



مستشفى رويال حياة
ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL

DIPLOMAT

Women diplomats
spearhead
'16-Days of Activism'

3



LOCAL

EU Committee votes in
favor of visa-free travel
for Kuwaitis

7

INTERVIEW

KPMG to support
startups, SMEs

16



www.timeskuwait.com

250 Fils

Qatar's World Cup of Joy



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

In the past two weeks, millions of fans have been flocking to stadiums in and around Doha, the Qatari capital, to cheer their national or chosen teams, while billions more around the world watch on small or big screens, as teams battle it out for what is decidedly the crowning glory of global football, the FIFA World Cup.

World over, people are celebrating the 2022 World Cup, enjoying the thrilling matches, appreciating the amazing technological and architectural innovativeness involved in the stadiums, and congratulating Qatar for its impressive planning and organization in staging the tournament.

The tournament is turning out to be one of the best and most efficiently held so far, with precision planning and organised to the minutest detail. Fans from around the world seem to be amazed at the hospitality and warmth they are being received with and the unbelievable safety and security arrangements



by the host nation. It's simply a wow experience beyond all expectations.

But not so for some of the critics and denigrators, mainly Western, who apparently have not shaken off their resentment at the games being held in Qatar, a Middle-Eastern,

Muslim, Arab nation.

Having nothing new to air or tirade against Qatar, some of the Western media outlets have turned to raking up the trite, timeworn corruption allegations and human rights violations in Qatar. Media crew attending the

ongoing World Cup have been at pains to highlight 'intolerance' prevailing in Qatar. They have gone around spotlighting stray incidents of security officials requesting fans to remove armbands and other symbolic signs of support for various causes, which though acceptable in many Western societies, is considered culturally inappropriate in Qatar.

Repeated Western narrations of the same corruption allegations and human rights violations bring to mind the image of a canine going round and round chasing real and imagined fleas on its back. Though these tail chasing actions do not bother the fleas, the canine apparently cannot stop doing what is ingrained in its behavior.

Lending his weight to the tirade against Qatar, in early November, just two weeks ahead of the kick-off to the 2022 World Cup, former president of FIFA Sepp Blatter, came out with a statement that the choice of Qatar as host was a mistake. He added, "It is too small of a country. Football and the World Cup are too big for it."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

**NOW DELIVERING
FOREIGN CURRENCIES
TO YOUR DOORSTEP WITHIN HOURS***



**ORDER VIA
AL MUZAINI WEBSITE OR APP**

المزيني
Al Muzaini
Exchange Co. للمصرفة



18 888 18
www.muzaini.com

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

EXPLORE IT ON
AppGallery

*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



Diplomats spearhead activism against Gender Based Violence against women

Gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and pernicious forms of human rights violation in the world today. Nevertheless, these heinous acts remain largely unreported due to impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of



women and girls' human rights. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November marked the launch of the UNiTE campaign — an initiative of 16 days of activism that concludes on 10 December, the day that commemorates the International Human Rights Day.

In Kuwait, this year's campaign titled 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls', is being spearheaded by women ambassadors stationed in Kuwait. The campaign will aim to mobilize all society to become activists for the prevention of violence against women, and to stand in solidarity with women's rights activists working for a world free of VAWG.

Below we have compiled responses from various women ambassadors in Kuwait, as well as from the UN Representatives Office and the European Union Delegation in the country.



H.E. Aliya Mawani

Ambassador of Canada

Communities around the world - including in Canada and Kuwait - are coming together during this year's #16DaysOfActivism to stand against gender based violence (GBV).

GBV is any act of violence based on someone's gender. While we often think of it as 'just physical', GBV can also be emotional, physical, sexual, and financial. It can include everything from threats, humiliation, intimidation, insults, stalking and online stalking, to controlling someone's financial behaviour or access, to acts of physical or sexual violence.

Across the globe, women and girls are the main targets of GBV. All we have to do to see it is look at the news. No place is exempt. This year in Kuwait there are documented complaints of GBV including domestic violence and violence using electronic means. In Canada today, 3 in 10 women aged 15-24 have or are being emotionally, financially, or psychologically abused by a partner. Around 30 percent of girls and women in Canada aged 15 or older report having experienced at least 1 sexual assault since the age of 15. That is 30 percent too many.

In response, Canada has endorsed the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which sets a framework for anyone facing GBV to have reliable and timely access to protection and services, no matter where they live. Because wherever we are, as long as we live in fear of violence — whatever form it takes — we cannot realize our full potential and the world will not benefit from our ideas, creativity, leadership and contributions as it should.

This is an issue that hits close to home. Early in my career, I found myself the target of gender-based violence in the workplace. I was targeted specifically because I am a woman. The behaviors involved were different, ranging from the physical to the psychological, but equally damaging. Each day, I had to force myself to work through my fear and anxiety about what might come at me next, just to be able to do my job. It meant that instead of being able to devote

all my energy to my priorities, I had to spend so much of it just protecting myself. It also meant that it took me so much more than my male colleagues just to reach the starting line of showing up at work each day.

Women and girls around the world experience this and far worse everyday — especially women and girls from marginalized groups. GBV in its different forms exists everywhere. Sadly, we do not always take it as seriously as we should. But by learning more about it, and taking action when and where we can, all of us can play a role in ending GBV and in changing the attitudes and stereotypes that allow it to continue.

That is why the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait is proud to be partnering with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations in Kuwait, the British Embassy, and over 20 other embassies and international organizations on the recently launched 'Young Ambassador' program which is providing leadership development and mentoring to students across Kuwait.

The program aims to support the 'young ambassadors' in becoming confident and effective champions for gender equality and a world in which each of us, regardless of who we are or what we look like, has an equal opportunity to fulfill and contribute to our full potential. We are excited to work with and learn from these talented young advocates over the coming weeks and to hear their ideas to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence.

When we are dealing with something like GBV, which is so unacceptable and yet so widespread, it can sometimes seem difficult to know where to start and how we can help. Here are a few simple but powerful actions that any one of us can adopt and start putting into practice right now:

Listen: Be open to learning from the experiences of others;

Believe: Support survivors and those affected by violence. It is very important that you say the words "I believe you" and "This is not your fault". No matter what they were doing, wearing, or saying, GBV is never the fault of the victim/survivor. It takes courage to talk about GBV, so do not dismiss their feelings, no matter how serious or how small the incident may seem to you;

Educate (yourself and others): Learn the facts about GBV; know what your school or workplace policies say about violence and harassment; take a course; participate in an event;

Speak out: Add your voice to call out violence;

Intervene: Find a safe way to help when you see acts of gender-based violence. Name what you see. Express your concern and ask how you can help. Do not assume what those needs are — ask, instead.

Act: Give your time or donate to organizations working to end gender-based violence. There are several great organizations in Kuwait working to stop GBV.

Let us unite and act to stop GBV. Together we can end the cycle so that everyone can feel safe now and into the future.



Mazen AboulHosn,

Chief of Mission,
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

From a migration perspective, there is a need to raise awareness on understanding what GBV is and its potential risks, among migrant communities and employers. This awareness raising can include on how to use the hotlines available in the country and how to access institutions that provide support for GBV matters. Additionally, the shelter for migrant women established by the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) can be a safe space to provide GBV survivors with access to all services including health, legal and psychosocial support.

Given how gender shapes every stage of the migrant journey, IOM is committed to mainstream gender considerations in its policies and programs and contribute to gender equality. This includes ensuring the protection and rights of domestic workers and Victims of Trafficking. IOM works with partners to preserve the wellbeing and dignity of women and girls not only during the sixteen days but every day of the year.

Globally, the increased vulnerability to GBV is a result of structural and gender inequalities, including a lack of access to safe and regular migration pathways. GBV is evident in the labor migration process and women may be exploited in all and any stage of their migration journey including the deployment, recruitment, employment and return stages making them vulnerable to exploitation in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be one of the most widespread human rights abuses in the world, affecting women and girls in particular, and impacting entire communities. As IOM, our campaign this year is #Empowertoprotect which incorporates addressing the root causes of GBV, and supporting survivors.



مستشفى رويال حياة
ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL

Presents

DIPLOMAT

04 - 10 December 2022 | The Times Kuwait
www.timeskuwait.com

3



H.E. Melissa Kelly
Ambassador of Australia

The Australian Embassy is proud to be taking part in a number of activities during this year's '16 days of activism' to support the elimination of gender based violence. We are focussed on raising awareness and engaging with the government, the media and the community to learn from each others' experiences in tackling this important issue.

Gender based violence rates are shockingly high in all countries across the globe — it is a truly global social pandemic and no one is winning the battle to overcome it.

For example, in Australia, approximately one in four women will experience violence by an intimate partner, compared to one in 13 men. On average one woman is murdered every week in Australia. This is one woman

too many. As devastating as the current crisis is, the positive news is that we can all play a role in solving it.

Ending gender based violence starts with listening to women, treating women with respect and ending discrimination. Because it is stereotypes and sexist attitudes that fuel violent acts against women and girls — indeed, acts of discrimination and misogyny are forms of violence themselves. We can all commit to these simple steps — listening, respecting and calling out inequality — and each makes a difference.

I hope you will join us to listen, learn from each other, and unite to say no to GBV in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities.



H.E. Haja Ishata Thomas
Ambassador of Sierra Leone

In many male-dominated countries, even though women contribute meaningfully to socio-economic growth, they have been excluded from decision-making that concerns their welfare and livelihood, denied access to fundamental human rights and deprived of basic social amenities, thereby widening the gap between women and men which have been one of the impeding factors to eradicate Gender-Based Violence.

Gender Equality can be achieved in varying forms: develop and adopt reforms to give women equal rights to education, economic resources, legislate laws to promote gender equality and the fulfillment of their rights, and institute mechanisms to call perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence against women and girls to book. Governments worldwide should also create a safe space for women and girls to speak up on issues related to all forms of violence against them. This will act as a catalyst to prevent and eliminate all forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence globally.

Today, the call to eliminate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against women and girls through reforms and legislation is even louder. The move to eradicate all forms of violence against women requires the collaborative effort of all. For example, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the State of Kuwait have made bold moves to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The Republic of Sierra Leone recently passed into law the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Bill to give women access to national resources as well as include women in leadership and decision-making that affect their well-being.

The State of Kuwait has also made significant progress in gender empowerment over the years. Unlike other countries, women are now participating in legislating laws and decision-making. The recent Parliamentary election in Kuwait, which saw the election of women into the Assembly, is indicative that the State of Kuwait is committed to upholding the principles of Gender Equality to eradicate Gender-Based Violence.

“In Kuwait, this year's campaign titled 'UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls', is being spearheaded by women ambassadors stationed in Kuwait.”



H.E. Belinda Lewis,
British Ambassador to Kuwait

When tackling any sort of crime, it is very important that victims feel they can speak up and be listened to. It can be very hard to do that regarding gender-based violence. If violence is occurring in the home then women and girls might fear that it will get worse if they speak up, or that they might have nowhere to live and no way to support themselves. When violence occurs within a relationship, there is often a mistaken belief that somehow the woman or girl is to blame — that they were “asking for it” because a mistake was made or they upset someone. This sense of guilt can also prevent victims from speaking up.

In conflict situations, the nature of the violence may cause a sense of shame such that the victim would rather try and block

out the attack from their mind and pretend it did not happen.

On 30 November, the BBC reported that, on average, a woman is killed every two days in England and Wales, with 90 percent killed by men. Some of the families of those women believe their calls for help were ignored and that the women were not taken seriously or believed by the authorities tasked with protecting them.

Gender-based violence is a terrible crime in all sorts of societies, in peace and in conflict. Recognising all people as being equal, and that women and girls cannot be used as an outlet for negative emotions such as anger, jealousy, vengeance or inadequacy, is critical to tackling it. In the meantime, support for survivors of gender-based violence will remain vital.



Gediminas Varanavicius,
EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Kuwait adopted a Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, which is already a great step. However, EU experience shows that eradication of this criminal, brutal form of discrimination and violation of women's fundamental rights is not an easy task.

The EU Delegation every year joins efforts with 16 EU Member States Embassies, United Nations and the embassies of like-minded countries to raise awareness and support the 16-days of Activism Against GBV campaign. This year, the EU Delegation will advocate against GBV on our social media accounts.

In addition, we believe that the end of GBV must not only come from legislation and policy efforts, but also from education

and mentality change, where women are seen on an equal basis as men and are respected as agents of change in the society.

For this purpose, we will soon launch a competition in partnership with Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences where students will propose policy recommendations aiming at enhancing the role of women in environmental policies in Kuwait.

Together with human rights, freedom and democracy, gender equality represents one of the core values that make the European Union what it is. Achieving full equal rights and legal protection for women and girls is essential in order to prevent GBV.

Our Success is a Reflection of your Trust

BEST PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN KUWAIT FOR THE 12th YEAR IN A ROW

ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL



مستشفى رويال حياة

www.royalehayat.com



Thought “ Education and justice are for the democracy's week only life insurance.

Nannie Helen Burroughs
- African-American educator



You feel sad, you eat; you feel happy, you eat; you feel tired, you eat; angry, eat; stressed, eat. Sometimes, you eat to celebrate, and sometimes it is a kind of punishment, you feel bad about yourself and you eat to punish yourself even more.

But then you feel guilty because you have broken your diet in a second. If this is you, then this article is for you.

Eating to satiate your emotions, makes you, for want of a better term, an emotional eater. Eating when you are emotional, rather than when you are hungry is something most people occasionally do. However, this emotional eating starts to be a problem when it becomes abnormal and you feel that it is out of your control.

This type of eating plays a major role in some people being overweight. Various emotions can trigger this eating disorder, including boredom, anger, sadness, happiness, anxiety, loneliness, stress, low self-esteem, disappointment and frustration.

Ask yourself, am I hungry now or am I eating for another reason? Usually when you eat because of your emotions, you are too happy or sad to feel whether you are actually hungry or not, so you cannot recognize the feeling of fullness, because you are taken into the emotions of the specific moment.

The way out of emotional eating, is to seek another activity that goes with your emotions. Find an activity that brings the mental and psychological comfort you find in foods, whether it is sugary or salty items.

For example, if you are eating because you are angry or stressed, you can run on the treadmill. Any intense activity will secrete endorphins, and these hormones will make you feel relaxed and eventually will block your cravings.

If you are eating because you are happy, replace that by activities that make you feel good about yourself, like shopping, clubbing, going out with friends or just chatting with a humorous friend.

If you are eating because you are depressed or lonely, call someone who always makes you feel better, play with your dog or cat, or look at a favorite photo or cherished memento.

If you are eating because you are anxious, spend your nervous energy by dancing to your favorite song or squeezing a stress ball. If you are eating because you are exhausted, treat yourself with a hot cup of tea, take a bath, do a relaxing massage, light some scented candles, or wrap yourself in a warm blanket.

If you are eating because you are bored, read a good book, watch a comedy show, explore the outdoors, call a friend, or turn to an activity you enjoy.

For some people when they think of happiness, it is chocolate, with others solace to sadness and stress can

be chips. You can change all these habits and turn your snacks into healthy ones.

If you want something sweet, you can try a fruit salad, yogurt with some fruits or snack bar for example, instead of chocolate cakes or doughnuts. Also, a small number of nuts and almonds gives you the feeling of fullness for a longer time, even more so than biscuits or other cookies. Or, how about a whole-grain toast topped with jam; it is an ideal option considering it is both sweet and nutritious.

If you feel stressed out, try a cup of chamomile tea before you hit the bed, it will help calm you down.

Also, remember not to skip meals. People who are emotional eaters often lose their sense of hunger. They are always full because they snack a lot. Feeling hunger before meals is an excellent factor that contributes to weight loss or weight maintenance.

By slowing down and savoring every bite, you will not only enjoy your food more but you will also be less likely to overeat. Slowing down and savoring your food is an important aspect of mindful eating, the opposite of mindless, emotional eating. as you will appreciate each bite of food much more.

Cinnamon, a warming spice, has gained a special reputation for helping to beat sugar cravings. Cinnamon seems to help the body control the amount of sugar in our blood, which regulates the 'highs' and 'lows' that can induce cravings.

When you feel a swing in emotions, boil one stick of cinnamon in half a liter of water, add a teaspoon of honey and enjoy it twice a day.

Emotional eating does not fix any underlying emotional problems. In fact, it usually makes you feel worse. So learn to accept your feelings, seek help and give yourself the opportunity to make a different decision.

Eat like Mira
Create healthy habits, not restrictions

To subscribe to my diet programs,
don't forget to log in to:
www.eatlikemira.com.



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

RECIPE

Labneh Zingy Parcel



Labneh Zingy Parcel is soft and crusty on the outside while remaining creamy inside. This delicious pie, originally created by the chefs at Domino's, the American multinational pizza restaurant chain, is also known as Domino's Veg. Zingy Parcel. The versatility of this simple offering has led to the proliferation of various iterations that go by different names. The main advantage of preparing this is that it can be filled with anything you fancy, whether it is chicken, meat or your choice of vegetables.

Total time: 1:30 minutes

Serving: yields 6

Ingredients

For the dough:

- 1 cup milk or warm water
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp instant yeast
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- For the filling:
- 1 cup labneh (cheese made from strained yogurt)
- ¼ cup finely chopped capsicum
- 1 tbsp finely chopped tomatoes
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp olive slice
- 1 tsp chili flakes
- 2 tbsp zaatar powder
- Now mix all the ingredients for filling in a bowl and set aside.
- Filling is ready, keep it aside.

Instructions

Making the dough:

- Mix together all purpose flour, sugar, yeast and salt in a bowl
- Add milk or warm water to the mixture, a little at a time, and knead to a dough
- Add 2 tsp olive oil and continue to knead the dough.
- Tuck the dough, cover and rest for 1 hour or until the dough doubles in size.

Making the filling:

- After an hour, gently punch down the risen dough, and continue kneading
- Pinch a ball sized dough and roll gently.
- Fold the sides shaping into a triangle.
- Spoon some filling in and top with labneh, sprinkle some zaatar powder
- Bring together the corners and seal the tips with water
- Brush the parcel with a little milk to give it a golden color
- Bake in the oven for 15 minutes
- Brush with olive oil to get the shiny crust
- Finally, serve warm and enjoy this zingy parcel.



Chef Chhaya Thakker

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

Subsidies jump as global price rises bite

Latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) show that the government spent KD224.2 million on subsidizing food, construction materials, and others during the first nine months of 2022, an increase of 55.6 percent, compared to the KD144.1 million spent on subsidies for these items in 2021.

The figures also reveal that the subsidies spending from January to September 2022

was nearly equal to the KD225 that was spent on subsidies in the entire 2021. The ministry attributed the jump in subsidy spending to global rise in the prices of commodities, foodstuffs, and construction materials, as well as increase in shipment costs. With the government decision to absorb these additional costs, so as to avoid harming the finances of citizens, the burden of these global price hikes fell on

the shoulders of the MoCI.

The ministry added that higher subsidies were also caused by an increase in demand for construction material as many citizens began building their homes in the newly constructed cities such as at Al-Mutlaa, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak and other areas.

Providing a breakdown of subsidies, the ministry noted that the construction materials subsidy bill, during the period

from January to the end of September 2022, accounted for 62 percent of the total subsidy bill, or around KD139.3 million, compared to KD78.1 million in the same period of 2021.

Meanwhile, food subsidies provided on basic foodstuff and supplies increased by 26.4 percent, which amounted to KD77.6 million dinars, compared to KD61.4 million for the same period in 2021.

Self-service kiosks to issue passports to Kuwaitis

Ministry of Interior is to begin issuing passports to citizens through automated kiosks, which is expected to shorten the time and effort needed to renew passports.

The ministry explained that the service would be similar to that currently employed in the delivery of renewed driving licenses to citizens, which was found to be an extremely efficient service, and one which significantly improved satisfaction among users.

Elaborating on the service, a statement from the ministry clarified that renewing a passport involves similar steps to that taken to renew driving licenses. The citizen submits his request electronically on the website of the Ministry of Interior, then goes to the nearest issuing device to receive the passport. The ministry noted that Kuwait will be the first Arab country to use this service for its citizens.

Director General of the General Administration of Nationality and Travel Documents, Major General Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled, explained

that the self-service devices for electronically delivering citizens' passports are placed at a number of national identity centers in the six governorates, to ensure there is no overcrowding at the General Administration of Nationality and Travel Documents.

Al-Khaled also revealed "there is a plan to widen this service and to allocate a special counter for citizens at the Kuwait Airport, through which they could renew their passports. For example, if they discover at the last moment that there are no more empty pages in their passports to stamp exit and entry. However, Al-Khaled explained that this service would be provided only to holders of a valid boarding pass before the flight, to ensure that their travel is not disrupted.

He added: "These modern devices are currently only present in Kuwait and a small number of Asian and European countries. We are the first Arab country to use this automated device, which carries a high level of confidentiality and security, because the passport is one of

the most important documents in the country. Moreover, since the beginning of the change of the old passport to the new version that contains an electronic chip, no case of forgery was detected, and this is an achievement for the State of Kuwait."

For his part, the Director of the Travel Documents Department, Colonel Abdullah Al-Amhoj, revealed that since the launch of the passport self-service kiosks that started around two weeks back, 10,000 passports have been issued through kiosks placed at the national identity centers, through transactions submitted online.

He clarified that the kiosks placed in other places do not have unprinted passports inside them. They only facilitate the process of submitting the application online or through similar devices placed in the national identity centers, and the applicant receives the new passport after two days by inserting the civil ID card in the device or by fingerprinting. The device reads the information and then issues the



passport within seconds.

Colonel Al-Amhoj said that the machines accommodate nearly a thousand passport request transactions and stressed the next plan is to increase the number of machines and place them in other locations such as markets, shopping centers and at the airport.



Embassy of India celebrates Constitution Day

Embassy of India celebrated the 72nd Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) on 26 November, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on this day in 1949, and which came into effect on 26 January, 1950.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Chargé d' Affaires at the Embassy, Smita Patil stated that the Constitution Day is a festival for every citizen of India, as this occasion celebrates the foundational document of Indian democracy, which is the largest democracy in the world.

Adding that the Indian constitution is

also the world's largest written constitution, she paid special tribute to the vision of the members of the Constituent Assembly, which included 15 women.

The speech was followed by the recital of the 'Preamble' to the Constitution, by Indian students in Kuwait in 16 different Indian languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

The Chargé d' Affaires then invited the Indian diaspora in Kuwait to participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2023 (PBD) that will be held in Indore from 8-10 January 2023. An exhibition on the making of the Constitution of India was also unveiled during the function.

The event witnessed enthusiastic response from members of the Indian community in Kuwait who participated online, as well as in person.



INTRODUCING

ROASTY TASTY

EATING RIGHT IS EVERYONE'S RIGHT™

Whole Grain Snack

100% ROASTED

ROASTY TASTY MILLET MUNCH

100% ROASTED CHATPATA

ROASTY TASTY CRUNCHY MUNCH

100% ROASTED SWEET & SPICY

Follow us on Instagram

@obtc_kwt

QR Code

Sole distributor in Kuwait

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

P.O. Box: 22984 Safat 13090 Kuwait

Tel: +965 247 55 073 / 247 55 074

Fax: +965 24760108

Email: obtc_kwt@qualitynet.net

www.obtc_kwt.com

Moral guardians object to marathons

Parliamentary Negative Phenomena Committee, which has self-appointed itself as the entity responsible for 'guarding morals' and 'preserving societal values and customs' of the country, has reportedly denounced the holding of sporting events such as marathons. The committee's purported objection to marathons is that they encourage the mixing of genders and that music and bands are played at these events.

Marathons held in Kuwait and elsewhere allow people to participate in a sporting activity while raising awareness and showing support for social and charitable causes. But apparently, a coterie of lawmakers have reservations against such noble endeavors and have decried these events, stating that they go against the 'customs and values of Kuwait'.

To enforce their views and ways of thinking on the general public, these MPs have reportedly applied pressure on the Ministry of Interior and other concerned ministries to cancel such functions. They also warned the authorities not to grant permissions for such permissive activities in future, or the concerned minister would face the prospect of parliamentary grilling.

In the past, the same lawmakers or others of their ilk, have managed to successfully object and stop the holding of several public events, including yoga demonstrations, padel competitions, artistic and cultural concerts, all in the name of preserving the 'customs and values' of Kuwait.

Many people and social activists have raised their voices on social media and elsewhere, against such restrictions on freedoms, and the imposing of the wishes of a select few parliamentarians on the entire country. They termed it a retrograde step and an attempt to turn back the clock to a bygone era. People found it especially galling that these restrictions come at a time when



neighboring states in the region are making great strides along the path of openness and freedoms, but Kuwait remains bogged down by 'negative phenomena' as well as the 'customs and values, imposed by a few.

This warped reasoning by a select few would, when extended further, imply that other brotherly states in the Gulf Cooperation Council states have diluted, if not lost, their customs, values and cultures. And that these countries are mired in 'negative phenomena' by staging events such as the Expo 2020 in Dubai, the ongoing World Cup 2022 in Qatar, and the numerous music festivals and other entertainment events that are held in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and elsewhere? Because at all of these events there is no restriction on participation of genders and music certainly is a big part of these functions.

Activists criticized what is happening from the interference of some deputies in public life, who appointed themselves as guardians of virtue and guardians of morality, instead of paying attention to real problems and core issues that the country faces. They pointed out that marathons receive great

attention from the countries of the world, and it is a sporting, health and social activity that is popular with adults and women. They noted that some marathons have thousands of people of both genders and different ages participating, and demanded to know what was wrong in organizing such events.

While some of the marathon organizers revealed that they were told to ban the bands accompanying these events, this is a strange demand considering that the music encourages walking and running, and it does not contain any deviation from public values, morals and customs.

Media reports indicate that following an implicit warning from the Negative Phenomena Committee in the form of a parliamentary question submitted by one of its members to the Minister of Interior, in which he expressed his objection to the phenomenon of a number of bodies and institutions organizing sporting events, such as marathons, that include things that do not take into account the customs and values of Kuwaiti society, and which lead to mixing of genders that is forbidden. Accordingly some sporting event organizers had to submit

to the instructions they received from the Ministry of Interior instead of canceling the marathon.

Parliamentarian Alia Al-Khaled called on the Ministry of Interior not to succumb to extremist currents. Al-Khaled said, "If the news is true, I am surprised, and denounce the Ministry of Interior's request to cancel the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) marathon under the pretext of mixing and the presence of music." She added, "Sports events and gatherings have health and societal goals and work to consolidate relations between members of society, in addition to recreational goals that reduce the psychological pressures experienced by citizens and residents."

She added, "The practice of guardianship under the pretext of religion is a bad exploitation of it, and there is no compelling argument for it. Ethics is an approach that all Kuwaitis are raised on, and this is evident in their approach and behavior."

She stressed, "The Ministry of the Interior must implement the law in the affirmative and not exercise authoritarianism for fear of interrogation or threat. If today we want reform and development, then this approach does not serve the hoped-for vision announced by His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince."

In a further development, MP Alia Al-Khaled later announced that the NBK would be held on 10 December along the Gulf Street. She thanked the Ministry of Interior, His Excellency the Minister of Interior and the Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic, for their quick response in resolving the issue. She emphasized that these efforts and this cooperation between the parties is an effective and important matter in settling many issues, and contributes to strengthening constitutional gains, threats to which we do not accept under any pretext.

Philips Middle East launches Air Cooker 7000 series



Philips Middle East, a global leader in consumer products and domestic appliances collaborated with the world renowned Kuwaiti Chef, Faisal Fahad Al Nashmi for the launch of the innovative and versatile Philips Air Cooker 7000 Series.

The event, hosted by Philips Middle East and partnered with Xcite Electronics, exclusive partner of Philips consumer products in Kuwait, was held on 22 November at the Waves Restaurant, in the presence of special invitees, media personnel and well-wishers of the brand.

A highlight of the function was an amazing display of Chef Faisal's culinary skills using the innovative technology provided in the Philips Air Cooker, to prepare an array of delicious dishes. The culinary display provided guests with an opportunity to discover new flavor combinations, the ability to experiment with reduced preparation time and easier cooking methods available through the Philips Air Cooker.

A demo of the capabilities of the Philips



Air Cooker revealed that it uses innovative NutriFlavour technology to set optimal levels of temperature, humidity and cooking time to prepare food to perfection while also preserving



up to 90 percent of nutrients. The Smart Climate Control feature sets ideal cooking conditions automatically, enabling precise results even for complex recipes through a range of cooking

methods such as steaming, roasting, baking, slow cooking, or even sous vide.

Using the Philips Air Cooker and the NutriU app developed by Philips as a savvy sous-chef, it is possible for an user to select from an extensive range of recipes and then simply press start, to let the Philips Air Cooker automatically set the perfect cooking climate and time to prepare the dishes.

Chef Faisal himself demonstrated the use of this combination of NutriU app and Philips Air Cooker to prepare delectable dishes that anyone can now prepare at home with the Philips Air Cooker.

The Philips Air Cooker 7000 series is only available in limited countries globally, and available only in Kuwait within the Middle East, and moreover, it can be purchased from only Xcite stores across Kuwait for KD249. The NutriU app is available for download from the App store for iOS devices and Google Play store for Android devices.

EU Committee votes in favor of visa-free travel for Kuwaitis

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) approved visa-free travel for up to 90 days for citizens of Kuwait, if it agrees to a moratorium on death penalties, as well as for Qatar, Oman and Ecuador.

In a draft report approved on 1 December (42 votes in favor, 16 against, 0 abstaining), the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee endorsed a proposal to grant visa-free travel of up to 90 days to citizens of Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Ecuador. In the case of Kuwait, MEPs support visa freedom on condition of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, which should be in place before visa freedom is implemented through bilateral negotiations.

MEPs note that there are serious concerns about human rights and

fundamental freedoms in Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, notably concerning workers' rights, women's rights, LGBTQ+ people's rights, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, right of assembly, torture, and the death penalty. They believe that visa freedom can be used to develop the partnership between EU countries and the Gulf states, and emphasize that a human rights dialogue must be a part of such development. The dialogue should happen at least annually, and the European Parliament should be informed of progress, say MEPs, and add that visa waivers should be canceled if there is no progress in the areas of concern. They also emphasize that women, members of the LGBTQ+ community and stateless persons must be able to travel independently and benefit from the visa freedom.

In addition to Kuwait and Qatar, which were mentioned in the Commission's original proposal, MEPs also advocate for granting visa-free travel to Oman and Ecuador, noting that they fulfill the same criteria as Kuwait and Qatar. MEPs note that Ecuador has consistently demonstrated its commitment to respecting human rights, although more work is needed on prison conditions, women's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and refugees, among other things.

After the vote, rapporteur Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA, DE) said: "Visa-free travel brings the world closer together and gives the European Union a powerful instrument to advocate for human rights. The visa waiver is not a gift for third countries but a chance to work on improvements together."



The draft legislation will now have to be endorsed by the full house of the European Parliament. Then, the Parliament and Council will negotiate on the final form of the legislation. When the law has entered into force, each visa waiver would be negotiated bilaterally between the European Union and third countries.

New Indian Ambassador arrives in Kuwait

Newly appointed Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika, arrived in Kuwait on 2 December to take up his new charge.

Before his posting to Kuwait, Dr. Swaika served as Joint Secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Dr. Swaika, a 2002 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer also served as director in the UN division of India's Ministry of External Affairs and holds a PhD in chemistry and speaks Hindi, Bengali and Russian.

Over his career in the diplomatic service, he has served at Indian missions in Beijing, Sofia and Moscow.



Nomination hearing for new US ambassador on Dec 7

US President Joe Biden announced the nomination of Karen Sasahara as 'Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Kuwait'. The White House said in a statement that Sasahara is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor and has most recently served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa. Prior to that she served as Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim of the US Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

Before that, she was Consul General in Jerusalem, Senior Advisor in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, served on the Foreign Service Board of Examiners, Deputy Chief of Mission in Sana'a, Yemen, and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commanding General of Special



Operations Command Central. Earlier assignments also include Baghdad, Beirut, Mexico City, London, Jeddah, and Washington, DC.

Sasahara is the recipient of numerous State Department performance awards, including five Senior Foreign Service Performance Awards. A native of Massachusetts, she holds an MA in Near East Studies from George Washington University, and a BA in International Relations from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She speaks Arabic, Spanish, French and Russian.

Her nomination hearing before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which needs to approve the President's nomination, is scheduled for 7 December.



Special Buffet

LARGEST SPREAD IN TOWN | KD 7.450

Child Buffet **KD 4.250**

BUFFET SERVED ON:

**EVERY THURSDAY
DINNER ONLY
6:30PM**

**EVERY FRIDAY
LUNCH & DINNER
12:30 PM TO 4:30PM
& 6PM TO 11PM**

**HAWALLY ONLY
EVERY SATURDAY
LUNCH ONLY
12:30 PM TO 4:30PM**

EVERY BUFFET PURCHASE IS SERVED WITH SMALL SOFT DRINK

SERVING IN HAWALLY & FAHAHEEL BRANCH

97644431

BEIRUT ST, LULU AL
WATAN COMPLEX, OPPOSITE CBK.

97644421

AL-HOOR BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR
BEHIND CENTER POINT



Qatar to allow non-ticketed fans to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022



Qatar has launched a new Hayya Card option which will allow non-ticketed fans to enter the country and attend the FIFA World Cup, following the conclusion of the group stage matches.

Now that the group stage matches are over, fans without tickets can apply

World Cup Qatar 2022 fans. It provides access to stadiums with a valid match ticket, entry to the FIFA Fan Festival and free public transport.

Khalid Ali Al Mawlawi, Deputy Director General, Marketing, Communications & Event Experience, Supreme Committee for Delivery &

delighted to offer the chance for more fans to visit Qatar and experience the special atmosphere of the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and Arab world."

Fans have plenty of entertainment options away from the stadiums in Qatar, including the FIFA Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park, the 6km Corniche Activation and a vast array of live music, cultural experiences and fan zones.

Fans who wish to apply for the Early December Hayya Card feature should note the following:

- Ticket holders for matches after 2 December will not be required to pay QAR 500
- Fans who pay the QAR 500 entry fee and purchase FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 tickets later will not be eligible for a refund.
- After paying the QAR 500 entry fee and confirming their accommodation, fans will receive an entry permit to the State of Qatar via email. Fans are advised not to travel until completing the Hayya Card application process as they will not be allowed to board a flight or enter through the Abu Samra land border without the entry permit. Hayya Card holders are able to stay in Qatar until 23 January 2023



for a Hayya Card to enter Qatar through the 'Early December' Hayya Card option. Fans will still need to show proof of accommodation and pay an entry fee of QAR 500 to obtain the Hayya Card and enter Qatar. Children under 12 will not be charged.

The Hayya Card is mandatory for FIFA

Legacy, said: "It's been a wonderful tournament so far. We've welcomed hundreds of thousands of fans from across the world for an unrivaled festival of football and exchange of cultures.

"As we move into the knockout stages of the tournament, we're



Round of 16

Saturday 3 December

Al Bayt Stadium

Khalifa International Stadium

Al Thumama Stadium

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

Lusail Stadium

Stadium 974

Education City Stadium

Al Janoub Stadium

Netherlands vs USA
18:00

Argentina vs Australia
22:00

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Official Hospitality Programme



MATCH HOSPITALITY

ITL World is a Non-exclusive Officially Appointed Sales Agent of MATCH Hospitality in Kuwait for the sale of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Official Hospitality Programme



All times are local times

Subject to change

W = Winner



Kuwait's membership in CICA enhances security, stability of Asia

Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Azmat Berdibay, announced that the sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) voted unanimously for Kuwait's accession to the CICA and granting it membership by the leaders of the countries participating in the summit.

During a ceremony held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Ambassador Berdibay expressed his confidence that Kuwait's accession to CICA will contribute to enhancing security and stability in Asia, pointing out that CICA is one of the most important policy initiatives of the Kazakhstan Foreign Affairs.

For his part, the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Zhang Jianwei, said that the world is witnessing great changes and the



organization seeks to play a prominent role in maintaining the security and stability of the region through constructive cooperation among the member states,

noting that his country always contributes to the development of the organization through a constructive and positive vision and strategy.

For his part, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Tajikistan, Dr. Zubaidullah Zabidov, considered that Kuwait's accession to the 'CICA' organization would contribute to strengthening cooperation among member states.

Turkish Ambassador H.E. Tüba Nur Sönmez, said: The CICA conference has remained an important platform for dialogue and cooperation for three decades, with its distinctive characteristics that are based on consensus and volunteer values, especially since member states constitute nearly half of the world's population, pointing out that her country is a founding member of CICA and is one of the most active members of the organization, stressing the promotion of dialogue and rapprochement between peoples.

Qatar's World Cup of Joy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Incidentally, the octogenarian Blatter who was expressing his views to a local Swiss paper, was apparently not aware that Switzerland, which has previously hosted the FIFA World Cup, is only marginally larger than Qatar. Ironically, Blatter, who cited the small size of Qatar and its human rights record as reasons for thinking that "Qatar is a mistake," was strangely silent on the corruption allegations against Qatar. But this is not surprising considering that Blatter has also been embroiled in accusations of corruption during his 17-year tenure as president of FIFA.

The vitriol against Qatar's hosting of the tournament appears widespread mainly in Europe and in the United States. In late October, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, commenting on Qatar's hosting the FIFA World Cup, said that a country's human rights record should be factored into the decision on whether they are selected as World Cup host. Responding to this rehashed accusation, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani accused Germany of "double standards" in its criticism of Qatar.

He added, On the one side, the German population is misinformed by government politicians; on the other, the government has no problem with us when it comes to energy partnerships or investments." The Qatari foreign minister was referring to the substantial Qatari investments in the German economy, and to a new 15-year deal between the two countries, in which Qatar would supply Germany with liquefied natural gas. Evidently, for Germany, energy security and economic considerations are strategically of more significance than human rights.

But Germany is not unique in demonstrating 'double standards' when it comes to financial and economic interests. France, the UK, the US and others who have thunderously pontificated against Qatar's human rights record and its alleged corruption in winning the bid to host the World Cup, have no qualms in accepting Qatari investments in their country. The irony of this is perhaps best shown by the decision of the city authorities in Paris and several other European cities not to host traditional fan-zones, where large screens are usually put up and the public gather to enjoy broadcasts of the World Cup matches.

The decision was apparently in protest against human rights and other abuses by Qatar. However, this decision of boycotting displays of the games was the height of hypocrisy, considering that the city's, and arguably France's, premier football club, Paris Saint-Germain, with a player lineup that includes the likes of Lionel Messi and Neymar, has since 2011 been owned

by Qatar Sports Investments. Additionally, many other football clubs in other European cities are sponsored by Qatar Airways, the national carrier of Qatar. Taxes and receipts from matches played by these clubs have gone into the coffers of Paris and some of the other cities that decided to put up a pathetic sign of protest against Qatar.

European governments and other detractors of Qatar's hosting of the games also see no anomaly in that French, British or Dutch construction companies, involved in building infrastructure for the Qatar World Cup, are among those accused of blatantly violating the human rights of migrant workers.

Earlier last month, a subsidiary of Vinci, a French construction company, was charged over alleged human rights violations against migrant workers in Qatar. Charge sheets show that Vinci allegedly held multiple migrant laborers in servitude through forced labor, subjected the workers to working conditions and lodging incompatible with human dignity, and obtained services from people who were vulnerable or in a situation of dependence.

Although the company denied the allegations, it was handed preliminary charges by the judiciary. Other European companies engaged in lucrative construction or service contracts for the World Cup have also been accused of exploiting migrant workers. The profits made and taxes paid by these companies have gone into the economy of countries protesting the loudest against Qatar's human rights record.

Again, European countries consider their strategic economic interests of greater importance than human rights violations.

Similarly, Europeans clearly have no misgiving in accepting investments in real estate or sporting clubs or in other myriad business deals with countries they accuse of human rights violations and gender discriminations. Media reports indicate that Qatar has invested more than 25 billion euros in France, making it the second-largest European investment destination for Qatar after the UK. According to one study, Qatar's imprint in the French economy includes portfolio investments or shareholdings in companies like LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton), Balmain, Valentino, Le Printemps, TotalEnergies, Airbus, Accor and beIN Sports.

In real estate investments and financial activities, Qatar's stakes amount to 7.1 billion euros, 4.2 billion euros in retail trade accounts, 3.4 billion euros in transport and tourism, and 2.3 billion euros in telecoms and media.

Ever since the 2022 FIFA World Cup was awarded to Qatar 12 years ago in December 2010, pipping the much-favored United States in the process, accusations, allegations and innuendos of corruption and human rights violations have

been leveled against Qatar. The onslaught against Qatar was led by several Western media outlets that go under the label of being 'independent' and 'liberal', but in fact are nothing more than illiberal mouthpieces serving the interests of Western governments and vested interests.

Removing the fig-leaf covering these accusations, one finds that what lies beneath these vitriolic arguments against Qatar is the racial skepticism in the West that the tournament could be successfully staged by a small Middle-Eastern country, and that too an Arab, Muslim nation. This line of thinking is nothing new, it stems from the orientalist, colonial attitude that still prevails among many in the West, and which continues to frame, accentuate, amplify and distort differences between people and countries using archaic oriental and occidental cultural models as their yardstick. However, since airing such a notion would reek of racism, it has been conveniently camouflaged and instead corruption and human rights allegations have been highlighted as reasons for objecting to Qatar hosting the tournament. People who doubt this line of argument should perhaps take a relook at the facts since the games were awarded to Qatar.

In 2010, then-FIFA President Sepp Blatter declared that the Arab world "deserved" a chance to host the World Cup, which had only been held in Europe, South America, Africa, and East Asia. This incidentally, is the same Blatter who came out last week with the statement that the choice of Qatar was a mistake. Though detractors continue to insist that bribery led to Qatar's selection in 2010, the fact is that in its bid for the tournament, Qatar offered more than what its competitors promised, and also way more than what are FIFA's standard requirements from countries selected to host the tournament. Qatar's detractors purposely choose to ignore the substance of the Qatari bid and instead resorted to unsubstantiated accusations of corruption and bribery.

In the wake of the scandal surrounding Qatar winning the right to host the games, FIFA initiated an internal investigation headed by former US prosecutor Michael Garcia. This investigation failed to find any evidence that Qatari officials had engaged in bribery. Concurrent investigations by the US and Swiss authorities also ended without finding Qatar guilty of bribing FIFA to host the World Cup. However, critics of Qatar continue to ignore the facts presented by these investigations and keep rewinding the same accusations against Qatar.

Twelve years since the first accusations of corruption and later of human rights violations were leveled at the country, on 20 November, Qatar in a symbolic thumbing of its nose to its detractors and doubters — who had expressed skepticism about the nation's ability and

eligibility to stage the tournament — held a dazzling opening ceremony to launch the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

On the same day, in what is seen by many as peevish, childish symbolic gesture, the BBC and ITV channels beaming the World Cup to the United Kingdom decided not to air the opening ceremony. First day of the World Cup, the BBC and ITV channels decided to boycott the opening ceremony of this international sporting event. Instead, the BBC broadcasted a program dedicated to 'migrant workers in Qatar', highlighting corruption within FIFA and the homophobic policy of Qatar, through aged footage and jaded interviews with detractors of Qatar. There was a time when BBC was a reliable source of information, and a time when it held monopoly over what British audiences heard or saw. But not anymore, most people did not give a hoot that BBC did not air the opening ceremony, they just tuned into Jazeera News that aired the event or went online to watch the ceremony.

The British Guardian newspaper, which was the first to report that more than 6,500 migrant workers had died in Qatar since the country was awarded the games in 2010, was the first to congratulate BBC on its 'brave stance in support of migrant workers in Qatar'. And, BBC probably patted the Guardian on its back for its investigative reporting on the deaths. What the BBC did not mention, or the Guardian acknowledge in its report on migrant worker deaths was that the quoted figure of 6,500 included all deaths of all migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, irrespective of whether they worked for construction companies or where engaged in other activities, and the deaths included all deaths including natural, medical complications and worksite accidents. The twisting of figures and the selective coverage of incidents to support a particular agenda or condemn a cause or country, is nothing new to the so-called independent, liberal Western media.

In his comments on criticism of Qatar from different quarters and for various reasons, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, in his nearly hour-long speech on the eve of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar commented: "What we Europeans have been doing for the last 3,000 years, we should be apologizing for the next 3,000 years before starting to give moral lessons." While the 3,000 year timeline mentioned by Infantino is an overly extended period given that there was no Europe 3,000 years ago and draws snide remarks that he should stick with talking about football and not venture into history of which he obviously has very little knowledge, there is no arguing with the moral rectitude expressed in the FIFA president's statement.

Taxing individuals not the answer to raising state revenue

World Bank and other global institutions have for long been suggesting that Kuwait needs to impose value-added-tax (VAT) and other individual taxes in order to support government revenues. Authorities tend to dust off the covers of these reports and recommendations each time international oil prices slump, and then slam shut these reports once the financial crunch wanes and oil prices head higher.

Providing a contrary view, some experts and economic analysts say that value taxes and other financial burdens imposed on people will not make any appreciable dent to the government's heightened need for revenues during downswings in the economy.

Although the new government has not mentioned the imposing of taxes in its work program to be submitted to parliament, there are fears among some quarters that the government may do so at a later stage.

Currently, other than taxes on profits of local and international companies, there is no income or VAT in Kuwait, despite an agreement with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to introduce a unified VAT across the region.

However, opponents of any form of taxation point out that the imposing of VAT at the basic rate of 5 percent, and other selective taxes, will constitute only 2.5 percent of the total government spending. On the other hand, these taxes will cause Kuwait to lose a vital competitive advantage over other GCC states, and give rise to inflation in prices for consumers. This has the potential to give rise to popular resentment against the government, which is considered a high price to pay for accruing a few million dinars to the exchequer.

Moreover, they point out that income tax or tax on corporate profits can be easily evaded legally and through accounting

practices such as by reducing profits shown as much as possible. Rather than being beneficial, these taxes will deter the goals of the 2035 vision of New Kuwait that aims to transform the country into a financial and commercial hub in the region.

Economic analysts who view VAT and other taxes as additional financial burden on people without a corresponding benefit to state revenues, point out that what Kuwait really needs is to reduce government spending on public sector wages by encouraging the private sector and foreign investors to employ citizens, but that plans to impose higher corporate taxes will deter these companies from expanding or setting up new businesses in Kuwait.

According to these experts, rather than try to tax people, the government should instead concentrate on reducing subsidies that the state provides, which benefits many corporations who enjoy the subsidized



utility prices, without any increase in their productivity or competitiveness.

They add that instead of attempting to transplant economic models from other places in Kuwait, or blindly following the dictates of World Bank and other institutions, the authorities should evaluate Kuwait's prevailing situation and draw conclusions that are in the best interests of the state and its people.

Italian Embassy hosts fund-raising fashion show

Embassy of Italy hosted a fashion show titled 'Défilé della Rinascita' (Fashion show of the Renaissance), to raise funds for the Hayatt-Ruqayah AbdulWahab Al-Qatami Breast Cancer Foundation. The event, which was held at the residence of the Italian Ambassador, marked the first time that Défilé della Rinascita was being hosted outside Italy.

Silvia Bisconti, the creative director and head of Défilé della Rinascita founded the well-known Italian women's clothing store Raptus & Rose in 2016, with a core project called Moda Liberata (Liberated Fashion). The project is based on a new and radical idea of fashion that every woman, irrespective of their age, color or size is endowed with a uniqueness that can be highlighted through fashion while giving the wearer a new sense of confidence and self-awareness/ The Hayatt-Ruqayah AbdulWahab AlQatami Breast Cancer Foundation provides finances, through fundraising activities, to expat patients living and working in Kuwait who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Italian Ambassador, H.E. Carlo Baldocci and his wife Cristiana initiated the proposal to Raptus & Rose and the San Bassiano Association, to hold the Défilé della Rinascita fashion show in Kuwait, as this project would strengthen the dialogue and collaboration between Kuwait and Italy.



The Défilé della Rinascita is unique in that it is not just a fashion show, but a care project crossed by beauty. This event aims to make women undergoing oncological treatment experience a strong self-awareness jolt that allows them to confront their idea of beauty and what they believe they have lost due to oncology treatment. The Défilé della Rinascita fashion show, which underlines that real beauty exists within each woman, becomes a therapeutic experience that starts a path of resilience and awareness among women about what they can be. Participants in the fashion



show were models who commenced the grand show while laced up in intricate designs and floral patterns covering their heads that were wrapped and created by Raptus & Rose.

Among the 35 models there were oncologists, nurses and women belonging to civil society,

as well as women with various other roles who paraded to unite in their common essence: beauty and love for life.

Ambassador Baldocci added that such initiatives will further strengthen the bilateral relations between Italy and Kuwait.



Fake social media accounts to be monitored

Following reports and incidents of fake social media accounts attempting to stir up strife and confusion among the public, the government has reportedly decided to implement several strict measures to confront fake accounts and find the perpetrators behind such sites. The concerned government

agencies, supported by the Cybercrime Department, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and the Communications Authority have started monitoring many fake accounts that have been spreading malicious rumors, disseminating false information about state symbols and the judiciary, with the aim of finding the person or persons behind these suspicious accounts and how they are being managed.

The government has stressed that it is keen on preserving people's dignity and protecting them from extortion and defamation, and applying cybercrime laws to protect national unity and stop defamation, which has become an essential feature of some fake accounts, and without prejudice to the freedom of expression of citizens and residents in the country.

Government measures are said to include monitoring malicious 'hashtags' and monitoring their broadcast sites, with all state agencies being directed to respond immediately to rumors, and to activate the role of an official spokesperson in state agencies who will be responsible for issuing statements and press releases on behalf of the state entity.

Open Buffet

Darbar

RESTAURANT

INDIAN BUFFET
4.5KD

ARABIC BUFFET
5KD

Open Buffet - Indian

- Thursday Dinner: 7pm to 10:30pm
- Friday Lunch: 12:30pm to 3:30pm
- Friday Dinner: 7pm to 10:30pm

Open Buffet Arabic

- Saturday lunch: 1pm to 4pm

Ala Carte Menu

- From 12:30pm to 10 pm

KUWAIT CONTINENTAL HOTEL
 ☎ 22527300; Ext:5, 📠 94075442 | 94075445

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Climate Crisis is also a Health Crisis



Seth Berkley and Werner Hoyer

Seth Berkley is CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank.

The latest Lancet Countdown report, which monitors the health consequences of climate change, highlights the need to prepare for future calamities. Even as COVID-19 continues to spread, a recent study suggests that the likelihood of another pandemic increases by 2 percent each year. In the coming decades, the interplay between the climate crisis and public health could create a perfect storm of global devastation and disruption.

The good news is that if we take immediate steps to transform our health systems, we can avert another COVID-style catastrophe. As with the current pandemic, the obstacles to mitigating climate change are not just scientific or technological, but also rooted in geopolitics and market forces. Self-interest can undermine public health, particularly when it comes to equitable access to resources. Even so, the international community came together to introduce innovative mechanisms like the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility (COVAX),



which was designed to remove the financial barriers that prevented lower-income countries from obtaining vaccines.

We must launch similar mechanisms for addressing the global public-health impact of climate change. While we already know many of the likely solutions, their effectiveness requires that we put them in place before disaster strikes. This is not just a moral imperative; it is also a

smart economic choice that would likely reduce the overall cost of outbreaks and other climate-related catastrophes.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt this past November underscored the fact that sustainability is not just about decarbonization, electric vehicles, or climate-adaptation measures such as flood defenses. It is also about pandemic preparedness. More broadly, climate change is expected to shift the habitat range of deadly pathogens, causing infectious, mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever to spread as far as northern Europe and Canada. At the same time, the climate crisis threatens to increase the prevalence of malaria, cholera, and schistosomiasis across the developing world.

The world's poorest countries remain the most vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing the least to creating the problem. That is why the international community must take immediate steps to ensure that impoverished, marginalized communities have access to vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics. Given the devastating impact that a single virus has had on billions of lives, livelihoods, and the global economy over the past three years, it is abundantly clear that we must urgently take steps to counter climate-related health threats.

The global effort to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines provides a useful model. The Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a financial mechanism funded by donors and accelerated by the European Investment Bank, enabled people in the world's 92 poorest countries to obtain free vaccines. These lower-income countries, representing roughly half of the world's population, would have struggled to secure access otherwise.

So far, more than 1.6 billion COVAX doses have been delivered to developing countries, helping to ensure that 52 percent of their citizens are fully vaccinated, compared to a global average of 64 percent. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in the context of intense vaccine hoarding by developed countries, the export restrictions that some countries placed on vaccines and the components needed to produce them, and the actions of some manufacturers that have seemingly prioritized profit over fairness.

The COVAX model's success shows that there is scope for similar innovative financing solutions to climate-related health risks. For example, several private-sector actors are currently exploring a Climate Advance Market Commitment to stimulate innovation and investment in climate solutions. Similarly, there is great potential for mechanisms based on the model of the

International Finance Facility for Immunization, which uses dedicated 'vaccine bonds' to frontload long-term donor commitments so that funds can be made available immediately.

Multilateralism is essential to establishing these safety-net mechanisms. COVAX was possible only because it united the financial firepower and knowhow of more than 190 governments, along with private-sector partners, civil-society groups, and international agencies, around a common cause that benefited everyone. But if COVAX had already existed before the pandemic, equipped with at-risk contingency financing and surge capacity, it could have mounted its response — the world's largest and most complex global

“

The Gavi COVAX
Advance Market
Commitment, a financial
mechanism funded by
donors and accelerated by
the European Investment
Bank, enabled people in
the world's 92 poorest
countries to obtain
free vaccines.

”

deployment of vaccines ever — even faster, ultimately saving more lives.

Following COP27, donor governments and multilateral lenders must examine how existing financial mechanisms could be adapted to the fight against climate change to guarantee that funds are made available as soon as a threat emerges. Minimizing the overall financial costs of climate-related health risks involves not just prevention but also early action. These safety-net mechanisms should also be designed to protect the world's most vulnerable people, wherever they live.

But what matters most is that these steps are taken now. As The Lancet report warns, the countdown to the next global health crisis has already begun.

BEFORE YOU SHARE, THINK:

WHO made it?
WHAT is the source?
WHERE did it come from?
WHY are you sharing it?
WHEN was it published?

#TAKECAREBEFOREYOUSHAKE

Reliable news at your fingertips...
www.timeskuwait.com

Facebook: @timeskuwait
Twitter: @timeskuwait
Instagram: @timeskuwait
Telegram: @timeskuwait

Qatar

A pearl with unfading luster

Amid all the excitement of history getting scripted in Qatar with the first-ever FIFA World Cup to be staged in the Middle East, we take a breather from the beautiful game, and go behind the glitzy stadiums and the gravity-defying futuristic skyscrapers of Doha, to explore the city, as well as other attractions that the country has to offer visitors.

Qatar, a tiny nation of less than three million people living on a 12,000 km² abutment of the Arabian Peninsula into the Arab Gulf, is often described as the 'Pearl of the Arabian Gulf'. The country is a unique fusion of modernity and cultural tradition, with towering highrises that segue to traditional souks, from state-of-art iconic cultural and historical attractions along the coastline to a desert hinterland and undulating sand dunes that in places meet the shoreline and the sea.

Doha, the capital of Qatar, is where visitors flying in, or arriving on cruise-liners first land. The oasis-themed Hamad International Airport (HIA), lying to the east of the city and covering an area of over 22 km², most of which is reclaimed land, provides visitors their first inkling of the country's propensity for breathtaking architectural designs. Skytrax, a leading airport and airline review site, has accorded HIA the World's Best Airport award in both 2021 and 2022. The airport, which caters to nearly 50 international airlines, is also home and hub for the national carrier, Qatar Airways, a seven-time winner of the World's Best Airline award.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of visitors from around the world now arrive in Qatar on luxury cruise-liners, many of which make Doha Port a turnaround hub in their winter season itinerary. The port's new Grand Terminal with access to dual berths is geared to cater to over 12,000 passengers per day, and also houses the region's largest aquarium within the new City Gallery. The terminal is also designed to host open-air events on the second floor, with a large terrace stretching across the two terminals, providing an attractive year-round activity for the local community.

Moving into the city proper, what amazes visitors is the sheer number of architectural showpieces that seemingly define the city's skyline, especially along a seven kilometer long stretch known as the Corniche. Many of the iconic buildings dotting the city appear to pay homage to the nation's geography and past, whether it is the traditional sea-faring dhow as exemplified by the roof of the new Corinthia Yacht Club or the Sidra Hospital with its mast-shaped buildings, or a desert rose crystal, as in the case of the National Museum of Qatar. And remember, these stunning edifices were all built after 1971, when this nondescript former pearl-fishing village became the country's capital.

Thanks to Qatar's strategic location at the crossroads of East and West, the country is on average 6-7 hours away from key international travel hubs, with 80 percent of the world's population within a 6-hour flight from Qatar, and with more than two-thirds of this vast populace allowed to enter Qatar visa-free. It is no wonder then that tourism and its development have been identified by the country's leadership as one of five priority sectors integral to diversifying Qatar's economy and to increasing private sector participation.

In 2017, the country launched the latest chapter of its five-year plan, to achieve 2030 Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy. The plan places an enhanced end-to-end visitor experience at the heart of tourism development, and includes, among others, visa liberalization and facilitation policies, diversifying tourism along six main offerings — coastal and desert tourism, cultural tourism, business events, sports tourism, urban and family entertainment, and cruise tourism — and attracting foreign investment in Qatar's tourism sector.

New visa policies have resulted in Qatar becoming the most open country in the region, and the eighth most open in the world according to visa openness rankings released by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in August 2018. This high ranking reflects a string of visa facilitation measures introduced recently by Qatar, including allowing nationals of 88 countries to enter Qatar visa-free and free of charge.

Among the myriad experiences that await one in Qatar, and which are bound to pique the interest of even the most jaded of international travelers, are:



Katara Cultural Village: Open to the public since 2010, Katara is an innovative interpretation of the region's architectural heritage, which includes impressive theaters, galleries and performance venues that stage a regular program of concerts, shows and exhibitions. The newly opened Katara Plaza includes high-end retail shops, food outlets, residential and hospitality offerings, as well as the renowned Galeries Lafayette, the chic upmarket French department store.



Souq Waqif: Founded over a century ago, Souq Waqif provides an authentic taste of traditional commerce, architecture and culture. The maze of small shops offer a dazzling array of Middle Eastern merchandise from spices and seasonal delicacies to perfumes, jewelry, clothing, handicrafts and a treasure trove of souvenir bargains. Traditional music, art and cultural shows, as well as an eclectic mix of superb restaurants and cafes add to the ambience of this special place. In 2008, the Souq went through a restoration period designed to preserve its architectural history and maintain its original elements.



National Museum of Qatar: Designed to be both immersive and experiential, the newly opened museum provides visitors with a rich environment to explore. Segmented into three chapters — 'Beginnings', 'Life in Qatar', and 'The Modern History of Qatar', each theme is presented across eleven highly individual galleries.



Museum of Islamic Art: Opened in 2008, the Museum of Islamic Art invites visitors to experience 14 centuries of great art in a few hours. The museum's magnificent and imaginatively presented displays of the finest art and

artifacts from across the Islamic world have earned it recognition among the world's top cultural institutions. No visitor can fail to be impressed by the quality and diversity of the collections, housed in a modern architectural masterpiece designed by the legendary Chinese-American architectural wizard IM Pei.



Doha Corniche: The seven kilometer long waterfront promenade around Doha Bay, the Corniche offers spectacular vistas of the city, from the dramatic high rise towers of the central business district to the bold shapes of the Museum of Islamic Art. Traditional wooden dhows lining the Bay evoke echoes of Qatar's great seafaring past. The Corniche provides a green, vehicle-free pedestrian space in the heart of the capital.



Al Zubarah Fort: A UNESCO-recognised heritage site since 2013, Al Zubarah Fort was originally built in 1938 and includes three major features, the largest of which are the archaeological remains of the town that dates back to the 1760s, when it was one of the Gulf's most important pearl diving and trading centers with links extending to the Indian Ocean. Located on Qatar's north-west coast, the fort is one of the most extensive and best preserved examples of an 18th-19th century settlement in the region.

Khor Al-Udeid (Inland Sea): Around 60 km from Doha in the south-eastern corner of the country lies one of Qatar's most impressive natural wonders, the 'Inland Sea' or Khor Al Adaid. A UNESCO recognized natural reserve with its own ecosystem, this is one of the few places in the world where the sea encroaches deep into the heart of the desert. Inaccessible by road, this tranquil expanse of water can only be reached by traversing the rolling dunes.

No matter how or when you visit Qatar, be ready to be captivated by surroundings that meld natural beauty with architectural masterpieces, and come prepared for an unique experience in a land where the past meets the future.



Jet-setting with your pets

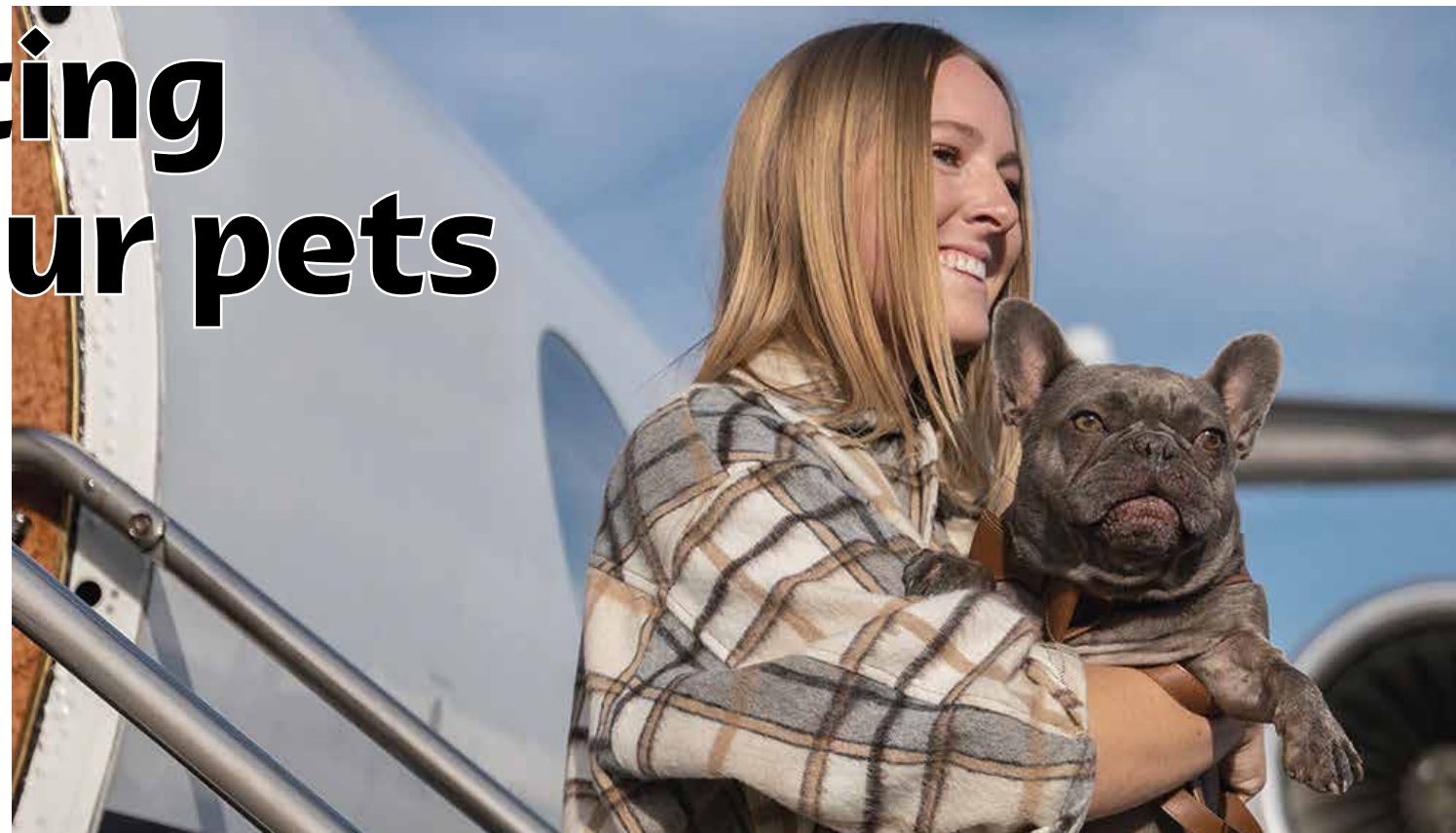
By Hermoine Macura-Noble



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

Everyone likes to travel and see the world; however, when planning a trip, we often think of our furry loved ones before we travel and how difficult it is to leave our pets behind. Many people book a sitter or check their fur baby into a pet hotel. For others, the only right decision is to take our beloved pets with us.

General Manager at the private jet company, Air Partner Middle East, Jobby George, explains the increasing popularity of traveling with pets as comfort, convenience, flexibility, and safety become crucial for customers in the GCC. "When COVID-19 travel restrictions were more stringent, we saw many new customers flying privately as a solution for flying with their pets. Simultaneously, pet ownership soared during the pandemic, giving children entertainment, companionship for those living alone, and a reason to exercise. As travel restrictions began to lift and holiday bookings surged, more people had to consider what to do with a newly acquired pet."



While some pets may be light enough (10kg or less) to carry as hand luggage on most airlines, many animal lovers also choose to book their beloved pets in the cargo. But experts say private travel has become more popular with Gulf residents as it allows customers to experience a highly personalised and bespoke service that cannot be matched with commercial flights.

"Access to flexible booking and cancellation options gives customers peace of mind in uncertain times. Private travel also provides higher safety provisions and greater control over the end-to-end environment. Private airports, for example, on average have just 20 touchpoints, compared to almost 700 in commercial airports, greatly reducing any potential infection risk," adds George.

The other reason many people are turning to such a bespoke service is that traveling with a pet can be a tricky task, especially when you have to consider a variety of things, including their stress levels and the cabin pressure during the flight, which can be very dangerous for some breeds. Then there are also the regulations involved in bringing your pet into a new country. Some countries require certain vaccines, such as rabies, among other strict conditions.

Countries like Australia, Britain, Bahrain, Japan, and New Zealand need pets to have high precautions against rabies. While countries in the EU, the UAE, Qatar, and the US are less strict. Finally, countries such as Jordan and Latin American nations, and some countries in Africa, require only a

health certificate and routine vaccines.

"Beyond the paperwork, quarantine restrictions, and separation anxiety, many breeds, particularly snub-nosed dogs and cats like pugs, French Bulldogs, and Burmese cats, are more prone to respiratory problems when traveling in the hold, making the ordeal distressing and potentially dangerous. Flying via private jet ensures pets are free to roam, and owners have peace of



mind that their treasured companions are safe and well. We also provide information on the requirements tailored to the client's destination and country of departure. Once we receive the documentation, we coordinate with the relevant authorities to make sure everything is in order so that our clients have a stress-free journey with their pet by their side," explains George.

Some highlights on board Air Partner flights include sustainable custom catering and ethical offerings such as spring water and organic pet food. They also provide onboard activities and entertainment, such

as treats and toys, so your furry friends can fly in luxury.

As flexible working becomes more commonplace globally, experts expect private jet travel to increase as people can travel more often or use a vacation home for more extended periods. In the UAE, 90 percent of full-time employees want to work either in a hybrid or a fully remote working model in the future, according to a recent Cisco Global Hybrid Work Study.

"What may have previously been a weekend trip to a second home could now be a month-long stay, and owners want their pets by their side. This year, we have already had several bookings for month-long return flights from the UAE. High-Net-Worth Expats (HNWI) are also taking their pets back to their homes in Europe for holidays, and we expect this trend to continue as flexible working arrangements become the norm, shares George.

Air Partner caters to a variety of clients who expect a high standard of service and the personalized care and comfort only found in such a niche industry. "We recently handled a private jet flight from Hawaii to mainland USA for a family of nine, of which eight members were cats.

The owner was relocating, and private jet travel meant she could feed and hold her cats through the six-hour flight as she wished. By traveling through private terminals, the owner was also able to avoid long check-in queues and security lines, reducing any unnecessary stress for her favourite felines," concludes George.

PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

Follow us on

twitter

@thetimesq8

For latest News Updates please visit www.timeskuwait.com

THE TIMES
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

Publisher & Editor-In-Chief
Tareq Yousuf Al-Shumaimry
editorial@timeskuwait.com

Managing Editor
Reaven D'Souza
reavendsouza@timeskuwait.com

P O Box 5141, Safat 13052, Kuwait
Tel : 24814404, 24810109
Fax : 24834815
Email : editorial@timeskuwait.com
Printed in: Al Khat Printing Press Co.



Water needs differ among people

The often cited notion that a person needs to drink at least eight glasses of water, the equivalent of two liters, to meet body needs, has wilted under closer scrutiny. A new study shows that the amount of water a person needs to intake daily differs widely and is conditional on several external and internal factors.

Even before the new study, questions have been raised on the appropriateness of using 'eight glasses' as a health guideline, among others because very often people did not consider the additional water they consumed daily through beverages and from the food they eat.

For the new study, an international team of more than 90 researchers, headed by scientists at the University of Wisconsin in the United States and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, measured how much water people actually consume on a daily basis — which is the turnover of water into and out of the body — and looked at the major factors that drive water turnover. It needs to be added that the study does not suggest any new guideline figure, instead it only establishes that the daily water needs of individuals differ widely.

The study measured the water turnover of more than 5,600 people from 26 countries, with ages ranging from 8 days to 96 years old, and found daily averages on a range between 1 liter per day and 6 liters per day.

Previous studies of water turnover relied largely on volunteers to recall and self-report their water and food consumption, or were focused on small groups, such as young volunteers or male soldiers working outdoors in desert conditions, which was not representative of most people.

The new research objectively measured the time it took water to move through the



bodies of study participants by following the turnover of 'labeled water' — water containing trackable hydrogen and oxygen isotopes. Isotopes are atoms of a single element that have slightly different atomic weights, making them distinguishable from other atoms of the same element in a sample.

By measuring the rate at which a person is eliminating those stable isotopes through their urine over the course of a week, the hydrogen isotope can reveal how much water they are replacing, while the elimination of the oxygen isotope can indicate how many calories they are burning.

The researchers also collected and analyzed data from participants, comparing environmental factors, such as temperature, humidity and altitude of the participants' hometowns, to measured water turnover, energy expenditure, body mass, sex, age and their athlete status. The researchers also incorporated the United Nations' Human Development Index, a composite measure of a country that combines life expectancy, schooling and economic factors.

Water turnover volume peaked for men in

the study during their 20s, while women held a plateau from 20 through 55 years of age. Newborns, however, turned over the largest proportion daily, replacing about 28 percent of the water in their bodies every day. Physical activity level and athletic status explained the largest proportion of the differences in water turnover, followed by sex, the Human Development Index, and age.

All things equal, men and women differ by about half a liter of water turnover. As a baseline of sorts, the study's findings expect a male non-athlete (but of otherwise average physical activity) who is 20 years old, weighs 70kg, lives at sea level in a well-developed country in a mean air temperature of 10 degrees C and a relative humidity of 50 percent, would take in and lose about 3.2 liters of water every day. A woman of the same age and activity level, weighing 60 kg and living in the same spot, would go through 2.7 liters (91 ounces).

The researchers also found that doubling the energy a person uses will push their expected daily water turnover up by about a liter. Fifty kilograms more body weight adds

0.7 liters a day, while a 50 percent increase in humidity pushes water use up by 0.3 liters. Athletes use about a liter more than non-athletes.

The researchers found 'hunter-gatherers, mixed farmers, and subsistence agriculturalists' all had higher water turnover than people who live in industrialized economies. In all, the lower the person's home country's Human Development Index, the more water they go through in a day.

The study reasons that people in low HDI countries are more likely to live in areas with higher average temperatures, more likely to be performing physical labor, and less likely to be inside in a climate-controlled building during the day. In addition, they are less likely to have access to a sip of clean water whenever they need it, which makes their water turnover higher.

Measurements from the new study are expected to improve the ability to predict more specific and accurate future water needs, especially in dire circumstances, such as in places where entire regions have been exposed by a calamity to water shortages. More accurate estimates on the water needs of people caught up in such circumstances, allows the authorities to be better prepared to respond in an emergency.

Advance knowledge of water needs also aids in preparing to meet long-term water requirements and understand the short-term health concerns of affected people.

How much water humans consume is also of increasing importance due to growth in global population and rise in climate change. And also because water turnover is related to other crucial indicators of health, like physical activity and body fat percent, it has the potential to serve as a biomarker for metabolic health.



Lab-grown meat gets closer to grocery shelves

The prospect of buying and cooking meat grown from animal cells, rather than directly from animals, increased last week with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announcing that animal meat prepared from cells by an US food manufacturer met all of the agency's safety requirements.

Lab-grown meat production is still in the early stages and there are many more hurdles that need to be addressed — including approval from the Food Safety and Inspection Services of the US Department of Agriculture — before commercial production can commence.

Lab-grown meat, or 'cell-meat' as marketers and media are calling it, has gained interest in recent years as food manufacturers try to feed an increasing global population, and amid rising demand for meat products from newly developing regions of the world.

Cell-meat is produced by extracting cells from animals — in this case, poultry — that are then cultivated in a tightly controlled laboratory environment that helps them to multiply and

grow. As the cells multiply, they differentiate into various cell types, like muscle, fat, or connective tissue cells. Once the cells have differentiated into muscle, fat, or tissue, they are harvested and prepared with typical food packaging and processing methods, and marketed to customers.

However, food analysts believe it could take a while before cell-meat becomes a scalable and economically-viable product to market, and is affordable to the average person. The FDA has already stated that cultivated chicken or any other meat will have to meet the same safety standards as other foods labeled fit for human consumption.

Scientists are still learning about how the nutritional profile of lab-grown meat compares to regular meat. Although the company behind the cultivated chicken did not reveal its constituents, they did say their product contained fewer calories and less fat than conventionally-produced chicken.

The company also pointed out that there is a lower risk that cultivated meat will carry pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella or Campylobacter since the cells are closely monitored in the lab. And, because the meat is not sourced from animals that are packed close together in incubators, there is less opportunity for infectious diseases to impact the meat.

Cultivated meat would also have the advantage of not needing the use of antibiotics because there is no contamination from the intestinal pathogens of other animals.

But food analysts and public health advocates say it is too soon to know if and how lab-grown meat might impact our health. They also point out that no environment, not even a lab, is ever perfectly controlled, and "unexpected biological mechanisms may occur".

They also note that while the cultivated meat could have the same level of amino acids as conventional meat, there could be differences in the overall composition of the meat. For instance, there is the possibility that lab-grown meat could contain lower levels of iron, zinc, and B12.

لا توجد شريحة عمرية لمرض (النوبة القلبية)
NO AGE BRACKET FOR (HEART ATTACK)
Stress, Post-covid effect, Smoking, Genetic, Lifestyle stress

عرض القلب
CARDIAC PACKAGE
حسنا 5KD
NOW ONLY 5KD

- BP
- FBS
- Cholesterol
- ECG
- Free GP Doctor Consultation
- On TROPONIN -I test 50% Discount

الاعراض
Pain in the arms | Jaw restlessness | Heaviness in chest
Feeling uneasy

الأعراض
آلم الذراعين والفتك | الأرق | ثقل في الصدر
الشعور بعدم الارتياح

مركز بدر السماء الطبي
BADR AL SAMAA
MEDICAL CENTRE
More than healthcare... human care

FOR ENQUIRIES CALL OR WHATSAPP ON
60689323 60683777 60968777
Farwaniya Block No 4, Street - 39, Near Farwaniya Garden - Kuwait Tel: 24759250/70/80

KPMG to support startups, SMEs



Rasheed Al-Qenae
Managing Partner, KPMG Kuwait

Published by Special Arrangement with

The Business Year
<https://www.thebusinessyear.com>

In a recent interview to learn more about the operations of the Kuwait office of KPMG, the multinational professional services network and one of the Big Four accounting organizations in the world, The Business Year (TBY) spoke with the Managing Partner of KPMG Kuwait, Rasheed Al-Qenae. The interview is being published exclusively in The Times Kuwait.

Al-Qenae began by elaborating on the firm's most sought-after solutions in Kuwait. "In Kuwait, KPMG provides audit, tax and advisory services. In terms of our focus areas, we noticed that the COVID-19 crisis highlighted technology as the space to improve upon. Companies have seen how powerful technology can be for their business by helping in lowering costs, increasing efficiency and so forth. The pandemic also made people more aware of the need for cybersecurity, which became one of our

priorities. Companies are exposed to cyber threats due to technological shifts, and this is one of the major pain points of our clients. We have become a knowledge advisor and a means of improvement for our clients, working to resolve these potential concerns even before they arise. Technology can be extremely powerful when applied using the right procedures and tools. You need to develop the right infrastructure to support your system and keep your data safe."

Expanding on the support provided by KPMG to emerging start-ups and SMEs, Al-Qenae said: "We have a division specifically committed to supporting SMEs and start-ups. The main concerns for SMEs are back-office operations, such as accounting, bookkeeping, payroll services and technology support, among others, which are often underdeveloped. They may know where their innovations and future projects lie but lack the ability to manage the business well on the back end. This is where we can help. Our team is ready to assist with the digital preparations for their business management, strategy and business planning. One of the main challenges that SMEs face is cash flow and we support their growth in that area through appropriate business planning and cash flow management strategy."

"We have several clients who started with one shop and are now present across the GCC region. It is extremely rewarding to see them scale up and grow with our support. We often encourage SMEs to take certain steps at an early stage because it is more cost-efficient if they take care of them early on. Our role is to provide them with the right

advice, save them time and money, and help them overcome operational barriers in the long run."

Elaborating on the first edition of the KPMG Private Enterprise Global Tech Innovator competition in Kuwait, and its reception in Kuwait, Al-Qenae noted: "Kuwait responded positively to this idea. Early-stage tech companies from over 30 countries participated in the event, with 25 applications from Kuwait alone. The event provided a great platform to support the growth of participating tech start-ups and gave them the opportunity to present their ideas to a global audience and network with industry leaders, investors as well as other competitors. Bounce, an EdTech start-up, emerged as the country winner and went on to represent Kuwait in the global finale at Web Summit, Lisbon, where Hull-based HiiROC was named the overall winner. We intended to put these young entrepreneurs in front of investors who are more likely to be interested in their ideas, considering many of them are constantly disrupting their respective sectors. Our goal was to promote great ideas and accelerate the development of innovative techpreneurs who came forward for the competition, and we are certainly noticing a spring in their step post completion. KPMG is only the facilitator and does not gain from this event."

Turning to the priorities of KPMG in Kuwait for 2023, the KPMG managing partner stated: "Our focus for 2023 will be Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), which is the priority for KPMG globally and not just in Kuwait. We aim to contribute toward the diversification of the economy and help it

become less reliant on the oil and gas sector. While there are still no ESG compliance rules in Kuwait, we expect them to be introduced soon. The positive thing about international companies present in the country is that they are likely already ESG-compliant due to the regulations elsewhere, which will certainly accelerate the transition. We are planning events and initiatives to make our clients more aware and prepared for these changes. We want to educate them on the reporting standards and systems they can use to advance their operations. We will ensure our clients and communities are ready for this change before it happens."

"Another focus for KPMG is digital transformation. We currently work with a number of organizations that want a complete digital makeover of their business. Along with this, we are focusing on cybersecurity. We want to help our clients transition to digital as early and swiftly as possible."

Finally, we want to improve our team; our focus is mainly their work-life balance. We have introduced several changes since the pandemic struck and these work for the betterment of our team's health and efficiency. At this point, we are working using a hybrid model. Some physical interaction is necessary because activities such as networking and negotiation are better done in person. However, organizational administration can, for example, be dealt with via online channels. The recipe for success comes down to balance and moderation, which is what we have been exploring over the past months. I think the hybrid model is likely to continue as the newer generations are becoming more tech-savvy."



Convenient & Secure WORLDWIDE money transfers.





KIECO

Built on your trust

Download Our App.


Available on the
App Store


GET IT ON
Google Play


EXPLORE IT ON
AppGallery

☎1803050📞