? We do not yet have the answer.

The studies have something else in common: the co-authorship of Paul Bloom, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto.

Bloom has acknowledged that the findings of both studies challenge claims he made in his book *Just Babies*. That is of course laudable. It is only by remaining open to the evidence that we may eventually untangle the roles culture, biology, and our capacity to reason play in the formation of our moral judgments.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT



# A Faster Route to Greener Shipping



**Aideé Saucedo Dávila**

*A researcher at University College London's Energy Institute, is a climate negotiator for Tonga at the United Nations International Maritime Organization.*

Delegates from over 190 countries recently gathered in Lisbon for the United Nations Ocean Conference, the most important event on this issue this year. Opening the meeting, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged governments "to raise their level of ambition for the recovery of ocean health."

Governments must heed that entreaty. Climate change has become a constant factor in the ocean's decline. Rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and more severe coastal weather events suggest a bleak future for an ecosystem that spans almost three-quarters of our planet.

But if one thing was obvious in Lisbon, it is that a growing number of governments — from Fiji to the United States — are starting to crack down on a sector that relies exclusively on the dirtiest and most polluting fossil fuels: the international shipping industry. The Marshall Islands, the US, Kenya, and Denmark called for immediate action to achieve zero-emission shipping by 2050, while the UN secretary-general pressed the sector to "present credible plans" to achieve this goal.

Shipping is the most efficient mode of transport for most goods, moving around 80

percent of all traded products every year. It is here to stay. But global shipping emits more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the emissions of 243 coal-fired power plants. Recent projections show that the problem could get even worse, with shipping emissions reaching 90-130 percent of 2008 levels by 2050 if we fail to act.

The International Maritime Organization, the specialized UN agency that regulates maritime transport, must play a key role in reducing shipping-related emissions and improving the industry's energy efficiency. The IMO is currently revising its 2018 climate strategy, which aims to

least as far as UN climate summits go.

But setting a distant decarbonization deadline is not enough, given climate scientists' repeated warnings that global warming is on course to reach 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, by 2037 — not 2050. The IMO must listen to the scientists and seek to secure an agreement among member states during the current negotiations to eliminate shipping emissions well before mid-century.

In addition, countries need to set gradually increasing emissions-reduction targets for key economic sectors, with modest goals for as early as 2025 followed by more ambitious objectives

emissions in its carbon market and by setting sustainability targets for marine fuels.

A truly ambitious IMO climate strategy could drive a wave of green innovation in the shipping industry. Firms would have to invest their multibillion-dollar profits in the development and uptake of clean fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, and battery technologies, and in replacing their fossil-fuel-powered fleets with zero-emission vessels. Along the way, they should improve their fleets' energy and operational efficiency, which is one of the fastest ways to cut shipping's climate pollution.

For many people around the world, whether the world sets clear targets for clean shipping and manages to limit global warming to 1.5°C, rather than 2°C or higher, is an existential issue. Small island states already on the front line of the climate crisis are most at risk of a global temperature rise above these levels, as a recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C can reduce sea-level rise this century by ten centimeters — meaning ten million fewer people will be at risk of coastal flooding.

The UN Ocean Conference declaration stated that the IMO must urgently align its climate ambition with the Paris agreement's global-warming targets and set "clear interim goals" to start reducing the shipping industry's greenhouse-gas emissions "as soon as possible." This is a welcome if long-overdue step. Governments and shipping firms, working with the IMO, must now translate this ambition into firm targets and concrete measures.

**“Firms would have to invest their multibillion-dollar profits in developing and using clean fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, and battery technologies, and replacing fossil-fuel-powered fleets with zero-emission vessels.”**

reduce shipping emissions by at least 50 percent by mid-century. Encouragingly, a growing number of IMO member states favor aligning the sector with the 2050 zero-emissions target set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The US, the United Kingdom, and 12 other countries raised this issue at last year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, bringing more global attention to shipping than ever before, at

for 2030 and 2040. For example, researchers have suggested cutting shipping emissions by at least 34 percent by 2030 in order to reach zero by 2050.

A concrete, step-by-step decarbonization pathway at the global level will nudge countries to move the industry progressively away from hydrocarbons and toward clean and sustainable fuels. The European Union is already embarking on this path by proposing to include shipping



# Staying healthy on plant-based foods

**I**ncreasing number of research studies have pointed to the health benefits of a vegetarian diet, but all of these studies also come with the caveat that it is important to choose the right plant-based foods in order to ensure you are receiving all the nutrients that the body needs to remain healthy.

The right plant-based foods can be excellent sources of protein and other nutrients, often with fewer calories than animal products. The emphasis is on the word 'right' foods; for example, while some plant products, such as soy beans and quinoa, are complete proteins, which means that they contain all nine essential amino acids that the body needs, others miss some of these amino acids, so eating a varied vegetarian diet is crucial.

If you are a vegetarian or you are considering shifting to a plant-based diet for the first-time, you need to be aware that both lacto-ovo vegetarians — those who do not eat meat, but intake dairy and egg products in their diet — and those who completely avoid meat, dairy and eggs in their



food (vegans), need to make sure they are getting adequate nutrition with their diet.

Here are a few points to keep in mind if you choose to go along a vegetarian path.

If you are starting out for the first time, it would be a good idea to refer to self-help cooking books

to plan menus that are wholesome and healthy, or meet with a nutritionist to help draw up a weekly diet plan that supplies all the nutrients your body needs.

Be aware of how much protein your body gets if your diet is made up of nuts as the only source of protein, especially if you are trying to lose weight.

Around 30 grams of nuts provides approximately 180 calories and 5 grams of protein. Since the body needs 20 to 30 grams of protein per meal, you would have to eat a huge amount of nuts to get the requisite proteins needed to stay healthy. While nuts are a healthy food, they are also high in fat and calories, so to stay healthy make sure you round out your diet with a variety of vegetarian proteins.

## The following healthful, plant-based foods have a high-protein content per serving:

**Tofu, tempeh, and edamame:** Soy products such as tofu, tempeh, and edamame are among the richest sources of protein in a vegan diet. These soy products also contain good levels of calcium and iron, which makes them healthful substitutes for dairy products.

The protein content varies with how the soy is prepared: Firm tofu (soybean curds) contains about 10g of protein per ½ cup; edamame beans (immature soybeans) contain 8.5g of protein per ½ cup; tempeh (fermented soybeans) contains about 15g of protein per ½ cup.

**Lentils:** Red or green lentils contain plenty of protein, fiber, and key nutrients, including iron and potassium. Cooked lentils contain 8.84 g of protein per ½ cup.

Lentils are a great source of protein to add to a lunch or dinner routine. They can be added

to stews, curries, salads, or rice to give an extra portion of protein.

**Chickpeas:** Cooked chickpeas are high in protein, containing around 7.25 g per ½ cup. They can be eaten hot or cold, and are highly versatile with plenty of recipes available online. They can, for example, be added to stews and curries, or spiced with paprika and roasted in the oven. Hummus, which is made from chickpea paste, can form the base to a sandwich for a healthful, protein-rich alternative to butter.

**Quinoa:** Quinoa is a grain with a high-protein content, and is a complete protein. Cooked quinoa contains 8g of protein per cup. This grain is also rich in other nutrients, including magnesium, iron, fiber, and manganese, in addition to being highly versatile. It can replace pasta in soups and stews, or can be sprinkled on a salad or eaten as the main course.

**Chia and hemp seeds:** Chia and hemp seeds are complete sources of protein that can be used to make smoothies, yogurts, and puddings. Chia seeds are low-calorie foods that are rich in fiber and heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids, and contain 2g of protein per tablespoon. Hemp seeds can be used in a similar way to chia seeds, and offer 5g of protein per tablespoon.

**Peanuts:** Peanuts are protein-rich, full of healthful fats, and may improve heart health. They contain around 20.5g of protein per ½ cup. Peanut butter is also rich in protein, with 3.6g per tablespoon, making peanut butter sandwiches a healthful complete protein snack.

**Almonds:** Almonds offer 16.5g of protein per ½ cup. They also provide a good amount of vitamin E, which is great for the skin and eyes.

## Exercise, not how much, but how often

**M**any health-conscious people engaged in regular workout regimens, and even the so-called fitness coaches, are stumped when asked whether it is better to exercise for a short period each day, or exercise for longer once a week.

Researchers at Edith Cowan University in Australia have now come up with what they say is a definitive answer to this dilemma, at least when it comes to muscle strength — it could be more beneficial to exercise for a while each day than to put it off for a longer bout once a week.

The Australian researchers in collaboration with scientists at Niigata University and Nishi Kyushu University in Japan, conducted a four-week training study. Participants in the study were separated into three groups performing an arm resistance exercise, while their changes in muscle strength and muscle thickness were measured and compared.

The exercise consisted of 'maximal voluntary eccentric bicep contractions' — an eccentric contraction is when the muscle is lengthening, such as when lowering a heavy dumbbell in a bicep curl. The exercise was performed on a machine that measures muscle strength in each muscle contraction.

Two groups performed 30 contractions per week, with one of the two groups doing six contractions a day for five days a week (6x5 group), while the other crammed all 30 into a single day, once a week (30x1 group). The third group only performed six contractions one day a week.

After four weeks, the group doing 30 contractions in a single day did not show any increase in muscle strength, although muscle thickness (an indicator of increase in muscle size) increased 5.8 percent. The group doing six contractions once a week did not show any changes in muscle strength and muscle thickness.

However, the 6x5 group saw significant increases in muscle strength — more than 10 percent — with an increase in muscle thickness similar to the 30x1 group.

Importantly, the increase in muscle strength of the 6x5 group was similar to the group in a previous study that performed

only one three-second maximal eccentric contraction per day for five days a week for four weeks.

The scientists also noted that while their study required participants to exert maximum effort, early findings from ongoing research indicated similar results could be achieved without needing to push as hard as possible. Additionally, while the study participants only used the bicep curl exercise for the arm, further studies have shown that this is the case with other muscles also.

The researchers said their studies suggest that easily manageable amounts of exercise done regularly can have a real effect on muscle strength, which is important to overall health and wellbeing. Muscle strength has been shown to prevent the decrease in muscle mass and strength that happens with aging. A decrease in muscle mass has also been implicated as a factor in many chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, dementia, plus musculoskeletal problems such as osteoporosis.

It is not yet known precisely why the body responds better to resistance exercises with eccentric contractions in smaller doses rather than bigger loads less frequently. The researchers postulated it may relate to how often the brain is asked to make a muscle perform in a particular manner. They also stressed that it was important to include rest in any exercise regimen.

Muscles need rest to improve their strength and their muscle mass, as muscle adaptations occur when we are resting. Also, muscles respond better when they are stimulated more frequently; if someone was able to somehow train 24 hours a day, there would actually be no improvement at all.

There needs to be more emphasis on the importance of making exercise a daily activity, rather than hitting a weekly minute goal, said the study team. Current Australian Government guidelines already indicate adults should try to be active every day and perform around three hours of moderate physical activity per week.



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# King Charles III, the New British Monarch

*The 73-year-old grandfather of five will serve as the King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth sovereign states.*

Charles Philip Arthur George, the prince of Wales before the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, is now officially King Charles III, the new British monarch.

Born on 14 November, 1948, he is the first-born son of Elizabeth and Philip. As monarch, the 73-year-old grandfather of five will serve as the King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth sovereign states.

Described by biographers as "a sensitive man", it is said that he is a keen gardener and enjoys tending to the organic garden in his countryside manor Highgrove House. He is also believed to be a skilled water-

say he did not have much in common with his parents, relations that would improve as he got older. He studied in Britain and Australia, reading archaeology, anthropology and history at Trinity College, Cambridge in the late 1960s before becoming a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot.

Conducting royal service since the late 1970s, he was 30 years old when he married a shy 19-year-old nursery teacher named Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, a wedding that was watched by nearly 800 million people globally. Two sons – Prince William, who was born on June 21 1982, and Prince Harry, born on September 15, 1984 – were born to the couple before they



Charles yet," she said.

Having once said the most important thing about being king will be to have concern for people and provide some form of leadership, there have already been signs of the leadership qualities he will bring to the role.

"We know that he's been less impartial and more open about his political views than the Queen. So is he going to be the activist king? Or is he going to fall immediately back into the mold of monarch of his mother? I don't think he'll do that because he's a moderniser and he'll want to be progressive," Pasternak added.

Diana in a car accident in Paris in 1996, as well as defending controversial comments and gaffes he has been criticized for. Analysts say that as the king-in-waiting, the royal household has in recent years been working to cultivate a particular image of him.

Laura Clancy, a lecturer in media at Lancaster University and author of *Running the Family Firm: How the Monarchy Manages Its Image and Our Money*, noted: "There have been concerted efforts to remake Charles' image from the 1980s and 1990s, when the news around Diana was making him quite unpopular."

She added, "More recently, he seems to be pictured as a loving grandfather — his 70th birthday photos, for example, included him sitting with his grandchildren in his garden and feeding chickens. This mirrors the kind of images we have

seen of the queen as grandmother to the nation."

A founder and patron of a number of charities that focus on areas such as supporting young entrepreneurs, the natural and built environment, and education, polls often showed his popularity remained relatively low compared with the queen and his son Prince William.

Anna Pasternak, a regular commentator on the royal family in the British media and the bestselling author of *The American Duchess*, the *Real Wallis Simpson*, commented that on championing political causes, he has shown good instincts.

"The problem with that, in terms of being the monarch of the country, is that you have to have a kind of stability, impartiality and benign neutrality, and we haven't seen any of those qualities in



Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Charles, then the prince of Wales

color painter and has interests in traditional countryside practices such as hedge laying.

As a young man, commentators

divorced in 1992.

The prince has had to weather many scandals over the years, including after the death of Princess



Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer pose for photographs

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