



LOCAL
Largest children's hospital to come up in Kuwait

THE TIMES

KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

Diplomatic ROUNDUP
See Pages 16, 17, 18 & 19

Higher oil prices boost renewable energy drive

Income from oil exports, which accounts for over 90 percent of Kuwait's budget revenue and nearly half of the country's GDP, has been boosted in recent months by higher

that despite being one of the world's biggest oil producers, and with proven crude reserves of over 100 billion barrels, Kuwait refines less than a third of its total crude production.

the export of crude oil and refined petroleum products, and thereby raise revenues for the exchequer, have been stymied by several internal and external factors.

A contentious parliament has over the years delayed attempts to ramp up the country's oil production and refining capacity. Plans to increase refining capacity to 1.41 million barrels per day (bpd), and oil output to 4 million bpd, were repeatedly stalled by legislators who alleged corruption and misdemeanors in project awarding processes.

The delays in gaining the eventual go-ahead for various oil-sector projects has meant that the Clean Fuels Project at Mina Al-Ahmadi and Mina Al-Abdulla refinery, which aims to increase refining capacity to 800,000 bpd, and the new refinery at Az-Zour with a refining capacity of 615,000 bpd, will now begin production only sometime in late 2018 or early 2019. With global demand for refined petroleum products on the rise, Kuwait is left with the unenviable position of not having the capacity to cater to this urgent demand.

Continued on Page 11



international oil prices. This has enabled Kuwait to post healthy trade surpluses in the last two quarters, and, with average oil price continuing to trend upwards, the trade surpluses are likely to edge higher in the coming months.

However, latest figures show

With an oil output of nearly 3 million barrels per day (bpd), the country's three refineries currently have a joint peak refining capacity of around 900,000 bpd, of which a little over two-third is exported annually.

Kuwait's attempts to increase

The National Library of Kuwait

A literary gem in the heart of Kuwait City



By Reaven D'Souza
Managing Editor

The National Library of Kuwait is an imposing structure that houses more than half a million books, 3,000 original

manuscripts and thousands of photographs, making it the largest library in the region, revealed Kamel Al Abdul Jalil, the general manager of the library in an exclusive chat with The Times.

Continued on Page 7

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MAZAYA

Private Sector and the SDGs



Mahmoud Mohieldin and Svetlana Klimenko

Achieving the ambitious global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — which include ending poverty, improving global health, ensuring universal education, and mitigating climate change by 2030 — will cost a lot of money. The total will be far more than governments can make available, and the gap cannot be closed by official development assistance, now at US\$132 billion per year. The private sector, as well as updated financial markets, will be essential.

Until recently, international organizations and governments had relatively well-defined roles in the global development and sustainability agenda, whereas the private sector's participation in the process was often viewed through the lens of its contributions to economic growth, job creation, and tax revenue. That must now change, with the private sector taking on a broader, more integrated role in the development agenda.

The private sector can become a financier, shifting trillions of dollars of capital toward developing economies. And it can play an important role as an implementer, translating profits into sustained economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. The principles underpinning such measures are anchored in SDG target 12.6, which encourages “companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.”

Financial and asset-management institutions can provide positive incentives to such companies — those that incorporate sustainability, long-term thinking, and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance criteria in core business models — by allocating assets accordingly. Such a move would go a long way toward promoting long-term progress on the SDGs.



Fortunately, many companies already fit this description. A 2016 survey of CEOs, conducted by the United Nations Global Compact and Accenture showed that many business leaders already view solving “societal challenges as a core element in the search for competitive advantage.” And almost half of all CEOs surveyed believe that “business

histories of ESG investments, such as the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), are being joined by a growing number of their peers. Some are even opting to divest from any company with exposure to industries or business practices that present sustainability challenges.

This trend toward sustainable investment will undoubtedly accelerate. But, even without the agreement, the appeal of such investments stands: evidence indicates that integration of ESG considerations — when implemented intelligently and measured and reported transparently — could help investments outperform expectations, for both companies and investors. Add to that financial-market incentives, and huge amounts of capital could be attracted to ESG investments.

Nonetheless, significant challenges remain, including uncertain performance expectations and evolving disclosure regimes. Despite innovation in the financial products channeling ESG investment, the supply of ESG instruments, such as green bonds, remains insufficient.

Another challenge relates to data. Good data on ESG investment are indispensable, as they enable investors and companies to determine whether their outlays in this area will promote or impede the achievement of the

SDGs. To this end, we need to develop a robust, transparent reporting framework that allows companies to report on financial and non-financial performance. That framework must also support the private sector and investors in their effort to combine profit maximization with the pursuit of long-term economic, social, and environmental objectives. Integrated corporate reporting and disclosure of material ESG information can facilitate the creation of an efficient financial system that advances sustainable economic growth, while supporting achievement of the SDGs.

The development of such an integrated reporting framework currently is being led by a few national and international organizations, such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Their main objectives are to enable companies and organizations to set sustainability targets and key performance indicators; to monitor, prepare, and disclose comparative data measuring their economic and ESG performance; and to integrate sustainable production and consumption practices in company business strategies and models.

Global awareness of this topic is growing. Recently, Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England

and Chairman of the G20’s Financial Stability Board, and Michael Bloomberg, a former New York City mayor and CEO of Bloomberg LP, issued an announcement regarding market data on climate.

Given the magnitude of the task, however, it is important also to ensure effective coordination and harmonization of these efforts with the relevant standard-setters, regulators, and professional organizations. The US Securities and Exchange Commission, for one, is already discussing these issues, as it analyzes options to respond to investor and business needs regarding ESG.

New ESG reporting frameworks can help to attract billions of dollars from institutional investors to support the effort to achieve the SDGs. But that is only one example of how the public and private sectors can work together to identify opportunities to advance the SDGs. If we take advantage of these possibilities, public-private cooperation can enable millions of people to lift themselves out of poverty and help to build a more peaceful, prosperous, and secure world.

[Mahmoud Mohieldin is the World Bank Group’s Senior Vice President of the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations, and Partnerships. Svetlana Klimenko is Lead Financial Management Specialist at the World Bank Group.]

“The private sector can become a financier, shifting trillions of dollars of capital toward developing economies, playing an important role as an implementer, translating profits into sustained economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.”

will be the single most important actor in delivering the SDGs.”

According to a recent report published by Moody’s, interest in investments relating to climate change and sustainable development by institutional investors has grown rapidly in recent years. Now, institutional investors with long

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Global Economy's Surprising Resilience



Jim O'Neill
Former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management and former Commercial Secretary to the UK Treasury, is Honorary Professor of Economics at Manchester University and former Chairman of the British government's Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Disconcerting political developments in the United States and the United Kingdom might lead one to conclude that an already challenged world economy will struggle even more in the near term. But as we continue into 2017, the cyclical evidence actually suggests otherwise.

Since my days as Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs, I have kept an eye on six indicators from around the world that, taken together, provide a reliable snapshot of what the global economy will look like for the next six months. Right now, all six indicators show more promise than they have for some time, and only one of them has fallen slightly from a recent high.

The first indicator is weekly unemployment claims in the US, from which one can gauge the overall strength of the US economy. Economists are rightly trained to treat unemployment as a lagging indicator, but these data can also be useful in forecasting the near future. US jobless claims are always up to date, because they are produced weekly, and statistical evidence suggests that they are a leading indicator for US equity prices. As of last week, jobless claims remained rather low, as they have for some time, which bodes well for US stock markets.

Similarly, the Institute for Supply Management Manufacturing Index provides a pretty good preview of the US economy for the next 3-6 months, even though manufacturing comprises a relatively small share of GDP. Like the latest jobless claims, the ISM's numbers are currently giving cause for optimism. A third indicator is a subcomponent of the same ISM survey: manufacturers' new orders and inventories. Currently, new orders are increasing and inventories are low, which suggests that businesses will have to produce more in the coming months to satisfy those orders.

Looking beyond the US, a fourth indicator is the ratio of Chinese retail spending relative to industrial production (adjusted for inflation). These figures give us a glimpse of both cyclical trends and China's structural rebalancing away from exports and toward domestic consumption. This will arguably be one of the most important indicators for both China and the rest of the global economy for years to come.

The ratio of Chinese monthly retail sales to industrial production, while erratic, has been slowly trending higher since 2008, and there appears to have been another uptick in consumption recently. This is why I am less worried than others about frequently cited risks confronting the Chinese economy. Chinese consumer spending has remained strong despite the slowdown in industrial output and investment and the government's efforts to constrain spending on luxury goods.

Some might object that Chinese data cannot be trusted. But I do not see why the data on one side of the ratio would be any more or less



reliable than data on the other side. Why would Chinese officials fiddle with consumption data while allowing the industrial-output figures to register a decline. In any case, we have to work with what we have.

A fifth indicator is South Korean trade data, which is consistently reported on the first day of each month after trades occur - faster than any other country. South Korea has an open economy and trading partners around the world, including the US, China, Japan, and the European Union, so one can extrapolate from its trade data to draw conclusions about the state of global trade.

After trending down in recent years, South Korean trade since November has shown signs of recovering, notably in terms of export growth; and in January, it bounced back significantly. To be sure, this finding is at odds with all of the eulogies for globalization that one hears these days, and Donald Trump's decidedly protectionist administration in the US could now send global trade into a long retreat.

But South Korea's recent data suggest that globalization still has some life left in it, and that 2017 is off to a decent start. In fact, barring the worst-case scenario under Trump, it is possible that the slowdown in global trade in recent years will turn out to be a temporary phenomenon. It may have been a singular occurrence that reflected a variety of factors, including the euro crisis; continued economic weakness in many European

countries; the sharp decline in commodity prices; dramatic slowdowns in Brazil, Russia, and other emerging economies; and tighter regulations for international banks, which might have hindered trade finance.

The last key indicator is the monthly Ifo Business Climate Index in Germany, which contains useful cyclical data for Europe overall, owing to Germany's centrality in the continent's economy. The Ifo survey has reported positive results in recent months, although the data were more promising in December than in January.

Taken together, these six indicators suggest to me that the global economy might now be growing at a rate of more than 4%. This is the fastest growth in a number of years - although the last decade's average growth rate of 3.3% was barely lower than the rate in the previous decade - and close to the pace of the previous

two decades before that. At the same time, the six indicators cannot tell us anything about what will happen after the next few months. It is an open question whether global economic growth will remain strong, strengthen further, or start to weaken.

It has been interesting to watch growth accelerate in the face of shocks such as the

UK's Brexit referendum and Trump's election. And yet it is unclear why this is happening. Some might say the trend is a result of policy decisions in the US and UK, but far more would probably say that it is happening despite those decisions. Unfortunately, there are no indicators that provide an answer to this question - only time will tell.

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Economists are rightly trained to treat unemployment as a lagging indicator, but these data can also be useful in forecasting the near future.
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EAC advised to ignore EU trade deal

Governments that come together under the East African Community (EAC) are being urged to concentrate on consolidating trade among themselves, rather than rush to sign a trade agreement with the European Union (EU).

According to the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI-Uganda), which advocates for fair trade deals and practices in the region, the EAC would be better served by enhancing and prioritizing trade within the bloc rather than surrendering their market to unfair trade agreements with the EU.

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) text being presented for signing between the EAC and the EU, will negatively impact the community's efforts to structurally

transform their economies through policies and frameworks currently being implemented. Moreover, this could also compromise the industrialization drive being rolled out across the five-nation bloc and have a direct bearing on the economy by increasing unemployment and poverty, warned SEATINI.

The institute noted that despite the EU market being important to the EAC, the marketplace of the member states, which includes Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya and Burundi, was critical to their collective economy. The EAC was not only the largest market accessible to the member states, but also offered better prospects for industrialization and development of regional value chains.

According to the EPA under discussion, the EAC has offered to liberalize 82.6 percent of her imports from the EU over a 25 year transition period by initially liberalizing 65.4 percent on entry into force of the



agreement. The rationale is that some of these products are currently zero rated because they are either industrial inputs or capital goods, such as machinery or pharmaceutical products.

However, another Economic Partnership Agreement, a free-trade deal signed last year by the EU and

southern African countries, including South Africa has come in for attack.

Last week, about 500 workers, former workers and company managers from the South African poultry sector protested in front of the European Union's headquarters in Pretoria, accusing the EU of dumping cheap chicken in the country. The

protestors warned that the local poultry sector was on the brink of collapse due to the dumping of cheap chickens as part of the free-trade deal. The South African Poultry Association (SAPA) called for a stop to chicken imports from the EU, saying that it had led to at least 5,000 jobs being lost. The SAPA alleged that up to 30,000 tonnes of chicken portions not wanted in EU countries are being exported to South Africa monthly at extremely low prices which is choking the local market.

The EU dismissed SAPA's claims and said the volume of EU chicken imported to South Africa was too small to be responsible for the crisis. "When people are losing livelihoods, trade deals can be a handy scapegoat," said EU Ambassador Marcus Cornaro. The EU blamed the lack of competition, a severe drought pushing up feed prices, rising electricity costs and injecting brine as major problems affecting the poultry industry, rather than EU imports.

AU awards prize for Scientific Excellence in 2016

Professors Felix Dapare Dakora and Ali Hebeish of Ghana and Egypt respectively have been awarded the 2016 African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award.



The two scientists were presented the US\$100,000 prize each at the 28th African Union Summit that recently concluded in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

Ghanaian Felix Dapare Dakora is a Plant and Soil Biotechnology Professor at the

Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa. He won the award for his work on the interaction between legumes and social micro-organisms allowing bacterium to convert the 78 percent of nitrogen gas in the atmosphere into forms that plants can use among other benefits.

Egyptian Ali Hebeish who is an Emeritus Professor of Textile Chemistry won the award for his contribution to the production of suitable textile fibers for apparels, furnishing and technical purposes like lining water canals and medical threads among others. The 81-year-old Professor Emeritus Hebeish has over 360 publications to his credit and is accredited with 9 patents and 9 books.

The prestigious award was instituted to raise the profile of the science and technology sector in Africa as a whole and thus contribute to Africa's sustainable development, poverty alleviation and integration efforts.



Invasive armyworm threatens agriculture in Africa

Scientists are calling for urgent action to halt the spread of a pest that is spreading rapidly across Africa destroying maize crops.

The insect behind the destruction is the caterpillar of the 'Fall Armyworm' moth, which is native to North and South America but was identified for the first time in Africa last year. The invasive species can devastate maize production by destroying young plants by attacking their growing parts and burrowing into the cobs. Maize is the staple food crop in many African countries and its devastation could affect food security on the continent.

In 2016, researchers at the UK-based Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), working in association with scientists and farmers in Africa, first identified the worm in parts of West Africa.

CABI Chief Scientist, Dr. Matthew Cocks said, "We are now able to confirm that the fall armyworm is spreading very rapidly outside the Americas, and it can be expected to spread to the limits of suitable African habitat within just a few years. It

likely travelled to Africa as adults or egg masses on direct commercial flights and has since been spread within Africa by its own strong flight ability and carried as a contaminant on crop produce." He continued, "This invasive species is now a serious pest spreading quickly in tropical Africa and with the potential to spread to Asia. Urgent action will be needed to prevent devastating losses to crops and farmers' livelihoods.

Known as the fall armyworm because it migrates into temperate North America in autumn (fall), this pest has long been a problem throughout tropical America, damaging vital crops. It mostly affects maize (corn) but it has been recorded eating more than 100 different plant species, causing major damage to economically important cultivated grass crops such as maize, rice, sorghum and sugarcane as well as other crops including cabbage, beet, peanut, soybean, alfalfa, onion, cotton, pasture grasses, millet, tomato, potato and cotton.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is planning emergency talks on the issue in Harare, Zimbabwe between 14 and 16 February to decide effective responses to the armyworm threat.

Automaker Peugeot to open assembly plant in Kenya

French auto manufacturer Peugeot Group is to team up with Urysia, a Kenyan agent for the brand, to assemble its vehicles in the country.

Announcement of this manufacturing tie-up was made by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta following the signing of the assembly license agreement by both parties at the presidency.

The president said he was happy by the momentum that Kenya was driving with respect to the motor vehicle sector. "The investment signed today by the Peugeot Group to locally assemble motor vehicles in our country at a plant which will be announced in due course is most welcome," he said. Peugeot becomes the second major auto maker to open an assembly plant in Kenya after German car maker Volkswagen late last year opened the Thika plant to assemble vehicles locally.

While lauding the initiative, the Kenyan president also emphasized that his government will continue to enforce policies that create jobs and also protect Kenyan businesses. "My government will continue to enforce the 'Buy



Kenya Build Kenya' policy to support companies and businesses that produce in Kenya. We hope to see many Peugeot cars on our roads going forward - all of them built right here in Kenya, by Kenyans, for Kenyans and the region," he added.

At the same event, the government signed a \$180 million agreement with the French government to build the Ruiru II Dam and water supply project, as part of a long term mutual relationship between the two countries.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Next Phase of Climate Action



Moha Ennaji

President of the South North Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Migration Studies in Morocco, his most recent books include *New Horizons of Muslim Diaspora in North America and Europe* and *Muslim Moroccan Migrants in Europe*.



Last November, while much of the world was trying to unpack Donald Trump's election as US president, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22) was held in Marrakesh, Morocco. Participants from all over the world, including 38 heads of state and government, came together to create a plan for implementing the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which aims to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It was an important step forward, but the issue remains far more complex – and politically charged – than most would care to admit.

The global cooperation that has emerged lately is certainly welcome. But, while teamwork is critical to success, so is recognition of the distinct roles and responsibilities of governments in the industrialized and developing worlds.

The industrialized countries have long produced massive amounts of emissions and other kinds of pollution, while consuming a huge share of the world's resources – including 90 percent of the world's water – all in the name of their own development. As a result, these countries now enjoy high standards of living and food security.

The situation for developing countries is very different. Not only have they contributed substantially less to climate change; they are also suffering its worst effects, including food shortages and the loss of livelihoods, brought about by increasingly extreme and frequent weather events like floods and droughts.

Africa is paying a particularly heavy price. Though the continent is responsible for only 4% of greenhouse-gas emissions, it is suffering more than any other continent from climate change, as rising temperatures, shifting seasons, and proliferating droughts deplete biodiversity, destroy ecosystems, and undermine security and stability.

Lake Chad, once an immense reservoir of fresh water, has lost around 90 percent of its surface area since 1963 and is at risk of drying out permanently. Four million hectares of forest disappear every year in Africa – double the world average. Agriculture, predominantly subsistence farming, employs over 60 percent of the African workforce, implying widespread destruction of livelihoods, to say nothing of increased food insecurity as crops are disrupted. Indeed, Africa's agricultural yields could be reduced by 20 percent from now until 2050, as the population grows twofold. Entire sections of Africa's coastline, including almost one-third of its coastal infrastructure, will be submerged.

Already, Africa has ten million 'climate refugees'. If nothing is done, that figure will rise

to almost 60 million in just three years. This jeopardizes not only the tremendous economic progress that the continent has made in recent years, but also the basic rights of tens of millions of Africans.

The industrialized countries have pledged to support their developing-country counterparts, like those in Africa, in their effort to steel themselves against climate change. But their promises are modest, relative to what is actually needed, and doubts about whether they will be fulfilled persist. Policymakers often tout 'sustainable development', but lack clear answers for how to achieve it. In many cases – Trump being the most notable example – they seem determined to do just the opposite.

As it stands, economic power is being used as a political tool, wielded by leaders attempting to evade their global responsibilities. The world's 'great powers' do not adhere to UN agreements meant to regulate industries that emit greenhouse gases and dump heavy metals in the sea and soil. They not only hold fast to their nuclear industries; they mismanage those industries' waste, which can destroy ecosystems, from oceans to forests, while infecting humans with deadly diseases. Trump has explicitly declared his intention to ignore the Paris agreement.

But, as the Marrakesh declaration emphasizes, success in mitigating climate change will require political commitment at the highest level. Moreover, climate action must take into account the special needs and context of developing countries, especially the least-developed economies and those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

With this in mind, the declaration demands greater efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security, and meet the agriculture challenges posed by climate change. And it calls for greater support for climate projects, including through capacity building and technology transfer from developed to developing countries.

Notwithstanding Trump's reluctance, many countries seem to recognize the imperative to

build an Africa that is resilient to climate change and able to advance sustainable development.

To that end, African states must identify ways to access the necessary funding; design mechanisms to support the implementation of flagship programs; strengthen their institutions' capacity to tackle climate risks; and seize opportunities in low-carbon development in the fields of energy, technological innovation, and 'green' industries. External support will be vital to enable these efforts.

Of course, the responsibility for mitigating climate change does not fall only on government. NGOs, for example, are already having a major impact, implementing educational programs and even staging protests to raise awareness of the environmental challenges we face.

But, in many ways, government is critical to enabling such contributions. While tackling climate change effectively will be virtually impossible without civil-society organizations' participation, their impact has often been undermined by the political considerations of their governments, which may, for example, favor incumbent energy suppliers over green alternatives in order to preserve existing jobs.

Some governments have already implemented important measures to support the shift toward more environmentally friendly practices, including financial and market incentives. Only with more such initiatives, as well as a commitment to follow through on the Marrakesh declaration and to support the goals of the Africa Action Summit, can governments put their countries, and the world, on the path toward true sustainable development.

“The industrialized countries have long produced massive amounts of emissions and other kinds of pollution, while consuming a huge share of the world's resources, all in the name of their own development.”

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IKARA - Theatrical Performance by Hooda Shawa



mystery from Ancient Greece to Failaka Island in the Arabian Gulf... A tale of love versus duty, Ikara is set on the enchanted Island of Ikaros (Ancient Failaka). Produced by writer Hooda Shawa and directed by Alison Shan Price MBE, allow our cast of actors, dancers and chorus to transport you to the mystery and mythology of Failaka Island in ancient times.

IKARA is the first local production to be performed at the Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre. Spoken in the Arabic language, it is universally understandable to all audience members. Tickets will be available on jacc-kw.com.

Performing at the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre from 19th-22 February at 8:00pm. A story of mythology, love and

Kuwait's newest children's hospital, being built as part of the Al Sabah Specialty Medical Area in Shuwaikh, will on completion be the largest hospital of its kind in the world. This was revealed by Ghalib Safouq, Undersecretary for Construction Projects at the Ministry of Public Works at the Arab Health and Exhibition Congress, which was recently held in the UAE.

The 792-bed hospital, spread over an area of 300,000m2 will feature diagnostic and treatment centers to suit all medical needs and methods of treatment. The hospital will complement all tertiary care services with other non-clinical support and public departments.

The facility will also include non-healthcare structures, functions and services, such as a 2,400 car parking spaces, a helipad to support emergency air transport services and a day-care center for infants, pre-toddlers and



pre-schoolers, dedicated to children of staff working at the proposed facility.

Designed and constructed by SSH, one of the leading master planning, construction and project management firms in the Middle East, in association with global architects HKS and engineering firm WSP, the hospital will have a futuristic design that

incorporates innovative and functional elements, as well as state-of-the-art technology and energy conservation features. Using the highest standards of construction, materials and equipment, the hospital will provide a welcoming, comfortable, stress-free and home-like environment for its young patients and their families.

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The taste that touches your heart

CRIME

Salmiya crackdown nets illegals, criminals

Officers from Ministry of Interior issued 186 citations and checked the documents of 970 individuals during a security campaign they launched in Salmiya area.

According to a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the campaign was held under the supervision of Undersecretary of Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad and with the participation of high-ranking officers.

The General Department of Public Relations and Media Security explained that the campaign began with distribution of police force in all roads of the area including all entry and exit roads. A number of individuals were arrested including two in possession of drugs, six in possession of alcohol, 20 wanted for enforcement of judicial sentences, 25 who were reported as absconding, 73 without any identification documents, 45 with expired residencies and 14 violators of residency law.

In addition, 49 traffic citations were issued. The department affirmed that such campaigns will be held in all governorates with the participation of all security sectors. It urged all Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates to cooperate with securitymen and avoid giving shelter to any violators of law.

Two European women arrested in Salmiya offering sex

Two European women were arrested in Salmiya area for offering flesh pleasure at a cost of KD 150 per session. According to security sources, when the General Department of Criminal Investigations received information about the activities of two European sex workers, a team of securitymen arrested them. During interrogations, they confessed that they entered the country on commercial visit visa and have been using social media to find clients. Both women have been referred for investigations followed by deportation.

Driver robs sponsor

AKuwaiti woman accused her driver, an Asian, of stealing some cash, gold rings and other pieces of jewelry from the safety deposit box in her house in Salmiya. The woman told police the suspect disappeared after stealing the above mentioned valuable items. She provided the officers with a detailed description of the suspect and investigations are ongoing to arrest him.

Asian woman jumps from car to foil abduction

An Asian woman managed to jump out of a moving car after she was kidnapped by an unknown Asian expatriate in Riqqa area. According to security sources, the victim was standing by a road in Riqqa area waiting for a taxi to go to Hassawi area when an unknown individual stopped his vehicle in front of her and agreed to drop her to Hassawi area for lesser cost.

She entered the vehicle but when she noticed him heading to a different area with the aim of kidnapping her, she jumped out of the moving car, sustaining injuries. After receiving treatment from a hospital, she went to the nearest police station and filed a case against the suspect. Using the information provided by the victim, securitymen have launched investigations to find and arrest the suspect.

The National Library of Kuwait

A literary gem in the heart of Kuwait City

Continued from Page 1

Sitting in his office overlooking the Arabian Gulf, Abdul Jalil spoke enthusiastically and with pride on the beautifully designed architecture of the building in the heart of Kuwait City, and how it contributes significantly to the preservation of Kuwait's history and heritage.



The history of the library dates back to 1923, when it was established by Kuwaiti individuals as a place to gather and gain information. Due to its increasing popularity with the public, the government took over the institution in 1937 and named it as Library of Public Information.

For the next 40 years, the library served the cultural and intellectual needs of the citizens, preserving valuable books on all subjects ranging from Arabic literature to science and history. In 1979, the library was brought under the aegis of The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and it was renamed as the Central Library. By this time, it had grown to encompass over 50,000 books as well as 6,000 periodicals and a large number of rare manuscripts.

In 1994, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah issued a decree to establish the National Library of



Kuwait making it the first and leading National Library in the Gulf peninsula.

Abdul Jalil disclosed that the library building is divided into 8 sections that houses books on Children and Youth, the Special needs (blind) section, government publications, a section with United Nations publications, a section where Kuwaitis have donated their personal libraries filled with important and rare publications. More than 18 people have generously donated their collections which are helpful for research students and are

maintained by the library. An audio visual section and a periodical section are also part of the National Library.

"We strive very hard to ensure that the library maintains its role as a centre for scientific, creative and literary knowledge," said Abdul Jalil. He added that the library has activities throughout the year, from children's workshops, to new book launches in their spacious 275-seater auditorium; the library cooperates and encourages all activities within the realm of its operations, he noted.

Encouraging and supporting authors is yet another feature of the library. Recently the library held the book launch of *Women in Kuwait* by Kuwait-based Indian author Chaitali Roy, and, just last week, it launched a book by the former Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait Hamza Abbas.

"We are also keen to also develop a reading habit among the youth and have regular workshops for them so they are able to read the right books, and also stay away from electronic devices for gaming and chatting," he noted. The new library building, which was inaugurated in 2011 by H.H.

the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, has been open to the public since 15 October, 2014. The state of art building has some of the best equipment and machines, specially designed library furniture,

of a book and digital reproduction on flash drives. The library recently acquired a robot that can transfer books of up to 800 pages into digital format in half an hour. "This robot is being used to digitise old books and manuscripts so as to preserve them for future, we have a book that is 155 years old that is written by a Kuwaiti and we preserve these old books very dearly," disclosed Abdul Jalil.

The library also receives publications from embassies that provide information on their respective countries. Abdul Jalil said embassies from India, Egypt, Khazakstan, France and several more have provided books that can now be found in the library.

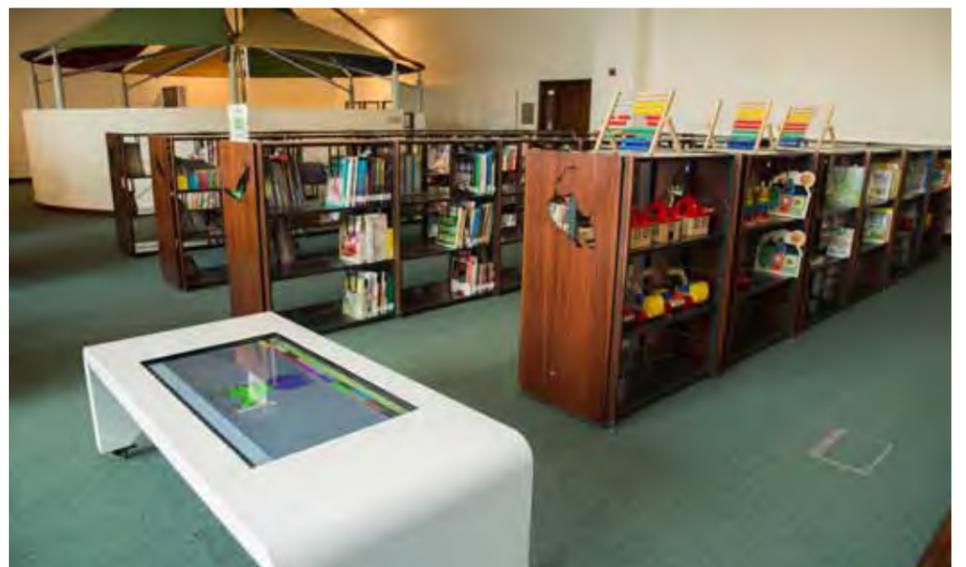
"We have relations with other National Libraries, such as those in Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and soon with the King Fahd Library in Saudi Arabia, where visits and information are exchanged."

Adul Jalil was upbeat about the future, pointing out that they had several MoU's to be signed in the future, as well as lots of literary activities planned.

“
We are also keen to also develop a reading habit among the youth and have regular workshops for them so they are able to read the right books, and also stay away from electronic devices.
”

and has a capacity to hold more than 2 million books.

The library is open daily from 8am to 3pm while in the evening it is partially operational from 5pm to 9pm. It provides services that include free photocopying of up to 20 percent



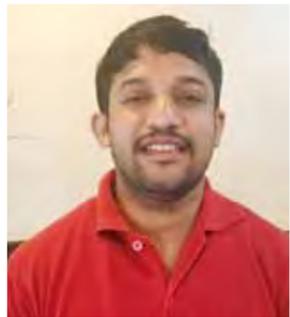
Indian Chef with exceptional talent for Filipino food

Ricky Laxa
Staff Writer

Sunil Vijayan, a 32-year old Keralite from India, single handedly cooks for an Asian restaurant located in Salmiya. Chef Sunil, who specializes in Indian, Chinese and Continental dishes, finds Philippine cuisine easy to cook with its assortment of ingredients and rich flavors.

Chef Sunil had worked in Mumbai as chef in different restaurants for several years before he came to Kuwait. He was initially employed by Kharafi Catering Services in 2007, then his cousin, who used to be a partner at a Filipino restaurant, recommended him to work for the same place as assistant to the chef.

It was through this experience that Chef Sunil learnt the intricacies of Filipino cuisine such as the right ingredients to use, understanding of flavors and recreating the tastes of varied Filipino dishes from different provinces. "Filipino dishes are not that difficult to cook and most of the ingredients are available in the country. If products are unavailable then we offer our customers alternatives," commented Chef Sunil.



Kare-Kare (Ox Tail cooked in peanut butter) with sautéed shrimp paste, Bulalo (Beef Stew), Humba (Beef or chicken cooked in sweet soya), Pinakbet (assorted Filipino vegetables sautéed in shrimp paste) and Sisig (Diced beef with spices served in hot plate) are among the list of authentic Filipino dishes Chef Sunil boasts his Filipino diners often order in the restaurant. Currently, the Chef is in partnership with another Indian national and operates Salt and Pepper (Former Bahay Kubo 1), an Asian restaurant with Filipino dishes as its main cuisine, located adjacent to the Old Souq. Chef Sunil said, "Most of our diners are Filipinos, but we also serve authentic Indian and Chinese dishes. Buffet at very low price is available every Friday from lunch till dinner and this is a very popular event in our place during Fridays".

Diners are a bit apprehensive when they find out that the chef is an Indian preparing the Filipino dishes, but one bite of his food, and they express their appreciation for his skill. "I am a Filipino, but even I find it hard to cook our authentic dishes. It is encouraging to me to know that another national can appreciate and learn our traditional ways and recreate our dishes to taste so good. He has an exceptional talent to be able to cook well and give the authentic taste of Filipino cuisine to the food. He also understands the difference in how our dishes are simple to prepare as compared to Indian cuisine, which require long process of preparations." commented Wilma, a Filipina diner at Salt and Pepper.

Salt and Pepper is located parallel to the Old Souq and adjacent to Salam Mall.



Macaroons for Valentine's Day

If you are looking for something sweet to get your significant other for Valentine's Day, think about some tasty French macaroons. With their vibrant colors and lacy frills, dainty, crisp-crust French macaroons are the perfect Valentine's Day baking project. But these lovely little delicacies are temperamental enough to stump even the most accomplished chefs. Even if you follow a detailed recipe down to the letter, a batch of macaroons can go very wrong very quickly. Thanks to humidity, an unreliable oven temperature gauge, or an overly enthusiastic stirring hand, you may find yourself facing a macaroon-crisis rather than baking bliss. But before you throw in the towel, here are a few tips to solve your sugary conundrums.

Use aged egg whites: Aging the egg whites dehydrates them, resulting in a firmer, more stable meringue. Place your egg whites in a plastic wrap-covered, nonporous bowl, and poke a few holes in the plastic with a toothpick. Leave the bowl in the refrigerator for up to three days. Be sure to bring the egg whites back to room temperature before using.

Use the freshest ingredients: A recipe calling for aged eggs does not mean that you should use eggs past their expiration date. Buy only the freshest ingredients including almond flour as the old kind



causes a macaroon to lose its glossy luster.

Back to the grind: Your almond flour should be very finely ground so that it fits through a mesh sieve. If you are using packaged almond flour that appears too coarse to sift, give it a good grind in a food processor to break apart any larger pieces.

Gel with your color: Liquid food coloring can alter the texture of your macaroons, making your batter too runny. Instead use gel color and add it while whipping the meringue. Don't be afraid to use a little too much: incorporating the almond flour mixture slightly diminishes the potency of the color.

Don't sweat the technique: Every baker has an opinion about the best way to create the perfect macaroon batter, a process known as macaronnage. The idea is to press out just enough air from the batter so that it runs off your spatula thickly,

slowly, but consistently. One trick you can try is to gently fold the dry ingredients into the meringue, scooping from the sides, and then punch the center of the batter with your spatula. Others prefer pressing the batter into the side of the bowl. Find what works best for you.

Let dry: If you find that the tops of your macaroons are cracking in the oven, allow your piped macaroons ample time to dry with the next batch. This can take upwards of 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the humidity of the room. You will know they are adequately dried when you dab the tops with your finger and nothing sticks.

A crackling shame: If you sufficiently dry your piped macaroons but find that they still crack while baking, your oven may be trapping too much humidity. Try using a wooden spoon handle to prop open the oven door just a smidge for the first two minutes of baking.



Marriott Hotels unveils exclusive accommodation and dining offers for Valentine's Day

Marriott Hotels in Kuwait invites guests to celebrate the most romantic day of the year with special room packages and series of elegant dining experiences.

JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait has created a diverse range of romantic packages, including a scrumptious valentine buffet, handpicked red roses for the ladies and music at the newly opened Crossroads Restaurant. The celebrations continue at Kuwait's best steak house, Terrace Grill, with a lavish Valentine set menu dinner accompanied by a live jazz band set in an intimate candle-lit ambience.

Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait is also offering a selection of fine-dining



experiences, perfect for both couples and families. Guests can indulge in a mouth-watering valentine-themed buffet for dinner. With three restaurants in one, Atrium, Sushi and Soul & Spice restaurants combine to offer guests an unforgettable Valentine's Day experience. The dinner

will feature an international upgraded Valentine buffet with specialties that have been carefully crafted by Marriott's talented chefs, in addition to music and special decoration.

Moreover, Blendz Restaurant at Residence Inn Kuwait will offer its guests a special set menu on Valentine's Day to celebrate the occasion in style.

Furthermore, JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait have launched a special room package, valid on 14 February. The package includes one night stay at one of the three hotels, the valentine's dinner for two and complimentary breakfast the next day.

This Valentine's #LoveYourself

By Nita Bhatkar Chogle

Special to The Times

Come February and love comes floating in the air. A sales galore of chocolates, flowers, balloons, cards and cute teddy bears in all shapes and sizes – with an overdose of red.

Celebrated as a festival for young lovers, it has over the years graduated to include anyone you love – family and friends included.

We demonstrate this love in different ways through the year. People selflessly devote themselves to their children, their work and a host of other responsibilities leaving little or no time for themselves. Combined with high levels of stress, over a prolonged period time this can lead to issues with low self-esteem, silent depression and in worse cases self-harm.

With this mind, Artistic Yoga & Pilates (AYP) has launched a social media campaign simply called #LoveYourself. Conceptualized by two enterprising young women, Natasha Menon and Danica Fernandes, #LoveYourself encourages all of us



to love and embrace who we are and love ourselves.

The idea of the campaign is to capture how beautiful each individual is, no matter their age, size or color. Natasha and Danica initially pitched it to the AYP team and received a great response.

The message of the campaign is simple and clear: Love yourself first. Before anything else. Before you lose weight. Before you get fit. Before you get your dream job, your dream life or your dream partner. Realization

is the first step to progress. No one is perfect. Your flaws do not define who you are, it is how you make them work for you. We are all perfectly imperfect. Self-belief is infinitely powerful. When you are confident in who you are and your abilities, you can do anything you set your mind to. This gives you the ability to get back up after rejection or failure and keep moving forward; and that is what leads to happiness and success.

The campaign was kicked off with a photo shoot where random individuals, members and instructors of AYP – everyday men and women with everyday jobs and responsibilities, coming together for a cause. Led by photographers Vijayaprabaha Srihari, Joyston D'souza and Joy Roshan D'silva, the 'models' wore jewelry sponsored by Mounita Bhattacharya, owner of SB

Fashions and had their makeup and hair styling courtesy Swarna Shetty, owner of Diva Salon for Ladies.

"Each individual is beautiful in his or her own way and with #LoveYourself we want to remind people about it. When you love yourself, people can pick up on that. They see the confidence and sense

the self-esteem." says Suganda Menon, Founder, AYP.

So on this Valentine's Day let us take some time to embrace ourselves as individuals, take a moment to breathe and appreciate the beauty within ourselves. Count our blessings and be grateful for all this beautiful gift we call life. #LoveYourself.



Suganda Menon, Founder, AYP (Center) with Danica Fernandes (L) and Natasha Menon (R).



ICSK Principal and Bhavans Principal appointed counselors

Dr. V. Binumon, the Principal of the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK), has been appointed as a counsellor for Kuwait region as part of the CBSE annual pre-examination counselling.

This is the 19th consecutive year that CBSE will provide psychological counselling services to students at the time of preparation as well as during the examinations to overcome exam related stress. The Pre-Examination counselling for students and parents is ongoing from 9 February to 22 April. The counselling session will be carried out telephonically and Dr. V. Binumon can be reached at the mobile number 00965



98821027 between 8:00 pm and 10 pm on all days from 9 February to 20 April. Dr. V. Binumon is trained personnel who has a brilliant record as



an Education Counsellor and is empathetic to the needs of students. He has undergone courses and training in Neuro-Linguistic Programming and Hypnotherapy as well. Simultaneous to the counselling session, students and parents shall be instructed on techniques of handling stress and stress-related problems.

T. Premkumar, principal of Indian Educational School (IES), Kuwait popularly known to everyone in Kuwait as Bhavans School has been appointed by CBSE as the tele-counselor. The choice of Premkumar is based on the fact that he has been an excellent educator, good student counselor and an able administrator for over three and

half decades in the Middle East with outstanding track records to his name. In Kuwait, he has been a tele-counselor for the last few years and a large number of parents and students have benefitted from his counseling sessions that he gives between 8pm and 10pm. Premkumar provides tips for learning, motivates, planning the preparation for the final phase of examination, exercises for keeping fit and writing techniques for better scoring in the examination to name a few areas. This year he is offering his assistance, and can be reached over phone between 8pm and 10pm everyday from 9 February. His contact number is 66231493.

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World Bank cautions government against backing down

The issue of financial and economic reform raised by the government in March 2016 resurfaced again to become the prime issue causing disagreement and prompting deliberations at the joint meeting held by the Parliamentary Finance Committee and the delegation of World Bank financial experts and officials.

According to projection of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), individual share of citizens from the

local production (GDP), which was KD 7,700, has dropped to almost KD 5,000.

World Bank has cautioned against the government backing down from the economic reform plans or approving bills that contradict government's direction announced to achieve the reform, and doing so may be risky for the budget while having untoward implication on the revenues and expose it to exhaustion.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh and Central Bank Governor Dr. Mohammad Al-Hashil were part of the meeting. The minister stated the document was not built on real studies or actual figures, according to what MPs Saleh Ashour and Riyadh Al-Adsani revealed, and the information has since sparked the interest of other lawmakers who now wish to discuss blowing off the document and anticipating its replacement.



Book Week at ESF

The English School Fahaheel (ESF) prides itself on its high standard of literacy and holds an annual Book Week with great enthusiasm to encourage reading at the school. The week activities include a Book Fair,

reading activities and events and a Bookmark Design competition. Many classroom doors in the Middle School were also beautifully decorated with artwork depicting popular children's novels.

Talabat CEO refutes hacking rumors

Talabat CEO Abdulhamid Alomar released a statement regarding the rumors circulating in social media in Kuwait: "We are aware of the rumors circulating today around Talabat, and would like to reassure our customers that these are absolutely false.

We have experienced no disruption within our system and no customer issues have been reported around this. Our online payment is processed via trusted third party platforms and we do not store any banking information on our system. As a business that was established in Kuwait



in 2004, data security is paramount to our business model and we have made security and privacy a core part of our structure."

BEC Exchange announces Mega prize winner of 'Bob's Million Pesos promotion'



Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC), specialists in worldwide money transfers and foreign exchange, announced the winner of its 'Million Pesos Campaign' on 29 January. The promotion which ran from 4 December, 2016 to 28 January 2017 was designed especially for the Filipino clientele of BEC.

Elmer Mariano Jacalne from the Philippines was delighted to be chosen as the grand winner, and said, "I have been using the services of BEC since the last 15 years. I am thrilled and happy on winning a Million Pesos as this money will help me fund the higher education of my children. Thank you BEC."

Mr. Jacalne was handed the prize money of Million Pesos by Jabbar M. Adiong, Charge d' Affaires of Philippine Embassy in Kuwait. Speaking on the occasion, the Charge d' Affaires said: "It is great joy and pride to know that a Filipino engineer in the State of Kuwait is the lucky winner of a Million Pesos from Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC). The Embassy thanks BEC for its continuous service to Filipino workers in the country. BEC's remittance services have been of immense benefit to all of its clientele, including our modern day heroes, the OFWs. Congratulations to the winner and all the best BEC."

Customers who had transferred money to the Philippines, or exchanged currency to or from the Philippine Peso during the campaign period were entered into the promotion's weekly draw. Each week, seven lucky winners were randomly selected to win attractive prizes including iPhones, Apple watches, Beat headphones and many other attractive prizes. Further, every customer who had

made a transaction was also included, by default, in the lucky draw for the mega prize.

The Million Pesos campaign was aimed at making transactions cost effective and convenient for the Filipino patrons of the company, who responded positively to the campaign and participated wholeheartedly. The campaign was available at all of the 40+ branches of the BEC across Kuwait, as well as to customers transacting through the online money transfer service, BEC Online.

Commenting on the campaign, Mathews Varughese, BEC General Manager said: "The response to the 'Million Pesos campaign' has been extremely positive from our customers and we are confident that this campaign will help to strengthen the relationship with customers sending money to the Philippines. We look forward to holding similar campaigns for our customers from other countries. With many competitors in our market, we recognize and appreciate the patronage that our customers show to the BEC, and will continue to complement their loyalty with exciting promotions and chances to win fantastic prizes."

Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC), a subsidiary of BFC Group Holdings, Bahrain, has been providing unparalleled money transfer and currency exchange services for over 25 years. The company currently has over 40 branches across Kuwait and specializes in sending money around the globe safely and quickly, to over 40,000 locations in 30 countries, through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram, an international remittance company.

ICSK Amman organizes prize distribution ceremony

A prize distribution ceremony to honor the winners of the inter house club competitions was organized in a splendid manner by the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Amman school senate on 2 February.

The house captains of the four houses briefed about the various competitions and activities conducted by different houses Shanti, Seva, Sahyog, Santosh and different allotted clubs. Vice Principal, Dr. Mary Isaac congratulated

the school senate for their exemplary work in organizing various competitions and events in school. The contributions of the senate advisor and the house mentors to the various programs of the school were also acknowledged and appreciated.

For more information:

http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times_ICSK-Amman-holds-prize-distribution-ceremony



BSK holds Spring Carnival 2017

The British School of Kuwait (BSK) organized their annual fun-filled Spring Carnival 2017 on 4 February at their premises. The Korean Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Kim Kyung-Sik opened the carnival to applause from a large gathering of students, families and faculty. The carnival had a range of exciting activities; Children thronged the hair braid, painting and henna stalls, while the younger children created pretty pictures at the painting booth.

Stalls set up sold a variety of products from sunglasses to



books as well as an assortment of knick knacks. Despite the cold, some visitors chose to get a little wet at the water spray stall. A singing competition

showcased the talented youth.

For more information:
http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times_BSK-holds-Spring-Carnival-2017

Kuwait ranked among 'low risk' countries in GCC

Kuwait, along with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states with the exception of Saudi Arabia, has been labeled as 'low risk' in factors affecting political, economic and business security, in an international analysis by global risk and strategic consulting firm Control Risks.

The risk map drawn up by the firm places Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE as having low levels of risk facing businesses operating within their borders, while Saudi Arabia was

described as having 'medium' risk.

In an increasingly complex global business landscape, geopolitics, cybercrime and increasing privatization of state-owned companies could be among the top drivers of overall risk in the Middle East in 2017.

Regulatory issues brought about by fiscal consolidation, the weakening of Islamic State (ISIL) and a push for greater foreign direct investment (FDI), increasing the need for due diligence, are also likely to drive risk

in the region. While the politics and pitfalls of a privatization push by governments across the Middle East are likely to play a role in creating risk in the region, of even greater impact could be external factors.

Controversial trade and political policies enacted by US President Donald Trump, frailty of economies in the European Union (EU), as well as the UK's planned withdrawal from the EU, are also likely to lead to uncertainty across the whole

world, including the region. Shifting global geopolitical relationships will be mirrored by a realignment of foreign policy alliances and priorities of major players in the Middle East. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar and Iran will look to build or consolidate bridges with China, Japan, India and/or Russia to hedge against the uncertainty surrounding US' and Europe's engagement in the region.

Such policy realignments are likely to play out in the commercial sphere

when it comes to major project awards and bilateral trade agreements, the consultancy firm said.

Another issue is the collapse of ISIL territory, which could prompt a global exodus of foreign fighters, according to the report. Many will be killed, some will be captured and others may be recruited into other groups or return to their home countries in Europe, Russia, the GCC or elsewhere and try to build extremist networks there.



KDNA delegation meets with Indian Ambassador

AKozhikode District NRI Association (KDNA) delegation met with Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain and discussed various issues facing the Indian community.

The delegation included KDNA President Suresh Mathur, General Secretary Zubair MM, Sathian Varoonda, Basheer Batha, Azeez Thikkodi, Ilias Thottathil, K. Ali Koya and Mohanraj Areekad.

UK renewed commitment to security, stability of Kuwait - Al-Jarallah

The United Kingdom renewed its utter commitment to the security and stability of the State of Kuwait as well as the Arabian Gulf in general, said a senior Kuwaiti diplomat on Saturday.

This remark was made by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah after his meeting in the Kuwaiti Embassy with British Minister of State for Middle East and Africa Tobias Ellwood.

Al-Jarallah told KUNA that the British minister clearly explained the kingdom's stance and support to the State of Kuwait, which echoed similar statements recently made by UK Prime Minister Theresa May during the GCC summit in the Kingdom of



Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan.

The meeting also delved into topics regarding holding the 5th Syria

donors conference, development in the region especially in Yemen and Syria, Al-Jarallah added. The deputy minister noted that the UK was clearly monitoring developments in the region. In response to the issue of Port Abdullah, Al-Jarallah said that the British government asserted importance of respecting commitments to the signed international agreements, which all parties should abide by.

Al-Jarallah expressed appreciation and comfort to the response he received from Ellwood during the meeting. The two sides also tackled issues related to bilateral relations and the vital role played by the joint Kuwaiti-British guidance committee.

Higher oil prices boost renewable energy drive

Continued from Page 1

Another factor hurting Kuwait's oil exports is the recent OPEC decision calling on its members to cut production.

At their meeting in November 2016, OPEC, which was later joined by several non-OPEC members, agreed to cut oil production so as to decrease global oil inventories and raise prices. In line with this decision, Kuwait agreed to cut its oil output by 131,000 barrels per day from 1 January 2017, thus lowering its daily oil production to 2.71 million barrels, down from the October 2016 baseline production of 2.84 million barrels per day.

Also hindering exports is the country's burgeoning local demand for energy. New statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) reveal that in early 2017, Kuwait with a population of 4.42 million needed 350,000 barrels of oil per day to meet its energy requirements.

Based on the government's budget estimate of US\$45 per barrel in fiscal year 2017/18, that works out to a potential revenue loss to the state of \$15.75 million per day, or an annual loss of \$5.75 billion.

Kuwait has one of the highest per capita energy consumption rates in the world. Recently, the country's Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq was quoted as saying that, with the population expected to increase to over 5.5 million by 2035, the local demand for oil would go up to one million barrels per day. In the same time demand for electricity would leap to 30,000 MW from the current peak demand of around 12,500 MW.

Given that Kuwait's projected oil output from 2020 until 2030 is four million barrels per day, the local consumption would amount to a quarter of all production. By then, the potential revenue loss to the state, at the current estimated price of \$45 per barrel, would surge to \$45 million per day, or \$16.43 billion over a year. And if, as is probable, oil goes to \$90 per barrel in the next decade, then the potential loss of revenue could double to over \$32 billion per year.

This huge loss of potential revenue, along with Kuwait's deep commitment to pursuing environmental sustainability for the benefit of future generations, lies behind the state's urgent moves to implement the far-sighted vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In 2012, His Highness the Amir speaking at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties

to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Doha, Qatar, announced his vision to see Kuwait pursue sustainable development and realize 15 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030. Since His Highness' announcement, a growing number of state institutions, particularly in the oil sector, which is the main energy consumer in the country, have started implementing strategies designed to realize this vision.

Solar and wind are the principal sources of renewable energy that Kuwait can easily rely on. With an average monthly solar irradiation of 170.4 kWh/m², solar energy remains the most attractive and viable renewable energy option. It is no surprise that most of the upcoming renewable energy projects are focused on solar energy.

Kuwait began operating its first solar energy production facility in late October 2016 with the commissioning of the Sidrah 500 solar power plant. Built by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) at a cost of around \$100 million, the Sidrah 500 plant located at Umm Gudair oil field, to the south of Kuwait City, will produce 10 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Half of this production will be used to run KOC's oil-field operations, while the other half will be supplied to the public utility network.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is building a renewable energy park at Al-Shaqaya in north-west Kuwait. In 2015, KISR signed a contract for \$403 million with Spanish firm TSK to establish the country's first concentrated solar power (CSP) plant with a planned production capacity of 50MW and a solar photovoltaic (PV) station with capacity of 10MW in the park. Another Spain-based firm, Elecnor, won a \$26 million contract to build Kuwait's first wind farm in the same Al Shagaya complex with a capacity of 10MW the area.

By 2030 the park is expected to have a total capacity of 2,000MW, including solar thermal, solar PV and wind power, will cover around 7 percent of the country's estimated energy consumption in 2030. Meeting Kuwait's target of 15 percent of energy needs from renewable sources would cut 150,000 bpd of oil from local demand and lead to a potential saving of nearly \$5 billion per year by 2035, at the estimated rate of \$90 per barrel. In addition, it could also reduce annual CO₂ emissions by 10 million tons to improve Kuwait's environmental credentials.

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Hawally Branch : Hawally Bin Khaldoon St., Wala Complex, Shop 220, G. Floor - Tel: 22652679 - 99505260

Khaitan Branch : Opp. Awtad Mall - Tel: 22391736

Fahaheel Branch : Al Sidra Complex, Opp. Mosque, Mezzanine 1, Beside Souk Al-Sabah - Tel: 23923030/40

Jahra Branch : Al-Aqool Complex No.7, G.Floor, Near Gulf Mart & KFH - Tel: 24566462/63 - Fax: 24566867

Mahboula Branch : Block 3, Street No. 301, Bldg. No. 101, Al Raed Security Bldg. - Tel: 23727220/23717220

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Malaysia

A Colorful,
Multi-cultural Destination

From steamy jungles packed with wildlife to beautiful beaches and idyllic islands, there are many wonderful places to visit in Malaysia.

Malaysia is a vibrant destination that retains many elements of its traditional culture while having cities as modern as anywhere else in Asia.

Malaysia's blend of multiculturalism and natural areas from beaches to islands, mountains and rainforests is what makes it such a popular Asian holiday destination for travellers of all kinds. This diverse landscape combined with its unique plants and animals offers tourists enchanting opportunities and a truly Asian experience.

To see the best of Malaysia, here are some of the best places.

Kuala Lumpur: Imagine a city, its skyline punctuated by minarets, Mogul-style domes and skyscrapers, its colorful, food-stall-lined streets shaded by a leafy canopy of banyan trees. To fully connect with locals, join them in two of their favorite pastimes: shopping and eating. Malaysian consumer culture achieves its zenith in KL, where you could spend all day browsing glitzy air-conditioned malls such as Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, Suria KLCC and Mid Valley Megamall in search of designer fashion and bargains. For such a frenetic city, KL has an uncanny way of charming its visitors, particularly the sheer variety of delicious dining options that reflect the very best of Malaysian cuisine. An essential part of the vibrant mix are the incense-wreathed, colorfully adorned mosques and temples of the country's Malay, Chinese and Indian communities.



Cameron Highlands: Cameron Highlands is the country's largest and most popular hill station, with a consistently pleasant climate, rolling hills, lush tea plantations, and distinctively colonial character. In Malaysia's largest hill-station area, the breeze is freshened by eucalyptus, fuzzy tea plantations roll into the distance, and strawberry farms snooze under huge awnings.

From north to south, the Cameron Highlands roughly encompass Tringkap, Brinchang, Tanah Rata, Ringlet and their surrounds. This fresh climate inspires convoys of visitors to pick strawberries and sip tea here each weekend. The highlands' combination of genteel tea culture, hiking trails and mild temperatures is irresistible. With eco-conscious trekking, unexplored forests and some interesting temples, there is serenity to be found amid the touristic hubbub.

Kuching: Borneo's most sophisticated city brings together a kaleidoscope of cultures, crafts and cuisines. The bustling streets – some very modern, others with a colonial vibe – amply reward visitors with a penchant for aimless ambling. Chinese temples decorated with dragons abut shop houses from the time of the White Rajahs, a South Indian mosque is a five-minute walk from stalls selling half-a-dozen Asian



cuisines, and a landscaped riverfront park attracts families out for a stroll and a quick bite.

Kuching's other huge asset is its day-trip proximity to a dozen first-rate nature sites.



Perak: Cliff-top temples, dam-flooded wilderness, a mining town now famous for chicken with beansprouts – Perak's highlights are as intriguing as they are varied, but somehow this rugged Malaysian region has its share of the limelight. Amble through Ipoh's old town for time-worn mansions, craft shops and excellent food. Beyond the city lie cave temples so precariously situated they will make you sweat with awe and exertion. Cool off with rafting in Gopeng, tour Taiping's colonial architecture, or head north to untouched Royal Belum State Park. The beaches on Pulau Pangkor don't rival Peninsular Malaysia's east coast, but the island has sun, sea and hornbill-spotting in abundance.



George Town: Combine three distinct and ancient cultures, indigenous and colonial architecture, and embellish with some of the best food in Southeast Asia, and you have the irresistible urban cocktail that is George Town.

Most impressive is the movie set-like mishmash of the city's buildings, people and culture; you find Chinese temples in Little India and mosques in Chinatown, and Western-style skyscrapers and shopping complexes gleaming high above British Raj-era architecture.

Sustainable tourism can make world cleaner and greener



Whether it is a chic, zero-emission hotel in Milan where toiletries are 99 percent biodegradable, or Gaansbai in South Africa, where conservation of native flora and fauna is a community-wide priority, sustainable tourism is growing fast across the globe.

It is a tribute to the myriad entrepreneurs, companies, creative individuals and communities that the United Nations is marking 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

This means that, throughout 2017, activities and initiatives across the spectrum of those involved in tourism will celebrate its transformational power on our global efforts to create a world that is cleaner and greener, more equal and more inclusive.

But what are the options for the would-be green traveller? How much of an impact can one person have?

The answer is a lot.

This is because global tourism is really big business. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourist spending swelled from only \$2 billion in 1950 to \$1.2 trillion in 2015. The number of international tourists has grown by orders of magnitude as well, from 25 million travelled in 1950 to 1.2 billion in 2015.

Domestic tourism is even bigger. It is estimated that between five and six billion people take holidays at home. In one way or another we are almost all tourists.

This is good news. Countless jobs have been created in the process, many for the poor.

It also means the potential in tourism going green is massive. But sustainable tourism still only represents a small fraction of the global industry.

Tourism generates an estimated five percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. According to UN Environment, that proportion is higher – 12.5 percent – if factors such as energy use at hotels and transporting food and toiletries are included.

Other sobering figures include water use. A tourist in Europe will consume more water on holiday than at home. Those staying at luxury hotels use nearly three times as much as a result of the water used for swimming pools and golf courses.

Then there is waste generation at resorts or from cruise ships; overfishing on coral reefs to feed visitors; loss of animal and plant species linked with the construction and operation of resorts; and impacts on the culture of local people.

Industry growth shows no sign of slowing. By 2020 it is estimated that the number of global tourists will reach 1.6 billion. To reach the targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable

Development Goals, we need a sea change in tourism. This year, you, the consumer, can make a difference.

Whether you're fleeing winter for a tropical beach or uncovering secrets in your own backyard, you can reduce your impact.

Getting started can be tricky. There can be hundreds of different sustainable tourism standards to choose from. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council has a reliable guide, and maintains recent sustainability criteria for hotels, destinations and tour operators.

Next, buy the guidebooks that give you the information you need on green options in the country, city, community and hotel you plan to visit. If guidebooks are encouraged to list more environmentally friendly options, you benefit from choice and green destinations benefit from exposure. Then, find out more about where you choose to go. Ask questions of tour operators and destinations about how they manage water and waste. Do they source fruit, vegetables and meat locally and have clear and positive local employment policies? Are they drawing electricity from renewables? Decide where you spend your money based on these factors.

Flying to and from destinations is more problematic. While aircraft are becoming more efficient, air travel is still one of the most damaging modes of transportation to the climate per kilometer travelled.

Buying carbon offsets, which many airlines offer during the ticket purchase process, is the best way to reduce your impact if you have to fly. The UN Climate Convention's Climate Neutral Now provides advice and helps ensure that offsetting generates real and positive benefits.

At your destination, you can support local artisans and manufacturers instead of buying mass-produced souvenirs. You can eat local. When you visit natural sights, you can ensure you leave no trace. The International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development asks you to consider the impact of your travel on sustainable economies, societies, environments and cultures, along with peace.

'Travel.Enjoy.Respect Campaign' outlines how you can carry out some of these actions while inviting you to share your own inspiring sustainable travel tales.

Such stories allow you to gain a personal insight into how real lives of people and communities around the globe have been shaped by sustainable tourism.

Taleb Rifai, Director-General, World Tourism Organisation; Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment; Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Smart stove knob that checks gas leakage

Inirv React is a new gadget designed to help make your house safer by adding a smart home app to control your gas stove.

The Nirv system kit, which recently appeared on funding portal Kickstarter, consists of a single sensor unit and four stove knob controls that together bring smart technology to the humble kitchen stove.

The sensor unit serves as a smoke and gas detector, along with serving as a main hub to connect to Wi-Fi. It pairs to the individual stove knobs via Bluetooth, allowing the entire system

to be controlled from anywhere in the world through the sensor's Wi-Fi connection, complete with real-time alerts if something goes wrong.

Each knob contains a motor, allowing the burners to be controlled through an app, as well as adding a nice LED light ring to determine the level of the flame. That motorized system allows for the burners to be remotely locked through the app (say, as a child-safety measure) or for the stove to automatically shut off if smoke or gas is detected in the kitchen. The sensor also contains a



motion detector — by default, the React will automatically shut itself off if the burners are on for more than 15 minutes in an empty kitchen. Both the sensor and the knob units have rechargeable batteries, are designed to attach to most stoves, and come in a variety of colors to better match your décor.

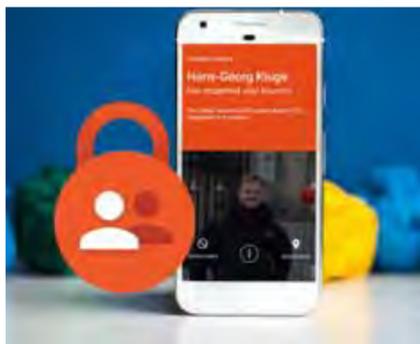
The Nirv React is available on Kickstarter for an early-bird price of \$229, which includes the sensor and four knobs, with additional knobs (if you have a larger range, for instance) costing \$60.

Google launches Trusted Contacts app to share your location

When Google discontinued its location tracking app 'Latitude' in 2013, it never truly made a replacement. Now with Trusted Contacts, Google is bringing location tracking so you can communicate with and locate loved ones in cases of emergency.

Trusted Contacts lets you add people with whom you want to share your whereabouts, whether it is your GPS location or if you are online. During a crisis, friends and family members can request your status to see if you are safe, and you can respond with your location to let them know you are okay, or deny the request.

If you do not respond within five minutes, the app will automatically broadcast your



location or your last known location if your phone is offline, to the contact. The app can also be used as a virtual companion — you

can share your commute with a friend so they can watch to see that you have made it safely to your final destination.

When you get to your location, push the button at the top of your screen or on the lock screen to end sharing.

Although Trusted Contacts is designed to be a personal safety app, it is also rife with potential misuses. Jealous boyfriends, abusive spouses, or nosey friends can keep their eyes on your whereabouts at all times if you leave the app passively running in the background, so it is up to you to carefully choose who you want keeping track of your location. Trusted Contacts is free to download on Android.

Instagram to permit multiple photos in one post



Multi-photo Instagram galleries are finally about to become a reality for everyone. Currently, only advertisers have the ability to publish several photos in a single post, which users can swipe through horizontally. But if the latest beta release of Instagram for Android is evidence, then the same feature is about to make its way to the app's 600 million users.

Instead of tapping on a photo, you long-press the image and a prompt then instructs you to select up to 10 images or videos. You can apply a single filter to all of them, or tap into each photo to apply separate effects before posting everything in a single gallery. Your followers and other Instagram users will be able to like individual photos in each post.

Unfortunately, the feature is likely showing up a little earlier than Instagram intended. It seems rather buggy, for one, and trying to actually publish albums produces an error message every time.

Hopefully very soon, albums will save us all from a cascade of endless vacation, baby, and wedding photos in the timeline — often out of chronological order.



Nexdock turns Intel's Compute Card into a 2-in-1 laptop

Intel announced the Compute Card at CES 2017 a few weeks ago. It is a credit card-sized device that is essentially a full computer, complete with CPU, GPU, and wireless connectivity. It is designed to let hardware manufacturers easily add computer internals to smart devices, all built around a single, upgradable standard.

The new Nexdock is one of the first products announced that looks to take advantage of the Intel Compute Card. The company is actually listed as one of Intel's regional partners for the Compute Card, and it looks like it takes the concept in an interesting direction.

The Nexdock itself is a touchscreen device with two slots on the sides: one for a Compute Card, which contains the actual 'computer' of the device, and a second for a larger, custom USB-C module for swapping in and out ports and battery life as the situation requires. And the device can be converted into different form factors using keyboard and kickstand accessories.

Nex Computer hopes that by separating the OS and processor from the rest of the hardware will help prolong the lifespan of the computer and help reduce environmental impact. It is an idea that we have seen before in devices like the Kangaroo Notebook, which was similarly built around the idea of swappable miniature PCs in laptops, or the Superbook, which looked to use a smartphone as the brains of an empty laptop shell.

It is worth noting that both the Intel Compute Card and Nexdock are still in the early stages of development: the Compute Card will not be available until sometime in mid-2017, and the modular Nexdock only exists in computer renderings with no price or release date estimates.

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Leggings tips



Given their form-fitting silhouette, it is safe to say leggings come with a set of rules that exceeds those of other articles of clothing. But given how comfortable and cool leggings have the potential of being, you should consider putting in a little extra thought into your overall look.

To achieve the most modern edge when styling with leggings, there are certain pairings that work well when donning the athleisure staple. Read on to find out some tips for wearing leggings.

Don't stick to black, explore your options: The legging trend is not all boring dark colors, check out the microtrends like streetwear-inspired leggings, white leggings, and even treggings. The biggest trends nowadays are black and white, nature-inspired prints, pastel shades and prints. To ensure that you are ahead, stock up on a cool, eclectic mix of styles.

Skip the bodysuits for simple pairings: Bodysuits and leggings are not a good combo. Instead, you should choose simple items, and play the layering game like a pro, toss on a tank top or tee for a chic getup. You can dial up the cool factor by expanding your selection to graphic or vibrant printed t-shirts.

Don't wear fancy blouses with leggings, go for outdoorwear: Although it is true that leggings can be dressed up or down, they are essentially an athleisure piece, making a fancy going-out top a poor choice. Instead, opt for an interesting outerwear piece such as a duster jacket, denim jacket, bomber jacket, or leather jacket.

Or if you do want to go fancy, let the leggings do the work, specifically shimmery leggings are oh so alluring. Take the unexpected route with a plaid denim shirt or similarly suitable button-down (the bohemian-meets-disco-diva thing totally works), then look to eclectic additions to pull it all together.

Heels and flip-flops are a no, but sneakers, loafers, or flat boots are best: Leggings are greatly suited for flat shoes as heels can make them look a little too try-hard while flip-flops look sloppy. It doesn't mean you should only stick to sneakers, attempt a new style in a whole range of flat shoes such as loafers, ballet flats and flat ankle shoes. Even over-the-knee boots is a safe option. To elaborate, printed leggings can seriously hold their own when worn with a bright sweater and menswear-inspired kicks, then add on a few personality-packed accessories for a look that is on-trend.

TRINKETS welcomes exquisite DICI Milano personalization collection



TRINKETS, the region's leading fashion jewellery retailer, has launched a special collection brought in by iconic Italian fashion-lifestyle brand, DICI Milano. The new collection offers a unique personalization experience for shoppers in the form of a set of customizable accessories. Customers will be able to add their personal touch through mixing and matching a combination of different rings on offer.

In celebration of the gifting season this month, looking for the perfect gift has never been easier.

This new and exclusive collection is now available at all TRINKETS

boutiques across Kuwait, to the delight of those wishing to gift something unique to their loved ones or for fashion-minded individuals wishing to indulge themselves.

The customizable rings can be worn in three stylish ways; the outer ring cases and inner rings on their own, the outer ring cases interlaced with inner rings, or by wearing the rings in a delicate necklace. The customer also has the choice to buy different colourful inner rings to match their taste.

The full set is available to all customers, which comes with an outer ring, one inner ring and a

necklace chain that the rings can be placed in. These sets can be found in both gold and silver with a gorgeous selection of matching inner rings. The customers can easily create their own one-of-a-kind ring for every occasion. Customers who purchase this exquisite set will be presented with a free gift voucher from TRINKETS, which can be redeemed at the boutique for another inner ring.

The new DICI collection is now available at all TRINKETS boutiques across Kuwait, including The Avenues, Marina Mall, 360 Mall, Souq Sharq, Al Fanar, The Gate, Al Kout Mall and Promenade Mall.

Amazing Eyeliner tricks



Eyeliner is one of those tools that can make any girl look amazing. Though eyeliner is an integral part of a woman's makeup routine, it is not exactly easy to handle. Once you get acquainted with which eyeliner to use in which scenario, and understand what looks best on you, it is time to learn some cool hacks to make wearing it easy as hell. Here are the best eyeliner tricks every woman should know.

Use mascara as liner when you are in a rush: You know those mornings where you have hit snooze five times and feel like you might melt if daylight touches your skin? That is when you need this trick the most. Try using your mascara as liner by curling the lashes and then add two to three coats of mascara, pressing and holding the lash wand into the root of the lashes without wiggling it. This deposits mascara between the roots, which has an eye-opening effect without the eyeliner.

Trace your cat eye with a pencil first: Desperate times call for desperate measures, and is there any time more desperate than when you are trying to nail an over-the-top cat eye and just can't get it right? If you are going for a more precise look like that that requires liquid liner, first draw the shape you want with a soft brown liner. It is a lot easier to clean up than liquid liner, and then you can perfect the shape with minimal risk.

Use a post-it as a guide for winged liner: Drawing a perfect eyeliner is difficult especially if you have a naturally shaky hand. To avoid that sinking feel as you step back from the mirror and realizing your two wings are wonky, try that trusty desk staple: the post-it. Place it from the outer corner of the eye to the eyebrow. It helps direct the flick, like a guide to make sure they are even on each side.

Makeup primer is better than makeup remover for erasing mistakes: This seems counterintuitive. But unless you have a really careful hand, you risk getting remover everywhere—including where you didn't screw up. Plus, the oil in the makeup remover will simply cause the liner to drag even more. Instead, polish up the shape and precision with a small synthetic brush dipped in a primer. This smooths out the edges while ensuring longevity and water resistance. A Q-tip also works.

Smudge gel liner with a concealer brush for a smoky effect: When applying eyeliner, coat a smallish brush—like a concealer brush—by running it back and forth against the tip of the eyeliner until the brush is well coated. Then, use that to smudge the liner on. Unless the look you want requires precise lines or edges, it's ten times easier to do this since a brush gives you more control. On top of that, the smudginess is more forgiving, especially if you have shaky hands. Pro tip: This is especially handy for those with monolids. Create a thick line with the brush and buff it out. It has a soft, eye-opening effect.

Create a dramatic cat eye in smaller steps: Liquid liner is the worst, but it also gives you super-inky color, a clean edge, and it can stay put for hours. A penlike brush helps with precise lines, and it also helps to break the process into three separate steps. First, perfect the flick at the end—make sure each flick is even and the same width, as well as symmetrical. Then, do a really thin line over the tear duct at the inner corners, connecting it to the wing at the end. Finally, fill in your winged outline.

Match your liner and your shadow for an unexpected combo: Not only does doubling your shadow and liner make it budge-proof, it's ultramodern. A liner matching the eye shadow looks very chic. You still get the definition, but it will look cooler and more modern than just using predictable black.



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Global cost of smoking exceeds a trillion dollars annually

Over six million people are killed each year from causes related to smoking and nearly six percent of the world's health-care spending is tied to smoking. In 2012, this amounted to US\$1.4 trillion in direct and indirect costs, with developing nations shouldering 40 percent of the burden.

Researchers at the World Health Organization (WHO), who analyzed data from 152 countries, representing 97 percent of the world's smokers, showed that smoking imposes a heavy economic burden throughout the world, especially in countries where the tobacco epidemic is most advanced.

The researchers considered direct costs, such as medical treatment, as well as indirect ones, such as lost productivity and disability, to estimate the overall cost of smoking. To make that estimate, the investigators reviewed 33 studies of direct costs along with data from the WHO and the World Bank.

Researchers also found that in 2012, smoking-related diseases caused 12 percent of deaths among adults aged 30 to 69 and 40 percent of the global economic toll could be traced to low- and middle-income countries. Of those, Brazil, China, India and Russia accounted for one-quarter of all smoking-related costs. The calculations did not include the health and economic harms caused by second-hand smoke or smokeless forms of tobacco, the investigators said.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda includes 17 goals for member states to achieve by 2030. One of the targets of Goal 3 is to cut the number of deaths from non-communicable diseases, such as those caused by smoking, by one-third, the study authors explained.

"These findings highlight the urgent need for all countries to implement comprehensive tobacco-control measures to address these economic costs, while also helping to achieve the sustainable development goals of the member states," the authors concluded.

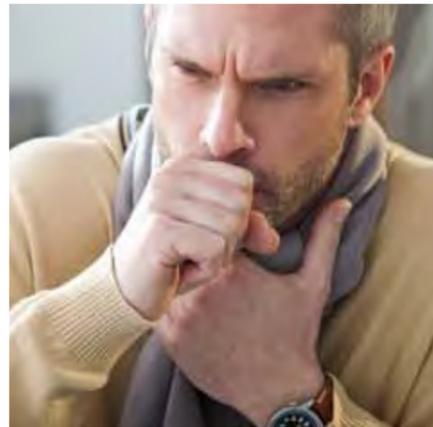
Genetic study gives insight into deadly lung disease

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which affects nearly five percent of the global population, is a progressive lung disease that obstructs airflow and induces difficulty in breathing.

Smoking is a strong risk factor for COPD, but not all people affected by COPD are smokers and not all smokers develop the disease. In large part, this is due to one's genetic make-up.

Now, a breakthrough advance in genetic research has discovered that genetic variation in the DNA content of cells between individuals could be associated with the risk of developing the deadly lung disease. With over one billion tobacco smokers worldwide at risk, the new findings could help defuse the 'ticking time-bomb' for serious lung disease among them as well as among non-smokers identified with COPD.

Results from the study — the world's biggest into an individual's genetic make-up and the risk of developing lung disease —, could allow scientists to more accurately



'predict' based on genes and smoking, a person's chance of developing COPD.

Led by researchers at the Universities of Leicester and Nottingham, the four-year study involved over 100 scientists and 350,000 people from 13 countries and aimed to discover genetic variation in the DNA content of cells between individuals, which

are associated with the risk of developing lung disease. By comparing 24 million genetic variants — the genetic differences between people — in each participant with measures of lung health, scientists were able to group people based on genetic variants to show their risk of developing COPD.

The researchers discovered that those in the highest risk group were at 3.7 times the risk of developing COPD than those in the lowest risk group. Because smokers are already at higher risk of developing COPD, this could mean that 72 of 100 smokers in the genetically high-risk group will develop COPD in later life.

Through this study, the researchers almost doubled the number of genetic variants known to be associated with lung health and COPD. At present there are no drug treatments for COPD that alter the course of the disease. But, by helping explain why and how COPD develops the new study could one day help personalize treatments based on an individual's genetic make-up.

Heading the ball in football could harm the brain

Deflecting the ball using the head, a common practice among players in football (soccer) games, may not be as harmless to the brain as was previously thought, says a new research.

A study of more than 200 adult amateur football players of both genders found that regularly 'heading' the ball, as well as suffering accidental hits to the head, significantly boosted a player's risk of concussion.

While the prevailing wisdom is that routine heading in soccer is innocuous and we need only worry about players when they have unintentional head collisions, the new study suggests that such practices put athletes at risk of traumatic brain injury.

In prior studies, other researchers had found that "30 percent of soccer players who had more than 1,000 headings per year had a higher risk of microstructural changes in the brain's white matter, typical of traumatic brain injury, and worse cognitive performance.

Exploring the issue further, the new study focused on online questionnaires answered by 222 adult amateur soccer club players in the New York City area, both male and female. All had played soccer at least six months during the prior year. Men averaged 44 headers in two weeks, the survey found, while women averaged 27. One or more accidental head



impacts, such as a ball hitting the back of the head or a head colliding with another player's knee, were reported by 43 percent of women and 37 percent of men.

Players who regularly headed the ball were three times more likely to have concussion symptoms than those who did not head the ball often. Players who suffered accidental head impacts two or more times within a two-week span were six times more likely to have concussion symptoms than those without accidental head impacts, the findings showed.

Of those who headed the ball or reported accidental head impacts, 20 percent had moderate to severe concussion symptoms, according to the report.

"Our findings certainly indicate that

heading is more than just a 'sub-concussive' impact, and that heading-related concussions are common," said the researchers. "We need to give people who have these injuries proper care and make efforts to prevent multiple head impacts, which are particularly dangerous," they added.

The researchers noted that many players who head the ball frequently are experiencing classic concussion symptoms, such as headache, confusion and dizziness, during games and practice, even though they are not actually diagnosed with concussion. Because these injuries go unrecognized and unmanaged, there may be important clinical consequences for the short and long term, they said.



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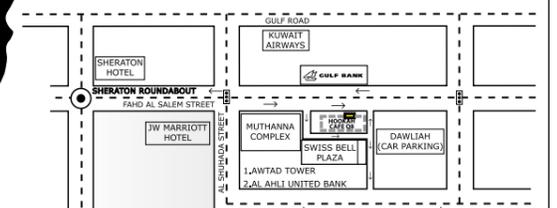


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Croatian president's visit strengthens economic ties



Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic who was in Kuwait on a two-day official visit last week, met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and discussed ways of strengthening economic and diplomatic relations, as well as fostering political and security cooperation in efforts to stabilize this part of the Middle East and the southeast of Europe.

During the visit, the first by a Croatian president since the country's independence in 1991, His Highness the Amir decorated President Grabar-Kitarovic with the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer. On her part, President Grabar-Kitarovic presented His Highness the Amir with the Grand Order of King Tomislav, the most prestigious state order of Croatia, in recognition of his role in supporting international peace and security.

Following her meeting with His Highness the Amir, the Croatian president said that the meeting was very fruitful and that they discussed a series of agreements in order to facilitate business between Kuwait and Croatia. She added that the two leaders also discussed concrete projects, including in the food, manufacturing and defense industries, and the possibilities for Croatian construction companies to do business in the field of infrastructure, railway lines and others.

President Grabar-Kitarovic also met with Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as other senior government officials.

The Croatian president termed as "constructive and positive" her meetings with parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior officials. She added that the Croatian government was adopting "serious measures" to attract foreign investors, including from Kuwait. "Croatia is a country open for trade, we have investments ... in many domains including ship building, defense industries, agriculture and food products, in addition to a giant food industry complying with the Islamic Sharia," she said.

The high level delegation accompanying the Croatian president included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Martina Dalic, Armed Forces Chief-Of-Staff Mirko Sundov, Foreign Ministry State Secretary Zdravka Busic, and the head of the Islamic community in Croatia, Mufti Aziz Hasanovic.

During her visit, the president, in the company of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, officially opened the Croatian embassy in Kuwait. Following the ceremony, President Grabar Kitarovic said, "It is extremely important to have an

embassy in this part of the world. I saw in these last two days what possibilities exist for the development of business between Croatia and Kuwait, and this part of the world." The presidential visit also saw Croatia and Kuwait sign an agreement on mutual exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports. Since signing the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Croatia and Kuwait in October 1994, the two countries have signed a number of agreements, including one on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments in both countries in early 1997, and the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital in 2001.

In a media interview following the embassy inauguration, the Croatian president speaking about the refugee crisis in Europe said that the world should understand Europe did not have full resources to host huge number of refugees, thus forcing some countries to close their borders.

"Countries of the world should understand that Europe does not have all necessary capabilities to help everybody, which force some European countries to close their doors in face of refugees," she said.

She attributed this action to these countries' "inability to provide decent living conditions" for the refugees. She called for seeking sustainable solutions to organize immigration coupled with ending conflicts that forced those people



to flee to save havens. The president added that had discussed refugee issue with the Kuwaiti leaders she met.

"Croatia is a transit for immigrants and refugees who fled from conflicts in their countries. They stay for a short period of time and then move to other European countries, particularly Germany which received a large number of them in past years," she said.

On another note, the president affirmed her backing for Kuwait's quest to waive Schengen visa, while urging Kuwaitis to seize investment opportunities in her country. "Croatia fully supports Kuwait's bid to exempt its citizens from the European Union's (EU) Schengen visa," said the president.

"I believe this visit was extremely useful in the sense that Kuwaitis may start to see Croatia in a different light. I am optimistic and believe that this visit will also yield further business deals between Croatian and Kuwaiti

companies," said Grabar Kitarovic at the end of her visit to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Martina Dalic, who accompanied the president during her visit to Kuwait, visited the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) along with a business delegation. She highlighted the need to establish investment partnerships with Kuwait and for closer relations between the business communities of both countries. She also revealed plans to launch direct flights between Kuwait and Croatia in the near future. For his part, the Deputy President of KCCI Abdulwahab Al-Wazan hoped that the visit by the Croatian officials would lead to tangible progress in economic ties between both countries.

The presidential visit is expected to boost the presence of Croatian companies in the Kuwait market and increase cooperation and collaboration between businesses of both nations. It is understood that the Croatian defense industry is eagerly awaiting the result of a tender it participated in, to supply armored vehicles for the Kuwaiti army. Croatia has been working with the ministry of defense in Kuwait from the time it supplied the Kuwaiti army with M-84 tanks in the late 1980s..

It is noteworthy that at the start of the 1991 to 1995 war in Croatia, Kuwait gave Croatia significant financial aid for the accommodation of refugees, and it currently financing the construction of an Islamic center in the city of Sisak.



Croatian embassy opens in Kuwait City



The Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic officially opened the Croatian Embassy in Kuwait on Monday, 6 February in Kuwait City, in the company of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Following the ceremony, President Grabar Kitarovic said, "It is extremely important to have an embassy in this part of the world. I saw in these last two days what possibilities exist for the development of business between Croatia and Kuwait, and this part of the world."

The presidential visit also saw Croatia and Kuwait sign an agreement on mutual exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports. Since the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Croatia and Kuwait in October 1994, the two countries have

signed a number of agreements, including one on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments in both countries in early 1997, and the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of

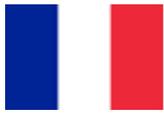
fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital in 2001.

For more Information, Visit: http://http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times_Croatian-embassy-opens-in-Kuwait-City





Kuwaiti activist honored with top French award



Staff Report

Dr. AlAnoud Al Sharekh was decorated with the French National Order of Merit by the Ambassador of France to Kuwait H.E. Christian Nakhlé, at a special ceremony held at his residence on Wednesday 8 February.



Dr. AlAnoud joined the elite few Kuwait nationals who have been recognised by the President of France for their outstanding work

and contribution to society. Dr. AlAnoud was recognised for her exemplary work in women's rights in Kuwait, the Middle East and around the world. Ambassador Nakhlé who presented the medal on behalf of the president of France spoke eloquently on her achievements adding that she was a role model for female activists and the best evidence that Kuwaiti women were making a difference in their society.

In her remarks, Dr. AlAnoud thanked the French Embassy for their recognition and said she considered this medal as an award to civil society in Kuwait. She added there was still much work left to be done.

During the past 18 years she has been an outspoken advocate for women and minority rights in Kuwait, Dr AlAnoud utilizes her voice as a member of Kuwait's thriving civil society and an academic to help facilitate public discussion about pivotal issues facing Arab society. She lectures in institutions in the region and abroad, and has published numerous books and articles focusing on political identity, cultural politics, gender and kinship policies in the Arabian Gulf.

Dr AlAnoud serves as an advisor to a number of local and international governmental bodies and NGOs, offering her insights on various cultural and socio-political issues in the region. She has worked as a gender politics consultant for UNIFEM, Freedom House, and the UNDP on academic and social outreach projects in Kuwait and the GCC, and at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

Her previous posts include Senior Fellow for Regional Politics at the International Institute of Strategic Studies and Senior Political Analyst at the Kuwait National Security Bureau and Consultant Researcher at the

Supreme Council for Development and Planning in Kuwait.

She has also held numerous teaching positions throughout her career, both in Kuwait and abroad, with posts at Kuwait University, Gulf University of Science and Technology and the Arab Open University, as well as being a visiting lecturer at Uppsala University, Sweden and SOAS London, and a Fulbright Scholar on Women and Islam at Whittier College, USA. She is also heavily involved with a number of non-profit organizations and civic society groups, including STAND, Soroptimists Kuwait and Abolish 153 - the campaign to fight honor killing

legislation, which she founded and currently serves as Co-Director of, as well as being the acting director of the Friends who Care Campaign that seeks to help at-risk young women (under the age of 21) within Kuwait's social care system.

Dr AlAnoud holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from King's College, London, where she graduated with Honors in 1996. She completed her post-graduate education at the SOAS in London, earning a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics and English-Arabic Language and Translation, and a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Studies - Comparative Literature and Feminism.

H.H. the Amir receives newly-appointed envoys



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday the credentials of newly appointed ambassadors of Uzbekistan, Benin,

Mongolia, and the European Union, in a ceremony at Bayan Palace.

The ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled



Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan Ibrahim Mohammad Al-Shatti.



Former minister E. Ahmad paid tribute by Indian community



The Indian embassy organized a condolence meet in honor of Kerala MP and leader of Indian Union Muslim League Edappakath Ahamed, who recently expired following a cardiac arrest in Parliament on 1 February.

Members from the Indian community gathered at the auditorium on 5 February to extend their respects to the Kerala MP who was highly regarded by the expatriates in

Kuwait for providing solutions to the problems faced by them.

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain laid flowers on the Shri E Ahamed tribute space, and minister in his condolence speech spoke eloquently on the working relationship he shared with the Kerala MP. The sentiments were reiterated in various speeches delivered by leaders of various Indian associations in Kuwait, who too shared their experiences.



Iranian Ambassador commemorates country's 38th Revolution Day



The Ambassador of Iran to Kuwait Dr. Ali Raza hosted a reception on the occasion of the 38th Anniversary of Iran Revolution Day on Tuesday, 7 February at Marina Hotel. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled al-Jarallah was the Chief Guest at the gathering attended by members of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti officials and dignitaries.



Kuwaiti FM meets with Uzbekistan's counterpart



Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Wednesday with Uzbekistan's visiting Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov on ways of promoting bilateral relations.

During the meeting, both ministers also discussed the latest regional and international developments that concern both sides.

They then signed a number of bilateral agreements and memos of understanding pertinent to visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports, education and scientific research as well as a MoU between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and Uzbekistan.



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Director-General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Abdulwahab Al-Bader and several

other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the accompanying delegation of Uzbekistan's foreign minister were present at the meeting.



European Parliament approves visa-free travel for Georgian citizens

On 2 February, the European Parliament (EP) voted in favor of visa-free travel for Georgian citizens to the Schengen Area at a plenary session.

Holders of Georgian biometric passports will now be able to enter the Schengen Area for 90 days within any 180-day period for holiday, business and other purposes except for that of working. The visa waiver applies to the Schengen Area, which includes 22 EU member states (all except Ireland, the United Kingdom, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria) in addition to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The EU-Georgia visa liberalization dialogue began back in 2012 when the EU Commission ruled that Georgia had satisfactorily fulfilled eligibility requirements.

In Memoriam



His Excellency Ibrahim Bakarr Kamara Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Kuwait

Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the State of Kuwait announced with deep sorrow the sudden death in Freetown on Wednesday, 8 February, of His Excellency Ibrahim Bakarr Kamara, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Kuwait.

A book of condolence is to be opened at the embassy at a later date.

The late diplomat, who was his country's first ambassador to Kuwait, had worked tirelessly to strengthen political and economic ties between Sierra Leone and Kuwait. He was especially well versed in all aspects of Sierra Leone's economic activity and vigorously promoted the immense development potential of his country to Kuwaiti investors and entrepreneurs.

"Countries are realizing that often economy trumps politics in international relations. This shift in emphasis has called for accredited ambassadors to be more conversant with their country's economic policies than with its political leanings," was how the late ambassador framed his economic diplomacy, during a wide ranging interview he accorded to The Times Kuwait early in his tenure.

A well-known and widely respected figure in Kuwait's diplomatic and social circles, Ambassador Kamara's demise will be deeply mourned by all who knew him.



Kuwait, Croatia sign visa waiver agreement



On Sunday, 5 February, Kuwait and Croatia signed an agreement on mutual visa exemption in the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The proceedings at Bayan Palace were also attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The agreement applies to holders of diplomatic passports and was co-signed by



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the Croatian Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Kuwait Tomislav Bosnjak.



How to get a visa to visit Greece

Application for short-stay visas (Schengen visa) can be lodged at the external service provider that cooperates with the Embassy:

Address: Arraya Center, Tower 1, Floor 30, Al-Shuhada Street, Kuwait City (next to Courtyard Hotel by Marriott).

Only Kuwait nationals and nationals of third countries that are legal residents in Kuwait can apply for a visa at the Greece Visa Application Centre in Kuwait. Visa applicants are requested to appear in person at the time of submission.

Time frame of the process: Applications shall be decided on within 15 calendar days of the date of the delivery to the Embassy of an application which is admissible. Note: The applications are delivered to the Greece Embassy the next working day. The Visa Fees are KD 24 for each application.

Documents Required

- Original passport and copy of previous Schengen visas. For new passports, the old passport is also required.
- Two colored passport-size photos of good quality (white background)
- Visa application completed in English and signed (name should be written as in passport).
- Passport should be valid for at least six (6) months from the date of visa issuance.
- Copy of Kuwait Residence Permit (for Non-Kuwaiti) / civil ID copy (for GCC citizens). Kuwait residency should be valid for at least six (6) months (for non-Kuwaiti and GCC citizens).
- Salary certificate and authorized signature which is registered in Chamber of Commerce (Please attach copy of "Eatamad Tawkiea").
- Original & copy of the work permit from the Ministry of Labour of Kuwait (for non-Kuwaiti and GCC citizens).
- Bank statement for the last six (6) months with present balance. (If acquired through the internet, issuing bank stamp is required).
- International medical travel insurance for the duration of the trip covered not less than 30,000 (thirty thousand) Euros.
- Ticket and voucher of hotel reservation

Note: If travelling to other Schengen areas/countries, flight and hotel vouchers for all destinations must be submitted. Applicant may be asked to submit the proof of payment.

For complete information how to apply for visas pls visit www.vfsglobal.com/greece/kuwait/ Applicants do not require an appointment to submit their application.

Submission time is between 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Sunday to Thursday, with the exception of holidays and closures)

For any additional information/ clarification please contact: (+965) 22281046



Sri Lankan embassy marks country's 69th Independence Day



To commemorate the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Sri Lanka, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Kuwait H.E. Kandeepan Bala hosted a grand reception at the Baraka Ballroom in Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, 9 February. Members of the diplomatic corps, Sri Lanka nationals, prominent businessmen and media persons attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Kandeepan Bala expressed congratulations to the Kuwaiti leadership as well as expressing a solid friendship that has evolved over the years. He pointed at the growing relations in politics, commerce, culture and tourism between the two nations. The chief guest the Kuwait Minister of Public Works Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa then lit the traditional lamp to mark the beginning of the celebrations.

The evening also saw a fascinating mix of traditional Sri Lankan cuisine, dance and music that enthralled the audiences. Guests were treated to fresh coconut water as well as some tasty and delicious Sri Lankan food.

The world renowned Sri Lankan dance troupe provided an amazing performance that captivated and entertained the guests with their rendition. Dancers in elaborate and colorful costumes showcased the rich cultural traditions of Sri Lanka. Members of the diplomatic corps, Sri Lanka nationals, prominent businessmen and media persons attended the function.



For more Information, Visit: http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times_Sri-Lankan-embassy-marks-country-s-69th-Independence-Day



Greek ambassador visits The Times Kuwait

The Ambassador of Greece to Kuwait His Excellency Andreas Papadakis paid a courtesy call to the office of The Times Kuwait on 7 February, where he met with Managing Editor Reaven D'Souza. The two discussed various issues related to Kuwait and Greece, as well as regional and international matters of interest.

Indian embassy announces Made in India exhibition

Indian Embassy is organizing a 'Made in India Exhibition' on Saturday, 18 February from 10:30 am to 8:00 pm at Al Dana Ball Room, Hotel Holiday Inn, Salmiya. The exhibition will showcase several products manufactured in India.

During this exhibition, a wide variety of Indian products ranging from tyres, motorbikes, trucks, buses, security solutions, batteries, fans, induction cooker, grills, rice cookers, mixies, television, air compressors, etc., will be on display. Companies dealing in 30 Indian reputed brands are participating in

the Exhibition. Display of Indian automobiles and home appliances will be a special attraction at the Exhibition.

The exhibition is open to all. The embassy takes this opportunity to invite Corporate and individuals to visit the same.

Both Kuwaitis and foreign nationals will be able to see the display of a wide variety of automobiles and home appliances manufactured in India during the Exhibition.

For more information about the "Made in India Exhibition", kindly contact the Commercial Wing of the Embassy (Tel: 22530600 / 612 / 613 / 614 Ext: 211/ 226, Tel: 22571193 (Dir), Fax 22525811; email: commercial@indembkwt.org / sscom@indembkwt.org).

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