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## Two weeks to polls: Election tempo gathers steam

On 16 October, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah dissolved Kuwait's parliament citing, "circumstances in the region... and security challenges".

safeguarding the interests of citizens and some of the factors involved in election process. The Constitution of Kuwait was drafted by an elected Constituent Assembly and issued,

The constitution advocates a flexible separation of government powers into legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative power is vested in the Amir of the State and the National Assembly; the Executive power is vested in the Amir, the Cabinet headed by the prime minister and the Council of Ministers; the judicial power is vested in the courts, which shall exercise it in the name of the Amir.

**Parliament:** The legislature in Kuwait comprises of a unicameral house called the National Assembly or Parliament which is the country's top legislative body. It is composed of 50 members elected directly by universal suffrage and secret ballot from among the country's registered voters. In addition to the 50 directly elected parliamentarians, the National Assembly also includes the Prime Minister and up to a maximum of 15 members who form the Council of Ministers.

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He also announced that elections for a new National Assembly would be held on 26 November.

With Kuwait readying to go to polls in two weeks, we take a look at the National Assembly, its role in

approved and promulgated in 1962 by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The constitution adopted a parliamentary system, along with some features of a presidential system, for the country's government.



### Taming a triumphant Trump

Legions of media pollsters and pundits got it wrong again. Businessman Donald Trump, a Washington outsider and underdog throughout the election campaign, surprised everyone by decisively trouncing veteran politician and crowd favorite Hillary Clinton to become the 45th President of the United States.

But there was no triumphalism in his victory speech where he promised to be a president for all Americans. Even when protesters, soured by his victory, gathered in front of the Trump Towers in New York, some holding placards saying, 'Not my President', or took out their anger more violently

Continued on Page 16

### India's surgical strike on black money leaves NRIs stranded with invalid notes

The newsflash on Tuesday night that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was about to address the nation caught many by surprise; there had been no pre-announcements of a national broadcast. But what surprised the entire nation even more was the content of the prime minister's speech. In one svelte stroke the prime minister swept-off Rs500 and Rs1,000 currency notes from the market.

Many Indians living abroad have been left stranded with the now demonetized notes.

Announcing withdrawal of the two denominations of currency notes the prime minister said: "There comes a time in the history of a country's development when a need is felt for a strong and decisive step. For years, this country has felt that corruption, black money and terrorism are festering sores, holding us back in the race towards development."

"In the last two and a half years, we have brought into the open nearly 1 lakh 25 thousand crore rupees of black money belonging to the

corrupt. The misuse of cash has led to artificial increase in the cost of goods and services like houses, land, higher education, health care and so on," he added. Acknowledging that people would be inconvenienced by the demonetization,



the prime minister promised that the rights and the interests of honest, hard-working people will be fully protected. He asked people to bear with the inconvenience and see it as a move towards more credibility and integrity in the marketplace.

Continued on Page 16

### Over KD1 billion in contracts awarded in third-quarter

Latest report from the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) shows that in the third-quarter of 2016, Kuwait awarded project contracts worth over KD1

billion, a significant jump on the KD126 million in contracts awarded during the second-quarter.

The government has so far in 2016 awarded contracts worth over KD3.6 billion of which roughly 42 percent, or around KD1.5 billion has been in the oil and gas industry. Kuwait is expected to award a further KD2.3 billion worth of contracts by the end of 2016 and over KD11.5 billion in 2017. The new data reveals that despite low oil earnings the government remains committed to pushing its development plan. The majority of contracts awarded so far this year have been to companies in the private sector through public private partnerships (PPP).

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# The Secret of Dubai's Success



## Yasser Al-Saleh

Yasser Al-Saleh is a faculty member at the MBRSG (formerly the Dubai School of Government). He is the author of *The Prospects for Sustainable Energy Innovation within Oil-Rich Gulf Cooperation Council* and the co-editor of *Economic Diversification Policies in Natural Resource-Rich Countries*.

As governments across the Middle East try to wean themselves off natural resources and build diversified, resilient economies, they should take some lessons from Dubai. It's a remarkable story.

In less than a generation, Dubai has transformed itself into a major center for investment, commerce, and high-end culture. Although the 2008 global financial crisis hit the city-state hard (owing to its exposure to inflated real-estate assets), it recovered quickly, as evidenced by its bids for events such as the World Expo 2020.

How Dubai managed not only to survive, but to thrive, in the wake of the crisis warrants closer scrutiny. So, this past summer, I began investigating the so-called Dubai model of resilient growth, and the challenges that may lie ahead for it. As part of my research, I conducted more than 40 in-depth interviews with government officials and business elites, and fleshed out my findings with secondary data sources.

Dubai's growth and resilience is attributable to its "ABS model" of attraction, branding, and state-led development. Just as a car's anti-lock braking system prevents it from skidding out of control in dangerous situations, Dubai's three-prong strategy keeps its development agenda on track, even during economic crises. With respect to state-led development, Dubai's approach is typical of Gulf states. Its



society adheres to tribal traditions that afford its ruling elite, headed by the royal family, a paternal and omnipotent role in determining the direction and form of economic development. This means that 'Dubai, Inc.' can quickly and seamlessly adapt to changing economic circumstances.

Dubai is sometimes called the Singapore of the Desert, because, like Singapore, it has experienced enormous state-directed economic growth, and benefits from proactive, visionary leadership that has turned a small city-state with limited natural resources into an important international entrepôt.

Moreover, Dubai has done a good job of branding itself to attract the foreign investment and labor needed to achieve its growth ambitions. Like New York, Shanghai, and Las Vegas, which have all enhanced their images through architecture, Dubai conveys its innovation-oriented identity through its cityscape and skyline, which has around 150 skyscrapers, more than any other city except New York and Hong Kong.

Dubai also has the first 3D-printed office building, stunning manmade islands, the world's only (self-proclaimed) 'seven-star hotel', shopping malls combined with aquariums, indoor

skiing, and skydiving facilities, and an array of iconic buildings and amusement parks. It also hosts the world's most expensive horseraces and other lavish sporting events.

Dubai's brand is further strengthened by its political stability, safety, tolerance, cultural diversity, and high standard of living, which are a draw for skilled expatriates from around the world. Moreover, the emirate appeals to foreign investors with special economic zones that few other states can match.

Two billion people live within a four-hour flight radius of Dubai, so it is unsurprising that it has emerged as a compelling location for visitors and investors alike. As one businesswoman I interviewed put it, "Dubai has all the ingredients of an extremely popular attraction for investors and tourists from around the world," with "a substantial number of Arab youth aspiring to come and live the 'Dubai Dream.'"

Dubai has complemented its competitive advantage in attracting high-skill workers and investment with labor policies that also bring in lower-skill foreign workers to power its growth engine. But reliance on foreign workers could run into structural problems down the road. While firms can quickly shed workers during hard times, this then results in labor shortages when conditions improve.

Higher-skill workers, in particular, take much longer to attract than to let go. Another risk is that, while the emirate has enjoyed a long period of political and economic stability, a significant regional upheaval could cause foreign workers, whatever their skill level, to take flight,

regardless of the promise of high salaries and an attractive lifestyle. Dubai's reliance on foreign labor thus threatens its long-term economic capacity to withstand future shocks. Aware of these potential risks, Dubai's leadership has just approved a comprehensive plan to overhaul education aimed at developing indigenous human capital. Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid, said that, "We look forward to developing a new generation of students that is equipped to use the tools of the future."

Educational reforms will likely require a generation or more to bear fruit. Singapore eventually managed to develop a highly skilled base of indigenous talent by making large investments in education and setting completion of post-secondary study as a national priority. The city-state now scores near the top in science and math on international tests.

The ABS model explains Dubai's economic resilience and its quick recovery after the global financial crisis. But it also helps the emirate adjust its strategy to account for new challenges. Just as a car's ABS makes it easier for a driver to slow down or change course to avoid dangerous obstacles, Dubai's state-led development apparatus can realign its attraction and branding activities in accordance with its growth goals and changing circumstances in the Middle East and beyond.

On the other hand, if the government fails to fix its structural problem – under-developed indigenous human capital – it will essentially be driving a more dangerous car, one in which it will become difficult or impossible to avoid obstacles without the wheels locking up.

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## Over KD1 billion in contracts awarded in third-quarter

Continued from Page 1

Projects in the oil and gas sector reported a boost in the third quarter mainly on the back of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) signing the west and east Raudhatain fields in the Jurassic Non-Associated Gas Reserves project.

Kuwait's Spetco International Petroleum Company was given the contract for the west field while US firm Schlumberger secured the contract for the east field. An additional KD572 million worth of contracts are expected to be awarded in the fourth quarter in this sector alone.



# The Developing World's Health Innovators



**Mohammad Jobayer Chisti**  
Scientist and Head of Clinical Research, Hospitals, and Clinical Lead, ICU, Dhaka Hospital at icddr, Bangladesh.

We live in an age of tragic health paradoxes. Mass immunization campaigns have eliminated entire diseases, but children in countries like Haiti and Bangladesh continue to die of easily treatable diseases caused by common pathogens. Globalization has lifted millions of people out of extreme poverty, but has left them exposed to the non-communicable diseases of the post-industrial age – from diabetes to heart disease – in countries that lack the resources to treat them.

Underlying these paradoxes is yet another: the vast majority of health research is conducted in wealthy economies, but the vast majority of the global public-health burden falls on low- and middle-income countries. There is something grossly inefficient – even immoral – about this allocation of resources, which undermines the development of health solutions for those who need them most.

To be sure, it was possible to address the first generation of global development problems with straightforward transfers of capital and solutions from rich to poor countries. Examples include programs to boost

primary-school enrollment and, in public health, mass immunization campaigns.

But the new generation of development problems, from the quality of education to child deaths from treatable diseases, will not be so easy to resolve. They demand long-term capacity building and knowledge transfers from rich to poor countries, with the latter gaining far more agency in developing solutions.

In other words, the focus of global public-health strategies and investments should shift toward reducing the structural disparities between rich and poor countries, in terms of their capacity for medical research and public-health implementation. This mission – which, I would argue, should be the main goal of global public-health efforts today – would entail a central role for institutions like the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research (ICDDR), based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where I work as a scientist.

As it stands, most global public-health activities involve researchers from advanced countries leading local teams in developing countries. While this is better than imposing ready-made solutions on the developing world, as occurred during the Cold War, it is not good enough. Medical research and policy implementation in the developing world must be led by researchers and specialists from low- and middle-income countries – people who can combine cutting-edge scientific expertise with an intimate understanding of local contexts.

The value of developing-country-led innovation has been demonstrated time and again. Over the last 15 years, scientific innovations spearheaded by developing countries contributed significantly to progress on the United



Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly those related to global health.

The contributions of ICDDR alone are enough to prove the value of developing-country health innovation. The institute's researchers carry out innovative and complex science, from classic clinical trials and epidemiological studies to behavioral-modification trials aimed at reducing the spread of infectious disease – with remarkable results.

An iconic example of ICDDR's work is oral rehydration solution (ORS), a simple balanced solution of sugar and salt administered orally to people suffering from diarrheal diseases like cholera. That solution, which ICDDR played a central role in developing, has prevented an estimated 40 million deaths globally since the 1960s, and has been called one of the most important medical inventions of the twentieth century. More recently, my team and I developed a new low-cost system for

delivering 'bubble CPAP' (continuous positive airway pressure), which keeps air flowing during the process of treating severe pneumonia. Trevor Duke, Director of the Centre for International Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital at the University of Melbourne, also participated in the project.

Our version of bubble CPAP, which uses cheap and readily available materials like plastic tubing and shampoo bottles, proved in trials to be more effective than the standard low-flow oxygen therapy recommended by the World Health Organization. Following the trial, the Dhaka Hospital of ICDDR implemented the new low-cost bubble CPAP, instead of the WHO-recommended therapy, as part of standard treatment of children with pneumonia. Since then, the death rate for bubble CPAP-treated patients has fallen from 21 percent to just 6 percent.

These remarkable successes stem from the fact that ICDDR researchers –

most of them Bangladeshis who trained abroad – are well acquainted with the problems they are trying to address. They understand what it means to face severe and, to some extent, insurmountable resource constraints.

The 15-year MDG experience made clear the indisputable potential of developing-country innovation to advance public health. Fortunately, world leaders seem to have taken that lesson to heart: the Sustainable Development Goals – the ambitious post-2015 development agenda adopted at the UN last September – are premised on the idea of local ownership.

But, despite vocal support for locally led research and development, severe constraints to developing-country innovation remain, which must urgently be removed. Unsurprisingly, the tightest constraint is the lack of resources, both human and financial. To ease it, developed and developing countries must now work together to ensure adequate investment to support local efforts reliably and sustainably.

With adequate support from local and international financing mechanisms, more innovation hubs like ICDDR in Dhaka, could emerge and flourish in poor countries. By advancing knowledge sharing and technology transfer, these hubs would enhance cooperation among developing countries, and help us finally overcome the persistent and tragic disparities that plague global health.

Health innovations developed in the world's poor countries have passed the test of scalability and applicability in the places that need them most. With the majority of the world's population living in resource-challenged settings, we must recognize and invest in the efforts of those who are pushing the frontiers of medical science in the developing world.

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# Africa Code Week encourages coding skills in young

During this year's Africa Code Week (ACW), Rogeema Kenny, an electrical engineer in Cape Town, South Africa, took it upon herself to train 1,000 young people in basic coding skills.

In just nine days, the young engineer, author, motivational speaker, and activist helped bring digital literacy skills to marginalized communities in the Greater Cape Town region. "After attending a 'Train the



secure bookings, and got back-office operations up-and-running in record time. They then applied for and got a Google micro grant that obliged them to train 100 or more children during this year's ACW. Kenny believes that initiatives like ACW make digital literacy more accessible and help ensure Africa's success in the global economy. During the 2015 ACW, over 89,000 young people were introduced to coding across 17 countries in 10

days; the target had been to train 20,000. This year, thousands of coding activities were organized in 30 countries with the aim of engaging 150,000 youth across Africa to write their first lines of code. The target for 2016 is likely to be exceeded and results are expected in the third week of November. Over the next 10 years, ACW aims to empower more than 200,000 teachers and touch the lives of five million children.



## Drought-ridden South Africa urges citizens to save water

Communities across South Africa have been urged to continue working with government to mitigate the impact of the current drought by complying with the stringent measures and restrictions on water usage.

The shortage of rain has resulted in one of the worst drought and water shortages in the country and has forced municipalities to implement water restrictions. "We need to take a proper program of action in dealing with this crisis. South Africans are stronger and unite better when tested, as such working together we can save water," said Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen.

The Minister, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) on drought, had earlier met with member departments to look at the interventions geared towards mitigating the negative impact of the drought as a result of below normal rainfall, increased maximum temperatures and heat

waves the country has experienced due to the El Nino weather patterns.

Even though El Nino effect has abated, there is a chance that the country might experience La Nina, the positive phase of El Nino, which might be characterized by heavy rains and floods. The Minister has therefore urged that plans must be put in place to handle any emergencies. The Minister urged all sectors and departments to engage communities across the country and explain the impact of this natural phenomenon. National Disaster Management Centre head Ken Terry said all sectors in the country are affected by the drought, with agriculture being the worst. He said the availability of livestock feed and water for both human and livestock is another major challenge.

The conditions in the affected areas are further exacerbated by factors such as a poor state of water-related infrastructure, water losses and the lack of implementation of stringent water conservation measures.

## Ethiopia to host 10th African Development Forum

Preparations are underway for the Tenth African Development Forum (ADF) to be held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa from 15 to 17 November.

Convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union (AU) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the forum is expected to bring together a large number of high profile participants, including Heads of State and Government, policy makers of African member States, development partners, UN agencies, academics, civil society organizations, the private sector, eminent policy and opinion leaders, among others.

The ADF is a flagship biennial event of the ECA that offers a platform to debate, discuss and propose concrete strategies for Africa's development, as well as establish an African-driven development agenda that reflects consensus on African development matters.

Held this year under the theme, 'Migration and Africa's Transformation', the forum will provide an opportunity for policy makers to analyze issues, review progress, discuss policy options, strengthen partnerships and explore consensus on implementing suitable strategies for making migration work

for Africa's transformation.

"The theme stems from the recognition of the central role of migration as an important enabler for inclusive and sustainable development. The main premise guiding discussions at the forum will be that international migration plays a critical role in the continent's endeavor to develop

dividend for future growth and prosperity in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda that 'no-one is left behind' in Africa's transformation.

With migration continuing to shape dynamics across countries on the continent, youth migrating in search of jobs and livelihood has become a major concern for many developed countries



and improve welfare, peace and stability and provide jobs for our growing population," said ECA's Chief Economist and Deputy Executive Secretary, Abdalla Hamdok.

The Forum is expected to help African policy makers and other stakeholders to look at how, among other things, the continent can leverage its youth bulge or demographic

in the West.

The ADF will discuss all the issues linked to migration, in particular fostering regional mobility on the continent, demographic dividend and migration, skills, employment creation, leveraging human and financial resources of Africa's diaspora for development and new directions and trends in African migration.



## Millions gather to commemorate Africa Youth Day

Millions of young people all over Africa joined in the celebration of Africa Youth Day last week, in recognition of youth as key agents for social change and economic growth in all aspects of the African society. Since its proclamation and institution in 2006, the Africa Youth Day, has been commemorated every year on 1 November, aims to ensure that African youth continue to strive for ownership in Africa's development.

"A day like the African Youth Day presents an opportunity and platform to highlight the issues, roles and challenges of the African youth," Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said. She also called on the youth to ponder over the theme for this year's celebration — Promoting youth mainstreaming as a catalyst towards harnessing the Demographic Dividend — and come up with innovative ideas and "take your rightful place as key drivers of our continent's transformation".

Encouraging young people to host activities to mark Africa Youth Day in their respective communities, the AUC also launched at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Youth Mainstreaming Guideline, which aims to enjoin the youth in all of the commission's development activities.

## Namibia hosts international investment conference

In a renewed drive to attract foreign direct investment and to market the country as an attractive investment destination, Namibia last week hosted 'Invest in Namibia', an international investment conference.

The conference, which was took place from 8 to 9 November in the capital, Windhoek, was organized under the theme, 'Promoting Investment for Inclusive Growth and Industrialization'.

Held under the auspices of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED), and organized in collaboration with key stakeholders, the conference aimed to present attractive opportunities to local, regional and international investors in targeted sectors that have the potential to contribute towards economic growth and job creation.

The conference showcased a pipeline of targeted investment projects in sectors such as, Housing, Agriculture, Energy, Logistics and Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Tourism. During the conference, the unique advantages that Namibia offered to the discerning investor were highlighted.

The country has been described as the continent's most peaceful and politically stable environment. It also boasts an infrastructure that rivals many developed countries. The theme 'Promoting Investment for Inclusive Growth and Industrialization' aimed to enable investors to talk directly with senior government officials and business leaders on how to they can benefit from Namibia as a growing trade and logistics hub.



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# SIF to hold Kuwait Children's Science Congress



Science International Forum – Kuwait (SIF), a platform that aims to 'ignite the minds of tomorrow' by encouraging scientific temperament among the young, is pleased to announce that this year's Kuwait Children's Science Congress (KCSC) will take place at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (new campus) on Friday, 18th November, from 9.30am to 5pm.

The annual science exhibition has become a much-awaited event among students as it provides children of 10 to 17 years of age a unique opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge and aptitude. The program has students forming five-member teams to undertake a project based on an assigned theme. The team has to explore and analyze problems around the project theme and find a suitable solution to overcome the challenges.

The second iteration of the annual KCSC will witness over 150 child scientists from all the major Indian schools in Kuwait, exhibiting their projects based on the theme, 'Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development'.

As part of this year's KCSC, three innovative science spot contests are also being arranged where students can walk-in with their ideas, participate in the competitions and win exciting prizes. Competitions are arranged in three groups: Sub-Juniors (Classes 5, 6 and 7), Juniors (Classes 8, 9 and 10) and Seniors (Classes 11 and 12).

In the 'Sci-Fie' contest, competitors have to observe their surroundings to find some exciting scientific fact and capture it via a 'selfie' on a mobile camera. They then have to take a print out of the picture and write a description about the science behind their observation, before submitting their entries at the KCSC event before 3pm.

The 'Art of Science' is a pencil-drawing competition where contestants will draw an image on the theme 'Rising India - Science and Technology'. Students will have to register for the competition between 9.30am and 2pm and the drawing competition will extend for one hour and half. In the third spot competition, titled 'Math Genius', students will be tested on their mathematical analytical and logical skills. Competitors can walk-in between 9.30am and 2pm to participate in this competition.

Parents and students in Kuwait are invited to attend KCSC 2016 for a day full of spot games, fun and science and the hope is that this year's innovative programs will inspire a scientific outlook in the young, and empower and expand their minds to the world around them.

The Times Kuwait is pleased to announce it will be joining SIF - Kuwait as Event Partner for this year's KCSC.

## SIF-Kuwait

In 2014, a group of professionals from the field of education, science and technology launched a platform for the Indian student community in Kuwait. Calling itself the Science International Forum - Kuwait (SIF - Kuwait), the group aimed to identify and encourage Indian students with a flair for science and technology.

By introducing India's rich scientific heritage to



## SCI-FIE CONTEST

### Science Selfie Competition

Observe your surroundings, find out something exciting, capture it via a selfie. Take a print out, describe the science behind your observation and submit your entries during Kuwait Children's Science Congress on Nov 18th at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan between 9.30 AM - 3 PM

**Sub Juniors (class 5,6,7)/ Juniors (class 8,9,10)/ Seniors (class 11,12) Category**

## ART OF SCIENCE

### Pencil Drawing Competition

Theme: Rising India, Science and Technology  
Register at the venue between 9.30 AM - 2 PM  
Time - 1.5 Hour.

**Sub-Juniors (class 5,6,7)/ Juniors (class 8,9,10)/ Seniors (class 11,12) Category**



## MATH GENIUS

### Mathematical, Analytical & Logical Skills

Math genius competition using Logical, Analytical and Psychometric type questions.  
Walk in between 9.30 AM - 2 PM & Participate

**Sub-Juniors (class 5,6,7) / Juniors (class 8,9,10) Seniors (class 11,12) Category**

IGNITING THE MINDS OF TOMORROW

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the youth, SIF looked to ignite interest, kindle the inquisitive spirit and develop young minds to have a passion for science and technology and motivate them to take up science as a career.

Through invigorating the scientific temperament in them, SIF hoped to encourage students to contribute towards India Vision 2020 and to spread the message of supporting and building Indian society using science as a tool.

Today, SIF - Kuwait programs are actively supported and implemented through 18 Indian schools in Kuwait, with more than 6,000 students actively engaged in them.

In 2015, SIF-Kuwait was appointed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, to conduct the screening test for the Kuwait Children's Science Congress (KCSC)— Young Scientist's Program. The KCSC is part of the National Children's Science Congress, a flagship project of the DST under the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC).

Since 2015, SIF - Kuwait has been organizing the annual 'Sastra Pratibha Science Talent Contest' (SPC) initiated by India Government's Vijnana Bharati. The SPC, which has been conducted for the last 10 years among students in India and lately in all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, was held for the first time in Kuwait last year.

The inaugural SPC-2015 in Kuwait witnessed 4,500 students from class 5 to class 10, from 17 Indian schools, participating in the contest. Two top scoring students from each class were declared the Sastra Pratibhas for the year 2015. The winners received the Sastra Pratibha Award during the Science Gala event organized by SIF.

SIF also regularly organizes 'Student - Scientist Interaction' programs that provide a great opportunity for students in Kuwait to meet and interact with scientific luminaries from India.

In 2015, as a tribute to the late Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, SIF launched 'Ignite Science Writing Competition and Awards', which is open to both students and adults alike. The theme based writing competition encourages individuals to energize their imagination and explore the possibilities through their creativity.

SIF - Kuwait also holds regular Teacher Training programs aimed at supporting the teaching community and familiarize them with the latest developments in the field of education, science and technology. In 2016, SIF also launched the 'Inspire Teachers Excellence Awards' to appreciate and recognize the efforts of outstanding teachers.

In addition, in 2015 SIF - Kuwait launched its online science newsletter, 'Discover', with the aim of bringing to focus science related current affairs. Previous issues are freely available on the SIF website at www.sifkuwait.com

# Dining IN KUWAIT

For a complete list of featured restaurants, visit  
[http://www.timeskuwait.com/News\\_Dining\\_In\\_Kuwait](http://www.timeskuwait.com/News_Dining_In_Kuwait)

## Experience the Kebab Specials at **Zafran**



**Z**afran Indian Bistro, the award-winning contemporary Indian restaurant recently launched its limited time menu - The Kebab Specials. Kebab lovers are invited to experience a variety of mouth-watering kebabs made from the finest spice blends, marinated and char-grilled to perfection.

The Kebab Specials offers a fine mélange of vegetarian and non-vegetarian delectable kebabs that are amongst the much-celebrated North-West Indian favorites. The tempting menu includes the flavorful, juicy 'Raan-e-Zafran' - lamb leg cooked with Indian spices, 'Gosht Gilawat' - minced lamb medallions infused with aromatic spices and several other kebab varieties specially put together by the Zafran master chefs. Vegetarians are in for a treat with crave-worthy options such as the 'Paneer Gulbadan' - cottage cheese stuffed with spinach, marinated with hung curd and cheese, 'Seekh Kurkuri' - medley of corn, green peas and Indian spices and 'Subz Gilawat' - delicate medallions of mushroom and cauliflower infused with aromatic spices.

Be amazed by the Zafran interior which is stylish, comfortable and inviting. The setting is contemporary and casual, allowing guests to enjoy the experience and create their own special moments. The interior highlights unique features, the most prominent of which is the 'wow' kitchen, where guests are able to watch Chefs prepare their food right before their eyes. The fascia of the kitchen is made of carbonized wood with brass detailing which replicates the char-grilling of the tandoor, creating a beautiful visual.

This special menu at Zafran is available till the end of December.

Location: Lights complex, Mahboula. Call, 97281007.

## BAKER & SPICE



**H**uddled in one of the corners of the scenic Souq Sharq is an eatery that is sure to fill your stomach with joy. Artisanal kitchen, café and bakery, Baker & Spice is located in the lavish shopping mall, overlooking a gorgeous view of the harbor and offering both indoor and outdoor seating options. The ethos of using simple and local ingredients is what sets this place aside from others. Its menu is

designed thoughtfully with all types of diners in mind. The interior emits a calming atmosphere decorated in a simple color scheme of soothing grays and powder clouded blue hues with earthy wood tones and light sea foam, contrasted with pops of pumpkin orange detailing adorning the space. The seating is rustic and has a communal feel to it, making for an optimal setting to dine with friends and family.

**Popular dish:** Full English breakfast: Two fried eggs, homemade sausages, homemade Boston style baked beans and fried bread.

Souq Sharq, Marina Front. Call, 22407707 or 96962693

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 [editor@timeskuwait.com](mailto:editor@timeskuwait.com) with a brief about your restaurant along with images in high resolution.



## Choosing, preparing and baking potatoes

**W**hether served as a savory side dish or as the main course, baked potatoes are one of the simplest dishes you can make.

Mashed, scalloped, hash browned, fried and beyond - there are dozens of ways to prepare a potato. One of the easiest is to bake it in the oven. Not only does baking a potato take minimal effort, it also takes a minimal budget, making them a great choice for weeknight dinners. Just add your favorite toppings and you are good to go.

**Choosing:** There are many kinds and sizes of potatoes out there, but generally the larger sizes are best suited for baking. The best and most commonly used are Russets (also known as white potatoes) or sweet potatoes because of their sturdiness and larger size.

Potatoes, especially Russets, will last for one to two weeks if kept in a cool, dark place. They should be stored loosely in order to allow air circulation. Avoid storing them with onions as they will spoil more quickly. Do not use a potato if it has soft or mushy spots. If it has sprouted, you can trim the sprouted area and use the rest.

**Preparing:** Potatoes should be scrubbed, washed and dried thoroughly before baking. Trim off any sprouts or dark spots, and make sure to prick holes with a fork in order to let steam escape.

Whether or not to wrap your potato in aluminum foil before baking depends on your preferred end product. If you like crispier skin, then leave the foil off. But if you want to retain moisture and have a softer skin, then wrap your potato in a thin layer of foil before baking. Avoid the foil if baking in a microwave.

**Baking:** Depending on the size,

a potato will need about 60 to 90 minutes to bake in the oven, or 6 to 12 minutes in the microwave. For healthy consumption, make sure your baked potatoes reach an internal temperature of 98 degrees Celsius. Microwaving is convenient and quick, but the result will be less-crispy



skin. To get the best of both worlds, microwave the potatoes partway before finishing on the grill or in the oven. If baking on a grill then make sure to fork the potatoes and then wrap them in a foil so that the skin does not burn or stick to the grates.

**Serving:** Butter, salt and pepper, sour cream, cheddar cheese, chives, salsa and broccoli are some of the most popular toppings for baked potatoes, but the options are endless.

If you are serving them as a side dish, then simple butter, salt and pepper will bring out a tasty result



without overshadowing the main course.

But if you are looking to prepare baked potatoes for the main event, then try mixing things up with chili, taco spices, roasted veggies, barbecue, stews or curries. If it is savory, chances are it will be great on a baked potato.

### Recipe

## Twice Baked Potatoes



### Ingredients

4 large unpeeled Russet baking potatoes (226grams to 283grams)  
1/4 to 1/2 cup milk  
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened  
1/4 tsp salt  
Dash pepper  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (113 grams)  
1 tbsp chopped fresh chives

### Directions

Heat oven to 190 degrees Celsius. Gently scrub the potatoes, but do not peel, and then pierce several times with a fork.

Bake for an hour or until the potatoes are tender when pierced in the center with a fork.

Once cooled down enough to handle, cut lengthwise in half and scoop out the inside, leaving behind a thin shell.

In medium bowl, mash the scooped out potatoes with potato masher or electric mixer on low speed until no lumps remain. Add milk in small amounts, beating after each addition (amount of milk needed to make potatoes smooth and fluffy depends on kind of potatoes used).

Add butter, salt and pepper, and beat vigorously until potatoes are light and fluffy. Stir in the cheese and chives. Fill the potato shells with mashed potato mixture and place on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Increase the oven temperature to 204 degrees Celsius and bake for about 20 minutes or until hot. Serve immediately.



## COOKING Tips



To avoid cheese from hardening, butter the exposed edges before storing.



Store tomatoes stem-end down to keep them from rotting too quickly



Marinate chicken in buttermilk to tenderize

# Vietnam Ambassador elected to ILC

Vietnam's Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Nguyen Hong Thao has been elected to the United Nations' International Law Commission (ILC), with 120 out of 191 votes in the UN General Assembly.

This is the first time a Vietnamese candidate has run for, and won, one out of the seven ILC seats allocated to the Asia-Pacific region.

Ambassador Thao is an expert in international law. He was formerly deputy head of the National Border Committee, head of the negotiation team on border agreements with

neighboring countries, and a legal advisor to the drafting process of Vietnam's 2012 Law of the Sea.

He is also a seasoned diplomat with 40 years of experience. He was Vietnam's Ambassador to Malaysia from 2011 to 2014 and is now Ambassador to Kuwait.

The nomination of Ambassador Thao to run for seat in the ILC demonstrates Vietnam's wish to make contribution to the development of international law and its codification, as well as promote the country's integration policy.

The ILC was established by the UN General Assembly in 1947 with 34 members to be elected every five years. The committee undertakes the mandate of the Assembly,



under article 13 (1) (a) of the Charter of the United Nations to "initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of ... encouraging

the progressive development of international law and its codification.

Speaking to The Times in an exclusive interview, Ambassador

Thao expressed delight and said he was honored by his appointment into the ILC. He said the world faced new challenges such as terrorism, climate change, refugees, migration etc, so new international laws were needed to be drafted by the commission to keep pace with the new circumstances.

The ILC drafts laws and submits them to the General Assembly for consideration. Ambassador Thao plans to play an active role in promoting increased coordination and improving the legal framework of United Nations conventions.

Ambassador Thao will continue his tenure in Kuwait while serving with the ILC. There will be three sessions held every year in New York for which he will have to be present.



## Kala(Art) Kuwait's NIRAM-2016 highlights talents of young artists



Kala(Art) Kuwait organized 'NIRAM-2016', a Children's Day painting competition at the Indian Community School, Khaitan, in association with leading luggage brand American Tourister, on Friday, 11 November. A large number of prominent leaders of various Indian socio-cultural organizations, media persons and sponsors witnessed the competition.

'NIRAM-2016' is a popular painting competition held on the occasion of Children's Day, which marks the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Around 2,375 children participated in the competition that also saw

parents actively take part in the open canvas and clay sculpture competitions. Mr. A. K. Shrivastava, Second Secretary, Indian Embassy Kuwait, inaugurated the program that saw attendance from many respected educators. Talented artists worked on individual paintings in watercolor/ acrylics, which will be auctioned for charity.

The results of the competition will be announced by the organizing committee and the judging committee on 1 December. Read more: [http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times\\_Kala-Art-Kuwait-s-NIRAM-2016-boasts-talented-participants](http://www.timeskuwait.com/Times_Kala-Art-Kuwait-s-NIRAM-2016-boasts-talented-participants)

## Mohamed Naser Al Sayer and Toyota unveil 2017 Prado Urban Cruiser

Mohamed Naser AL Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies has announced the arrival of the limited edition 2017 Prado Urban Cruiser packed with Toyota approved accessories.

The launch press conference was held at Toyota Al Rai showroom and attended by Mubarak Naser Al Sayer - CEO Al Sayer Group Holding, Mohamed Elassal - General Manager Toyota MNSS, showroom managers and employees from Toyota division along with distinguished members of the press and media.

Mubarak Naser Al Sayer, CEO Al Sayer Group Holding, said: "Al Sayer's strategy is always to support Toyota operations in Kuwait with best in the business standards in customer service. To enhance their purchase experience we will be opening two new facilities during the next year including a new delivery center at Ardiya and a new showroom at Abu Futeira and most importantly, we have initiated our plans for Toyota City first of its kind biggest 105000m integrated facility in Kuwait, which we will start building soon."

According to Mohamed Elassal, General Manager at Toyota MNSS: "We are excited to unveil the limited



edition 2017 Prado urban Cruiser, legend SUV packed with features and accessories for deeper styling. Prado, a leader by far in its segment,

powered by superior driving dynamics has arrived with a truly unique and dynamic appeal, to add interest among Toyota 4x4 enthusiasts."



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# 5 & ABOUT

For publication of your announcements, upcoming activities or local events please email us at [editor@timeskuwait.com](mailto:editor@timeskuwait.com)  
To publish images kindly send pictures in high resolution.

## 14 NOVEMBER

**Ceramics for beginners:** The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) will be organizing Adult Art Classes, Ceramics for beginners from 14 November. The classes will be held from 7pm to 9pm. All required materials will be provided during the course. For more information and to register: Call, 50962809, 25623604 or E-mail [info@baia.edu.kw](mailto:info@baia.edu.kw).



**Let your voice be heard:** Sirdab Lab will be hosting a workshop titled Start Your Own Podcast with Mohammed El Salloul, from 14 to 16 November at its premises at Jaber Al-Mubarak Street, Kuwait City, from 6pm to 8pm. The three day workshop will teach one how to start one's own podcast from scratch and publish it for the world to listen. It is open to startups, established companies, writers, marketers, musicians and reviewers. For more information and to register: Visit, [www.sirdab-lab.com](http://www.sirdab-lab.com)

## 15 NOVEMBER



**Fall Festival:** Al-Ghanim Bilingual School (GBS) will be organizing a Fall Festival at its premises, from 9am to 4pm. The event will include a variety of booths (gifts, accessories, fashion jewelry), live music, delicious delicacies, bouncy castles and much more. The event is free and open to all. For more information: Call, 25644953.

**Adult art classes:** The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) will be conducting Adult Art Classes, An introduction to Life Drawing from 15 November. The classes will be held on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. All required materials will be provided during the course. For more information and to register: Call, 50962809, 25623604 or E-mail [info@baia.edu.kw](mailto:info@baia.edu.kw).



**Acroyoga Jam:** Join Coach Meghan for an evening of Acroyoga, which will be held at Circuit+, Street 4, Lilly Center, Shuwaikh from 3am. This all levels, ladies only workshop will include breathing, stretching, building strength and flexibility while creating trust and balance with ones partner. Registrations are open and the fee is set at KD 20. For more information and to register: Call, 66045273.

## 17 NOVEMBER

**Safe rider training:** Safe rider skill training classes, certified by Harley Davidson will be held from 17 to 19 November at Kuwait City, from 12am to 11:30pm. Special discount will be given to members of Harley Owners Group and Kuwait Chapter. For more information and to book your tickets: Call, 69600496, 6777799, 94922282.

## 18 NOVEMBER

**Winter Bazaar:** The British Ladies Society will be holding their annual Winter Bazaar at The British School of Kuwait, Salwa, Block 1, Street 1, from 10am to 4pm. Food and drinks will be available on purchase. For more information or to book a table: Contact, [bazaar@theblskuwait.com](mailto:bazaar@theblskuwait.com).

**Macro photography workshop:** An interactive hands-on Macro photography workshop by internationally acclaimed award-winning photographer Yuwaraj Gurjar will be held at the Crowne Plaza hotel from 9:30am to 5pm. The workshop will include introduction to macro photography, how to think like a pro macro photographer, key differences between shooting macro and close up and more. Those attending are requested to bring along their camera (DSLR preferred), Macro lens or extension tubes and external flash. The fee is KD 25 and buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided. There is also a chance for photographers to win a raffle coupon. For more information: Call, 99584378, 67644798, 66581928 or visit, [www.shutterxpose.com](http://www.shutterxpose.com) or [admin@shutterxpose.com](mailto:admin@shutterxpose.com).



**Q8 Open Quiz 2016:** Following the grand success of Kuwait Open Quiz 2015 (QoQ'15), IIT IIM Alumni Association in Kuwait is back again with QoQ'16. The event, probably the only quiz of its kind where contestants have no restrictions on age, nationality or profession will be held at the Indian Embassy Auditorium.

The inaugural 2014 as well as 2015 were a resounding success with more than 100 teams (3 members a side) from 10 nationalities participating for the crown. This year's event will see prestigious schools competing with best of their teams. This year's competition, which will be inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Kuwait, H. E. Sunil Jain, will be hosted by renowned international quiz master Giri Balasubramaniam, popularly known as 'Pickbrain'. Mr. Giri is known for his distinctive techno savvy style of quizzing, sense of humor coupled with great flair and approachable easy nature. He holds seven Limca records for quizzing achievements and has hosted more than 1250 shows across 65 destinations across India. Some of his popular shows include Tata Crucible, RBI quiz, TCS quiz and Times of India quiz. IIT-IIM Alumni Association, Kuwait invites all the quizzers to compete with enthusiasm, as besides the winners several other prizes will be awarded, including the audience awards. For more information and to register: Visit, [contact@iitiimkuwait.com](mailto:contact@iitiimkuwait.com) or [www.iitiimkuwait.com](http://www.iitiimkuwait.com).

## 25 NOVEMBER



**CRYchess 2016:** Friends of CRY Club (FOCC) will be holding a children's chess tournament, 'CRYchess 2016' at the Gulf Indian School, Fahaeel, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Students of 12th standard or younger are eligible to participate. The last date for registration is 19 November. Grouping of players will be done as per age and depending on the total number of participants, in the Swiss pairing format. The top three winners in each group and the youngest participant will be awarded with a trophy and certificate. All participants will receive a medal and a certificate. For more details, visit the Around Town section of our Times Kuwait website.

**Free medical camp:** Kuwait Wayanad Association (KWA) in collaboration with Metro Medical Care Group will be organizing a free medical checkup camp at Farwaniya Metro clinic, from 7:30am to 11:30am. The camp is open to KWA members and the expatriate public. Pre-registration is required and to register, one must contact their respective KWA Zonal coordinators. Details including name, location in Kuwait, Civil ID number, district and phone number should be provided via Whatsapp or by phone call. For more information and to register please visit the Around Town section of our Times Kuwait website.

# CINEMA THIS WEEK

Some of the movies now showing at Cinescape & Grand Cinemas

**Doctor Strange:** A former neurosurgeon embarks on a journey of healing only to be drawn into the world of the mystic arts.  
**Starring:** Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams, Benedict Wong, Michael Stuhlbarg, Benjamin Bratt, Scott Adkins, Mads Mikkelsen, Tilda Swinton



Directed by: Scott Derrickson  
IMDb Rating: 8.0



**Hacksaw Ridge:** WWII American Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, who served during the Battle of Okinawa, refuses to kill people and becomes the first Conscientious Objector in American history to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Starring:** Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington, Luke Bracey, Teresa Palmer, Hugo Weaving, Rachel Griffiths, Vince Vaughn

Directed by: Mel Gibson  
IMDb rating: 8.7



**A street cat named Bob:** Based on the international best selling book. The true feel good story of how James Bowen a busker and recovering drug addict, had his life transformed when he met a stray ginger cat.

**Starring:** Luke Treadaway, Ruta Gedmintas, Joanne Froggatt, Anthony Head, Caroline Goodall

Directed by: Roger Spottiswoode  
IMDb rating: 7.6



**Shut In:** A heart-pounding thriller about a widowed child psychologist who lives in an isolated existence in rural New England. Caught in a deadly winter storm, she must find a way to rescue a young boy before he disappears forever.

**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Oliver Platt, Charlie Heaton, Jacob Tremblay, David Cubitt, Clémentine Poidatz

Directed by: Farren Blackburn  
IMDb rating: 6.1

**Rock On 2:** The band, Magik reunites with some new members  
**Starring:** Shraddha Kapoor, Farhan Akhtar, Arjun Rampal, Purab Kohli, Prachi Desai, Shashank Arora



Directed by: Shujaat Saudagar

# Kuwait's expatriate workforce counted at 2.42 million

The Secretary General of Supreme Planning Council's General Secretariat Khalid Mahdi said that the expatriate manpower in Kuwait, constituting 60 percent of the Kuwaiti

population as per the statistics of 2014, has reached 2.42 million.

During a press conference held to launch the initiative of 'Protection of health and safety

at work locations', Mahdi said that Kuwait, during the UN Summit for permanent development on 25 September, 2015, had signed the 2030 convention for permanent development with a

total of 17 objectives.

He affirmed that so far, Kuwait has successfully achieved a large number of the objectives of this convention.

## BSK hosts Remembrance Commemoration

Remembrance Day - also known as Poppy Day, Armistice Day or Veterans Day - is a day to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war, particularly from the First World War, 1914 - 1918. The British School of Kuwait (BSK) held its annual Remembrance Commemoration with Guest of Honor Group Captain Finlay McLean, Defense Attaché at the British Embassy, and was attended by Secondary students and their teachers at morning assembly.

The VIP party included BSK Senior Management Team members Madame



Vera Al Mutawa MBE and other noteworthy personalities, who placed wreaths and poppies on the cenotaph.

The ceremony concluded a series of BSK events held to support the British Legion including a Poppy Appeal and a visit to the British Embassy gardens for a group of history students to participate in a ceremony. The wearing of the poppy represents the support and empathy that is felt for all those who have made any sacrifice in past or present conflicts in order that future generations might not need to experience the same horrors of war.

### CRIME

#### Motorbikes, buggies seized in traffic campaigns

Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs at Ministry of Interior Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaie revealed that the ministry launched several traffic campaigns in various parts of the country during which 53 traffic citations were issued, six vehicles used for reckless driving seized, seven individuals arrested and detained in police stations, four referred to prosecution, and 45 motorbikes and buggies seized. A press release issued by Ministry of Interior affirmed that campaigns will be carried out on a daily basis on main roads, highways, coastal and residential areas in order to prevent the use of motorbikes and buggies, based on a ministerial decision in this regard. Major General Al-Shuwaie said that the ministry will not bear responsibility for the damages, if any, incurred while transporting the buggies to the seized-vehicle garage.

#### Sports cars seized and drivers held

Ahmadi securitymen led by Ahmadi Security Director Brigadier Abdullah Safa launched an extensive campaign on reckless drivers in Ali Sabah Al-Salem area during which they seized six sports cars and arrested the drivers. According to security sources, the campaign was launched after receiving information about a group of young reckless drivers performing dangerous stunts in the area. All entry and exit roads of the area were closed and drivers were arrested. Sources affirmed that such campaigns will continue in all residential areas and deserts in line with the directives issued by Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Ibrahim Al-Tarrah.

#### Kuwaiti arrested over license renewal

A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested for illegally renewing the license of a trading company. Prior to this, he had also renewed the license of a transportation company for a period from 2013 to 2016, after it was in a cancelled state for a while. There were no official documents indicating the renewal of the license. Investigations revealed that the transaction was carried out without the approval of Kuwait Municipality and Ministry of Communication, as well as without the presentation of a rent contract or receipts. The General Department of Residency Affairs had requested the concerned department for the names of employees who issued the license, after which it was discovered that the Kuwaiti citizen was involved in the issuance with the assistance of a female colleague. A case of falsification of official documents was filed against him.

#### Illegal domestic labor office raid

General Department of Public Relations and Media Security at Ministry of Interior revealed in a press release that the Search and Investigation Unit of the General Department of Residency Affairs raided an illegal domestic labor office in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area and arrested 12 individuals of Ghanaian, Ethiopian and Sri Lankan nationalities in possession of several fake receipts and seals.

#### Crimes committed by Kuwaitis more than by expats

Although expatriates outnumber Kuwaitis, statistics issued by the concerned authority says that Kuwaitis outnumber expatriates in crime rate. The statistics show 10,929 crimes were committed by Kuwaitis, 2,621 by Egyptians, 1,803 by bedoun, 1,131 by Indians, the Syrians came in the fifth place with 1,006, Saudis 860, Bangladeshis 502, Sri Lankans 193, Filipinos 343, Jordanians 232 and Pakistanis 296, the Iranians 234, Lebanese 233, Iraqis 165 and 1,580 by other nationalities. The total number of crimes committed so far this year 22,740, less 1,000 compared to last year.

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# Kuwait issues new copyright law to protect work by authors

**K**uwait has recently issued a new copyright law which protects authors' works from unauthorized use.

The new law prevents unauthorized publication, reproduction, public broadcast or rebroadcast, public communication, translation, adaptation, rental or making available of the work to the public by computer, internet or any other means.

The new law, which applies to nationals and expat residents, also allows performance artists financial rights and guarantees exclusive lifetime rights to the authors and their successors.

In case of those who do not have successors, the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters will be responsible for the protection of the authors' rights for fifty years following his or her death. In the case of audio, visual, audio-



visual works and films, the duration of fifty year protection will commence from the date of the first showing or legitimate publication of the work. Violation of this law will result in prison sentence of between six months and two years, a fine of KD500 to KD50,000 or the temporary closure of establishments for a maximum period of three months or the withdrawal of their license in the case of repetition.



## Indonesian embassy showcases Batik artistry

**T**he Indonesian embassy in association with the Indonesian Ladies Community organized a Batik presentation and exhibition on its premises on 7 November, which was hosted by the Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Tatang Budie Utama Razak and his wife.

Batik is the art and technique of decorating cloth using wax and dye with a spouted tool called a canting.

The large gathering was comprised of wives of diplomats, members of various international women groups and Indonesian nationals. In his speech, the Indonesian Ambassador lauded the wide-spread admiration for the designs, saying,

"On October 2009, UNESCO has designated Indonesian Batik as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity". Following the speech, a fashion show showcased the vibrant and intricate prints of Batik design embellished on dresses, blouses and shawls. The clothing items displayed by both women and children were given a contemporary twist by being paired with elegant modern clothing, highlighting their unique charm.

Guests admired the clothing, and many purchased Batik adorned accessories and other items from the mini bazaar, in addition to visiting the other stall that featured quilt Batik designs and demonstrated the construction process. Part

of the appreciation for the traditional art form was a stall where visitors could practice creating their own Batik design using the traditional tools. Highlighting the country's diverse cuisine, a large spread was presented with a variety of dishes, sweets and beverages originating from Indonesia.

Speaking to The Times on the sidelines of the function, Ambassador Razak praised the rich and dynamic history of the Batik tradition in his country. "The Batik designs are very famous and are now found in high-class fashion shows like in New York and other countries because the various motifs are very interesting to people," he reiterated.

## Award winning Muslim youth visits Kuwait



**T**he Australian Embassy hosted a visit on 10 November by Yassmin Abdel-Magied, who visited Kuwait as part of her Middle East and North Africa regional speaking tour to speak from her experience about tolerance, diversity, faith and gender.

Ms. Abdel-Magied is an engineer, social advocate and media commentator. She received the 2015 Queensland Young Australian of the Year award for her advocacy work for the empowerment of youth, women and those from racially, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

During her visit to Kuwait, Ms. Abdel-Magied met students and staff at Box Hill College, and hosted a discussion with the Centre for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering at the American University of Kuwait. Ms. Abdel-Magied also hosted The Breakfast with Tee and Aki Show on 99.7 Radio Kuwait FM. She spoke eloquently on the themes of gender, leadership, diversity, the role of faith and culture, her work in social advocacy and her experiences as a female engineer.

Born in Sudan, Yassmin Abdel-Magied and her family arrived in Australia just before she turned two. At age 16, she founded Youth Without Borders, an organization that empowers young people to realize their full potential through collaborative, community based programs. Yassmin's advocacy work has been recognized with many awards.

## Marriott Hotels celebrates Global Customer Appreciation

**M**arriott Hotels in Kuwait launched their annual community engagement program called Global Customer Appreciation Week (GCAW), from 6 to 10 November, 2016.

With a focus on celebrating this occasion, the JW Marriott Kuwait City, the Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait City and the Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City will participate in various activities all under the theme 'Making Greater Connections'. The different activities include calling



and thanking the top producing companies for their business and distributing certificates of appreciation and gifts. Business partners were also invited for an exclusive dinner at the newly opened Crossroads Restaurant at the JW Marriott Kuwait.

Further initiatives included a telemarketing campaign designed to call and personally thank all the guests for their business, in addition to organizing a blood donation drive in cooperation with Pharaoh Bikers and Kuwait Blood Bank.

## Visit visa approvals streamlined

Family visit applications for wife and children, provided the salary of the husband is not less than KD200, as well as visit visa applications for the father, mother and siblings, on the condition that salary of the applicant is not less than KD500, will now be the responsibility of directors of departments and heads of citizen service centers in respective governorates.

Changes to visa approval authority were announced by Director-General of Residency

Affairs Department in the Interior Ministry Major General Talal Al-Ma'arafi. Heads of public services sections have also been given authority to approve commercial visit visa applications for Europeans and citizens of 52 countries, who are allowed to obtain visa upon arrival. Citizens of other countries will have to receive approval from department directors and their deputies.

Al-Ma'arafi recently met directors of residency affairs departments in governorates, during

which he granted heads of citizen service centers the authority to also sign visit visa applications for Kuwaiti sponsors if the visitors are first and second-degree relatives of sponsors. For other relatives, such authority is in the hands of directors or their deputies.

He also made clear that security scrutiny for those of Syrian origin who hold Sudanese passports would continue and that a mother could become the sponsor of her children's



residency in case the father is in jail or dead provided all other requirements are fulfilled.



## Turkish Airlines celebrates new office opening in Kuwait

Turkish Airlines, Europe's best airline for the sixth year in a row, celebrated the opening of its new office, with an evening reception attended by its partners and stakeholders. The office is located at Khalid Ibn Al Waleed Street, Al Dhow Tower, Block 7/1, Sharq, in Kuwait City.

The Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait was present at the gathering that saw attendance by the airline's top travel agents from all over the country at the at Al Dhow Tower in Kuwait City.

Turkish Airlines has continued to meet the demands of its customers in Kuwait and throughout the globe by successfully launching several key flights to new destinations. In 2016 alone the airline launched new flights to Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Kosice, Slovakia; Bogota, Columbia's capital; Panama

City, Panama; Atlanta, USA; Cluj, Romania; Hanoi, Vietnam; Erbil, Iraq, and Mahé, Seychelles.

Through the expansion of these new flights, Turkish Airlines showcases its commitment to continuously providing its customers with the best possible services, which is also evident through its fleet of 334 aircraft. Sami Aydogan, Turkish Airlines GM, Kuwait City, said: "We are delighted to celebrate this day with our distinguished guests. Our relations with our travel agents and key media journalists are a huge and crucial part of our growth, which is why it is only fitting for us to celebrate this new milestone with them. Our philosophy is to always maintain a competitive advantage over other airlines by being a customer-oriented airline committed to the highest standard of services and we will stay loyal this mind-set."

## Indian embassy releases announcement regarding demonetization of notes

The Indian embassy has been receiving telephonic calls and queries from some members of Indian community inquiring whether the embassy can accept and/or exchange the demonetized banknotes of Rs 500 and Rs1,000 in their

possession in Kuwait.

The Embassy would like to clarify that it does not deal in Indian currency notes. Demonetized bank notes of the denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 are not acceptable/ exchangeable at the Embassy.

## Jet Airways to woo flyers with '#Think Home, Think Jet Airways' marketing campaign

Jet Airways, India's premier international airline, is set to launch an integrated marketing campaign highlighting its world renowned, yet, uniquely Indian hospitality that has made it the carrier of choice for flyers travelling home to India and even onwards via its global network.

The new campaign, comprising a mix of offline and online channels, is being rolled out from next week across the airline's key markets in the Gulf comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Branded '#Think Home. Think Jet Airways', the campaign will highlight the enormous advantages that Jet Airways offers its guests along with its partner Etihad Airways, when flying between the Gulf and India. Guests can take advantage of the airline's robust network and



experience its award-winning Indian hospitality, together with warm and personalized family spirit, that has helped the airline create new benchmarks in service excellence.

The campaign will also promote the airline's liberal baggage allowances and the opportunity for guests' to earn unmatched benefits by signing up to the airline's award-winning JetPrivilege loyalty program.

Jet Airways constantly

strives to create exceptional flying experiences for its guests and the '#Think Home. Think Jet Airways' campaign is a reiteration of the airline's service philosophy and commitment to offer greater value to its guests. Be it Jet Airways' exceptional in-flight service, carefully-crafted menu of international and Indian delicacies, or JetPrivilege benefits, there is always the promise of the best air travel experience at competitive fares.

## LuLu Group launches operations in USA



LuLu Group International, the Abu Dhabi headquartered retail and hospitality group, further expanded their operations by inaugurating their food processing and logistics bases in USA. Y International, a wholly owned subsidiary of the group launched its operation in Lyndhurst, New Jersey recently.

The facility was formally inaugurated jointly by Mayor Robert B. Giangeruso, Mayor Michael J. McPartland and Vinai Thummalapally,

the Executive Director of Select USA in the presence of Yusuffali MA- Chairman, Saifee Rupawala, CEO, Ashraf Ali MA - Executive Director and Mohd. Althaf - Director of LULU Group. Attendees at the ribbon cutting, including local and foreign officials as well as members of the Indian-American business community from around the country, were thrilled by the impact the company can have throughout the state.

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## Reception marks Algerian War of Independence

To commemorate the Algerian War of Independence (1954-62), the Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Abdulhamid Abdawi hosted a reception at Salwa Hall. The Algerian War, also called Algerian War of Independence, was a

people's revolution against colonialism and the French occupation of Algeria, organized with the aim of giving Algeria independence from France. The Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar attended the gathering, which comprised

of members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries and media. In an address to the gathering, Minister Al-Jassar expressed his congratulations to the Algerians and stressed that the relations between Algeria and Kuwait are strong and cordial in all

areas. Algerian Ambassador Abdawi stated that Kuwait occupies a remarkable place in the hearts of the people of Algeria for their continued support in various arenas. He reiterated, "We will continue working together to face challenges".



## MOI Traffic Department and KMC launch License Department at new Branch

MOI Traffic Department and Kuwait Motoring Co. (KMC), the premier driving school, recently launched the License Department at KMC premises, Asimah. The event was graced by Major General Fahad Alshuwaye (Interior Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs), Colonel Mishal Al Hajraf, Colonel Salem Al Hajji, KMC management, as well as local press.

At the event, Saqer Al Rashoud (Public & Governmental Relations Manager at KMC) commented, "Our

partnership with Kuwait General Traffic Department clearly shows our commitment to provide customers with convenient solutions." He stated that the new License department was a great added value that would speed up the paperwork and enhance KMC customers' experience.

Mr. Al Rashoud underlined that KMC is always eager to exceed customers' expectations and its goal is to create a "one-stop shop" experience for them. Having the License department in KMC Asimah

branch is the first step in KMC's plan for 2017 and its ambition is to expand the same service to its other two branches in Farwaniya and Sabahiya.

As Kuwait's first and most prominent provider of driving education, KMC has established itself as an institute that focuses on trust, safety and professionalism. KMC has multiple state-of-the-art facilities that provide a range of general and specialized courses across different categories of motor vehicles.

## Largest hospital in the Middle-East to open in Kuwait

The Middle East's biggest hospital is on track to open in Kuwait by the end of 2016 according to sources with the Ministry of Health.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah hospital complex being built at a cost of over KD300 million, will also be the sixth largest hospital in the world.

The Sheikh Jaber Hospital is part of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) plan to build new hospitals as well as replace or expand nine of the existing 15 generalized and specialized hospitals in the country. With a budget of more than a billion dinars, the new hospitals and expansions are expected to add nearly 5,400 new beds to the existing 7,000 beds and create employment for more than 15,000 medical and support staff.

The building and renovation plans by the MOH are part of the greater Kuwait Development Plan (KDP), which envisions weaning the economy from its over-dependence on oil and transforming the country into a regional financial and trade hub by 2035. A slew of infrastructure projects are being planned and implemented in support of KDP.



Located in South Surra, the Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital complex will be the biggest center for injuries in the Middle-East. With a total area of 469,370 square meters and 1,168 beds, the Jaber Hospital will have cutting-edge equipment and qualified staff to offer a comprehensive range of medical services to enhance health and well-being of residents in the country.

Managed by the MOH the hospital will offer a range of medical services including diagnostic and treatments, it will also have a trauma center, a dental facility and in- and out-patient care services. It will also house VIP suites for visiting heads of state.

## 'Imagine France' showcases French heritage sites



The French Embassy in Kuwait in cooperation with the French Institute organized a three-day photography exhibition titled 'Imagine France'.

The exhibition, which was held from 8 - 10 November at the French Institute, featured the striking works of professional photographer Maia Flore. In her 28 images of heritage sites in France, photographer Maia Flore has created a character who has adapted to each location to make it both surprising and poetic. The recurrent character in each image livens up and renews the heritage sites which were photographed during a 6-day tour of France between July and September 2013.

The photography exhibition, which was on view in Paris until September 2014 and has since been shown in many countries around the world, offers viewers a new perspective on the famous French heritage sites.





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# Kuwait to reveal increased electricity and water fees

**K**uwait's increased electricity and water fees will be revealed to the public in weeks, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Water.



The parliament passed a bill in April 2016 which permits the government to raise power and water charges on expat residents and

businesses, exempting Kuwaiti nationals. According to Minister Ahmad Al Jassar, the rates will be publicized before the law goes into effect on 22 May, 2017.

According to the new rates, power charges in apartment buildings will rise from 2 fils per kilowatt hour to 15 fils to 25 fils in commercial buildings. Water prices will more than double.

Al Jassar earlier said that the government was spending around \$9 billion annually on power and water production, and that if necessary steps were not taken, the expenses would rise to \$25 billion. While MPs had earlier rejected the hike, they later approved the same after citizens were exempted.

The new rates will mark the first time in 50 years that Kuwait has raised its utility fees.



## The 9th Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan regales audience

**T**he Korea embassy in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL) hosted the 9th Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan at Abdul Hussain Abdulredha, Salmiya, on Saturday, 22 October.

The 9th Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan is a cultural delegation that showcases the wonderful aspects of Korean performance culture overseas. It is part of the embassy's efforts to enhance and enrich cultural understanding between Korea

and Kuwait. The show featured 'The Gyeonggi Provincial', a lively band that performed well-known traditional Korean dances such as the Samul Nori (ensemble of four percussions) Buchae-Chum (fan dance), Jindo Buk-Chum (jindo drum dance) and Yangmyeon Tal-Chum (double-faced mask dance).

The next segment, The B-Boy troupe, was a hip-hop-inspired dance performance that narrated a story, titled 'Marionette'.



## Bhavans organizes model United Nations -2016

**T**he third edition of Bhavan's Model United Nations (BMUN) was organized at Indian Educational School, Kuwait (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) on 3 November, 2016 with a formal inaugural ceremony graced by Josephine Moss, the UN Co-ordination Specialist in the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Kuwait.

In her address to the gathering, Ms. Moss gave a thought provoking speech on 'Sustainable Development Goals.' (SDG-2030) of the UN, and also called for a society which is technologically advanced and humanitarian value based. The simulation witnessed a strong clash of ideologies of the 48 potential contestants representing various schools in Kuwait.

The third edition was diverse with four parallel committees participating such as The



General Assembly deliberating on Brexit and its aftermath and on the Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT), The Historic Security Council debating on Kargil War with a freeze period of May 1999, ICC (International Cricket Council), which is the first of its kind on a UN platform discussing 'the Impact Of Premier Leagues on Cricket', and the World Media Council (WMC) where students acting

as reporters presented reports on their respective committees.

During the prize distribution ceremony, the guest of honor, Mahesh Iyer, together with a distinguished group of supporters awarded the trophies to the winners with the BMUN 2016 overall trophy presented to Fahaeel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS-DPS). The BMUN 2016 concluded on a successful note.



## Reception held to mark joint French - German education fair

**T**he Ambassador of France to Kuwait H.E. Christian Nakhle organized a reception at his residence to congratulate participants in the French - German Education and Cultural Fair that recently took place in Kuwait.

The two-day Education and Cultural Fair gave students in Kuwait, and their parents, an

opportunity to gather information on studying at well-known universities in France and Germany. The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr. Bader Hamad Al-Essa was chief guest at the reception, which also the attendance of members of the diplomatic corps, students and media personnel.



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## India's surgical strike on black money leaves NRIs stranded with invalid notes

Continued from Page 1

He also revealed that new notes of Rs500 and Rs2,000, with completely new design would be introduced and that based on past experience, the Reserve Bank will hereafter make arrangements to limit the share of high denomination notes in the total currency in circulation.

In a country where most transactions in daily life are in cash and nearly half of those are in denominations of 500 rupees and over, the announcement caught everyone completely off-guard. Not a single news agency had any prior indication that the move was afoot. This in itself was quite remarkable in a country known for its lack of secrecy and bureaucratic bungling.

On Thursday, the International Monetary Fund voiced its support for the Indian government's efforts to fight corruption through the currency demonetization. "We support the measures to fight corruption and illicit financial flows in India," said IMF spokesman Gerry Rice. "Of course given the large role of cash in everyday transactions in India's economy, the currency transition will have to be managed prudently to minimize possible disruptions."

The idea behind the demonetization is to lock out money that is unaccounted for and make it visible for tax purposes. While banks will readily exchange a few thousand rupees and accept deposits of up to two and half lakh rupees, they will begin to ask questions of those who try to deposit hundreds of thousands or millions in currency.

There has been chaos at banks across India this week as people try to exchange notes that have overnight become invalid. For Indians living abroad and stranded

with the demonetized notes, the government has not offered any specific respite. If the money is at home in India, you can either have it deposited in your Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) savings account or authorize someone to deposit it on your behalf. If the money is in your possession abroad, then the only option is to travel back to India and exchange the notes before the deadline on 30th December.

### Other highlights from Tuesday's announcement by the prime minister include:

Persons holding old notes of Rs500 or Rs1,000 can deposit these notes in their bank or post office accounts from 10th November till close of banking hours on 30th December 2016 without any limit.

People can go to any bank, head post office or sub post office, show an approved identity proof and exchange their old demonetized notes for new notes. Till 24th November the limit for such exchange will be Rs4,000. From 25th November till 30th December, the limit will be increased.

There is daily cap of Rs10,000 along with a weekly cap of Rs.20,000 for withdrawal of currency at banks, up to 24th November. There is also a limit of Rs2,000 withdrawal from ATM until 18th November and Rs4,000 thereafter.

Those who, for some reason, are not able to deposit the demonetized currencies by 30th December, 2016, can go to specified offices of the Reserve Bank of India up to 31st March 2017 and deposit the notes after submitting a declaration form.

## Taming a triumphant Trump

Continued from Page 1

on the streets of Portland, Philadelphia and elsewhere, Mr. Trump calmly tweeted 'Love the fact that small groups of protesters last night have passion for our great country. We will all come together and be proud!'

Also, following his meeting on Thursday with President Obama at the White House, Trump called Obama a "very good man" and added, "We discussed a lot of different situations, some wonderful and some difficulties. I very much look forward to dealing with the president in the future, including counsel." On the campaign trail, Mr. Trump and Mr. Obama had been at loggerheads on various issues, with the President referring to the president-elect as being "temperamentally unfit" for the White House. These responses were quite uncharacteristic of the Trump that the world saw, heard and abhorred on the election trail and on the days leading up to elections. But then, that is the beauty of democracy. You can unleash vitriolic tirade against your opponent, make mudslinging into an art form, promise unfeasible plans, and nobody holds you accountable for those utterances in a democracy. If voters are gullible enough to be swayed by campaign rhetoric and believe that good governance will ensue by electing the loudest or most persuasive politician, this too is part of our cherished democracy.

It was the former Democratic governor of New York Mario Cuomo who said: "In politics, you campaign in poetry and govern in prose." A politician's promises, vituperative language and tough pledges are usually the ingenious use of words that are intended for just one purpose - to win votes. The promises and posturing help sway undecided voters, while the strong denunciations and pronouncements energize the supporter base. The prosaic part comes later, when the elected are confronted with the reality of governance.

America's new president-elect is rapidly realizing that campaigning to become president and becoming president are totally different worlds. On the election trail, Mr. Trump had said he would tear up the NAFTA free-trade agreements with Canada and Mexico. He was particularly

scathing on trade ties with China and called for reforms, threatening to levy heavy tariffs on Chinese imports.

A day into his victory over Ms. Clinton, Mr. Trump seems to have mellowed his protectionist trade views. He said he wanted America to be open for business and that he was not against trade but was pro-business. The change in rhetoric maybe be nuanced but it is clear that the president-elect is, whether he calls it pro-business or pro-trade, he cannot ignore the fact that just in the month of September 2016, trade between China and United States was \$416



billion and that Canada, Mexico and China together account for nearly 45 percent of the trade with the United States.

There are also another personal reason why the businessman Trump may find it difficult to implement many of the protectionist policies and immigration restrictions that he has promised as President Trump. His financial interests in more than 500 businesses, including luxury hotels and casinos, depend directly or indirectly on some of the policies he has undertaken to repeal or reform.

The president-elect, more than anyone else, is fully aware that business interests trump presidential tenures, any day. A president's term in office is at best limited to two, four-year terms, and Mr. Trump who has made being egotistical and, acting and speaking before thinking, his trademark is decidedly unpopular with a large section of Americans, both Republicans and Democrats. The chances of him making an impeachment-level mistake and getting thrown out of office in the first term are therefore surprisingly good.

Even on his key *bête noire*, President Obama's signature 2010 law on health insurance and medical care, the president-

elect seems to have had a change of heart. During the election trail, Mr. Trump had described the government-run health insurance marketplace as a "total disaster" and "a catastrophe", and had promised to repeal the law and provide Americans with "great healthcare for much less money." To clarify to readers: In the United States, unlike in most other Western countries, it is private companies, rather than the government that provide health coverage for most citizens, often at exorbitant rates.

On Friday, in an interview on TV with the 60 Minutes programme, Mr. Trump conceded that there were parts of Mr. Obama's signature legislative achievement that were worth keeping. He said that the ban on insurers denying coverage for pre-existing conditions, and, allowing young adults to be insured on their parents' policies, were among the features in the law that he "liked very much". However, the president-elect did not reveal how he would reconcile portions of the law that he liked very much, which depend on sections in the same law that he has condemned, such as mandating all Americans to be insured.

Another big campaign promise likely to bite dust is Mr. Trump's preposterous call to build a wall along the border with Mexico, to stem the flow of immigrants. This plan will probably run aground even before the first bricks are laid because of the humongous amounts of money needed to build it. Nevertheless, the president-elect's even more ludicrous idea of getting the Mexican government to pay for the wall has some merit. After months of watching 'democracy in action' - the ugly political posturing, the demeaning debates, the often fanatic partisan crowds, it will be no surprise if Mexico agrees to pay for the wall - they would desperately want to keep the wild ones out of their country.

For the last eight years, the United States has had a president who has been relatively popular with the public and had relative support from Congress, but was to a large extent relatively ineffective. We can only hope that Mr. Trump, a decidedly unpopular president, who is unlikely to have support from even some of his own Republican colleagues in Congress, might somehow end up being a relatively effective president.

## Two weeks to polls: Election tempo gathers steam

Continued from Page 1

At least one of the appointed ministers has to be an elected representative. The Prime Minister is appointed or relieved of duty by the Amir. The ministers are also appointed or relieved of duty by the Amir, on the recommendations of the prime minister.

The legislative term of the National Assembly is a maximum of four years, which can be extended by law to meet exigencies in times of war. The term of the assembly may also be shortened if it is dissolved by an Amiri decree. The Amiri decree dissolving parliament should indicate reasons for the dissolution and announce a new election within a period not exceeding two months from the date of dissolution.

**Elections:** For electoral purpose, the country is divided into five constituencies with 10 deputies elected from each constituency. Each eligible voter registered in a constituency is allowed one vote, and the 10 candidates with the most number of votes are declared elected from that constituency.

There is no minimum threshold of votes needed to win a seat and voting is not compulsory. Also, there are no reserved seats or quotas for women or other categories.

If two or more candidates receive the same number of votes, the election committee draws a lot to pick the winner. There are also no limits to the number of

terms a parliamentarian can serve.

Candidates seeking a parliament seat have to make a deposit of KD500, which is reimbursed if they are able to win at least 10 votes from their constituency. However, the amount is forfeited and paid to a charity in case the candidate fails to win the minimum votes or they withdraw their candidature after the date of withdrawal. The withdrawal date is fixed at seven days before the election date. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections. However, no by-election is held if the vacancy occurs within six months of the expiry of the legislative term.

**Eligibility:** Any Kuwaiti citizen whose age is 21-years or older, living in the country at the time of the election and registered in one of the five constituencies, is eligible to vote in that constituency.

Any Kuwaiti citizen whose age is 30-years or older, resident of the country at the time of the election and with the ability to read and write in Arabic, is eligible to stand as a candidate for parliamentary elections.

Any person, who has been sentenced to imprisonment, convicted of a felony or dishonorable crime or has been naturalized within the last 30 years, as well as army and police personnel are not eligible to cast their vote or stand as candidates.

In addition, the head of state, ministers of state, members of the

judiciary, executives of the Electoral Commission, members of the Electoral Commission and members of the armed forces or police force, are not allowed to stand as a candidate during the term of their office.

**Parliamentary oversight:** As per law, there are no official political parties in Kuwait and candidates have to run as independents in elections. However, upon winning a seat, members usually form informal parliamentary blocs that tend to lend support and vote en-bloc on bills and issues presented before parliament.

Major de facto political parties in previous parliaments included the National Democratic Alliance, Popular Action Bloc, Hadas (Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood), National Islamic Alliance and Justice and Peace Alliance. Together the blocs accounted for a mix of liberals, secularists, populists, nationalists and Islamist members.

**The National Assembly is a powerful institution in the country. While the Amir can veto laws, the National Assembly has the right to override the veto by a two-third vote. The Assembly is also vested with the constitutional right to approve or disapprove of an Amir's appointment.**

Every member of the Assembly and members of the government have the right to initiate bills. In order for any bill passed by the National Assembly to become effective, it needs to be sanctioned by the Amir and then

promulgated and published in the official gazette. The National Assembly is also tasked with debating and approving the state's annual budget and, depending on the work requirement, authorized to form special standing committees, as well as ad hoc and permanent committees, from among its elected members.

In addition, the National Assembly also supervises the executive through submitting questions, raising any subject of general interest for discussion and setting up committees of inquiry. The supervisory role could lead to an interpellation, or what is termed a 'grilling' of the concerned minister, which would then be followed by a vote of confidence.

Though there are 16 cabinet members who generally have the same rights as the elected parliamentarians, they cannot vote when an interpolation leads to a no-confidence vote against one of the cabinet members. Therefore, if the minister is unwilling to submit to interpellation, or fails to win the vote of confidence from the house, he or she is obliged to immediately submit a formal resignation.

Under such circumstances, the cabinet can either, accept the minister's resignation and appoint a new person in place, or it can circumvent the whole process by citing extenuating conditions and submit its resignation to the Amir. The Amir then decides whether to appoint a new cabinet or hold fresh elections.

Also, though the Assembly cannot raise a vote of confidence against the Prime Minister, it can nevertheless decide not to cooperate with the prime minister and submit the matter to the Amir for resolution. The Amir then again decides whether to relieve the Prime Minister of his office and appoint a new cabinet, or dissolve the National Assembly and hold new elections.

With the parliament endowed with powers to oversee the government's functioning and conducting inquiries into government actions and questioning ministers over their plans and policies, Kuwait is credited with having more government accountability and transparency than any other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) state. But this parliamentary scrutiny has also often led to discord between executive and legislative, which have resulted in dissolution of the parliament. The latest dissolution on 16 October of this year is the ninth time in 54 years that the parliament has been dissolved.

Parliamentary oversight and constant squabbling between executive and legislative has also stymied the government's ability to push through much-needed economic reforms. With many major development plans needed to revive and invigorate the economy in limbo, it is no wonder that Kuwait cannot mirror the successful growth and amazing progress witnessed in some of the neighboring countries.



# BELGIUM

*Belgium is a vibrant country with a cosmopolitan culture reflected in scores of splendid museums, amazing architecture, art and world-class restaurants. Dotted with medieval cities and sprinkled with abbeys, Belgium has more than 60 UNESCO designated World Cultural Sites, each meriting a visit on its own. And then of course, there are the Belgian chocolates — simply divine and more exquisitely varied than you would find anywhere else on the planet.*

**BRUSSELS:** Belgium's fascinating capital, and the administrative capital of the EU, Brussels is historic yet hip, bureaucratic yet bizarre, self confident yet unshowy, and multicultural to its roots. All this plays out in a cityscape that swings from majestic to quirky to rundown and back again. Organic art nouveau facades face off against 1960s concrete developments, and regal 19th-century mansions contrast with the brutal glass of the EU's Gotham City. This whole maelstrom swirls out from Brussels' medieval core, where the Grand Place is surely one of the world's most beautiful squares.



**TOURNAI:** Adjacent to France, the quaint and lovely community of Tournai is an excellent place to tune out the hustle and bustle of larger Belgium cities. More than 2000 years of rich cultural history can be explored here, and this city is home to what is believed to be one of the most beautiful churches in the world – the five-towered Gothic and Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral. Constructed in the 12th and 13th centuries, the cathedral houses the Shrine of Our Lady and works by Ruvens and Jordaens. The town Belfry is the oldest in the country and offers visitors 257 steps to the most remarkable views in the city of Tournai. The Museum of Fine Arts is filled with masterpieces from primitive and contemporary artists ranging from Campin and Rubens to Roger Van der Weyden and Van Gogh.



**MEUSE VALLEY:** Located in the south of the country, Meuse Valley is one of the best places to get a feel for Belgium's lush countryside. This is the perfect opportunity to take a trip along the river watching the beautiful scenery unfurl; dense forests are interspersed with



## Ardennes

For hiking, biking and camping, visitors to Belgium should head to the rugged hills of the Ardennes with their tight forests, caves and cliffs. They are home to wild boar, deer and lynx and hide a number of friendly villages, lots of castles and a few other notable sights. The impressive caves of Han-sur-Lesse, the castle of Bouillon and the modern Labyrinth of Barvaux are some of the best picks. The city of Namur makes a great base from where to explore the Ardennes and has some fine sights itself too.

cutesy towns backed by limestone cliffs. In particular, the towns of Namur and Dinant act as a gateway to this region, which has a host of hiking and cycling trails for travelers who want to add some activities into their holiday. Both towns boast craggy cliff top citadels as well as a clutch of other historic sites, but the real highlight in this area is the scenery itself.

**BRUGES: BELFRY AND HALLE:** The most recognizable sight in Belgium is the beautiful belfry and Halle, which dominates the main square in Bruges. Dating from the medieval era, this impressive building once functioned as the main town market hall and has been wonderfully preserved allowing visitors a real taste of the architectural might of the Middle Ages. While in Bruges, a hike up the 366 winding and narrow steps of the belfry is a must-do activity. Once at the top, the views of church spires and steeple-roofs provide one of the country's most well-known panoramas.

**SEMOIS VALLEY:** The lush Semois Valley is the perfect antidote to historic rambling amid Belgium's cities and towns. Here, in the southeast of the country, the Semois River cuts through thick forest-clad hills and is a prime hiking territory. For those who prefer a less taxing way of seeing this landscape, a riverboat trip through the area is an excellent alternative. The Semois Valley offers a slice of Belgium's



## Ghent's Gravensteen

This hugely impressive fort was once the grand home of the counts of Flanders who took their inspiration for castle building from the bulky castles the Crusaders built in Syria. Today, Gravensteen is one of Europe's best surviving examples of a moated fortress and has been incredibly well-preserved. Its strong and impressively thick and high walls soar up from the waters of the river Lieve right in the middle of the old town of Ghent, rising above the rooftops of the surrounding streets. Inside, the vast arched halls and chambers contain exhibits of medieval life, but it is the castle's architecture itself that is the real star of the show.

scenery at its most viscerally beautiful and is a nature-lover's delight, particularly during spring when the wildflowers bloom.

## CATHEDRAL OF SAINT BAVO

This majestic cathedral with its high Gothic choir and Romanesque crypt showcases the best of religious architecture in Belgium. Although the soaring building, with its harmonious stained glass windows, is a highlight in itself, most people come here to see the famous artwork that graces the interior; specifically the Flemish masterpiece known as 'The Altar of Ghent'.



**BELGIAN CHOCOLATE:** Like fashion, wine and finance, chocolate has become a complex cultural phenomenon. There is basic chocolate for the masses, artisanal chocolate for purists and avant-garde creations for connoisseurs. In Brussels, you get it all.

The capital of Belgium may be known as the Capital of Europe, but it is also, at least as far as most chocolate aficionados are concerned, the World Capital of Chocolate. Ever since the Brussels



chocolatier Jean Neuhaus invented the praline 100 years ago, the city has been at the forefront of the chocolate business. There are a million residents and some 500 chocolatiers, about one chocolatier for every 2,000 people.

# Specific toxic fat triggers type 2 diabetes

The number of people living with diabetes or pre-diabetes is increasing worldwide. Diabetes is chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough of the hormone insulin (Type 1 Diabetes), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces (Type 2 Diabetes) in response to sugar intake. Insulin enables the body's cells to accept glucose and then process it to provide energy.

In patients whose body does not administer insulin effectively, glucose is not assimilated by the cells but instead builds up in the bloodstream. Diabetes occurs when levels of blood sugar are abnormally high.

Although obesity is a risk factor for diabetes, research has shown that people with a healthy weight can also be diabetic. The same research also indicated that once diagnosed, normal-weight participants were more likely to die from diabetes than their heavier counterparts. Reasons for this apparent anomaly were unknown.

New research now suggests that it might be the presence of a certain specific kind of fat, which makes people of healthy weight prone to type 2 diabetes, and also why some people are more susceptible to it than

others. Researchers have identified a toxic class of fat metabolites called ceramides that could be responsible for causing type 2 diabetes. A buildup of ceramides was shown to prevent the fat tissue from working normally in mice.

When we overeat, some of the excess fat gets either stored or burned for energy. But for some people, excess fat just turns into ceramides, which impact the way the body handles nutrients. They impair the way the body responds to insulin, and also how it burns calories.

When too many ceramides accumulate in the fat tissue, it stops working properly and fat overflows into the blood vessels, heart, or goes on to damage the peripheral tissues.

Ceramides have previously been



linked to diabetes by at least three different mechanisms: they cause the death of pancreatic beta cells, they increase insulin resistance, and they reduce insulin gene expression. The new study further emphasizes the role of ceramides in creating insulin

resistance. This study suggests that some people are predisposed to turning excess fat into ceramides instead of calories. The research suggests even skinny people will get diabetes or fatty liver disease if something such as genetics triggers

ceramide accumulation. This could be a probable reason why some Asian countries have a higher diabetes rate than the US, even though the obesity rate is relatively low.

According to the researchers, ceramide levels predict the existence of diabetes in humans better than obesity. For instance, in one research, patients who received gastric bypass surgery for obesity were found to have different levels of ceramides in their body. Those with lower levels did not have type 2 diabetes, whereas those diagnosed with the disease had higher levels of the toxic metabolites.

Researchers hope that by blocking ceramide production, they might be able to prevent the development of type 2 diabetes or other metabolic conditions, at least in some people.

## Why you cannot get that song out of your head

It happens to nearly everyone: You hear or remember a bit of a song and it gets 'stuck' in your head all day.

Now, researchers say this condition, often referred to as the 'earworm effect' is more likely with some songs than others. They point out that it is certain features of the melody that



make it more prone to getting stuck in people's head. Musically sticky songs seem to have quite a fast tempo, along with a common melodic shape and unusual intervals or repetitions. One common melodic pattern is a rise and then a fall in pitch between phrases. The researchers cited the nursery rhyme, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,' as an example of this melodic form.

According to the study, 90 percent of people get a song stuck in their head at least once

a week, typically when the brain is relatively unoccupied, such as while walking or doing chores.

To find out why some tunes get stuck while others do not, the team behind the study asked more than 3,000 people to list the songs that most tended to get stuck in their heads. The researchers then compared the melodies of these earworm songs to those of songs that had not been cited as earworms but had achieved similar popularity on music charts.

The study reported that the earworm tunes typically had a faster tempo and a fairly generic and easy-to-remember melody. Songs that got more time on radio and were recently on hit charts were also more likely to become earworms. Earworms can also occur when words, images or other associations dredge up a song from our memory, the researchers said.

But how do you get an annoying earworm out of your head? The researchers offered up some tips: Listening to the earworm song all the way through can actually help stop it from continuously looping in your brain.

Distract yourself by thinking of or listening to a different song.

Try not to think about the earworm and let it fade away on its own; this is what eventually happens to most earworms.

The study could probably help aspiring songwriters or advertisers write a jingle everyone will remember for days or months afterwards. It could also be of real significance in neurological research as it could help better understand how certain brain networks behave.

Those who constantly worry about having a heart attack may make it more likely they will have one, says a recently released research report.

The new study reveals that hypochondriacs, often called 'health worry warts', were twice as likely to develop chest pain or have a heart attack compared to those who were not overly anxious about their health.

The researchers noted that people with high levels of health anxiety had around 70 percent increased risk of heart disease, after taking into account other known risk factors. Even relatively low levels of health anxiety were found to increase the risk in comparison to people without symptoms of health anxiety.

However, the team behind the study cautioned that though there was a direct association between increased worry and onset of heart diseases, there was no link to suggest that worrying caused heart problems.

Because these findings cannot be explained by risks for heart disease — such as smoking, lack of physical activity, drinking alcohol or a family history of heart disease — the increased risk may be "caused by physiological effects of the anxiety itself," the researchers said.

This new evidence of negative consequences over time emphasizes the need for proper diagnosis and treatment of health anxiety, added the team. In the past, hypochondriacs were not taken seriously, but it is clear that having health anxiety is not good for you. Patients with these anxieties should be referred to mental health professionals for treatment.

### Constant health worries increase heart trouble



The first step for people with health anxiety is to find a doctor that they really have faith in; having a caregiver you trust and who partners with you to customize the approach to your health is a priority for people who are overly worried about their health.

When most doctors encounter someone who they think is a hypochondriac, they tend to patronize and try to reassure them by saying, "it's nothing and you'll be fine; it's just in your head." But this is a problematic approach, because if you do not actually treat the anxiety, then they are going to be at risk for serious heart disease. Doctors now realize that it is a serious problem and call it 'illness anxiety disorder'.



Milkshakes

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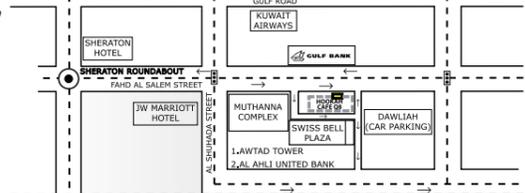


Ice Cream



Turkish Coffee

# 2244 2098



## Hyperloop set to become a reality first in the UAE

**H**yperloop One, the US-based company that plans to move people and things at airline speeds for the price of a bus ticket, is on track to build the first operational Hyperloop system in the world in the UAE.

Hyperloop One (H1) announced last week that it would build the first commercial hyperloop transportation system from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. The journey of 160km, which normally takes about two hours by car, would see the time reduced to a mere 12 minutes.

H1 is partnering with the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) to evaluate the feasibility of building this system in greater Dubai and the UAE. The announcement follows the next stage in development for the company, as it gears up for early next year



when H1 will test a full-scale prototype of its system in the Nevada desert.

Last August, H1 co-founder Shervin Pishevar hinted the first hyperloop would be built

overseas and the company announced in October it had received \$50 million in funding from DP World Group of Dubai, the third-largest ports operator in the world, to build a hyperloop system to move cargo throughout the country and the world.

On top of the news, H1 revealed an original design concept for the portals and pods that would take passengers from Dubai to Abu Dhabi in H1's autonomous transportation system which will be on-demand, energy-efficient and safe.

Hyperloop One said it is now working with global management consulting firm McKinsey and architecture and engineering firm BIG to evaluate the concept of a build out for a H1 passenger system in the UAE.

## Android Auto on smartphones



**E**arly this year, Google teased a version of its Android Auto software that would run entirely on an Android phone and not require a new car or aftermarket dashboard display. Now the company is starting to roll this software out to Android phone owners.

The new Android Auto app, which is an updated version of the existing app, offers a completely streamlined, easy-to-navigate phone interface when driving in a car. It also limits the amount of notification alerts you see, and includes the options to have your text messages read aloud to you and to respond to them using voice.

The new app shows just four icons at the bottom of the screen for Maps, phone calls, audio listening, and an enlarged home button – which maps back to Android Auto when running, instead of to the main home screen. At the top of the interface there is a menu tap, and a microphone icon. Even without actively tapping the icons at the bottom, Android Auto will automatically show a series of cards once you have launched the app.

Google says that any of the apps that have been previously supported in Android Auto –

and there are more than 500 of them – will work within this application interface, too. That means popular apps like WhatsApp, Spotify, Pandora, and Pocket Casts will all work in there.

The new Android Auto is free to download, and will work on any Android device running Lollipop (OS version 5.0) or newer. It will be available in 30 countries.

One of the downsides of the Android Auto mobile app is that it is in 'always-on' mode and drains your smartphone's battery life. But, Mickey Kataria, director of product management for Maps and Android Auto, insists that using Android Auto would only drain battery life a "tiny bit more" than, say, running Maps in standard mode for an extended period of time. The app also suggests that you tether your smartphone to a power source during the initial setup process.

Also, the ability to trigger voice control by saying "OK Google" is still not available with the app at the time of launch, but it is expected to be launched in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, when you receive a text message in Android Auto mode, you can respond with an, 'I'm driving right now' text with one tap.

## SECURE YOUR SKYPE ACCOUNTS

**I**f you have received a weird message on Skype with a link to Baidu or LinkedIn recently, you are not alone. In the past couple of weeks, many users have been surprised to see their accounts breached and being used to send spam.

Microsoft offers the ability to link a Skype and Microsoft Account together to make sign-in and security easier through two-factor authentication. If you already linked your Skype and Microsoft account, Microsoft has kept your original Skype account password separate so that you can still use it to access the service with your Skype username. If that password is not secure or you used it elsewhere then hackers can use it to gain access to Skype, bypassing any two-factor authentication provided by Microsoft.

The ability to bypass Microsoft's two-factor authentication is a major dent in Skype's security, but there is a fix.

If you have already linked a Microsoft Account to Skype, then you will need to 'update' your Skype account to ensure it is fully merged over at Microsoft's account page. Here are the steps:

Go to <https://account.microsoft.com>; if you are already signed in, sign out.

Enter your Skype name, not your Microsoft Account email address, and use your Skype password to sign-in



If you have linked your Microsoft Account previously, you will be prompted to sign-in and merge the accounts to create a Skype alias

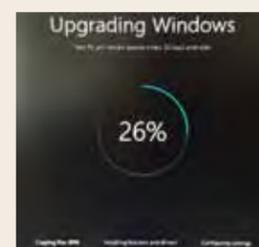
Once the two accounts are properly merged, Microsoft creates a Skype alias to let you keep signing in with a Skype username. You can continue using this or disable it under the aliases preferences, to ensure nobody can try to sign in with your Skype username.

Either way, you will not be able to use your old Skype password anymore, and attackers will have to know the email address associated with your account. If you have not yet linked Skype and Microsoft Accounts at all, then you should be safe to link and merge with the new process.

## Microsoft to ensure smaller sized updates

**M**icrosoft is now starting to test a new Unified Update Platform (UUP) that will make a big difference to the download size of Windows 10 updates.

The new UUP uses differential downloads that only include the changes that have been pushed out since you last updated a Windows 10 PC. Microsoft is expected to start rolling this out to PC builds later this year, alongside HoloLens devices. The real benefit for Windows 10 users will



be when they move from one major update to another, as Microsoft expects download sizes to decrease by around 35 percent. That is a great saving for those on low-bandwidth connections, or people with internet caps. This new technology could also help

Microsoft roll out changes to Windows 10 machines a lot faster. Microsoft has already successfully updated more than 400 million Windows 10 devices.

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2 X 1.8 LTR



**1.690 KD**  
AL FAKER COOKING OIL 2X1.8 ML



**3.790 KD**  
ROYAL UMBRELLA THAI  
JASMINE FRAGRANT RICE 10KG



**1.795 KD**  
JUMAN SUGAR 8 KG



**1.290 KD**  
NESTLE NESCAFE 3 IN 1 COFFEE  
MIX SACHET 30X20GM



**1.395 KD**  
TANG INSTANT DRINK POWDER  
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**0.990 KD**  
DAILY FRESH MAYONNAISE  
2x 946 ml+JAM 450 gm



**0.375 KD**  
MASOOR DAL /KG



**0.895 KD**  
FRANGOSUL WHOLE CHICKEN  
2X1000GM



**0.790 KD**  
TOMEX GREEN PEAS POLAND  
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**0.545 KD**  
AQUA GULF WATER 12X1.5 LTR



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NADEC FRESH YOGURT 2 KG



**1.390 KD**  
KWALITY ICE CREAM 2X1 LTR



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