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Kuwait to introduce business-friendly economic reforms

Korea – A nation of peace & prosperity



By Reaven D'Souza
Managing Editor

As our plane began its descent into Seoul the scenic beauty of the city becomes evident that the country is not only blessed by nature but also with a vision that encompasses peace, prosperity and success.

Attending a forum for world peace can be a difficult topic to comprehend, but with our Korean hosts precision and detail in planning such an event turned out enriching and exciting as more than 80 journalists from 60 countries came together to learn and experience the Korean goals and principles on peace in their peninsula and

the world. The five-day Journalist Forum for World Peace hosted by the Journalist Association of Korea gave a broad yet clear perspective on some issues facing the region and the dangers that confront nations in the Korean peninsula and the world. In the 70 years since its formation South Koreans have excelled and

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Staff Report

Low oil prices and its worst balance sheet in decades have compelled Kuwait to wake up from its prolonged hibernation and introduce much-needed economic reforms. With oil accounting for over 92 percent of its revenues and a recent statement from the finance ministry that falling oil income would result in a deficit of \$40.2 billion in the 2016-17 budget – nearly 50 percent higher than previous estimates – the government is introducing a slew of reforms designed to revamp its antiquated business laws and make the country

more attractive to investors. Parliament last year ratified a new Capital Markets Authority law that allows greater foreign ownership, increases transparency and brings regulations more into line with international standards. The corporate tax system is also being significantly reshaped in a bid to encourage more foreign investment. The government is seeking to implement a flat 10 percent corporate tax to replace the current imbalance that taxes foreign companies by 15 percent of their profits, while local firms are charged various fees of up to 5 percent.

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ICSK crises nearing end

Staff Report

An imminent solution is in the offing for the ongoing crises that plagued the Indian Community School Kuwait since more than a month. The former Board of Trustees seem unlikely to return back to the school after allegations of corruption and misconduct saw their dismissal by the sponsor and an committee set up to investigate all allegations.

The former board who have taken to legal recourse seem to have lost favour with all the parties concerned and efforts are on to set up a new board with a good governance structure that will be transparent to the entire community. The long felt need of the vast community members to seek a proper and professional governance

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

The Global Growth Funk



Nouriel Roubini

Chairman of Roubini Global Economics and Professor of Economics at New York University's Stern School of Business.

The International Monetary Fund and others have recently revised downward their forecasts for global growth – yet again. Little wonder: The world economy has few bright spots – and many that are dimming rapidly.

Among advanced economies, the United States has just experienced two quarters of growth averaging 1%. Further monetary easing has boosted a cyclical recovery in the eurozone, though potential growth in most countries remains well below 1%. In Japan, “Abenomics” is running out of steam, with the economy slowing since mid-2015 and now close to recession. In the United Kingdom, uncertainty surrounding the June referendum on continued European Union membership is leading firms to keep hiring and capital spending on hold. And other advanced economies – such as Canada, Australia, Norway – face headwinds from low commodity prices.

Things are not much better in most emerging economies. Among the five BRICS countries, two (Brazil and Russia) are in recession, one (South Africa) is barely growing, another (China) is experiencing a sharp structural slowdown, and India is doing well only because – in the words of its central bank governor, Raghuram Rajan – in the kingdom of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Many other emerging markets have slowed since 2013 as well, owing to weak external conditions, economic fragility (stemming from loose monetary,



fiscal, and credit policies in the good years), and, often, a move away from market-oriented reforms and toward variants of state capitalism.

Worse, potential growth has also fallen in both advanced and emerging economies. For starters, high levels of private and public debt are constraining spending – especially growth-enhancing capital spending, which fell (as a share of GDP) after the global financial crisis and has not recovered to pre-crisis levels. That falloff in investment implies slower productivity growth, while aging populations in developed countries – and now in an increasing number of emerging markets (for example, China, Russia, and Korea) – reduce the labor input in production.

The rise in income and wealth inequality exacerbates the global saving glut (which is the counterpart of the global investment slump). As income is redistributed from labor to capital, it flows from those who have a higher marginal propensity to spend

(low- and middle-income households) to those who have a higher marginal propensity to save (high-income households and corporations).

Moreover, a protracted cyclical slump can lead to lower trend growth. Economists call this “hysteresis”: Long-term unemployment erodes workers’ skills and human capital; and, because innovation is embedded in new capital goods, low investment leads to permanently lower productivity growth.

Finally, with so many factors dragging down potential growth, structural reforms are needed to boost potential growth. But such reforms are occurring at suboptimal rates in both advanced and emerging economies, because all of the costs and dislocations are frontloaded, while the benefits occur over the medium and long term. This gives opponents of reform a political advantage.

Meanwhile, actual growth remains below the diminished potential. A painful deleveraging process implies

that private and public spending need to fall, and that savings must rise, to reduce high deficits and debts. This process started in the US after the housing bust, then spread to Europe, and is now ongoing in emerging markets that spent the last decade on a borrowing binge.

At the same time, the policy mix has not been ideal. With most advanced economies pivoting too quickly to fiscal retrenchment, the burden of reviving growth was placed almost entirely on unconventional monetary policies, which have diminishing returns (if not counter-productive effects).

Asymmetric adjustment between debtor and creditor economies has also undermined growth.

The former, having overspent and under-saved, had to spend less and save more when markets forced them to do so, whereas the latter were not forced to spend more and save less. This exacerbated the global savings glut and global investment slump.

Finally, hysteresis further weakened actual growth. A cyclical slump reduced potential growth, and the reduction in potential growth prospects led to further cyclical weakness, as spending declines when expectations are revised downward.

There are no politically easy solutions to the global economy’s current quandary. Unsustainably high debt should be reduced in a rapid and orderly fashion, to avoid a long and protracted (often a decade or longer) deleveraging process. But orderly debt-reduction mechanisms are not available for sovereign countries and are politically difficult to implement within countries for households, firms, and financial institutions.

Likewise, structural and market-oriented reforms are necessary to boost potential growth. But, given the timing of costs and benefits, such measures are especially unpopular if an economy is already in a slump.

It will be no less difficult to leave behind unconventional monetary policies, as the US Federal Reserve recently suggested by signaling that it will normalize policy interest rates more slowly than expected. Meanwhile, fiscal policy – especially productive public investment that boosts both the demand and supply sides – remains hostage to high debts and misguided austerity, even in countries with the financial capacity to undertake a slower consolidation.

Thus, for the time being, we are likely to remain in what the IMF calls the “new mediocre,” Larry Summers calls “secular stagnation,” and the Chinese call the “new normal.” But make no mistake: There is nothing normal or healthy about economic performance that is increasing inequality and, in many countries, leading to a populist backlash – both on the right and the left – against trade, globalization, migration, technological innovation, and market-oriented policies.

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From the Front Lines of Climate Change



**Loren Legarda and
Marcela Guerrero**

On April 22, dignitaries representing no fewer than 175 parties signed the global climate change agreement concluded in Paris in December, setting a record for the adoption of an international accord. The show of support is heartening. It provides hope that the momentum that led to the breakthrough deal in December remains undiminished.

But securing an agreement in Paris was just the first step on a long road towards protecting the global climate and the world’s most vulnerable countries. The signing ceremony was the second. Next comes the ratification process; 55 countries, representing at least 55% of global emissions, will

need to ratify the agreement to enable it to enter into force.

The good news is that the process is already underway. In February, Fiji became the first nation to ratify the treaty, followed by three other small island states. All four are members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, a group of 43 countries – including Costa Rica and the Philippines, which we represent – on the front lines of climate change. Members of the forum fought tirelessly for an agreement in Paris, and we will do everything within our power to speed up its entry into force.

The Paris agreement offers the world its best hope of slowing and ultimately stopping changes to our climate. Left unchecked, global warming will threaten the health and safety of our people, damage the ecosystems on which we all depend, and – through rising sea levels – put the very existence of some countries in jeopardy.

And yet, if the battle against climate change is to be won, the Paris agreement will not be sufficient. The voluntary emission-

reduction commitments contained in the so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), submitted by 187 countries by the end of the talks, will not be enough to prevent dangerous climate change. And for those countries that are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of global warming, far more needs to be done if catastrophic effects are to be avoided. Early calculations have suggested that if all of the INDCs were fully implemented, average global temperatures would still rise by the end of the century to 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. That is considerably beyond the already dangerous ceiling of two degrees set in Copenhagen in 2009 and included in the Paris agreement.

New research, from Climate Interactive and MIT Sloan, suggests that temperatures could rise even higher – by 3.5 degrees Celsius. The Climate Vulnerable Forum has long argued that even two degrees of warming risks creating unbearable conditions for some countries. That is why it has fought to limit the rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees – an

ambition that was included, thanks to the forum’s efforts, in the Paris agreement. That seemingly small difference matters. As the latest research shows, it would have a dramatic and measurable impact on extreme weather events, water availability, crop yields, coral-reef degradation, and sea-level rise. And it will be the most vulnerable people – rural women, the sick, the old, and the very young – who are most at risk. For the world’s most vulnerable countries, limiting the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is not just an aspiration; it is a matter of survival.

The goal is an ambitious one. But vulnerable developing countries are committed to helping achieve it. The V-20 group of finance ministers of vulnerable nations recently committed to introducing carbon-pricing mechanisms across 43 markets within ten years.

We have also pledged to improve financial accounting, so that the costs of climate change and the benefits of climate action are incorporated into economic policymaking. Costa Rica has just approved a law promoting

electric trains, and legislators are debating a bill to provide incentives for electric vehicles and buses.

Such initiatives are more commonly associated with advanced economies than with developing countries. And the rich world does have a moral obligation to move first and faster – with policies, technologies, and finance – to reduce the emissions that cause global warming. But we also recognize that developing countries have a responsibility to act and that doing so can generate immense economic, social, and public health advantages for their citizens.

We cannot succeed on our own; this much is certain. The Climate Vulnerable Forum represents a tiny share of global emissions. We need the industrialized countries and the giants of the developing world to redouble their efforts to reduce their emissions, so that global warming can be limited to 1.5 degrees. Only then can disaster be averted.

Loren Legarda is a member of the Senate of the Philippines. Marcela Guerrero is a Congresswoman from Costa Rica.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Imagining a New Bretton Woods



By Yanis Varoufakis

Former finance minister of Greece, is Professor of Economics at the University of Athens.

The financial meltdown of 2008 prompted calls for a global financial system that curtails trade imbalances, moderates speculative capital flows, and prevents systemic contagion. That, of course, was the goal of the original Bretton Woods system. But such a system today would be both untenable and undesirable. So, what might an alternative look like?

The 1944 Bretton Woods conference featured a clash of two men and their visions: Harry Dexter White, President Franklin Roosevelt's representative, and John Maynard Keynes, representing a fading British Empire. Unsurprisingly, White's scheme, founded on the United States' post-war trade surplus, which it deployed to dollarize Europe and Japan in exchange for their acquiescence to full monetary-policy discretion for the US, prevailed. And the new post-war system provided the foundation for capitalism's finest hour – until America lost its surplus and White's arrangement collapsed.

The question asked periodically during much of the last decade is straightforward: Would Keynes's discarded plan be more appropriate for our post-2008 multipolar world?

Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of China's central bank, suggested so in early 2009, lamenting that Bretton Woods had not embraced Keynes's proposal. Two years later, Dominique Strauss Kahn, then-Managing

Director of the International Monetary Fund, was asked what he thought the IMF's post-2008 role ought to be. He replied: "Keynes, 60 years ago, already foresaw what was needed; but it was too early. Now is the time to do it. And I think we are ready to do it!"

Within weeks, however, Strauss Kahn fell from grace, without ever explaining what he meant by "it." But it is not too hard to sketch out what "it" might be. Above all, the new system would reflect Keynes's view that global stability is undermined by capitalism's innate tendency to drive a wedge between surplus and deficit economies. The surpluses and deficits grow larger during the upturn, and the burden of adjustment falls disproportionately on debtors during the downturn, leading to a debt-deflationary process that takes root in the deficit regions before dampening demand everywhere.

To counter this tendency, Keynes advocated replacing any system in which "the process of adjustment is compulsory for the debtor and voluntary for the creditor" with one in which the force of adjustment falls symmetrically upon debtors and creditors.

Keynes' solution was an international clearing union (ICU) to which all major economies would subscribe. While keeping their own currencies and central banks, members would agree to denominate all payments in a common accounting unit, which Keynes named the "bancor," and to clear all international payments through the ICU.

Initially, each member state's reserve account with the ICU would be credited with a sum of bancors proportionate to its relative share of world trade. Thereafter, each would be credited with extra bancors in proportion to its net exports. Once established, the ICU would tax persistent surpluses and



deficits symmetrically, to annul the negative feedback mechanism between unbalanced capital flows, volatility, inadequate global aggregate demand, and unnecessary unemployment distributed unevenly around the world.

Keynes's proposal was not without problems. It envisaged fixed currencies, which would require limited overdraft facilities for countries in chronic deficit and would entail constant haggling between finance ministers about re-setting exchange and interest rates.

And rigid financial controls, which lend bureaucrats inordinate discretionary power over capital transfers, amount to a fatal flaw. But there is no reason why an ICU cannot be designed with variable exchange rates and simple, automated rules which minimize politicians' and bureaucrats' discretionary power, while preserving the benefits of Keynes's original idea for keeping global imbalances in check.

A new ICU, or NICU, would be as Keynes had envisaged it. But, in place of the abstract bancor, it would feature a common digital currency

– say, Kosmos – to be issued and regulated by the IMF. The Fund would administer Kosmos on the basis of a transparent digital distributed ledger and an algorithm that would adjust total supply in a pre-agreed manner to the volume of world trade, allowing for an automatic countercyclical component that boosts global supply at times of a general slowdown.

Foreign-exchange markets would function as they do now, and the exchange rate between Kosmos and various currencies would vary in the same way that the IMF's Special Drawing Rights do vis-à-vis the dollar, euro, yen, pound, and renminbi. The difference, of course, would be that, under NICU, member states would allow all payments to one another to pass through their central bank's NICU Kosmos account.

To exploit the scheme's full potential for keeping imbalances in check, two stabilizing transfers would be introduced. First, a trade-imbalance levy would be charged annually to each central bank's Kosmos account in proportion to its current-account deficit or surplus

and paid into a common NICU fund. Second, private financial institutions pay a fee into the same NICU fund in proportion to any surge of capital flows out of a country, reminiscent of the price hike that companies like Uber impose during peak traffic.

The trade-imbalance levy is intended to motivate surplus countries' governments to boost domestic spending and investment while systematically reducing deficit countries' international spending power.

Foreign-exchange markets will factor this in, adjusting exchange rates faster in response to current-account imbalances and canceling out much of the capital flows which today support chronically unbalanced trade. Likewise, the "surge" charge will automatically penalize speculative, herd-like capital inflows or outflows, without increasing bureaucrats' discretionary power or introducing inflexible capital controls. Suddenly, the world will have acquired, without the need for subscribed capital, a global sovereign wealth fund.

This would enable the transition to a low-carbon energy system to be financed on a global scale and in a manner that stabilizes the global economy through investments in research and development dedicated to green energy and sustainable technologies.

Keynes was ahead of his time: His proposal necessitated digital technologies and foreign-currency markets that did not exist in the 1940s. But we have them today, along with institutional experience with international clearing systems. We also have a desperate need for the global green transition fund that a Keynesian Bretton Woods would automatically create. All that we lack is the political process, indeed a Roosevelt, to convene the players and catalyze change.

Kuwait to introduce business-friendly economic reforms

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The adjustment is expected to see tax revenue soar from as low as \$330 million annually to over \$2.5 billion.

Kuwait also is planning to turn five of its islands into investment havens by establishing free trade zones that would allow 100 percent foreign ownership, as well as tax exemptions. If approved, the private sector would be asked to finance, execute and operate the free zones, announcing the plan in December, the government said the zones "would act as an economic and cultural gateway for the northern Gulf region and Kuwait, and would support the Kuwaiti economy – thus raising its regional and international competitiveness.

With global players such as Huawei, GE and IBM making recent forays into

the Kuwait market, the government is also keen to make the country attractive to foreign hi-tech firms.

However, while welcoming the government recent initiatives, analysts say that if the wheels of reform are to maintain its momentum smoothly, it will require further greasing by the government. They point out that Kuwait continues to remain a complex market place with a relatively tough operating environment for businesses.

According to the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index', Kuwait is ranked 101, the lowest compared to other GCC countries such as UAE, which is ranked 31. For instance, an entrepreneur has to deal with 11 government interfaces to start a business, while other GCC peers have interfaces ranging from four to seven. This has deterred substantial inflows

of foreign direct investments into the country. As part of its economic reforms and to buttress falling revenues, the government is aiming to cut its substantial subsidies and adjust its burgeoning salary bill. While continuing to budget for \$9.6 billion worth of subsidies, including for fuel, electricity and water, the ministry of finance disclosed that revenues for 2016-17 would cover only 71 percent of the over \$34 billion needed to fund state salaries and associated costs.

Kuwait is the last of the GCC states to reduce or remove subsidies, although the government appears to be heading in that direction, with multiple discussions taking place with various stakeholders in an attempt to reach a consensus.

Any reduction in subsidies is unlikely to affect nationals and the authorities have repeatedly

emphasized that low-income earners would be exempt.

Reducing subsidies also would make state-owned utilities more attractive to private investors, as the government considers setting up a new state-owned fund that would manage as much as \$100 billion in local assets with the goal of selling them in five to seven years.

The national strategy aims, among other things, to leverage the country's strategic location and establish Kuwait as a commercial hub for the northern Gulf, with a number of major investments in transport and logistics infrastructure including seaports, airports and road and rail networks. The spending spree pivots around the Kuwait Development Plan for 2015-2020.

Approved in January 2015, the Plan is linked to \$116 billion worth of projects the government has said it

would implement during the five-year period. Among the more than 500 projects are a new port worth nearly \$8 billion, a desperately needed \$19.2 billion expansion of the international airport and a metro. In addition, the Kuwait Authority of Partnership Projects (KAPP) is expected to award contracts for public-private partnership (PPP) projects worth nearly \$7 billion in 2016.

As they say, better late than never. With executive and legislative working in a rare mood of cooperation, the government has the unique opportunity to push much-needed economic reforms through parliament. However, to win support for the laws and to ensure its smooth implementation, the government will also have to gain the confidence of the public, and that, given the present circumstances, is not an assured.



War and Peace and Water



Laura Tuck
World Bank Group Vice President for Sustainable Development.

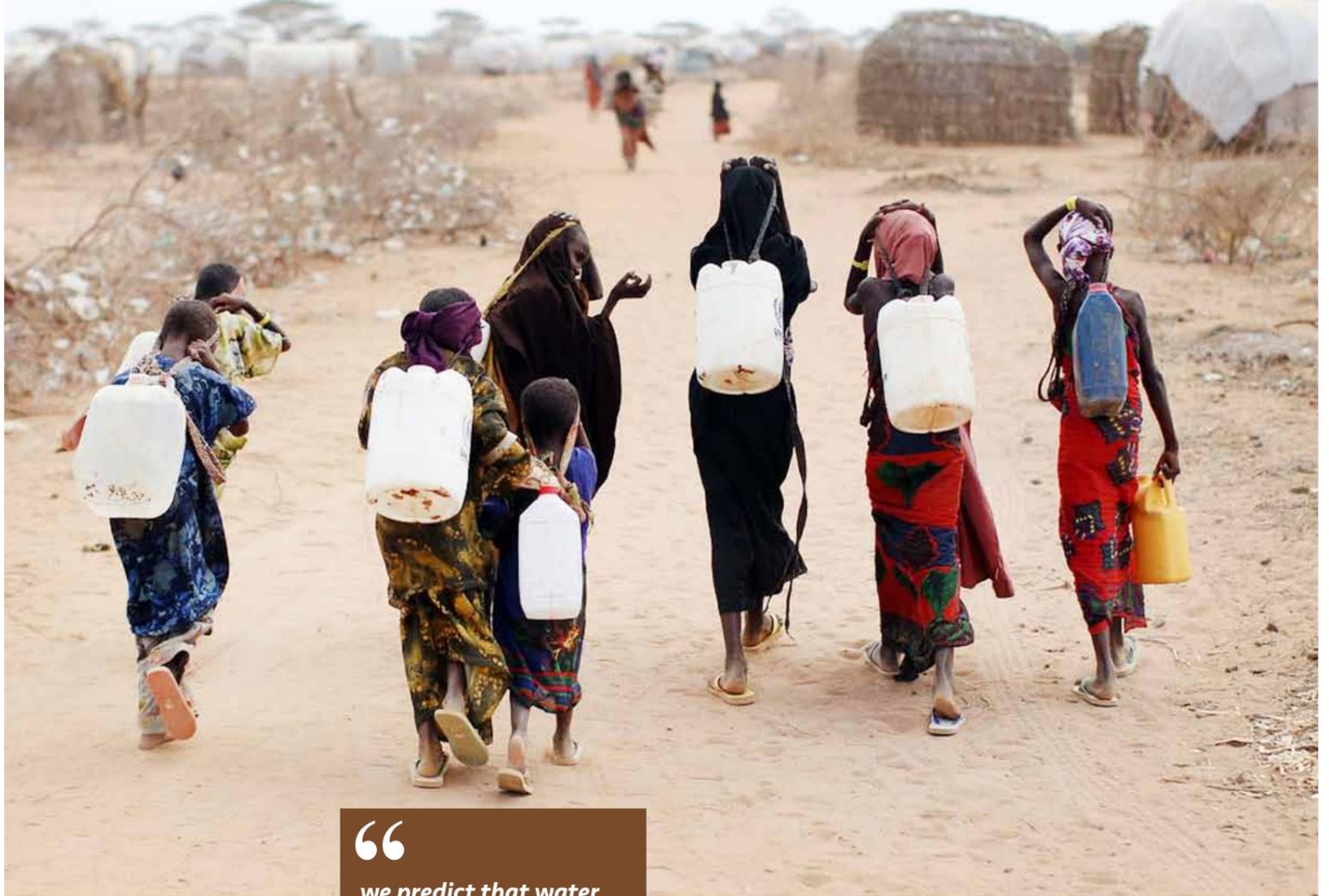
India is currently facing its worst water crisis in years, with an estimated 330 million people – one-quarter of its population – affected by severe drought. Ethiopia is also dealing with its worst drought in decades, which has already contributed to the failure of many crops, creating food shortages that now affect around a tenth of the population. Under such circumstances, the risk of tension over resources is high.

In the past, droughts of this severity have led to conflict and even wars between neighboring communities and states. One of the first in recorded history erupted around 4,500 years ago, when the city-state of Lagash – nestled between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern-day Iraq – diverted water from its neighbor, Umma. Competition for water sparked violent incidents in ancient China and fueled political instability in Pharaonic Egypt.

Today, actual wars between countries over water resources are uncommon, owing to improved dialogue and cross-border cooperation.

But, within countries, competition for scarce water is becoming a more common source of instability and conflict, especially as climate change increases the severity and frequency of extreme weather events. As we detail in our new report “High and Dry: Climate Change, Water and the Economy,” limited and erratic water availability reduces economic growth, induces migration, and ignites civil conflict, which fuels further potentially destabilizing migration.

This cycle has been apparent in some regions for decades. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, periods of low rainfall over the last 20 years have often been followed by spikes in violence, civil wars, and regime change. And in many parts of rural Africa and India, a decline in rainfall has acted as a “push factor” for internal or cross-border migration to more water-



abundant places, often cities, creating new social pressures as the numbers of displaced people grow.

In our report, we predict that water scarcity could act as a conflict-risk multiplier, fueling cycles of resource-driven conflict, violence, and displacement, especially in already water-stressed regions, such as the Middle East and the Sahel in Africa, where agriculture remains an important source of employment.

Fortunately, there is a way to avoid the cycle of poverty, deprivation, and conflict. If countries take action now to implement effective water-management policies and practices, backed by well-designed incentives, they can not only reverse the slide toward water scarcity, but also raise their rates of economic growth by as much as six percentage points per year.

One water-scarce country that has taken action to improve its resilience to climate change is Morocco. In years

“
we predict that water scarcity could act as a conflict-risk multiplier, fueling cycles of resource-driven conflict, violence, and displacement, especially in already water-stressed regions, such as the Middle East and the Sahel in Africa, where agriculture remains an important source of employment.
”

of low rainfall, Morocco’s river-basin authorities give the lowest priority to crop irrigation, the largest consumer of the country’s water. But, of course,

agriculture remains critical to feed the population. So the government has been investing in modernizing irrigation infrastructure to provide farmers with more efficient water services that enable them to adjust more easily to variations in water availability.

The Moroccan authorities are also working to improve groundwater governance, to avoid over-extraction. Farmers engaged in rain-fed agriculture receive support that helps them to make better use of rainfall – such as through the introduction of climate-resilient practices like direct seeding – resulting in higher yields than traditional practices produce during dry years.

The message from Morocco – and from our report – is that, with smart water policies and interventions, countries can ensure a climate-resilient, water-secure future. At the core of effective water-management strategies will

be improved planning for water-resource allocation, the adoption of incentives to increase efficiency, investment in infrastructure for improved water security, and better urban planning, risk management, and citizen engagement. The recently created International High-level Panel on Water, comprising ten heads of state, will be promoting precisely this agenda to foster better water management globally.

Of course, not every country will follow the same path in safeguarding a water-secure future. But, as countries develop their strategies, they can look to one another for ideas and insights into what works – and what doesn’t. With strong and prudent action, governments around the world can cope effectively with the natural limitations and uncertainties affecting water resources, ensuring that their people and economies are prepared for what might lie ahead.

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Africa's Vaccination Test



Folake Olayinka

Public health specialist and Aspen New Voices Fellow.

In February in Addis Ababa, African health ministers signed a widely celebrated declaration of their commitment to keeping immunization at the forefront of efforts to save the continent's children from death and disease. Fulfilling that commitment will be no easy feat. Immunization is not just a health issue; it is also an economic challenge.

The case for vaccination is strong. Globally, an estimated 2-3 million child deaths and 600,000 adult deaths are prevented annually through immunization. Moreover, immunization is considered one of the most cost-effective public-health interventions for reducing child morbidity, mortality, and disability. A recent study estimates that every dollar spent on vaccination will save \$16 in costs of illnesses averted. Accounting for the value individuals place on longer and healthier lives, net returns on investments in immunization soar to some 44 times the cost. And net returns exceed costs for all vaccines.

Significant progress has been



made. In 2014, 86% of children were immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, compared to less than 5% in 1974. And there have been extraordinary advances in the number and kinds of vaccines that are available.

Yet, worldwide, an estimated 18.7 million infants are not being reached by routine immunization services. The problem, of course, is access.

Detailed analysis of immunization in African countries reveals significant disparities within and across countries. More than 60% of the non-immunized infants live in just ten countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Uganda, and South Africa.

Routine immunization coverage remains particularly low in Africa; indeed, it has stagnated over the last

three years, against a backdrop of weak and under-resourced health systems. As a result, one in five African children still do not receive lifesaving vaccination. In 2014, an estimated 42% of all global deaths from measles were in Africa.

Most of Africa's under-immunized children live in Nigeria, Ethiopia, the DRC, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Guinea. Poor people, those living in rural areas, and families with lower education levels comprise the majority of those who are not reached.

Clearly, money is a leading factor shaping immunization outcomes. Beyond inadequately financed health systems, which remain weak and inefficient, especially in rural areas, African countries face challenges in affording new, more expensive vaccines. New vaccines should be enabling us to save more lives. Yet

Médecins Sans Frontières estimates that the introduction of new vaccines made it 68 times more expensive to vaccinate a child in 2014 than in 2001 in most African countries. Another study showed that in 2001, the total cost of the original set of six World Health Organization-recommended vaccines was less than one dollar. In 2014, the number of WHO-recommended vaccines had risen to 11 - and the cost had reached about \$21 for boys and \$35 for girls. The added costs of delivery, currently estimated at about \$25 per child, bring the total cost of fully immunizing a child today to \$50-60.

That same study found that, in many low- and middle-income countries, immunization budgets are currently insufficient to sustain vaccination programs, much less incorporate the new costlier vaccines. As several

health ministers pointed out in Addis Ababa, high vaccine prices force poor countries' governments to make tough choices about which deadly diseases they can afford to prevent.

For some countries, the situation is about to get worse, as Gavi, the international group which has helped to finance the dramatic global expansion of new vaccines, phases out support for countries deemed to have "graduated" from assistance. Without eligibility for the lower prices obtained by Gavi, many of these countries may not be able to afford newer vaccines.

In order to cope with this challenge, African political leaders have committed to invest in the continent's capacity to develop and produce its own vaccines. But this is a long-term strategy that will require coordinated regional investment planning, market development, and stronger regulatory capabilities. In the short to medium term, African countries would do well to look into the power of collective bargaining to strike better deals for needed vaccines.

While Africa can and should do more to improve vaccination, the global community also has a responsibility to make a concerted effort to bring down vaccine costs. The recently announced reduction in the price of pneumococcal vaccine is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough. Without collective action, equitable and sustained access to immunization in Africa will remain a major problem - and children's lives will continue to be lost.

Over 60 percent of Tanzania becoming a desert

Over 60 percent of Tanzania's land mass is under threat of becoming a desert caused by ongoing massive environmental degradation.

This was announced last week by January Makamba the country's Minister of State in the Vice President's Office of Union Affairs and Environment, while addressing members of parliament in the political capital Dodoma.



The minister said that the country was losing an average of one million acres of forests and said the problem was largely caused by the high demand for trees which are cut for energy use.

He added that over the last decade the area lost was equivalent to the entire size of neighbouring Rwanda.

"Over 90 percent of energy consumed in the country is from forests. On monthly basis Dar es Salaam alone is consuming between 200,000 and 300,000 bags of charcoal with an average weight of 50 kilograms each," he said.

The wave of massive degradation of forests has affected water catchment areas in the east African country.

To redress the situation, Makamba said that the government has launched a tree planting campaign across the country with a target of planting 1.5 million trees annually and empowering the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to fight off all sorts of environmental degradation.

Already, over 264 million trees were planted in Tanzania in the last two years and about 211 million have survived and are thriving.

Ivory Coast to end monopoly of water and electricity companies

Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara has announced the government's decision to end the monopoly enjoyed by the country's water and electricity providers.

Speaking during the Workers' Day celebration attended by different labour unions, the president said the country's electricity provider and the company responsible for water distribution have been accused of putting pressure on households.

The government in June last year decided to increase electricity tariff by 16 percent over three years to keep pace with production costs.

Under the arrangement, electricity tariffs were to be increased by 5 percent in January.

But the government's investigations have revealed that some customers have seen an increase in tariff by as much as 40 percent, prompting the president to cancel the January increases and call for a more competitive industry. President Ouattara called on all interested in investing in the two sectors to do so as the competition would help bring electricity prices under control and further reduced tariffs.

There has been social upheaval in the country in the past few weeks following a decision by the electricity company to increase tariffs in accordance with pressure from the backers.



President Ouattara added that: "We have discovered that the government's directive was not properly implemented and that some subscribers have seen an increase in tariff which is higher than what was initially agreed".

The country has emerged from a decade of political turmoil and civil war as one of the continent's rising economic stars with growth averaging around 9 percent for the past four years.

But critics of the government complain that most Ivorians have not benefited from the new-found prosperity. The president's decision to intervene comes at a time when the country is preparing to hold local elections amid an increase in cost of living in the country, especially in Abidjan.

Niger needs a billion euros to fight illegal migration

Niger's Foreign Minister said recently the country needs one billion euros to combat illegal migration.

The west African nation is a major transit country for Africans seeking to reach the European Union.

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), as many as 150,000 migrants, most coming from other West African nations, will travel through Niger this year, crossing the Sahara Desert on their way to the Mediterranean coast.

We want to protect legal migration against clandestine migration.

"Niger needs a billion euros to fight against clandestine migration," Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yacoubou told a news conference in Niger's capital, flanked by his French and German counterparts Jean-Marc Ayrault and Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "We've solicited the help of the European Union, France and Germany. We want to protect legal migration against clandestine migration," Yacoubou said.

A vast landlocked country, Niger borders Nigeria in the south and Libya to north - from whose coast many migrants set off on the perilous sea journey to EU members, Italy or Malta.



With huge numbers of refugees fleeing war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, and no let up in arrivals from Africa, the European Union faces

its worst migration crisis since World War Two. It allocated 1.15 billion euros in aid to West Africa last July, part of which was intended to go towards migration. "I was particularly struck by the energy that Niger has deployed in the fight against terrorism and migration and for its development," said Ayrault, on a West Africa trip with Steinmeier that also took them to Mali.

Niger is one of the world's least developed nations and has been targeted by militants from Boko Haram, the Nigeria-based extremist group, as well as MUJWA, a breakaway faction of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Condition of gut bacteria linked to lifestyle choices

The food you eat and the medicines you take can alter your gut bacteria in ways that either help or harm your health, two new studies suggest.

Foods like fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea, yogurt and buttermilk can increase the diversity of bacteria in a person's intestines, and that diversity can help ward off illness.

It is believed that higher diversity and richness in gut bacteria is beneficial. On the other hand, foods containing loads of simple carbohydrates appear to reduce bacterial diversity in the gut, and these include high-fat whole milk and sugar-sweetened soda.

In addition, medications can also play a part in the makeup of your gut bacteria. Antibiotics and antacids can

cut down on gut bacterial diversity while smoking and heart attacks can have a negative effect.

Each person's intestines contain trillions of microorganisms, which doctors refer to as the "gut microbiome. It's the largest immune system in the body, and these bacteria have a very dramatic and prominent role in determining health and disease.

To study the effect of lifestyle on the gut microbiome, stool samples were collected from more than 1,100 people living in the northern Netherlands.

The samples were used to analyze the DNA of the bacteria and other organisms that live in the gut. In addition to stools, the study collected information on the participants' diets, medicine use and health.

In the second study, researchers with the Flemish Gut Flora Project

performed a similar analysis on stool samples taken from 5,000 volunteers in Belgium. Both studies concluded that diet has a profound effect on the diversity of gut bacteria, although, the underlying theories of these dietary factors remain largely unknown.

Researchers noted that medicines can have the same effect, and antibiotics actually can kill off some important strains of gut bacteria. One dose of an antibiotic may disrupt your gut bacteria for a year. Both sets of researchers emphasized that their studies only help explain a fraction of gut bacteria variation -- roughly 18 percent for the Netherlands study, and about 7 percent for the Flemish study.

However, the findings from the two groups overlapped about 80 percent of the time, indicating that they are on the right track. The Belgian researchers

estimated that over 40,000 human samples will be needed to capture a complete picture of gut bacteria diversity.

Other research has shown that poor sleep, obesity, diabetes and the use of artificial sweeteners also can interfere with gut bacteria.

Once researchers have a clearer understanding of the gut microbiome and its effects on health, doctors could be able to help prevent or heal illness by reading or influencing the bacteria within people's bodies. The personalized microbiome may assist in personalized nutrition, personalized medicine, disease risk stratification and treatment decision-making.

In the meantime, the general rule is a balanced diet with high fiber and low carbs tends to drive a better gut health overall.



Smog may boost risk for several cancers

Long-term exposure to fine particles of air pollution - from cars, trucks, power plants and manufacturing facilities -- is tied to an increased risk of dying from several kinds of cancer, a new study suggests.

The study, involving more than 66,000 older residents of Hong Kong, found an increased risk of dying from cancer for even small increases in exposure to these tiny particles of air pollution, which are measured in micrograms per cubic meter (mcg/



m3). For example, the overall risk of dying from cancer increased 22 percent with every additional 10 mcg/m3 of exposure, the researchers said.

The raised risk seemed higher for some cancers than others: The additional air pollution was linked to a 42 percent rise in the risk of dying from cancer in the upper digestive tract, and a 35 percent increased risk of dying from liver, bile duct, gall bladder and pancreatic cancer, according to researchers.

Among women, the increased exposure was tied to an 80 percent

heightened risk of dying from breast cancer. Among men, the higher pollution levels carried a 36 percent increased risk of dying of lung cancer, the study authors said.

Although the role of air pollution in cancer is not fully understood, it could include defects in DNA repair, alterations in the immune response or inflammation that triggers the growth of new blood vessels that allow cancer to spread. In cancer of the digestive organs, heavy metal pollution could also affect gut bacteria and promote development of cancer.

In the study, it was not known whether any of the people had cancer before the study began. Researchers followed the residents until 2011. Causes of deaths were provided by Hong Kong death registries.

To gauge the exposure to tiny particles of air pollution, the researchers relied on estimates from satellite data and air quality monitors. The researchers also adjusted their findings for smoking, and excluded deaths that happened up to three years after people were enrolled in the study.

The risk of death from cancer is not the only harm that air pollution has been tied to recently. A study published April 27 in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives found that being exposed to just a small amount of air pollution during pregnancy may raise the risk of a complication that can cause premature birth and long-term health problems in children.

Debilitating effects of dehydration

It does not take much for your body to become dehydrated. Lose just 1.5 percent of the water in your body, and you have reached the tipping point of mild dehydration, which can do more to your body than just make you feel thirsty.

Dehydration can bring on health effects ranging from the mild to severe; here are some of the issues brought on by dehydration.

Cravings for sugar: Dehydration can mask itself as hunger, particularly sugar cravings. This may happen particularly if you have been exercising. When you

doubled during a two-hour drive when drivers were dehydrated versus hydrated -- an effect similar to driving while drunk. Since often people purposely avoid drinking prior to a long road trip to prevent bathroom stops, dehydration could increase the risk of traffic accidents.

Tiredness: A mid-afternoon slump



exercise in a dehydrated state, you use glycogen (stored carbohydrate) at a faster rate, thus diminishing your stores more quickly. So once you finish exercising, you will likely crave carbs to help you replenish those glycogen levels and get you ready for your next exercise bout.

Inability to drive safely: New research shows that the number of driving errors

may have more to do with hydration than you think. When you are dehydrated your blood pressure drops, heart rate increases, blood flow to the brain slows -- all of which can make you tired. A lack of water to muscles also makes physical tasks feel more difficult and tiring.

Chills: It may seem counterintuitive, but dehydration can bring on chills.

This occurs because your body starts to limit blood flow to the skin. In addition, water holds heat, so if you become hydrated it can be more difficult to regulate your body temperature, which can make you become chilled faster, even when you are not in a cold environment.

Muscle cramps: A lack of water causes less blood circulation, which can make muscles cramp up. The body will protect its vital organs, so it shifts fluid away from muscles and anything that is not vital. Muscle cramps can be extremely painful, making muscles feel harder than normal to the touch. Changes in sodium and potassium through sweat loss can also contribute to cramping.

Dizziness: Along with muscles, your brain also gets less blood circulation when you are low on water, which can make you dizzy. Additionally, mild dehydration may affect your ability to take on mental tasks and cause you to feel foggy headed.

Headaches: Dehydration can cause headaches in a couple of different ways. Lack of water affects your body's serotonin levels, which can give you headaches. Also, small blood vessels in the brain respond quickly to low hydration, leading to dull aches and even full-blown migraines. Downing a glass or two of water the next time you have a headache may make your migraine disappear. Also, try eating fruits as they contain a high percentage of water.



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UPPER CRUST PIZZERIA

When one thinks of the typical Boston slice, Boston's Upper Crust Pizzeria is the one to come



in mind. Using a simple flavorful crust, the Upper Crust Pizzeria prides itself on inventing new ways

to tease the taste buds that go beyond the ordinary. Taking a break from the usual thicker pizza pie, the pie artisans have perfected the art of the thinner crust. Prepared to be crispier on the outside edges and softer towards the center, this crust is craftily balanced to carry the addictive and delicious chosen toppings. Incorporating only the freshest ingredients, the menu has grown from classical favorites to include more daring toppings to tease the taste buds.

Popular dish: The state house large pizza, a combination of hamburger, sliced pepperoni and Italian sausage.

 The Village restaurant complex, Abu Al Hasaneya (2390 7087) and KIPCO tower (2294 3200).

HEALTHYLICIOUS Q8



If you are in the mood for a proper lettuce wrapped burger and baked sweet potato fries, then Healthylicious is for you. Besides their signature burger offering, Healthylicious Q8 is dubbed as



Kuwait's hippest 'Diet' Restaurant with a menu plentiful with seafood dishes, Asian renditions, sandwiches, salads and so much more. Also on the menu are different shakes and smoothies for every fitness routine.

Popular dish: Fresh grilled salmon, accompanied by rice and salad.

 Salmiya (5066 0017), Platinum Gym, Sabah Al Salem (2239 6398)

VAPIANO



Located at The Avenues, Vapiano thrives on the Italian proverb, 'Chi va piano, va sano e va lontano', which means, 'If you have an easy-going and relaxed approach to life, you will live healthily and longer'. This is what this establishment aims to deliver, an environment that allows people to meet to

share their love of life and food in a relaxed setting that celebrates positive vibes and amazing quality. When you visit Vapiano, prepare to fall in love with the long oak picnic tables that are perfect for large gatherings, along with the designated Pasta, Antipasti and Pizza stations.

Popular dish: Alfredo with penne, tender chicken breast with fresh mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, diced onion and garlic oil in a creamy sauce.

 The Avenues

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

Easy tips for delicious

homemade pickles



The beauty of preparing pickles at home is that you can tailor them to suit your tastes, making them sweet or sour, and adding as much or as little flavoring as you wish.

The trick with pickling is to create an environment that is inhospitable to harmful bacteria while preserving the integrity of the vegetables. The 1:1 ratio of vinegar to water keeps vegetables crisp in the fridge, but is also acidic enough that they can be canned safely if you so choose. Follow the given steps and prepare your own healthy, delicious pickles at home.

Prepare: Pick the vegetables you wish to pickle and briefly blanch (cook them in boiling water) if necessary.

Tips

Tip 1: Water: Most water is suitable for pickling, but hard water may interfere with the process and discolor vegetables over time. For this, it is best you use purified water.

Tip 2: Vinegar: You can experiment with different vinegars for pickles, but if you plan on canning them, use vinegars that are at least 5% acetic acid. The percentage is often listed on the label. As long as there is an equal amount of vinegar and water in the brine, you can add or subtract ingredients like salt or sugar to suit your tastes. Just be aware that if there is more water than vinegar in the brine, it may not be suitable for canning.

Tip 3: Salt: Use pure sea salt without any additives or salt labeled 'canning' or 'pickling' salt. Additives in table salt may cause the brine to appear cloudy.

Not all vegetables can be pickled in the same way so you have to know which ones can be blanched.

To blanch, bring 16 cups of water per pound of prepped vegetables to boil in a large pot. Add the vegetables, cover, return to a boil and cook for two minutes (in case of beetroot, cook for five minutes). Transfer the vegetables to a large bowl of ice water to cool and then drain.

Divide: Divide your vegetables among two cup sized jars.

Preparation of brine: When preparing brine (liquid solution consisting of water, salt, sugar, and possibly herbs and spices in order to



preserve, tenderize or flavor pickles), you can opt for sour or sweet pickle brine.

To prepare sweet pickle brine, in a large saucepan, combine three cups of distilled white vinegar, three cups water, 1 1/2 cups sugar and one tablespoon plus one teaspoon sea salt. Bring to boil and stir until the salt and sugar are dissolved. Let it boil for two minutes before removing from the heat. Makes six cups.

To prepare sour pickle brine, in a large saucepan, combine three cups distilled white vinegar, three cups water, two tablespoons plus two teaspoons sea salt and two tablespoons sugar. Bring to boil and stir until the salt is dissolved. Once done, let it boil for two minutes before removing from the heat. Makes six cups.

Filling jars with brine: Carefully fill

Recipe

Homemade refrigerator pickle
(Makes 64 servings)



In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring one cup distilled white vinegar, one tablespoon salt and two cups white sugar to a boil until the sugar has dissolved, that is about ten minutes.

Place six cups sliced cucumbers, one cup sliced onions and one cup sliced green bell peppers in a large bowl. Pour the vinegar mixture over the vegetables. Transfer to sterile containers and store in the refrigerator.

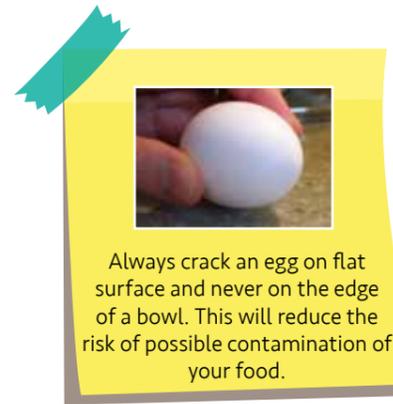
the jars with brine to within 1/2 inch of the top of the rim, covering the vegetables completely. Discard any leftover brine and place the lids on the jars and refrigerate for at least 24 hours before serving. Pickles can be kept fresh in the refrigerator for up to one month.



COOKING Tips



The more fat a dish has in it, the more salt you need to emphasize the flavors.



Always crack an egg on flat surface and never on the edge of a bowl. This will reduce the risk of possible contamination of your food.



To prepare crispy French fries, let the raw potatoes stand in cold water for at least half an hour before frying to improve crispiness.

His Highness the Premier's visit to South Korea gives momentum to economic partnership

His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks with South Korean leaders on the prospects of the special ties between the two countries, particularly in the economic, energy and investment fields. His Highness the Premier, leading a senior-level delegation started his official visit to South Korea as part of a tour of four Asian countries including Bangladesh, Japan and Vietnam on 3 May.

The bilateral trade volume between Kuwait and South Korea hit USD 20 billion last year with Kuwait's exports to South Korea being mainly oil and oil by-products while its imports there from being electronic and electrical equipment, and cars.

South Korea is Kuwait's largest trade partner accounting for 70 percent of Kuwait's imports in 2013-



2014. Since 1970s, the South Korean companies have been playing a key role in the development of infrastructure projects in Kuwait, including the

construction of highways, flyovers, power stations, hospitals and power plants. In September, 2014, the then South Korean minister of

land, infrastructure and transport visited Kuwait and signed MoU on cooperation in the areas of housing and infrastructure including the development of the Silk City project in Sabbiya area with a view to realizing the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for turning Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub.

In May, 2015, the two sides inked a MoU on cooperation in transport by virtue of which South Korean firms will take part in the implementation of subway project and the GCC railway project.

The two countries are committed to promotion of the friendly ties in the cultural, educational, scientific, information and youth and sports fields under an agreement signed in 1984. Regarding the academic exchanges, dozens of Kuwaiti students

pursue their higher education at South Korean universities while nearly one thousand South Korean students are studying Arabic at Kuwait University.

The political ties between the two countries have been growing steadily since the latter recognized Kuwait as an independent country in 1962 and established the diplomatic ties on the ambassadorial level in June, 1979.

As non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 1996-1997, South Korea supported Kuwait's quest for uncovering the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing in action during the Iraqi invasion; it reiterated the call for Iraq to implement the relevant UNSC resolutions.

The 1,600 South Korean community in Kuwait, mainly skilled professionals and civil engineers, contribute to the comprehensive development of the oil-rich country.



Kuwait, Bangladesh deepen cooperation

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently ended a three-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Government of the People's



Republic of Bangladesh. During the visit, His Highness the Prime Minister paid a courtesy call on President of Bangladesh Mohammed Abdul Hamid, where they emphasized the importance of deepening cooperation between Bangladesh and Kuwait both in bilateral, regional and multilateral

arenas. During the visit, the two sides agreed to cooperate in various fields and to expand the scope of the partnership in the fields of trade, investments, energy and power, defense, human resources, infrastructure and in the priority sectors in the Economic Zones under Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority and IT parks.

They also expressed satisfaction at the signing of the agreement on promotion and reciprocal protection of investment between Bangladesh and Kuwait, where they affirmed that it would facilitate Kuwaiti investments in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh appreciated the development assistance extended by Kuwait to Bangladesh, in particular KD 15 million economic assistance from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for the construction of Paira Bridge in Paukhali.

Kuwaiti-Vietnamese meeting tackles business cooperation

As part of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Vietnam, an economic Kuwaiti-Vietnamese meeting took place in Hanoi, headed by Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dhang Dengkui.

The meeting was also attended by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Investment Authority's Executive Manager Farouq Bastaki, Kuwait Petroleum International's (KPI) Vice President Ghanem Al-Otaibi, and head of Vietnam Petrochemicals Project Nghi Son. Dengkui in his opening speech welcomed the Kuwaiti delegation and expressed pleasure for this opportunity to tackle a number of issues to boost economic cooperation between the two sides, including the latest developments that took place in Vietnam in recent years.

The Vietnamese official highlighted various economic prospects in his country, namely the



modernization of its infrastructure, transportation, and commercial transit which paved the way for Vietnam to become one of the biggest exporters to the global markets.

The foreign ministry official also shed light on Vietnamese labor and vital cooperation that could benefit both sides, particularly in nursing and health sector. For his part, Al-Wazzan expressed his keenness to enhance economic ties with Vietnam and its private sector.

This was followed by an open discussion and a presentation on

several projects in Vietnam, and finally a number of cooperation protocols between KCCI and Vietnam's chamber of commerce and industry were signed.

Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and PetroVietnam also signed a cooperation agreement that aims at re-focusing on their refining and petrochemicals strategies. KPI's Chief Executive Officer Bakheet Al-Rashidi said that the agreement would enhance KPI's manufacturing and refining strategies in order to provide a safe venue for Kuwaiti crude.



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Canadian Food Festival held at Saveco

The Canadian Food Festival at Saveco was inaugurated on 1 May and will run till 8 May, 2016. The objective of this event is to promote a wide range of Canadian products (fresh, frozen and dry) via a week-long in-store promotion at Saveco stores in Kuwait.

At the opening ceremony, the Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait H.E. Martine Moreau was the guest of honor where she cut the ribbon with Saveco CEO Noor Al Qattami and celebrated with the hypermarket executives and clients at the Al Rai outlet.

"Canada has a world-class food and agriculture sector dedicated to producing high-quality and safe products that take into account the environment. Kuwait always looks for top quality, healthy and organic innovative products from all over the world. Canada provides a wide range



of natural and high quality food items through hundreds of SME companies that specialize in food sector as well as sales of commodities like wheat, lentils and canola oil. We are glad

work with a top quality hyper market to promote products that are unique to Canada like maple syrup and canola oil.» Ambassador Moreau stated to the media. Canada is the world's fifth-

largest exporter of agriculture and agri-food products after the European Union (E.U.), the U.S., Brazil, and China in 2013. Ambassador Moreau highlighted that the food and beverage

processing industry is the largest of all manufacturing industries in Canada, accounting for the largest share (16 percent) of the total manufacturing sector's GDP in 2013. Underlining that in 2015, Kuwait imported nearly \$32 million in Canadian products, more than 1.5x the imports of 2014. Adding that, top Canadian exports to Kuwait are: Wheat, Canola Oil, Frozen potatoes, Maple Syrup and lentils.

A guided tour of the store followed the opening where several stops for briefings and tastings occurred at the shelves holding Canadian products.

A wide range of Canadian Food and Beverage products were featured during the promotion where products were sourced directly from Canada or through local distributors of Canadian products. Featured products included maple syrup, honey, canola oil, lentils, confectionary, juices, cereals and breads among others.

BSK students take part in Debating Tournament in Slovakia



Two teams of students from The British School of Kuwait (BSK) travelled to Slovakia to participate in the Bratislava Schools Debating Tournament; a new competition for students and one that annually attracts many other keen students from around the world.

This year countries included South Africa, Mongolia, Romania and Great Britain to name a few. The 6 students, from Years 10 - 12 Lauren Lilley, George Ibrahim, Saad Zahoor, Rebecca Araujo-Aikman, Dylan Peacock and Anandita Kapoor, have had previous successes in debating in Bahrain and they were enthusiastic about competing with international teams. The debate topics required forward thinking and an up to date knowledge of global current affairs. Whilst some of the topics had been distributed prior to the

event, the students had to tackle impromptu motions with just one hour to construct their case. Motions included the development of scientifically enhanced humans, the future of national memorial landmarks, workers' rights and the use of the media for means of political lobbying.

BSK Team A ranked highly out of twenty teams, narrowly missing out on the quarter final rounds. Two of the team members, Lauren Lilley and Saad Zahoor, will be travelling to Stuttgart, Germany this summer to represent Kuwait in the Worlds Schools Debating Tournament, where they will again go head to head against some of the national teams they had faced during the Slovakian competition. This trip to Bratislava will hold them in good stead to perform well at this prestigious world class event in Germany.

IEI Kuwait Chapter conducts seminar

The Institution of Engineers India (IEI) Kuwait Chapter conducted a Technical Seminar on 4 April, at Kohinoor Restaurant, Fahaheel.

The first speaker Milton Dana from Bureau Veritas presented a seminar on the topic 'Confined Spaces' while the second speaker Dr. Mahendhran, Group Manager, Al Babbain Group presented a seminar on 'Latest Developments in Automotive systems' with specific reference to ABS braking systems in automobiles. This was followed by a Q and A session.



SIF-Kuwait Conducts orientation program for Kuwait Children's Science Congress 2016

Science International Forum (SIF), Kuwait recently organized an orientation program for the registered students and guides participating in the Kuwait Children Science Congress - Young Scientists' Program 2016 at Kuwait Indian School Auditorium, Abbasiya. The orientation aimed to explain the concept of Kuwait Children's Science Congress - Young scientists program, how students should

approach a scientific research project, benefits of following procedures, understand the current year theme and sub themes announced, evaluation criteria, and how to effectively begin.

The sessions were handled by members of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR); Senior Research Scientist Dr. N R Bhat, Senior Research Scientist Dr. S Neelamani and Associate

Research Scientist Dr. Krishnakumar Sugumaran, which was followed by a Q&A session.

Over the next five months, more than 200 young children scientists from different schools in Kuwait will undertake research projects on various topics under the theme 'Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development'. Team selection for the KCSC program was done exclusively through schools.

Arabesque Café and Terrace launches new look and menu

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa has introduced a new look and menu to the Arabesque Café & Terrace, with exquisite furniture and inviting décor for a comfortable dining experience, complete with a vast array of Middle Eastern favourites.



"We are pleased to introduce a new dining experience to our guests with a fresh new look of distinguished Arabian style that seamlessly blends with a modern twist," says General Manager, Hakan Petek.



Arabesque Café also presents special items by the acclaimed Chef Sami, who has been featured on several Kuwaiti TV shows to share his savoury recipes.

Starting with the cold and hot mezzeh platters, options of assorted kebabs, koftas, shawarmas, and arayas can be enjoyed with a selection of salads, namely the popular sumac salad. Other Arabian

picks are the delectable lamb stew and pitta bread paired with the restaurant's signature hummus.

Guests can complete their dining experience with freshly-prepared sweet treats complimented by servings of Arabic coffee. Arabesque Café celebrates contemporary design with the traditional ambience of the Middle East.

KUWAIT OUT AND ABOUT



06 MAY

Japanese Art Exhibition at DAI

The Embassy of Japan will be hosting a Japanese modern art exhibition titled 'Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan' at the DAI Americani cultural center, at 7pm. The exhibition will showcase attractive pieces of art. The exhibition will run from 8 to 31 May.

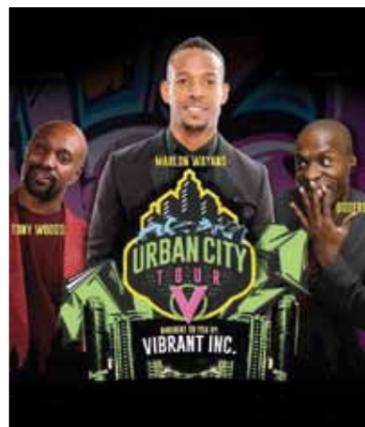


10 MAY

American film showcase workshop

The U.S. Embassy will be hosting a film making workshop at the Yarmouk Cultural Center, from 10 to 14 May, 5pm to 8pm on weekdays and 2pm to 8pm on weekends. Training is open to anyone interested, but prior film experience is necessary. There is no age limit for participation. For more information and to apply: Visit, <https://paskuwait.typeform.com/to/LCMXjq>

13 MAY



The Urban City Tour

Vibrant Inc. will be holding the Urban City tour at the Kuwait Stadium in Kaifan. Enjoy two hours of laughter and excitement with Marlon Wayans and Tony Woods. For more information and to get your tickets: Visit, eventat.com or vibrantinc.com or call, 65871770.



Catomania at ACK

First ever cat-centric quiz night - K'S PATH'S 'Catomania' will be held at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) at 7pm. The event will include teams of five who will compete against each other to win fabulous prizes which include best team name, best costume and a great dinner. The quiz will be conducted by quizmaster Hassan Rawas and questions will be based on the subject of cats. The fee per head is KD 12. For more information

and registration: Email your team details (names, mobiles, and email addresses) to info@kspath.org or call 50209600.

Armenian dance show

Shakeh Dance Group of Kuwait will be hosting the Annual dance show organized by The Armenian Relief Society of Kuwait, at the Abdulhusein Abdulridha theatre, Salmiya at 7:30pm. The guest singer for the evening will be Elya Tashchyan. The entry ticket for adults is KD 8 and students KD 5. For more information and to you're your tickets: Call, 99028988 or 99402424.

14 MAY

Fitness with Urvi

A fitness, health and beauty carnival titled, 'Fitness with Urvi' will be held at the Salmiya Indian Model School, from 4pm to 8pm. The carnival will include stalls, prizes, zumba, nutrition, lucky draw and more. For more information: Call, 55061896.



Writing for children at DAI

Writing for Children, a program for 8 - 12 year olds will be held at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. The program is open to all and is free of cost. For more information and registration, send your child's name and age to: info@damuseum.org.kw.

Free fitness classes



Zumba, Masala Bhangra workout, aerobics, toning and many more free classes will be held at B.FIT studio in Salmiya. To register: Call, 65077062.

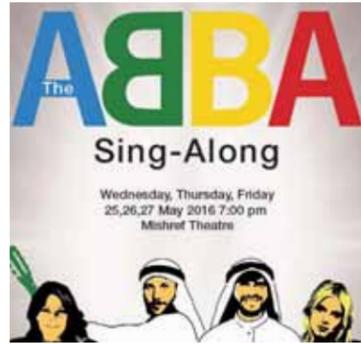
NYF offers free yoga classes

Free yoga, breathing, meditation and reiki classes will be held by an experienced female yoga teacher for all age groups. Classes are assigned on the basis of different health problems, stress and other problems by different techniques. For more information: Call, 99315825.

Free drum classes

For those interested in drums, free drum music classes are being held in Salmiya for all age groups, from beginners to advanced, by a well-experienced drum teacher. For more information: Call, 94974295.

25 MAY



Ahmadi Music Group and the Messila Beach Blues Band will be holding the ABBA Sing-Along, from 25 to 27 May, at 7pm at the Mishref theatre. This concert is for the members of Friends of Ahmadi Music Group. Membership can be bought by making a donation through the ticketing process. For more information and to get your membership: Visit, <https://www.ahmadimusicgroup.com/> or call, 66184192



Arraya Ballroom launches new wedding packages

Arraya Ballroom, located near Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, is one of the most popular wedding venues in the country. The pre-function area, corridors and banquet lobby have been designed to offer a perfect setting for wedding ceremonies.

From stunning flower arrangements and customized wedding cakes to cutting-edge audio-visual technology and high speed internet, Arraya Ballroom offers a choice of packages and options. The

cuisine includes a wide range of buffet menus designed by world class chefs.

Arraya offers tailor-made packages that can be individually designed according to your special needs. The wedding packages include a complimentary night in one of the deluxe rooms at Courtyard by Marriott, free use of the bridal suite, customized wedding cake, upgraded menu featuring an elegant buffet, complimentary in-room breakfast for the new couple and free parking space.

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Polish embassy celebrates country's National Day



The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Kuwait H.E. Grzegorz Olszak hosted a reception on his country's National Day, commemorating the establishment of the Constitution of Poland on 3 May, 1791. The event, held at the Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Hall, was graced with the presence of Chief Guest Assistant Foreign Minister for America Affairs H.E. Reem Al Khaled. In attendance on the occasion were members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, Kuwaiti officials, media representatives and Polish nationals.



ICSK Celebrates 57th Foundation Day with Vidyaratna Award Competitions



ICSK conducted The First Vidyaratna Rolling Trophy Debate and Elocution Competitions on 3 May at ICSK Khaitan with the participation of ten Indian Schools to commemorate its 57th Foundation Day. The eminent judges were Dr. Navniit Gandhi, professor and well known writer, Chaitali Banerjee Roy, author and a well known Toastmaster and multifaceted personality Satishkumar.

Ten contestants of 7th and 8th standard representing individual schools spoke on various topics just with a prior preparation of ten minutes. The next round, the igniting debate

session had the ten teams debating in favor and against the motion 'Have too many channels, including social media, brought people closer?' Reyana Mahesh played a key role as a moderator for debate. The first, second and third prizes in the elocution competition were won by Efreem Joseph Charls from ICSK Amman, Clarin Menezes from Indian Central School and Dwiti Ponda of FAIPS respectively.

The first, second and third individual prize winners of debate competition were Aishwarya Shaji from FAIPS, Jaidev Shriram again from FAIPS and Sudarshan Ratnakumar of The Indian Central School

respectively. The tiny tots of ICSK Khaitan presented a Rajasthani style welcome dance, and the school choir rendered 'Khushiyan hi khushiyan ho' in joyous celebration with a final note of prayer of wishes to beloved ICSK on its 57th Birthday with 'bar bar dil ye gaye...'

Finally, the ICSK Vidyaratna award trophy was awarded by judges and ICSK Principals to FAIPS (Delhi Public School) for scoring highest total points from all its contestants among participating schools.

Sherly Denis, Principal in charge of ICSK Junior proposed the vote of thanks. The programme ended with the Indian National Anthem.

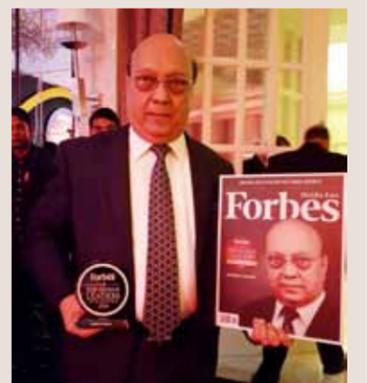
Jagdeep Sahani awarded with prestigious Forbes Top Indian leader in Arab world

Kuwait based Indian businessman Jagdeep Sahani was honored among the top Indian leaders in the Arab World at a gala ceremony hosted at the Waldorf Astoria, Dubai Palm Jumeirah. The awardees were recognized as the most successful and ground breaking Indian leaders in the Middle East.

H.E. T.P. Seetharaman, Indian Ambassador to the UAE, graced the occasion as the guest of honor and presented the awards to the winners.

Achievers from various sectors like retail, industrials, healthcare, banking and finance, among others were recognized during the event in two categories - top owners and top executive management.

Mr. Sahani was recognized for his contribution in the retail sector and



has been in business in Kuwait for several decades.

Speaking to The Times, Kuwait he said he was humbled by the recognition and thanked all his staff, family and friends for their continued support and good wishes.

ESF rocks the stage with 'Grease'

The English School Fahaheel (ESF) recently held a two-night musical event titled 'Grease' at the school's Lloyd Webber Theatre.

The cast was headed by Sara Shuaiber who played the role of Sandy and Jared Munar who played Danny. Reem Zeidan played Rizzo, Hiba Jamal played Marty, Sara Nouri was Jan and

the Beauty school dropout Frenchie was played by Farah Ghoubar. Mahmoud who played Kenickie, received tremendous cheers from the audience for his excellent rendition of the song, 'Greased Lightning'.

The drama of 'Grease' depicted the 50's era and the props even included a replica of the Grease Lightning car.



The Gym Team holds Zumba and EMS orientation-demonstration

Ricky Laxa
Staff Writer

Mentors and instructors of The Gym Team were recently visited by representatives from Fit in Time promoting their latest breakthrough in weight loss and rehabilitations. The half hour demonstration was held as a part of Zumba classes held every Friday at Chai Al Dhaha, Radisson Blu Hotel.

The demonstration by Jaja Cayabyab, participated by Janice Capili of Pilates and More Gym, showcased three different programs that included weight loss, rehabilitation and toning of muscles. They discussed about the revolutionary machine, Electronic Muscle Stimulation (EMS) which strengthens the back, builds supporting muscles, reaches deeper muscles fibers, improves blood circulation and develops



cardio vascular system. Cayabyab demonstrated the methods from preparation of equipments and apparels, which will be used in the workout to the different approaches to the workout.

The Gym Team also announced its forthcoming master class scheduled on 27 May at the Failaka Hall of Radisson Blu with top Zumba

trainers, Blanche Bravo, Janice Capili, Helen Rahi and Stella Munch. The highlight of the event is a half hour Zumba workout provided by a Colombian trainer Alexander Romero. Certificates of participation will be given to all attendees and will include refreshments. Proceeds of the event will go to charity, which will be announced prior to the event.



ONCOST inaugurates 3rd branch in Fahaheel

ONCOST Cash & Carry, the first and only Cash and Carry concept in Kuwait has successfully inaugurated its 3rd store in Fahaheel on May 4th at 5pm.

The store was inaugurated by Mr. Talal Al Bahar, Chairman of IFA, Mr. Marzouq Al Bahar, IFA Food General Manager, Mr. Mohammad Al Radwan, Vice Chairman, IFA Food and ONCOST senior executives including Mr. Saleh Al Tunaib, Chief Executive Officer, Remesh T A, Chief Operations Officer and a large number of industry professionals.

As the previous two stores have demonstrated, the Fahaheel branch is again offering customers the experience



of wholesale shopping in a modern environment supported by highly professional staff and international standards of hygiene and cleanliness.

ONCOST has entered the market to offer a new professional model in the form of a wholesale shopping experience. The extent of goods and services

offered under one roof is unparalleled in the traditional wholesale market, which has resulted in both HORECA customers and large households being

attracted to the concept. ONCOST is flexible and amenable enough to adapt to the needs of the market, and this has been their goal since the establishment of the company and the opening of their first store.

ONCOST offers an array of basic consumer categories comprising dry groceries, confectionary, beverages, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and poultry, fish, and dairy.

The new store is conveniently located in Fahaheel, Industrial Area, opposite Mina Al Ahmadi Refinery, Block 5 Khalid Al Safih street-213, Building 40. Ample parking is available providing easy access. Working hours are from 6:30 am to 11:00 pm daily.

Food festival highlights unique flavors of South African cuisine



The Embassy of South Africa in cooperation with the Western Cape Fine Foods Initiative (WCFFI), a non-profit company that

Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait H.E. Mzolisla Bona spoke on the occasion.

The food-tasting event saw the appearance of members

traditional South African fare for the festival.

The event coincided with South Africa week, celebrated from 25-28 April, which commemorates 22 years of Freedom and Democracy in the country since it held its first post-apartheid elections in 27 April 1994.

In celebration of this landmark event in history, the South African Embassy organized many events to underscore South Africa's achievements, to strengthen relations the country's relations with Kuwait, to highlight present trade and investment opportunities, and to promote its exotic tourism destinations and experiences.



assists in developing South Africa's agri-processing and fine food industry, organized a South African Food Festival on 26 April at the Six Palms Restaurant, Marina Hotel. The

from the food and hospitality industry, Kuwait travel trade and the media.

A South African Chef was specially flown in to Kuwait to prepare signature dishes of



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Lulu Hypermarket launches Best of Egypt 2016

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, kicked off its 'Best of Egypt 2016' promotion on 5 May, with Ambassador of Egypt to Kuwait H.E. Yasser Atef inaugurating the festival at the hypermarket's Al Rai outlet.

During the promotion, running from 4 to 14 May, the beauty of Egypt's

cultural monuments is highlighted with a variety of colorful displays. Another exciting part of the festival is the cultural programs held on the 5 and 7 May at the Hypermarket's Al Rai outlet with the focus on Egypt's rich music and dance traditions. Shoppers are sure to be wowed by an entertaining show that includes the

tanoura dance, horse dance, hobe dance, and an Arabic music band among others.

Popular brands such as White Swan, California Garden and more offer consumers a variety of unique flavors at special prices. To sample the diversity of Egypt, patrons can visit any of LuLu outlets during the festival

to shop for delectable vegetables and fruits, fish and meats in addition to a variety of other groceries.

The 'Best of Egypt 2016' promotion is another successful venture by Lulu Hypermarket to present consumers with the best the world has to offer, at affordable prices and in an unique shopping environment.

Egypt, a country linked to a rich and diverse heritage, is a tourist attraction for millennia-old monuments including the colossal Pyramids, Sphinx at Giza and the hieroglyph-lined Karnak Temple and Valley of the Kings tombs in Luxor. Egyptian cuisine is simple yet tasty and mostly relies on vegetables, herbs, lamb and chicken.

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group offers help to murder victim's mother

Mother of Jisha, the victim who was brutally tortured and sexually assaulted before her murder, is being offered a piece of land of 5 cents for building house and Rs. 300,000/ by Dr. K. T. Rabeullah, Chairman of Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group.

In a chilling reminder of the 'Nirbhaya' incident in New Delhi, Jisha, an LLB student in Kuruppampady near Perumbavoor was brutally tortured and sexually assaulted before being killed, revealed the postmortem report. The report also revealed that the culprit had used a sharp weapon to extract her intestines. Jisha suffered over 30 stab injuries. Her chest was pierced by a double-edged dagger. The severe injury inflicted on her head led to her death, according to the postmortem report of the autopsy conducted at the Alappuzha Government Medical College.

Jisha was found dead at her house on 28 April at 8:30pm by her mother Rajeswari. According to the police, the victim completed her LLB course at the Government Law College, Ernakulam, but

could not clear some subjects and had been preparing for the examinations of the pending papers. Her father, Pappu, had separated from the family years ago. Her mother is a daily wage worker and the family has no close contacts with the neighbors.

Jisha bid farewell to this world, leaving behind dreams of becoming a lawyer and thereby earning a decent livelihood for her mother and herself including a house of their own. Understanding this unique situation, Dr. K. T. Rabeullah has come forward to offer assistance to Jisha's mother, and at the same time expresses his deep pain over the incident and shares the sorrow of her mother.

'In order to facilitate the handing over the announced assistance to Jisha's mother, Ashraf Vengat, CEO, Shifa Al Jazeera Polyclinic, Riyadh, Shakir, General Manager Shifa Al Jazeera Ruwi Hospital and Sathesh Eriyalath, Media Personality have been designated the important task and they will be in Kerala at the earliest,' Dr. Rabeullah said in a statement.



LuLu Exchange Director honored in Forbes list of top Indian leaders in the Arab world for 2016

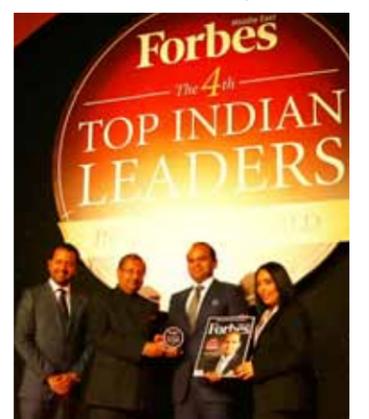
Forbes Middle East revealed the 4th Top Indian Leaders in the Arab World at a gala ceremony hosted at the Waldorf Astoria, Dubai Palm Jumeirah on Tuesday. The defining list recognizes the most successful and groundbreaking Indian leaders in the Middle East.

Shri T.P. Seetharaman, Indian Ambassador to the UAE, graced the occasion as the guest of honour and presented the awards to the winner.

Achievers from various sectors like retail, industrials, healthcare, banking and finance, among others were recognized during the event in two categories - top owners and top executive management. Out of the 100 in the top owners list, 91 of them were based out of the UAE. Diversified companies dominated the awards list, followed by retail and industrials, while luminaries from 21 other sectors were also honoured at the event.

In recognition of his contribution to the banking and finance sector in the GCC, Mr. Adeeb Ahamed, Director, LuLu Exchange, was honored for the second consecutive year. Under Mr. Adeeb's leadership, LuLu Exchange has grown to become one of the leading remittance and foreign exchange companies in the region. Many other noted owners and founders were also honored during the ceremony, including, Mr. Yusuff Ali M A, Mr. Ravi Pillai, Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, Mr. Sunny Varkey and Dr. Azad Moopen, among others. In addition to entrepreneurs, Forbes Middle East also honoured Indians who have leadership position in the region, including Mr. Sanjeev Chaddah, CEO

of PepsiCo Asia, Middle East and Africa, Mr. Raghavan Seetharamn, Group CEO, Doha Bank and Mr. Raghu Malhotra, President - Middle East and Africa, MasterCard, among others.



"It is a great honour to be recognized as a leader in your industry. It was wonderful to celebrate the occasion with other successful business leaders and my team. The recognition will help me reassert my commitment to set management benchmark standards in the region's financial industry," said Mr. Adeeb Ahamed on the sidelines of receiving the award.

He further added, "Sharing the evening with the stalwarts from a variety of industries was a great experience, but I don't feel as though my contributions have been any greater than those of my incredible team of associates at LuLu Exchange, who have been crucial in the growth of this company. I would also like to thank Forbes Middle East for this recognition and dedicate it to all my associates at the organization."

Starbucks celebrates summer with Festival of Frappuccino

Starbucks has launched the 'Festival of Frappuccino' from 2 May, which features four new ice-blended Frappuccino flavours, with the highlight being the all-new Green Tea Frappuccino and the return of Mocha Cookie Crumble Frappuccino.

The Green Tea Frappuccino is created in response to the ever-growing green tea craze, while the Mocha Cookie Crumble Frappuccino

is a tried and tested crowd-pleaser. In addition, customers can also opt for the refreshing taste of Mango Passion and Berry Mixed Crème Frappuccinos.

Starbucks has also launched the mango passion cheesecake, Strawberry tart and Siren Tiramisu. Also part of their exciting new menu is the Peru coffee, which boasts a herbal complexity with hints of almond.



TCS celebrates Ugadi festival and annual function

Telangana Chaitanya Sravanthi, (TCS-Kuwait) celebrated their Annual Day combined with Ugadi festival on 22 April at Fintas Hall in the presence of its members, families, friends along with invited guests and sponsors. The Chief Guest of



the event, Deshapathi Srinivas, Officer-On-Special Duty to the Chief Minister of Telangana State K. Chandrashekar Rao, was flown from Hyderabad to participate in the celebrations and inspire the Telangana diaspora residing in Kuwait.

The event commenced with a dance by Vishnupriya, followed by the Telangana Song. The welcome speech was delivered by Sreeram Tanduri, the Vice President, who stressed on the important safety aspects and Swatch Bharath message before there were two classical dance performances by Niveditha and Sooraj.

TCS President, Srinivas Vaidyula made a rousing speech following which Muralidhar Reddy, General Secretary presented an Annual Report on the activities of the Association as well as welfare related tasks. Satyanarayana, Sathai, Sridhar Goud and Kancharla Anil sang some melodious Telangana songs. The association also facilitated the promotion of a 'Heartfulness' meditation program.

Deshapathi Srinivas, a prominent speaker, writer, singer, actor, regular TV panelist and OSD to T-State CM, spoke on the achievements of the new government in various fields, and then mentioned his visits to labor camps in Kuwait and their living difficulties. He was later felicitated by the elder distinguished members of the Association.

Chief Guest along with the Executive Body, Advisors Prem Kumar and E. Prabhakar, and other elder well-wishers released a Souvenir.

French Ambassador highlights educational opportunities in France

The French Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Christian Nakhlé in cooperation with Campus France Kuwait held a press conference at the French Institute on Tuesday, 2 May, that aimed at encouraging Kuwaiti students to avail of educational opportunities in France. Two Kuwaiti graduates from the French education system were present at the conference to discuss their experiences.

French Ambassador Nakhle emphasized his country educational system's benefits, saying, "Studying in France is a huge step academically, we have excellent universities and colleges recognized by countries throughout the world. France is very attractive for both

the quality of its teaching and facilities."

He further mentioned that both French and international students pay the same fees and have social security as the country believes in equality in education for everyone. "If you want to pursue higher education, please consider France. In 2015, we issued 57 student visas to Kuwaiti students," he said, "We want the number to double or even more. If you want to learn English, learn it in a French-speaking environment; you will not only learn English but also you'll master the French language."

He was particularly enthusiastic that in France, 42 percent of international students are working on their PhDs. "It means a lot to us, because the number

shows how international students trust us on the doctorate level," he said.

François Pradal, Embassy Attache for University and Scientific Cooperation, underscored that Paris has been recognized as the best city in the world for students, while nine out of ten students say that France is the best place for students.

Campus France, which is under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Higher Education and Research, has 200 offices in 115 countries. They provide a range of services to assist Kuwaiti students interested in studying in France from completing application forms, finding suitable housing and applying for visas.



Korea – A nation of peace & prosperity

Continued from Page 1

transformed their economy into a technological advanced country with one of the best infrastructures in the world. The people are hardworking and the country ranks highly in education, job security, ease of doing business, healthcare quality and life expectancy.

The country's economy soared at an amazing annual average of 10 per cent for over 30 years in a period called the Miracle on the Han River, rapidly transforming it into a high income economy and the world's 11th largest by 1995. The country is now embarking on a new path known as the Creative Economy, where huge investments, financial and human are being made to ensure the innovative edge the country acquired is retained. It is indeed fascinating to hear and see firsthand these visions that the Korean people have developed for themselves.

The forum provided an exceptional platform for journalists and officials to discuss, debate and deliberate on issues of regional and global concern in an atmosphere of friendship, camaraderie and warm Korean hospitality.

Attaining such amazing success in all fields the Koreans have shown the world that with determination and resilience success follows. However, all is not well when it comes to ensuring peace to its citizens as the Korean peninsula is still gripped with the legacy of the Cold War for the last seven decades.

Koreans continue to live in the

shadow of nuclear weapons from their northern neighbour since the past 20 years and as the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Lim Sungham told us that this is not a problem created by Mother Nature but a man made one and therefore they believe they can find a solution to the problem. Hence the Koreans continue to pursue a policy of reconciliation and cooperation with North Korea and a vision of shared prosperity.

The continuation of its nuclear programme gravely undermines the hopes of seeing a peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and is a threat to world peace. Our visit to the Demilitarised Zone, at the third infiltration tunnel, among the dangerous borders in the world, gave us a glimpse of the tension that exists between the two nations. We partook in signing a Declaration of Peace on the Korean peninsula and letting the world know more about Korea's hope and commitment for national unification and world peace.

Jung Kyu Sung, President of the Journalist Association of Korea deserves much applause for his initiative and endeavour to make a difference in bringing about peace to the world.

Learning from the Korean experience the Arab world should also undertake a vision and policy for peace and prosperity for its people. Its high time the countries the world over realise wars are the problem and not the solution.

There is no way to peace, peace is the only way Mahatma Gandhi

Kalyan Jewellers announces fifth-round of winners in their ongoing campaign



Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewelry brands in the region, held the fifth draw of their 'Win 100 Grams of Gold Everyday' campaign, on 4 May at their Fahaaheel outlet. The fifth draw saw 6 lucky winners of 100 grams gold during 28 April to 3 May.

The ongoing 'Win 100 grams of Gold Everyday' campaign, which is running from 27 March to 10 May, is the first of its kind in the



country and has drawn enthusiastic response from shoppers. With the

launch of this innovative promotion, Kalyan Jewellers is looking to further

expand their already well-established customer base in Kuwait.

During the campaign period, shoppers can buy gold jewelry worth KD50 from any Kalyan Jewellers outlet in Kuwait and receive a coupon to enter the daily lucky draw for 100 grams gold. Also, customers who buy diamond jewelry worth KD50 get two coupons and double their chances of winning in the daily raffle draw.

ICSK crises nearing end

Continued from Page 1

structure will finally take place as all the concerned parties involved in the best interest of the school have initiated their efforts to seek a solution to the crises that erupted last month.

The sponsor of the school has decided to hand over the control to a new board that will be more transparent in their functioning. Investigation of all past allegations will however continue as the community is very keen that guilty

be punished. Indian Ambassador H E Sunil Jain has received several representatives from the community seeking his intervention to resolve the crises.

Ambassador Jain, however has been circumspect and cautious in his approach to ensure that any solution to the crises be long term and in the best interest of the students and teachers.

The Indian Community School Kuwait is the largest and oldest Indian school in the region with more than 6800 students having four branches all over Kuwait.

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It's not all about the grades

Today's education system is not an easy journey for the kids. Given the high importance placed on grades, many young ones only focus on getting through examinations with flying colors, without grasping the real meaning of learning. Of course, grades matter, but not at the cost of true learning.

The immense pressure faced by students often leads to unrepairable damage on young minds. While many resort to technology to give them the extra edge over others, many others opt for illegal and unfair means of gaining grades. Surprisingly, even parents seem to be a part of this depressing situation as they have the purchasing power to access whatever they deem fit for their children.

Although these may appear to be positive trends, there still remains a serious lacuna in the education system, which must be addressed sooner than later. The education process has not caught up with the modern transformations in the world. As a result, children become the victims. Lack of proper training often leads to a huge gap between

children and their education. So, what can one do to reduce the pressure on these young minds?

One of the best means to reduce pressure today is counseling. Education revolves around performance in examinations and children are under constant pressure to excel. Due to this they resort to rote memory without any real understanding. This creates a situation where even bright students get through with excellent grades without necessary skills for their future.

To correct this, students must be taught right from the beginning that it not necessary for them to excel at everything in their life. On the other hand, it is also imperative that they know this does not mean they have the opportunity to not

take education seriously. A student's right abilities must be explored and necessary measures must be taken to make sure the student enhances these abilities. What a student needs in his/her life is a role model. Parents often believe going to a counselor is a waste of time and money, but in actual, it is they who help show the right path to a child.

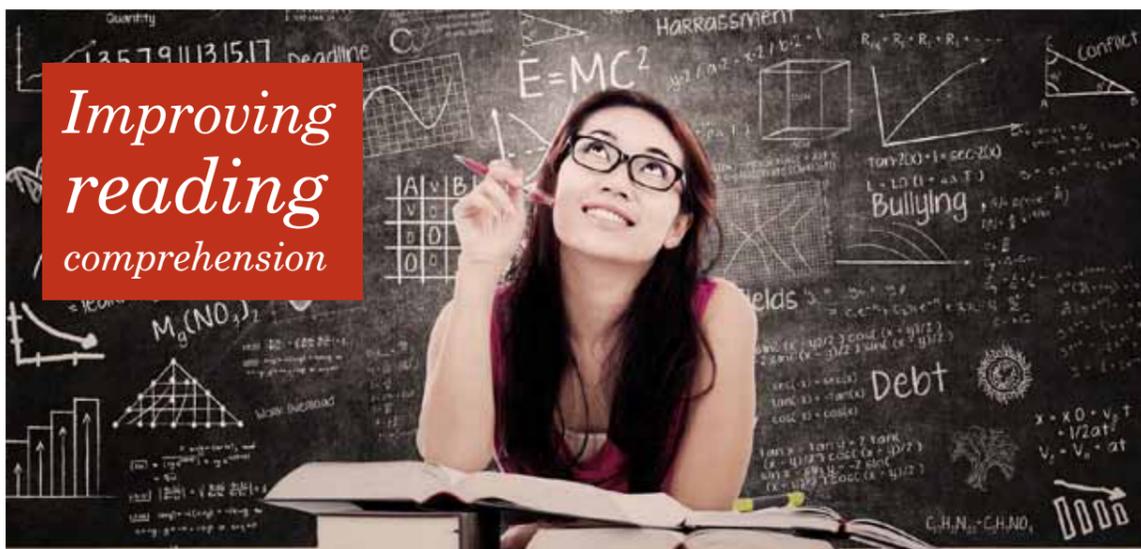
Another important means of pressure is rewards and punishments. Parents and teachers believe this helps a child succeed, but in the long run they actually diminish the desire to learn. Children learn best when they care about mastering a subject, which they find it interesting. A child who receives a good grade already has his reward; all he might want from his parents is an acknowledgement



of their pleasure in his achievement. On the other hand, a child with a failing grade is already going through a punishing experience; so, all he needs at that moment is a parent who empathizes with his feelings of frustration and goes on to help him figure out what went wrong and what can be done about it.

Today, parents and educators

are caught up with preconceived notions about how things must be done or understood based their own experiences. As a result, they find it hard to open up their minds to new possibilities. It is therefore extremely important that parents and teachers keep their minds free of judgment to enable the younger generation to bloom to their best capacity.



Improving
reading
comprehension

Have you ever found yourself getting to the bottom of the page and have no idea what you just read? Everyone experiences this now and then and it is not something difficult for you or anyone to overcome. All you need are these simple steps to help you remember what you just read.

Consider the time and place: Most students, out of habit, think that reading can be done anytime, anywhere. But not all places provide the best concentration. For instance, reading on your bed could cause you to fall asleep or at best, day-dream because you are in a place where the brain is thinking 'relax'. On the other hand, if you decide to read on a desk, your chances of staying awake and concentrating will be much higher. The same goes for the time of day. If you save your reading until the end of the day, do not expect to read with the same concentration as that in the morning.



Read in thought groups: Many readers read one word at a time, which is cumbersome for the brain to understand. Instead, the brain will understand better when it is fed an idea instead of a mess of individual words. These ideas are found by grouping words together in a sentence that form a thought.

Look for the writer's outline: When you read a textbook chapter or magazine article, you are - in effect - reading a fleshed out outline. Your job as the reader is to find the writer's outline so you know the main ideas the author intended to get across. Understanding this framework before reading in detail will help weed out unnecessary material and introduce you to the content. This will also shorten your review time if you need to review it for a meeting or exam.

Read faster: Believe it or not, reading faster will help you improve your comprehension. Your brain thinks upwards of 400 words per minute and a word-for-word reader reads about 150 words-per-minute. So there are 250 words-per-minute that the brain is looking to fill so we day-dream as a filler. The faster you read, the less day-dreaming you can do. The result will be heightened concentration and better performance.

Sweat every unfamiliar word: Some readers completely stop reading when they come across a word they do not know. If the word is repeatedly used and you absolutely need to know its meaning, then look it up. However, many a times, the word is used as a flowery descriptor, which means it is not essential that you know what it means. Also, if you think you have some semblance of the meaning from the rest of the sentence or paragraph, you can safely move on without looking it up.

Highlight everything you read: Too many people are coloring fanatics when it comes to using their highlighters. There is nothing more frustrating than to go back to something you read just to review your highlights and wonder 'why did I highlight that?' Basically, the only things that should be highlighted are key words and phrases. This will force you to carefully choose your highlighted words.

Read the same things: It helps to broaden your horizons by reading material you normally would not. It exposes you to other vocabulary and content, which makes your ability to comprehend a wider range of material easier.

To conclude, there are two main reasons why people do not comprehend what they read: They read too slowly and/or daydream or they are unfamiliar with the vocabulary or concepts. That said, if you can read a little faster or read in a work place and learn more vocabulary, then comprehending what you read will be much easier.



Knowing how to write a paper is one of the most essential skills a student can have. No matter how knowledgeable you are about a subject, if you cannot express your thoughts clearly in a good essay, then you simply will not make the grade. Learning how to excel in academic writing can quickly place you at the top of the class. Here is how to master the art of the term paper, standard report, or college paper.

Start with a thesis: A good thesis is the central focus of your essay. Everything else in the paper will serve to support this one statement. Therefore, writing the thesis first can help you organize your thoughts and make composing the rest of the essay much easier. Your thesis should include a statement of belief as well as the main supporting details of your argument.

Conduct research: The vast majority of high school reports and college papers require that you conduct a certain amount of research. Information gleaned from credible sources of information such as academic databases, can help you make a strong case for your thesis and make your paper a compelling one.

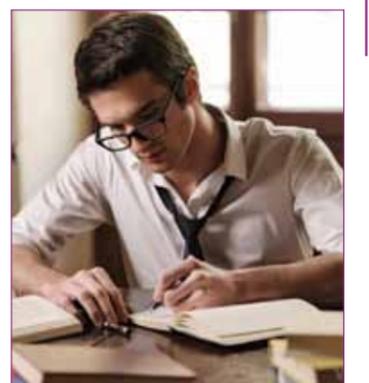
Make an outline: Once you have written your thesis statement, the next step is to create an outline. Ideally, the outline should include each of your supporting points in the order that you will address them, along with any relevant research you plan to cite in order to add credibility to each point. Making an outline will not only help you clarify your thoughts, but it will have the added advantage of keeping you on topic as you draft your report.

Follow a format: Although there are exceptions to the rule, most good essays follow a general format. While you may not be required to adhere to the guidelines of a standard, 5-paragraph essay, you will likely need an introduction, body, and conclusion. In addition,

be sure that each of your body paragraphs addresses just one topic on your outline. When you finish writing about one topic, go on to the next paragraph.

Revise and proofread: The first draft of your essay or term paper is just that—a first draft. Even the most talented and proficient writers make mistakes. That is why it is always wise to take a second, third, or even fourth look

Write an
excellent
paper



at your paper before submitting it for grading. Take the time to revise your paper first, looking for any weak points in the essay or gaps in logic that may confuse your reader. Once you are satisfied that you have made a logical and convincing argument, you can then begin the proofreading phase. As you proofread, look for any errors in spelling or grammar that may distract your audience or undermine your credibility.

Once you unlock the secrets of how to write a paper, the benefits will last you a lifetime! Not only will your academic standing increase by leaps and bounds as you begin to express your ideas more clearly, but you will also possess the skills necessary to wow your future employers and accomplish your professional goals.



Lipstick takes the No. 1 spot on the list of the best beauty products that a woman needs to feel special. It takes less than a minute to swipe on, and you need little else to feel pulled together. Depending on the shade, you can instantly portray unabashed confidence, vampy mystery, or a dalliance for all things quirky.

Many women definitely have had some mishaps when it comes to application, from a mortifying lipstick-on-your-teeth moment to a full clown mouth. To keep your lipstick game on point, here are some top tips and tricks, including how to make your color last for hours, feel comfortable, and of course, stay off those pearly whites.

Lipstick is running down your mouth: Translucent powder is a shiny girl's best friend. But while you already know it keeps oil at bay, you may not be aware of its multitasking prowess when it comes to lipstick. Dusting a bit of powder just over your cupid's bow and on your chin will keep your color from straying throughout the day.

Sticking to just one coat: Granted, one of the best things about lipstick is that it requires minimal effort — just swipe and go. But when you are in need of extra staying power, layers and layers make it last. Apply your first coat of lipstick, then use just one ply of tissue to blot your lips. Dust on a bit of translucent powder with your finger or a brush. And repeat this with three to four more coats of lipstick. It is a bit excessive, but you will never have to deal with that sad rim of left-behind lipstick again.

Smudges on your teeth: Some women tend to get lipstick on their teeth in the most inopportune moments. The occurrence is mostly due to dry teeth or a dry mouth, but it also happens when you apply pigment too close to the inner rim of your lip. To avoid it, perform the lollipop test — simply wet a cotton swab with your tongue, suck on it like a lollipop and then pull it straight out. Your signature red lipstick will end up on the swab, rather than on your teeth.

Over-lining: There is a more natural-looking way to get the full-lipped effect, than overdoing it with a lip liner. Densely apply liner just in the center of your mouth, and finish with your favorite shade of lipstick.

Neglecting your balm: Lipstick may be your top beauty pick, but you should also choose some good lip balm. Apply a dab in the middle of your top lips to reinvigorate matte or long-wear formulas. In addition to making your lips feel more comfortable, the boost of moisture also makes them appear instantly fuller.

Forgetting to exfoliate your lips: Your lips need the occasional sloughing, just like the rest of your face. Otherwise, dead skin will build up and your lipstick will end up a rough, bumpy mess. Treat your lips to a sugar scrub, two to three times a week. Or make your own with a mix of sugar and honey. In a pinch, you can run a toothbrush or damp washcloth over your lips until they are smooth.

If you are bored with tying up your long hair and want to attempt something different, why not go for a completely new and exciting short haircut. Everyone is going short, so now is the time to take the plunge. Women who take beauty and style risks are the ones most admired—it is not the ones who go along with the pack.

Every woman can have a short haircut, it is all about how you wear it and, more importantly, the confidence you wear it with. Taken inspiration from these suggestions to find the trendy, cool hairstyle for you.

Embrace your texture: Textured hair isn't new, but women can now embrace their gorgeous natural texture without worry thanks to the many hair products. It is all about celebrating different kinds of women and different kinds of beauty —from short cuts to different kinds of curls to coarser, textured hair. No matter where your strands fall on the spectrum, the key is to find a length and look that sets them free—and doesn't require you to fire up a flat iron or reach for a chemical relaxer.

The bold buzz: A buzz cut not only shaves time off your morning routine, but it also guarantees you the spotlight. Girls today aren't so hung up on their hair, and a style is more worthwhile if you do something that is more personal to you. Plus it is going to

Daring short haircuts



get you noticed. If you are ready, there are few beauty moves as badass as a buzz cut. Plus, losing your length focuses all the attention on your gorgeous face.

The updated shag: The shag has made a significant comeback and today, the focus is less on styling (i.e., the feathery look made famous in the '70s is out) and more about embracing natural curls or waves to achieve that effortless cool factor. Brow-grazing bangs also help bring the style into the twenty-first century. In short, the less you mess with your shag, the better.

The curly mop: Bouncy ringlets look even

springier when cut short. Even better: Less length means less maintenance. The majority of curly haired girls these days simply let their strands air-dry after a shower, maybe adding a dollop of frizz-canceling cream

or gel. Shorter styles are an excellent choice for women who want to enhance their natural texture.

The layered lob: Sticking to the middle ground was once considered a cop-out by many hairstylists, but now pros are actively advocating for cuts chopped just above the shoulder. Not only is this length extremely versatile, but if you are on the fence about short hair, the lob allows you to ease your way in. Women don't have to go for a radical cut; layering the hair in different ways can change the proportions and give you volume and edge. Just think of the lob as the gateway to the bob and beyond.

There is an old rule of thumb that all women know and practice. Want to look slimmer? Dress in black. However, since wearing black all the time can be tiresome and most women prefer color, there are other ways to flatter your figure without tossing on the darkest items in your closet.

Here are some items to invest in if you are looking to appear slimmer. While you could totally purchase these items in black if you want to, you may want to try them in another color to brighten up your vibe.

Tailored blazer: A tailored blazer that fits you flawlessly will naturally make you appear trimmer—add a tie detail that cinches in your waist, and you will look slimmer. Practical and stylish, tailored blazers are great for giving a formal feel to a casual outfit and will provide more options for your wardrobe.

With a tailored blazer you can definitely sport a sharper and smarter look. Add a sleek blazer to a pair of skinny jeans and fringed boots or you can wear one over a pleated dress. You can even keep it extra casual by teaming a blazer with a pair of turned-up jeans, a stripy top and heels.

A trendy long waistcoat: A waistcoat

Slimming essentials

creates clean lines that go up and down your body to help elongate your silhouette. A petite waistcoat in a dark color with a lighter-toned contrast on the trimmings will work wonders for your frame, adding instant minimization to your heavy figure where there normally wouldn't be any. Also, a waistcoat in a bright color draws your eye to the middle of the wearer's frame, creating a slimming effect.

A midi dress: The idea of a midi dress that hits right above the ankle is a great choice, as the long silhouette will make you look taller. Midi dresses are the perfect ladylike addition to every wardrobe, helping you flatter the best part of your body when you choose a standout silhouette.

Cropped jacket: A cropped jacket is one



of the simplest items you can toss on to look slimmer and flatter your figure. Why? A shorter jacket style hits right above the waist, which will make your legs look significantly longer. Moreover, a chic cropped jacket included in a sleek style draws the eye to the smallest parts of your figure with its figure-grazing middle, making your waist look small while the boxy cloth minimizes any heaviness in your upper torso. A well-fitted crop jacket can be a great statement piece matched with blouses, trousers and skirts that contribute to the streamline garment.

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POLAND



Underrated but increasingly popular, Poland offers a huge amount for travelers of all stripes – from the stunning old towns of Krakow, Zamość, Gdańsk and Wroclaw to the wilderness of the Białowieża National Park with its ubiquitous buffalos and epic vistas. Poland's scenic beauty is as varied as it is extraordinary. The Baltic coast is pretty, while Słowiński National Park is all ethereal forests, bogs and sand dunes. The Great Masurian Lakes in the northeast are popular for kayakers, with hundreds of pristine lakes broken up by dense forest. The Krakow-Wielun Upland with its limestone caves and medieval castles is another highlight, while the Carpathian Mountains in the far south are unremittingly beautiful.



Kraków: If you believe the legends, Kraków was founded on the defeat of a dragon, and it is true a mythical atmosphere permeates its attractive streets and squares. Wawel Castle is a major drawcard, while the Old Town contains soaring churches, impressive museums and the vast Rynek Główny, Europe's largest market square.

However, there is more to the former royal capital than history and nightlife. As you walk through the Old Town, you will sometimes find yourself overwhelmed by the harmony of a quiet back street, the 'just so' nature of the architecture and light. It is at times like these that Kraków reveals its harmonious blend of past and present, an essential part of any visit to Poland.

Torun: Located on the Vistula river, Torun is best known as the birthplace of Copernicus, but it is just as well known for its old market place and Gothic town hall that the National Geographic Polska put on its list of the 30 most beautiful places in the world. The city boasts numerous buildings that date back to the Middle Ages. Construction on the town hall started in the 13th century, with many churches, including the Cathedral of SS. John the Evangelist and John the Baptist, dating back to the 14th century. This church is a must-see for travelers interested in Gothic paintings and sculptures, and Baroque altars.



Warsaw: Rather than being centered on an old market square, this capital city is spread across a broad area with diverse architecture: restored Gothic, communist concrete, modern glass and steel. This jumble is a sign of the city's tumultuous past. Warsaw has suffered the worst history could throw at it, including virtual destruction at the end of World War II – and survived.

Today, Warsaw's restaurant and entertainment scene is the best in Poland. You can dine well and affordably here on cuisines from around the world. This gritty city knows how to have fun.

Wawel Royal Castle: As the political and cultural heart of Poland through the 16th century, Wawel Castle is a potent symbol of national identity. It is now a museum containing five separate sections: Crown Treasury & Armory; State Rooms; Royal Private Apartments; Lost Wawel; and the Exhibition of Oriental Art. Each requires a separate ticket. There is also a special display here of the city's most valuable painting, Leonardo da Vinci's The Lady with an Ermine.



Malbork Castle: The medieval town of Malbork, perhaps better known by the German name of Marienburg, is most well-known for its castle, which was ordered built in the 13th century by the Knights of the Teutonic Order as their headquarters, Europe's largest Gothic fortress is named after the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of the city and castle. The castle is actually a combination of three, making it the world's largest brick castle. It took 230 years to build, a majority of which was destroyed during World War II. Much of the castle has been restored since then.



Wawel Cathedral: The Royal Cathedral has witnessed many coronations, funerals and burials of Poland's monarchs and strongmen over the centuries. This is the third church on this site, consecrated in 1364. The original was founded in the 11th century by King Bolesław I Chrobry and replaced with a Romanesque construction around 1140. When that burned down in 1305, only the Crypt of St Leonard survived. Highlights include the Holy Cross Chapel, Sigismund Chapel, Sigismund Bell, and the Crypt of St Leonard and Royal Crypts.

The present-day cathedral is basically a Gothic structure, but chapels in different styles were later built around it. Before



POLISH CUISINE

Placki ziemniaczane:

A thin pancake made with grated onion, carrot, parsnips or other vegetables. Delicious served hot either sprinkled with sugar or dolloped with sour cream.



you enter, note the massive iron door and, hanging on a chain to the left, huge prehistoric animal bones. They are believed to have magical powers; as long as they are here, the cathedral will remain. The bones were excavated on the grounds at the start of the 20th century.

Once inside, you will get lost in a maze of sarcophagi, tombstones and altarpieces scattered throughout the nave, chancel and ambulatory.



Wieliczka Salt Mine: Located on the outskirts of Krakow, the Wieliczka Salt Mine is considered one of the oldest companies in the world. Salt has been mined from the site continuously since the 13th century. The site features an underground city, all carved out of the rock salt, including a chapel that is said to have the best acoustics of any structure in Europe. Dozens of ancient sculptures carved from salt are augmented by new sculptures from contemporary artists.



Tatra National Park: Travelers who crave scenic beauty will find it in Tatra National Park, located in south central Poland. Established in 1954, the park is mainly forests, meadows and numerous rock formations covering the Tatra Mountains. Spelunkers may enjoy touring six of the park's 650 caves that are open to the public. The park also offers more than 30 alpine lakes as well as the Wielka Siklawa waterfall that is 230 feet high. Tatra, the most visited national park in Poland, will delight hikers with its long winding trails. There is a similar national park in the neighboring part of Slovakia, also called the Tatra National Park.

Dubai Holding launches International Centre for 3D Printing

As a first step towards executing Dubai's 3D printing strategy, Dubai Holding has launched the International Centre for 3D Printing at Dubai Industrial City.

The center will host more than 700 local and international companies to make Dubai a major hub of 3D printing technology.

Last week, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the 'Dubai 3D Printing Strategy' that will focus on three major sectors: construction, medical products and consumer products. The strategy is particularly relevant to the construction sector considering that

the strategy aims to 3D print 25 percent of buildings in Dubai by 2030. This will create a huge demand in the market and offer large investment opportunities for companies and investors locally, regionally and globally. Located at Dubai Industrial City, the International Centre for 3D Printing will create a suitable atmosphere and provide the appropriate infrastructure to bring under one roof a network of design and technology suppliers as well as factories.

It will include research centers and laboratories for testing materials used in 3D-printed products within an integrated environment dedicated to serve construction, medicine, and consumer products sectors. It will also



involve the academic sector, which will add innovation and educational value to this initiative through research and

development. The new project aims to build a network of distinguished companies in the 3D printing sector

by attracting entrepreneurs and innovators as well as targeting international enterprises locally and globally by offering special laboratories for 3D printing. It will also offer services, professional training, facilities, storage solution and other logistical support to strengthen this sector. 3D printing is still in its infancy, but it's starting to show signs that it might revolutionize the way products are being manufactured at the moment.

The recent report of Strategy&, a global research institution, showed that 3D printing is at the forefront global industry trends in 2016 and will play a major role in reducing the manufacturing cost and time in construction sector.



Google acquires training service startup

Google has acquired Synergys, a Toronto-based interactive training service for Google Apps for Work that was launched by a group of former Google employees in 2013. As part of this acquisition, Google will make Synergys Training for Google Apps available for free to all Google Apps customers.

While figuring out how to use Google Apps for Work may seem trivial, there is actually quite a bit of demand for this kind of training. Synergys says its service has trained over 4 million people in 3,000 organizations so far. That probably makes it the most popular training service for Google Apps.

Google also notes that companies that use this training program see "on average 35 percent higher adoption across Apps products." Here is Synergys's description of the company's incredible journey: "By joining the Google Apps team, we can accelerate our mission because we will be working even closer with the teams that build Google Apps. Advancing our mission at a faster speed is very exciting for the Synergys team and our customers will directly see the benefits as we move forward."

It surely didn't hurt Synergys that its service was built on top of Google's Cloud Platform either, which should make integrating it with Google's own services relatively easy. Google says it will integrate Synergys into its own products later this year. Existing customers will be able to continue using the service and new customers can now download the Chrome extension for free.

Researchers stumble upon a battery breakthrough

There's serious demand for longer-lasting batteries. Better battery storage can advance all sorts of technology from phones to electric cars — but increasing battery life is no easy feat.

Luckily, researchers hailing from the University of California Irvine may have accidentally discovered a solution that could change energy storage forever.

The solution was found when a researcher decided to create an electrolyte made of gel to replace the liquid electrolyte found in some batteries so it would be more affordable. It just so happened that the gel created could also greatly increase battery life.

Here is how the solution works: for a long time researchers have sought to use nanowire-based batteries over lithium batteries. That is because nanowires are more



powerful and boast greater energy storage than their lithium counterparts.

Lithium batteries slip in performance over time after being continuously charged (think of your phone: that battery life is great at first and slowly gets worse until it's a shell of its former self.)

But what has prevented researchers from using nanowires is they are extremely fragile, meaning they can't be charged repeatedly without breaking. For that reason, electronics makers have stuck

with traditional lithium batteries. The gel solution could change that. The researchers coated a gold nanowire with the gel solution and found that the nanowire-based battery cell had far better storage capacity than typical lithium ion batteries.

The gel electrode went through 200,000 charge cycles over three months without losing any capacity or power. For reference, batteries typically die after 5,000 to 7,000 cycles.

The gel solution was published in the American Chemical Society's Energy Letters.

For this research right now the plan is to understand the mechanisms of how this gel electrolyte could prolong the cyclability so well. The future bigger plan would be to optimise these gel electrolytes to see if it can improve even more.

Videorama makes editing mobile video actually fun

Smartphone users shoot a lot of video, but turning those videos into something special still takes a lot of work. A newly launched app called Videorama aims to solve that problem by offering a powerful video editor that is also super simple to use. In other words, you don't need to be a video pro in order to do things like trim videos, add text overlays, music, or special effects.

Aimed at beginners to video editing as well as social media marketers hoping to capitalize on Instagram's new support for 60-second video, Videorama is like the video equivalent to graphic editors like Canva or PicMonkey. While the former two services let you create your own graphics for sharing on social media and elsewhere, Videorama is about taking your video footage, then spicing it up before putting it in front of a wider audience.

The app is fast and straightforward to use. You can combine your photos and video together, if you choose, trim videos, and preview your changes in real-time.

A larger feature set is available via in-app purchase, however. You can pick which features you want to buy individually — for example, while full HD support is free, many overlays cost \$0.99 as do special effects and music packs. But the app provides a robust starter kit, so you don't feel like there's nothing to do in the app without forking over money.

That said, there are a tons of these premium packs available, which let you do things like add explosions, electric bursts, magic spells, weather effects like rain or snow, and much more. You can also make your movie look like old black-and-white footage, or make it look like it's burning, among other things. And you can



buy music packs or import your own tunes. A movie fonts pack is also available for \$0.99.

Removing the watermark costs \$2.99, which is the most expensive in-app purchase.

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