



LOCAL
Public Prosecution to work with diplomatic missions on deportation issues

THE TIMES

KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE



General Reserves at risk even with oil at \$100

Staff Report

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said last week that Kuwait's General Reserve Fund (GRF) will continue to remain "critical", even if oil prices jump to \$100 a barrel.

The minister made the remarks during a meeting of lawmakers on 10 June. In a bid to win parliamentary nod for the government's economic and fiscal reform program, the finance minister warned the legislators that the GRF, where the state's total revenues are initially deposited, "is under pressure due to growing budget expenditure and the low oil-price environment in recent years."

Since the steep decline of oil prices in mid-2014, the government has struggled to balance the budget with its customary surplus budgets turning into yawning deficits. The budget deficits in the three full financial years since 2014 have totaled KD14.6 billion. Though the shortfall was mitigated to a large extent by withdrawing from the state's GRF, the government has also had to resort to borrowing nearly KD4.8 billion from local and international debt markets.

The state budget for the financial year 2018/19, which is scheduled to

be approved by parliament later this month, envisions raising spending to KD21.5 billion. Even with oil hovering at over \$70 a barrel the government could find itself hard-pressed to introduce a balanced budget, especially with public-sector wages and subsidies continuing to consume as much as 70 percent of total budget expenditure.



Kuwait manages its revenues through the venerable Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which was established by the government in 1953 to manage the state's funds after the discovery of oil. The KIA is the world's oldest sovereign wealth fund (SWF) and fifth largest with

estimated assets of over \$590 billion. Both, the General Reserve Fund (GRF) and the Future Generations Fund (FRF), which receives a minimum of 10 percent from the state's oil revenues each year, are managed by KIA.

The government has now realized that, rather than continue to deplete GRF reserves, a more effective option is to approach international and local debt markets to meet its budget deficits. Especially given that recent higher oil prices, the country's strong ratings and financial reserves make Kuwait debt instruments very attractive on global markets. This was proven in March 2017, when the government's debt issuance of KD2.4 billion with maturities of five and 10 years were lapped up, and bidding was overwhelmingly over-subscribed.

The government would like to push through a financial reform package that would allow it to issue debt instruments on terms that would attract even more investors, especially global pension and insurance funds that are on the lookout for longer-term papers. The government has proposed a bill to extend its borrowing limits from the current KD10 billion to KD25 billion

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Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signing Independence document

Kuwait Independence marks 57th Anniversary

Staff Report

Tuesday marks the 57th anniversary of Kuwait becoming an independent sovereign state. On 19 June 1961, Kuwait annulled the treaty that had granted it a British Protectorate status since 1899 and became an independent nation.

It was on a bright Monday morning

in June 1961 that the then Amir and 11th ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah met with the British Political Resident for the Arabian Gulf, Sir George Middleton, to exchange letters that abrogated the protectorate treaty and set the seal on Kuwait's independence as a sovereign nation.

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Public Prosecution to work with diplomatic missions on deportation issues

In a meeting last week with the Attorney-General Mohammed Rashid Al-Duaij, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah stressed the importance of the Public Prosecution enhancing its cooperation with the diplomatic missions in the country to resolve many of the deportation issues.

Reporting the meeting with Sheikh Khaled through a press release, the Ministry of Interior pointed out that the Attorney-General heads the committee specialized in reviewing all cases of prisoners awaiting deportation.

The Interior Ministry press release added that Sheikh Khaled discussed

with the Attorney-General the new regulations aimed to resolving some existing issues in the deportation prison and reducing their impact by affirming the significance of cooperating and coordinating with the Public Prosecution to achieve the desired goals.

On the issue of deportation of



prisoners, the Attorney-General made clear that judicial deportation was the rule and that it would be waived only under the mandatory legal rules and regulations.

He stressed that the laws are applicable to everyone equally, and that it would be enforced fully and not selectively.

Germany embassy gears up for flood of visa applications

With the start of the travel season, many Kuwaitis and expats will choose to travel to Germany for a myriad of reasons, the most common ones being holiday, leisure and medical visits. The majority of applicants are Kuwaiti citizens and their families, but expats are showing growing interest in Germany for holiday, trade fair and business visits owing to the expanding business relationships between Kuwaiti and German companies.

With almost 55,000 applications processed by the end of 2017, the German Embassy in Kuwait has recorded a steady increase in Schengen visas over the last few years. Due to the long wait for processing visas, applicants are requests to please apply early.

The German Embassy would like to call upon all travellers to start filing their Schengen visa applications for their annual vacation to Germany at the earliest and not just a few days before the actual trip in order to avoid any inconveniences.

At the moment, appointments at the application Centre Al Qabas can be obtained within 1-2 days, however, during the summer travel season, the waiting time for an appointment can be stretched to one week or more due to the large number of applicants. Last summer, the Visa Section of the German Embassy has processed between 10,000 and 12,000 visas per month. Please bear in mind that for Kuwaiti nationals a minimum of 3-5 working days is required from the moment your application arrives at the Embassy until you get back your stamped passport. For other nationalities, the procedure might take 10-12 days. However, in individual cases the processing can take up to two weeks for all nationalities.

The visa clearance is a computerized process – the German Embassy has no influence on the processing time.

Important tips

Applications can be handed in as early as three months prior to the intended travel date.

If you are a frequent traveller, then please attach copies of your previous Schengen visas to your application file in order to enable the Visa Team to check whether you might be eligible to a multiple entry visa with a longer validity period.

The support of Al Qabas enables the German Embassy to offer better customer service hours and to shorten waiting times for all customers in order to facilitate a smooth application process. All visa applications for journeys to Germany have to be submitted there and customers can track the status of their applications online. For the travellers' convenience, Al Qabas will ensure that the applications include all relevant documents, assist with the application procedure if necessary and offer you additional services. Application forms and further information can be obtained at Al Qabas offices or online at <http://www.qavisa.com/>

Customers sometimes find it difficult to calculate this period of stay. Therefore, you can find an electronic calculator on the homepage of the German Embassy under 'FAQ Visa' (www.kuwait.diplo.de) to assist you with your travel planning.

Depending on the daily exchange rate, the processing fee for a Schengen visa is currently KD 22, for adults regardless of the visas validity period (KD 13 for children between 6 and 12 years and for children below 6 years the application procedure is for free). Al Qabas is adding a standard service charge of KD 10 on top of the Embassy's processing fee and you can find all these amounts transparently documented on their homepage. Unfortunately, some private businesses or agencies are claiming to render visa or messenger services to German Schengen customers without being appointed by the German Embassy. Please be aware of the prices and quality of service of such agencies since various complaints have been received about overpriced services and wrong visa information.

The visa validity depends on various factors such as your travel purpose and travel history. If you are a frequent traveler or owner of a business or property in Germany, please feel free to attach additional documents (property/company deed, old visas, copies of border stamps from previous travel to Germany, etc.) when requesting a multiple entry visa with longer validity period.

Please see the link for more details: http://timeskuwait.com/Times_German-Embassy-releases-stipulations-on-visa-applications

Groundbreaking ceremony for cathedral in Bahrain



On 9 June, a ceremony was held to mark the start of construction of Bahrain's first Catholic cathedral, part of a US\$30 million Catholic Church complex to be built in Awali, a municipality that lies in central Bahrain. The event was attended by the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Francisco Padilla, His Lordship Bishop Camillo Ballin the Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia, members of the diplomatic corps and high-ranking officials from the Government, along with over 1,500 people, including pastors of non-Catholic Churches and worshippers from the region. The ceremony also witnessed the unveiling of a plaque and the laying of a time capsule with the record of the event.

The date 9 June, holds special significance for Catholics in the region as it was on this day in 1939 that the first church in the Gulf, often referred to as the 'Mother Church' was established in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, and which still stands to this day.

The new Catholic Church complex is being built on 9,000 sqm of land donated by the King of Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad bin Issa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and its construction is slated to finish by mid-2021. The Cathedral is dedicated to Our Lady of Arabia and is under the diocese of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia, which comprises of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. While spacious enough to contain 2,300



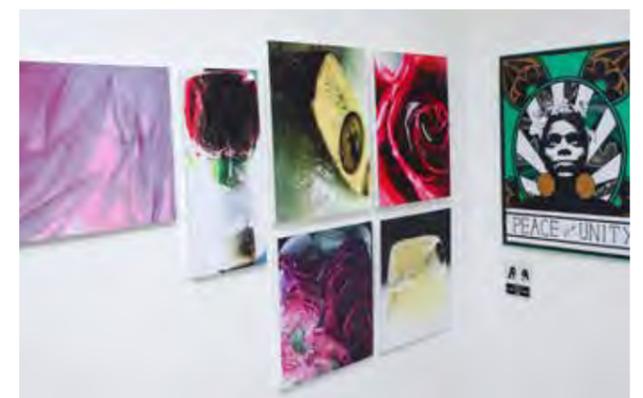
people, the new church replicates the shape of a tent in tribute to the memory of the faithful who used to pray in special tents on their travels through the desert to reach the Holy Land.

The first phase of the complex will see the construction of the cathedral and an auditorium at a cost of over \$13 million. The second part of the project will encompass the rest of the complex, including the Bishop House and other facilities such as a car park for 480 vehicles, conference halls, state-of-the-art pastoral center and a dormitory.

The project is funded fully by donations from charitable people regardless of nationality or religion from across the Middle East. In a message to The Times on the event, H.L. Bishop Camillo Ballin, said, "The beginning of the construction of the cathedral is a very strong encouragement for people to remain true to their faith, and it encourages peaceful co-existence among people of all faiths."

Once it is built, the cathedral will be an iconic building and a source of pride for everyone in Bahrain, and it will invite the faithful to be closer to God.

BSK celebrates young artists



The British School of Kuwait (BSK) recently hosted their annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition - A Celebration of Young Artists in the Euston Gallery of students between the ages 16 to 18 years.

A large gathering of parents,

students and other special guests spent the evening viewing the artwork. The young artists were on hand to speak eloquently about their influences and outcomes.

The Exhibition showcased the work of students from GCSE and A Level Fine Art,

Photography and Graphic Communication. The quality of work was fantastic and the students presented a diverse range of artworks including drawings, paintings, ceramics, photographs, sculpture and mixed media.

Double swiping of payment cards raises concerns

Some shops have formed the habit of 'double swiping' payment cards at the electronic cash register after obtaining the initial authorization from the payment card issuer to collect details and personal data for purposes related to internal accounting or marketing, says

Secretary General of the Union of Kuwait Banks Dr. Hamad Al-Hasawi.

Dr. Al-Hasawi declared the practice could be dangerous to the card user, especially if the systems of the shops are hacked or in case of data leakage. He said an incident compelled

the monitoring agencies in some countries to prohibit the procedure.

He explained that double swiping contravenes the payment card industry data security standard (PCIDSS) as it saves data on the systems at the points of sale. He reiterated

the local banks and joint automatic banking services companies (K-Net) are obligated to abide by standards, which implies the payment procedure should conform to standards of the point of sale (POS) and automated system of the bank that issued the card.

Kuwait Independence marks 57th Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

The Independence document sought the end of the treaty that was signed on 23 January 1899 by the then Amir and 7th ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah and the British Empire. The treaty had allowed Great Britain to assume control of Kuwait's foreign relations and ensure the security of its borders, in exchange for Kuwait agreeing not to receive representatives of other foreign powers, and to not cede any of its territory without prior agreement with the British Government.



Speaking during celebrations marking Kuwait's first Independence Day, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah stated that Kuwait was moving from one phase in its history to another phase, "closing a page of the past to open a new page" to its future as represented in the agreement that granted Kuwait full independence and sovereignty.

Two months later, on 26 August, an Amiri Decree was enacted calling for general elections to choose members of the Constituent Council, who would then go on to draft the country's constitution. It is a matter of pride that in a record time of less than nine months, the council members finalized the draft constitution consisting of 183 Articles and submitted it to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who ratified and passed it on the same day, 11 November 1962. Under the terms of the new constitution, which emphasized a democratic government and direct people's representation, the first elections to the National Assembly were held on 23 January 1963. A total of 205 candidates contested for the 50 seats, with voter turnout estimated at 85 percent.

In recognition of the significant role played by the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah in gaining Kuwait its independence and in laying the foundations of a modern state, it was decided in 1963 that the National Day, which fell on 19 June, would henceforth be celebrated on February 25, the day that Sheikh Abdullah

ascended to the throne and became the 11th Amir of Kuwait in 1950.

At the time of independence, Kuwait had an estimated population of 200,000 and new-found wealth from oil sales was in excess of £100 million annually. Knowing the dangers posed to a new nation with a small population and immense wealth from avaricious neighbors, one of the first departments to be set up by Kuwait was the Foreign Department in July 1961. The department, which would later become the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was tasked with building and strengthening Kuwait's relations with the international community.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development was also set up in December 1961 with a capital of KD50 million, as a 'soft-power' arm of the government. The Fund provided loans and other assistance for development projects in Arab and developing nations around the world. In January 1963, the current Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was appointed as the country's second foreign minister, and he would continue in this post for the next 40 years.

Immediately after its independence, Kuwait applied and was accepted as a member of the Arab League in July 1961. Kuwait was also accepted as the 111th member of the United Nations on 4 May 1963. Over the years, Kuwait went on to become a respected and highly valued member of various international organizations and bodies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank (WB), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Kuwait's long-standing foreign policy of forming strong alliances with the global community and its liberal assistance to developing nations resulted in gaining Kuwait wide support and friendship of nations around the world. This robust rapport with international community was brought to the fore during the seven-month invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces under Saddam Hussein. During this period, Kuwait received overwhelming support in the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as in capitals around the world, for its legitimate rights and its calls for the unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from its lands. Each year Kuwait celebrates with great joy and fervor its National Day on 25 February and Liberation Day on 26 February, but it is worth remembering that Kuwait first began its journey as a modern independent nation on the bright morning of 19 June 1961.

Indian Visa fees for US Nationals

The Indian embassy has announced that starting from 18 June, the costs for Indian visas has been revised for US nationals in accordance with the exchange rate at US\$ 1= KD 0.302.

Sl. No.	Visa	US \$	KD (Actual)	KD (Rounded off figure)
1.	Tourist Visa Upto 10 years (Single or Multiple Entry)	160	48.320	49.000
2.	Business Visa Upto 10 years (Single or Multiple Entry)	160	48.320	49.000
3.	Employment visa Up to 6 months Up to 1 year	00+20*=120 140+20*=160	36.122 48.163	37.000 49.000

* Application fee of US\$ 20 charged in addition to the visa fee from US nationals

Gulf Bank introduces new WhatsApp service for customer convenience

Gulf Bank announces the introduction of a new WhatsApp service, which attends to customer's expectations of excellent services from the Bank as it provides instantaneous communication and represents the bank's pursuit of customer convenience and use of modern technology. The number 65805805.



travelling abroad. Apart from being able to communicate about general inquiries with a bank representative via WhatsApp, the most widely-used chat application in Kuwait, the new engagement system offers an array of additional benefits. The service will be available 24/7, including during official bank holidays from anywhere in the world.

WhatsApp is a dedicated enterprise solution that will facilitate easier and faster communication with its customers anywhere and at any time throughout the world through the app. The service, considers several aspects of privacy, security and transparency, wherein WhatsApp files can be shared, providing an easy way for customers to privately and securely reach Gulf Bank representatives handled by the Community Engagement team.

This will allow different ways for customers to contact Gulf Bank service representatives, to make inquiries without an active card. No personal or confidential information will be displayed and the platform will serve as a reliable tool both domestically and when

Customers facing transaction issues will be able to communicate using our WhatsApp service. Customers will not always have to physically go to a branch to inquire about various products, such as loans and credit cards and representatives will be able to share branch locations through GPS providing customers with exact locations allowing them to go to the nearest bank for convenience when needed.

To find out more about Gulf Bank's latest engagement system launch, or any of its products and services, customers can visit the Bank's bilingual website at www.e-gulfbank.com, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or visit one of Gulf Bank's 58 branches for assistance and guidance.

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Evening Tips for a morning flat belly

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

Losing weight and fat around the belly is no doubt the hardest thing, especially with a fast paced and demanding lifestyle.

Watching your food quality, the timing of your food and choosing the right exercises that help you exert your muscles are the three crucial things for a flat belly.

In this article, I will focus on what you should do at night to get a flat belly in the morning, because what you eat and drink at night has a direct impact on your belly.

Plan your meals: Partake in an early dinner, the best time to have dinner is at 9 pm, and not later than that. Then, you need to watch out for the quality and quantity of food you are eating during the day and stick with healthy options for dinner. So basically, you need to plan your meals ahead.

Water is very important: People can lose weight only by drinking two Liters of water a day. Before eating you need to drink 2 glasses of room temperature water as it flushes all the toxins out of your body, and helps to ease the digestion process.

Exercise: Find an exercise program that you enjoy, specifically one that burns fat. Running, tennis, boxing or zumba, focus on an energetic workout that burns a lot of fat and calories as well as tones all the body muscles. Stomach crunches are also very good after your



session. Your workout can be one hour before dinner.

Reduce your juice intake. No need for those extra calories and sugar found in juices. Plus juices have zero gram of fiber and don't give you any feeling of satiety. Soft drinks are loaded in gases, which increase bloating and ruin your flat belly shape.

Dinner options: At night, the best dinner to have can be either a zero-carb dinner, or some protein salads, non-creamy protein soups, or a bowl of cucumber yogurt which is high in

probiotics and aid in the digestive process.

Vegetables can be eaten as much as you want, but avoid the kinds that cause bloating, like cabbage, broccoli, peppers and raw carrots. Hot drinks such as chamomile, ginger and anise can help in lot in burning your belly fat.

You can do it!

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



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

Jazeera Airways takes delivery of first Airbus A320neo in Middle East

Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, on 11 June announced it took delivery of the first Airbus A320neo aircraft to arrive in the Middle East, introducing the fuel-saving and new engine aircraft to its growing fleet.

Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer, Rohit Ramachandran, said: "This is the first of three A320neo aircraft scheduled to be delivered to Jazeera Airways by May 2019, supporting our continued network expansion to cover destinations that are around 5 to 6 hours away from Kuwait. The A320neo introduces new upgrades that enable us to make cost savings while improving performance and increasing the range covered by the single-aisle aircraft."

The A320neo incorporates the



new CFM LEAP-1A engines and fuel-saving wingtip devices known as Sharklets. It offers savings in fuel burn, additional payload, increased range, lower operating costs and significant

reduction in engine noise and CO2 emissions below the current industry standard. The first flight for the Jazeera A320neo, J9 176, left Kuwait for Dubai at 1:10pm (GMT+3) on 11 June.

Fines levied on open garbage bags

Director of Public Hygiene and Road Works at the Hawalli Branch of Kuwait Municipality Dr. Saad Al-Jalawi said the administration is working hard and diligently in implementing the contracts with cleaning companies in order to achieve sustainability in the cleaning process.

Al-Jalawi added that those who dump garbage in open garbage bags will have to pay KD300 fine. He said all garbage bags must be tied before they are dumped in the garbage bin. He added people caught throwing cigarette butts and paper tissues irresponsibly will also be obligated to pay KD5 fine.

CSC adopts new mechanism for recruitment of expat teachers

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has adopted a new mechanism for the recruitment of expatriate teachers as part of procedures to develop the educational system. Sources said that the CSC has asked the Ministry of Education to set the conditions for hiring expatriate teachers, such as the minimum academic mark of the applicants should be 'very good'.

The CSC also stressed the need for the concerned authorities in Kuwait to accredit the academic



qualifications of applicants, adding that the experience should match the academic qualification obtained abroad and it should be authenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

The CSC clarified the above mentioned are the requirements for expatriate teachers who will be hired for the first time, while Bedouins are exempted from these conditions. Meanwhile, Assistant

Undersecretary for Administration Affairs at Ministry of Education Fahad Al-Ghais announced that the Foreign Recruitment Committee will leave for Palestine next month to hire Palestinian teachers for the coming academic year. He said the ministry is coordinating with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) over procedures for obtaining the approval of the committee to travel to Palestine and hire around 50 Mathematics teachers based on the request of Public Education Sector. Al-

Ghais was addressing journalists on the sidelines of a ceremony organized by the Palestinian Embassy in honor of outstanding high school students from the Palestinian community. He explained that the ministry, following the successful experience related to the return of Palestinian teachers to Kuwait last academic year, has been keen on ensuring the continuity of their presence after they proved to be successful model in education during the field follow-ups conducted.

TVS HYDER Group and IKP organize grand Iftar party



TVS Hyder Group and Islamiya Kalachaara Peravai (IKP) Kuwait jointly hosted a grand Iftar Party on 31 May at Teachers Society, Dasma inviting people from various communities.

The party started with the welcome address by Seeni Mohamed, Manithaneya Jananayaka kattchi (MJK) President, Kuwait. In the presence of Dr. S. M. Hyther Ali, Chairman - TVS Hyder Group, special guests arrived from Tamil Nadu Moulavi Rifai Rasathi, Chief Executive



Committee Member, MJK and Haroon Rasheed, Treasurer, MJK addressed the gatherings. Hamdan Saleh Zayed Al-Ajmi graced the occasion with his presence. TVS Hyder Group Chairman Dr. S.M. Hyther Ali honored the guests with a shawl.

A large number of people attended the program from different associations. The guests thanked TVS Hyder Group and IKP-Kuwait, for hosting this Iftar party and for bringing together fellow Indians.

Indian embassy announces change in timings International Day of Yoga 2018

The Indian Embassy announced that the International Day of Yoga 2018 will now be observed in the Embassy of India premises on Friday, 22 June at 6.30 pm onwards.

All are requested to note the change from morning to evening. The date remains the same. You are cordially invited to arrive by 6 pm on Friday, 22 June.

Ooredoo celebrates #RamadanMoments with community outreach programs worldwide



Ooredoo, the leading telecommunications service provider, companies around the world launched initiatives and activities, reaching out to local communities to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan during the Holy month.

With the support of Ooredoo employees who generously volunteered their time, the activities aimed to draw a smile on the faces of people, help underserved communities and encourage customers to communicate more with their loved ones during the Holy Month.

In Kuwait, Ooredoo set-up a tent for donating daily Iftar meals for workers in the prime location of Soor Street.

The company also used a special truck to deliver daily Iftar meals to areas populated by underserved communities. In addition, Ooredoo

Kuwait launched the 4th edition of its award-winning 'Ooredoo Volunteer Program' that saw hundreds of volunteers take part in the implementation of Ramadan activities this year.

In Qatar, Ooredoo has launched the #RamadanWithOoredoo campaign that includes a series of activities designed to engage the community, including hospital visits, Iftar with the elderly and orphans, and distribution of Iftar boxes across the country.

As part of their efforts to provide much-needed help to the communities affected by the cyclone that hit the Sultanate recently, Ooredoo Oman began its 14th annual Goodwill Journey heading to Salalah. Ooredoo volunteers have travelled with trucks loaded with supplies, goods and equipment to assist with local relief efforts.

OBITUARY

BMC Nair

Former Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, B.M.C. Nair passed away at the age of 77 at his residence in Chennai on Thursday, 14 June.

Born on 20 May, 1941 in Aluva, Kerala he did his early studies at Aluva St. Mary's High School and his graduation from Ernakulam Maharajas College and Thiruvananthapuram University College. Joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1965, he served as

the Indian High Commissioner in Mozambique, Jamaica and in Singapore, and as the Indian ambassador to Switzerland before arriving in Kuwait. His tenure in Kuwait was from August 1995 to September 1998.

A well-known novelist in Malayalam literary circles, Mr. Nair has penned over half-a-dozen novels in Malayalam, including 'Kalika' which was translated to Tamil and later made into a film.

He is survived by his wife Lalitha, daughters Madhavi and Lakshmi





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Turkish Ambassador hosts Ramadan Ghabga

The Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Ayşe Hilal Sayan Koytak, hosted a Ramadan Ghabga on Thursday, 31 May at Sheraton Kuwait. Members of the diplomatic corps, media and members of the local community attended the function.



Ethiopian Airlines - Reflecting the tenacious spirit of Africa

As a continuation of the interview featured in the special supplement on summer travel, The Times Kuwait had the opportunity to sit down with Samson Arega, Area Manager-Kuwait, for Ethiopian Airlines to learn more about an airline that is undisputedly the leading air-carrier on the African continent.

We began by asking him about Ethiopian Airlines and its operation.

"Ethiopian Airlines is the unstoppable aviation giant in Africa flying to more than 110 international destinations across five continents. We cover 58 African cities with a direct service, which is even more than the number of countries on the continent. Established 72 years ago, the fully government-owned airline's hub is in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, with two additional strategic hubs in Lome, the capital of Togo and in Malawi.

Operationally, Ethiopian commands the lion's share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet. Our fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as Airbus A350, Boeing 787-8, Boeing 787-9, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter, Boeing 737-800 and the Bombardier Q-400 double cabin, with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, we are the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft."



of the major global cargo players, serving 44 global freighter destinations with 8 dedicated freighters including 6 Boeing B777-200LR and 2 - Boeing B757-260F from our main hub in Addis Ababa and Liege, Belgium and with an average daily uplift of 650 tons on top of the belly capacity, 150 tons, to over 95 destinations globally. Ethiopian operates in major trade lanes between Africa and Europe, Middle-east and Asia providing a convenient and reliable cargo service to and from the continent.

Currently, with our new Cargo Terminal-II combined with our existing Terminal-I will give us a total tonnage capacity of around 1.2 million per annum, which is the largest in the continent of Africa. Our new Cargo terminal will make Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services one of the world's largest cargo terminals; comparable with cargo terminals in Amsterdam Schiphol, Singapore Changi, or Hong Kong.

At Ethiopian, use of latest information systems is not an afterthought; hence we are automating the entire cargo business process with one of the best Cargo IT systems (Cargo Spot, Champ) with the aim of providing efficient air cargo services within, to and from Africa. Our Cargo Services is equipped with the latest technologies for data, information and market intelligence with 100% e-AWB from its main hub in Addis Ababa and recorded 60.8% international e-AWB penetration while industry average is only 48.9% per IATA e-AWB penetration report of December 2016. This move is part and parcel of the airline's entire effort towards becoming a paperless industry by adopting the latest aviation systems and technologies.

The Airlines have won multiple Awards in recent years, tell us about them?

"Yes, Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline. On November 8, 2017, SKYTRAX, the most prestigious international air transport standards and quality rating organization, has certified our Airline as Four Star Airline. SKYTRAX has also awarded Ethiopian as SKYTRAX World Airline Award for Best Airline Staff in Africa, two times, and earlier in 2017 we have received SKYTRAX World Airline Award for Best Airline in Africa.

We are currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with 120 international and 26 domestic destinations with a revenue of over \$10 billion, which we are already exceeding the targets set."

What are the benefits of your loyalty program?

"Our Loyalty program which we call ShebaMiles serves to reward our frequent flyers equitably through the accrual and redemption of Miles. These Miles can be redeemed for flights, upgrades and other variety of rewards that can be also used on our partner Airlines as we are a member of the largest Airline Alliance, Star Alliance.

ShebaMiles offers four tiers levels - Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum - each tier provides members with exclusive benefits ranging from priority boarding, extra Baggage Allowance to free upgrades and we encourage all our customers to become a member of our loyalty program and enjoy the benefits across the globe."

Your Cargo Business is believed to be number one in African, can you tell us about Ethiopian Cargo?

"It is a profound privilege for us to offer our esteemed customers an efficient global Cargo Service. As we always say, Your cargo is in good hands!

Ethiopian is the largest cargo network operator and one

SPDK hosts Eid party



Society of Pakistani Doctors of Kuwait (SPDK) organized an Eid Milan event at Rajdhani Palace Restaurant on Sunday, 17 June. Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait H.E. Ghulam Dastgir was the Guest of Honor of the ceremony. President SPDK Dr. Shuja Ud Din Mohammad welcomed the distinguished guests.

The Pakistani Ambassador Dastgir gave a speech wherein he praised the vital role of SPDK in the

Pakistani community particularly with regards to organizing free medical camps in different parts of Kuwait. Famous dignitaries from the Pakistani community Asif Jamal and Mohammad Atiq Rehman were presented shields for their support in arranging the medical camps.

Later, all the attending children received Eid gifts and they presented songs and recited the poems. The program ended with a buffet dinner.

Overseas NCP Kuwait holds NCP foundation Day celebration



Overseas NCP Kuwait celebrated its 20th foundation day of NCP India on 10 June and organized a farewell for ONCP National General Secretary, Geo Tomy, at the Abbasiya Poppins Hall. Tomy on completion of his service in Kuwait will pursue a career in the UAE. On the day of the celebration.

Overseas NCP-Kuwait National President and Loka Kerala Sabha Member Babu Francis gave a secular message to all members. On this occasion, ONCP President presented Geo Tomy with a memento for his excellent performance during his services for the organization during the past few years. Thereafter, sweets were distributed to all members.

Minister suspends programmed landline cut due to Eid

The Ministry of State for Services Affairs announced recently the suspension of the programmed cutting system of telephone landlines for June due to Eid Al-Fitr. Based on recommendations by Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jinan Boushehri, there will be no cut of telephone landlines in June because of Eid Al-Fitr, Acting

Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Housing Affairs Bothaina Al-Subaie said in a press statement.

The ministry took the move to share citizens and expats celebrations of Eid Al-Fitr, she added. Cutting service is very effective to push subscribers to pay telephone bills, she said, noting that warnings are sent ahead of the move.

Highlights of the FIFA World Cup 2018

Hosts Russia made the perfect start to the 2018 FIFA World Cup soundly beating Saudi Arabia 5-0 in the second-highest win ever recorded in an Opening Match. From Mexico's stunning victory over Brazil, to Switzerland's fightback against Brazil, here are the best moments from the FIFA World Cup.



Mexico stuns defending champions Germany in massive upset

Defending champions Germany made a disastrous start to their bid to win back-to-back World Cups with a shock defeat by Mexico. Mexico created the first upset of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, overcoming defending champions Germany 1-0 in a frenetic Group F game at the Luzhniki Stadium on Sunday. Forward Hirving Lozano's 35th-minute goal proved to make the difference in a match played at a very

West Germany were upset by Algeria. Mexico had only won one of their past 11 meetings with Germany and their most recent ended in a 4-1 defeat by what was virtually Low's B team at last year's Confederations Cup. But they fully deserved this victory, which brought huge celebrations from their thousands of fans who had travelled

to Moscow, many in typically colourful costumes.

The intensity of Mexico's play was matched by their supporters, who not only out-numbered their Germany counterparts, but also out-sung them.

Kolarov free kick stunner secures win for Serbia against Costa Rica

Aleksandar Kolarov scored a spectacular free-kick to give Serbia a deserved victory in their opening World Cup Group E match against Costa Rica.



high tempo as four-time champions Germany began their title defense on a disastrous note.

This was the first time a German side had lost their opening game of this tournament since 1982, when

Serbia captain Kolarov - the former Manchester City defender - scored from 25 yards when he curled the ball over the Costa Rica wall.

Kolarov's effort had sufficient bend to find the top corner with

Real Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas clutching at thin air as he desperately scrambled across goal.

Costa Rica only sporadically threatened the Serbia goal, with an early header over the crossbar from unmarked defender Giancarlo Gonzalez their best effort.

Mladen Krstajic's Serbia side - the lowest ranked European nation at Russia 2018 - now appears the best placed of the two to progress after a dominant second-half display.

Serbia have won their opening game at a World Cup tournament for the first time since 1998, when they did so as Yugoslavia against Iran (1-0). Meanwhile, Costa Rica suffered their first defeat at the World Cup since 2006 (1-2 v Poland), ending a run of five games unbeaten in the competition (W2 D3).

This is just the second time in five World Cup tournament appearances that Costa Rica have lost their opening game, with the previous instance coming in 2006 at the hands of tournament hosts Germany (2-4).

Switzerland's Zuber heads controversial equaliser to deny Brazil victory

Pre-tournament favourites Brazil failed to win their opening game of a World Cup for the first time since 1978 as Switzerland earned a valuable draw in Rostov-on-Don.

The five-time champions, so often lauded for their flair, failed to sparkle after Brazilian player Philippe Coutinho's superbly curled opener on 20 minutes.

The draw brings to an end Brazil's run of nine wins in opening World Cup fixtures, and both sides now trail Group E leaders Serbia, who beat Costa Rica earlier on Sunday.

Switzerland have lost only one of their last 23 matches (W16 D6), a 2-0 defeat to Portugal in October 2017.

Brazil have failed to win any of their last three World Cup matches (D1 L2), their worst winless run since June 1978, when they went four games without a win.

Switzerland haven't lost their opening World Cup match in any of their last five tournaments (W2 D3).

Five of Philippe Coutinho's 11 goals for Brazil has been from outside the box. Since 1966, Brazil have scored 37 goals from outside the box at the World Cup - 11 more than any other team.

Valon Behrami became the first

Swiss player to appear in four different World Cup finals - he also appeared in 2006, 2010 and 2014.

Paul Pogba winner helps France secure 2-1 win against Australia

Aziz Behich's late own goal broke Australian resistance as France started with a win in Group C and history was made with the World Cup's first VAR goal.

The video assistant referee penalised Australia's Josh Risdon for a sliding challenge on Antoine Griezmann, allowing the Atletico Madrid forward to dispatch a penalty, the first World Cup goal influenced by VAR. Technology provided the talking points in an otherwise flat encounter that failed to inspire.

Risdon was the first player to be adversely affected with a penalty awarded a minute after the Australia full-back appeared to touch the ball onto Griezmann before the striker went down.

Bert van Marwijk's side then received a penalty of their own, with Umtiti's handball confirmed by Uruguayan referee Andres Cunha after it had been checked on VAR.

While Australia may have only managed two victories in 14 fixtures at the World Cup, there was enough promise in this showing to suggest they can approach their next game against Denmark on Thursday with optimism.

Paul Pogba delivered the game's decisive moment, starting and ending a good French move 10 minutes from time. This is the fourth successive World Cup that France have started the tournament unbeaten (W2 D2 L0), last losing in 2002 against Senegal.

Australia have lost four of their five opening World Cup games, with their only win coming against Japan in 2006. The two penalties scored in the game between France and Australia were only four minutes, seven seconds apart - the shortest period of time between two penalties being scored by different sides in a World Cup match.

France v Australia became the first World Cup match since Senegal v Uruguay in World Cup 2002 to see both teams score a penalty in normal time. Daniel Arzani has become the youngest player to make a World Cup appearance for Australia (19y 163d).

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GROUP A

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
RUSSIA	1	0	0	5	3
URUGUAY	1	0	0	1	3
EGYPT	0	0	1	-1	0
SAUDI ARABIA	0	0	1	-5	0

Group A (W) vs Group B (R)

30 June 21:00	

GROUP C

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
FRANCE	1	0	0	1	3
DENMARK	1	0	0	1	3
AUSTRALIA	0	0	1	-1	0
PERU	0	0	1	-1	0

Group C (W) vs Group D (R)

30 June 17:00	

GROUP E

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
SERBIA	1	0	0	1	3
BRAZIL	0	1	0	0	1
SWITZERLAND	0	1	0	0	1
COSTA RICA	0	0	1	-1	0

Group E (W) vs Group F (R)

2 July 17:00	

GROUP G

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
BELGIUM					
PANAMA					
TUNISIA					
ENGLAND					

Group G (W) vs Group H (R)

2 July 21:00	

GROUP B

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
IRAN	1	0	0	1	3
PORTUGAL	0	1	0	0	1
SPAIN	0	1	0	0	1
MOROCCO	0	0	1	-1	0

Group B (W) vs Group A (R)

1 July 17:00	

GROUP D

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
CROATIA	1	0	0	2	3
ICELAND	0	1	0	0	1
ARGENTINA	0	1	0	0	1
NIGERIA	0	0	1	-2	0

Group D (W) vs Group C (R)

1 July 21:00	

GROUP F

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
MEXICO	1	0	0	1	3
SWEDEN	0	0	0	0	0
KOREA REPUBLIC	0	0	0	0	0
GERMANY	0	0	1	-1	0

Group F (W) vs Group E (R)

3 July 17:00	

GROUP H

	W	D	L	+/-	PTS
POLAND					
SENEGAL					
COLOMBIA					
JAPAN					

Group H (W) vs Group G (R)

3 July 21:00	

Thursday 14 June

Russia	18:00	Saudi Arabia
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Friday 15 June

Egypt	15:00	Uruguay
Morocco	18:00	Iran
Portugal	21:00	Spain

Saturday 16 June

France	13:00	Australia
Argentina	16:00	Iceland
Peru	19:00	Denmark
Croatia	22:00	Nigeria

Sunday 17 June

Costa Rica	15:00	Serbia
Germany	18:00	Mexico
Brazil	21:00	Switzerland

Monday 18 June

Sweden	15:00	South Korea
Belgium	18:00	Panama
Tunisia	21:00	England

Tuesday 19 June

Colombia	15:00	Japan
Poland	18:00	Senegal
Russia	21:00	Egypt

Wednesday 20 June

Portugal	15:00	Morocco
Uruguay	18:00	Saudi Arabia
Spain	21:00	Iran

Thursday 21 June

Denmark	15:00	Australia
France	18:00	Peru
Argentina	21:00	Croatia

Friday 22 June

Brazil	15:00	Costa Rica
Nigeria	18:00	Iceland
Serbia	21:00	Switzerland

Saturday 23 June

Belgium	15:00	Tunisia
South Korea	18:00	Mexico
Germany	21:00	Sweden

Sunday 24 June

England	15:00	Panama
Japan	18:00	Senegal
Poland	21:00	Colombia

Monday 25 June

Uruguay	17:00	Russia
Saudi Arabia	17:00	Egypt
Iran	21:00	Portugal
Spain	21:00	Morocco

Tuesday 26 June

Denmark	17:00	France
Australia	17:00	Peru
Nigeria	21:00	Argentina
Iceland	21:00	Croatia

Wednesday 27 June

South Korea	17:00	Germany
Mexico	17:00	Sweden
Serbia	21:00	Brazil
Switzerland	21:00	Costa Rica

Thursday 28 June

Japan	17:00	Poland
Senegal	17:00	Colombia
England	21:00	Belgium
Panama	21:00	Tunisia

Saturday 30 June

Winner Group C	17:00	Runner-up Group D
Winner Group A	21:00	Runner-up Group B

Sunday 01 July

Winner Group B	17:00	Runner-up Group A
Winner Group D	21:00	Runner-up Group C

Monday 02 July

Winner Group E	17:00	Runner-up Group F
Winner Group G	21:00	Runner-up Group H

Tuesday 03 July

Winner Group F	17:00	Runner-up Group E
Winner Group H	21:00	Runner-up Group G

Friday 06 July

Quarter Finalist 1	17:00	Quarter Finalist 2
Quarter Finalist 5	21:00	Quarter Finalist 6

Saturday 07 July

Quarter Finalist 3	17:00	Quarter Finalist 4
Quarter Finalist 7	21:00	Quarter Finalist 8

Tuesday 10 July

Winner Quarter Final 1	21:00	Winner Quarter Final 2
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Wednesday 11 July

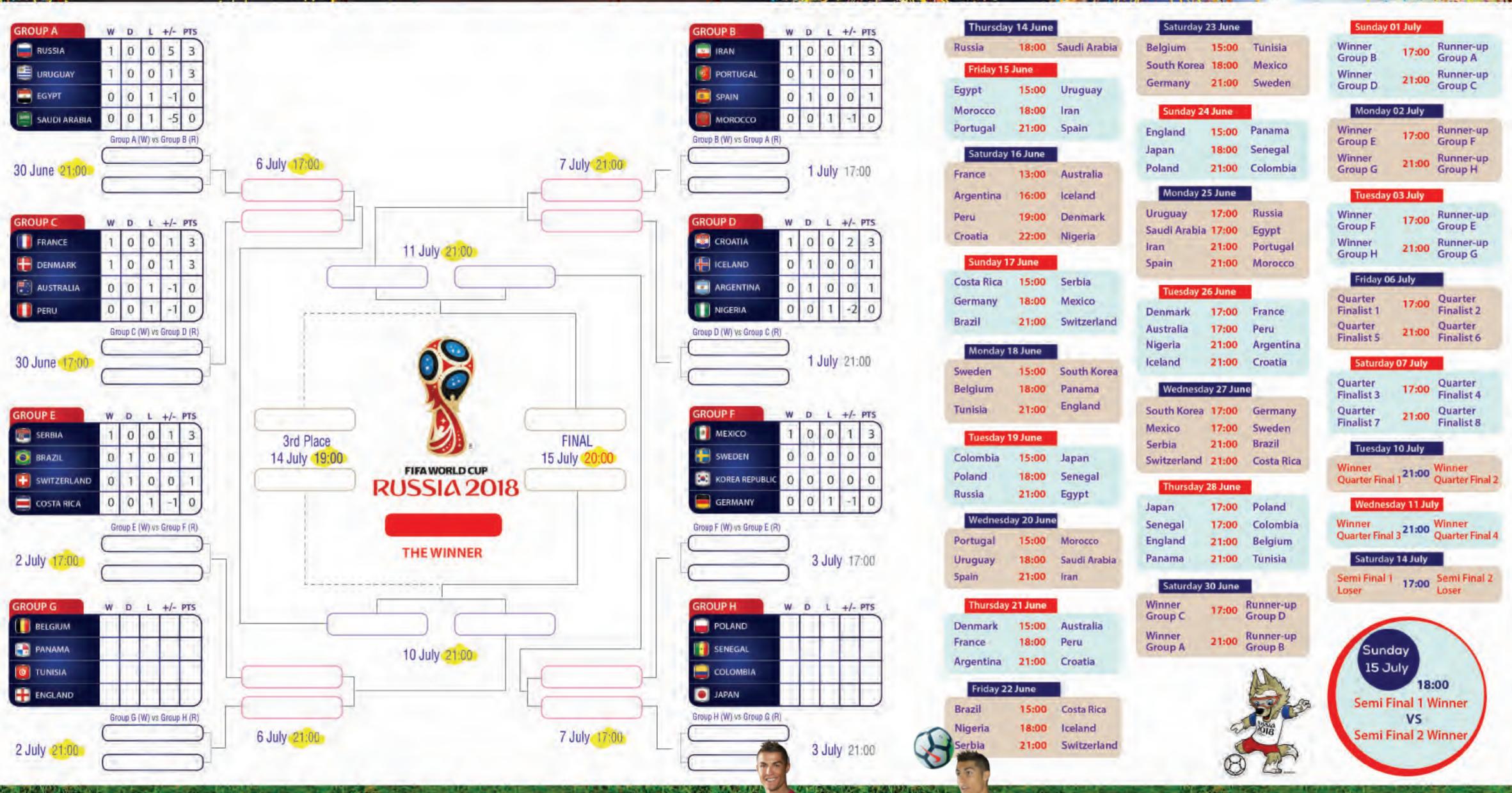
Winner Quarter Final 3	21:00	Winner Quarter Final 4
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Saturday 14 July

Semi Final 1 Loser	17:00	Semi Final 2 Loser
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Sunday 15 July 18:00

Semi Final 1 Winner VS Semi Final 2 Winner



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The Times Kuwait
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17 - 23 June, 2018

FIFA WORLD CUP

RUSSIA 2018



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Yussuf Poulsen winner for Denmark edges out luckless Peru

Denmark began their World Cup campaign with a hard-fought victory against a Peru side that had earlier missed a penalty.



The South Americans were awarded a spot-kick after consultation with the video assistant referee but Christian Cueva, the man fouled, shot over the crossbar. That miss proved crucial as the Danes hit Peru on the counter-attack in the second half with Christian Eriksen releasing Yussuf Poulsen, who had conceded the penalty, and he fired past Pedro Gallese.

Denmark have won four of their five opening games at World Cup tournaments, losing only to the Netherlands in 2010. Peru are winless in their last seven World Cup games (won none, drew two, lost five). This was just Denmark's second clean sheet across their last 12 World Cup matches (also 2-0 vs France in 2002). Peru's missed penalty in the first half means there have already been more unsuccessful penalty attempts in this World Cup (2/5) than there were in the whole 2014 tournament (1/13, excluding shootouts).

Cristiano Ronaldo free kick seals hat trick, rescues Portugal draw against Spain

Cristiano Ronaldo produced one of the great World Cup performances as his dramatic late free-kick earned Portugal a draw with Spain in a classic encounter in Sochi. The Real Madrid forward's 88th-minute swerving set-piece soared into the top corner to deny the Spanish a much-needed victory at the end of what has been a painful week for them in the south of Russia. It was a titanic performance, a one-man show from one of the world's best, on the biggest stage of all.

Ronaldo is the oldest hat-trick scorer in World Cup history, with the Portuguese star aged 33 years and 130 days - the previous oldest was Rob Rensenbrink in June 1978 for the Netherlands against Iran (30y 335d). His third goal was his first direct free-kick goal at a major tournament for Portugal - it was his 45th attempt.

Spain have now won their opening World Cup match in just two of their last 13 tournaments (D4 L7 - winning in 2002 and 2006).

Iran beats Morocco in World Cup on stoppage time own goal

Iran won their first match at a World Cup finals since 1998 as Morocco substitute Aziz Bouhaddouz scored an own goal in injury time.

Bouhaddouz put the ball into his own net with a diving header at the near post in the 95th minute as Morocco defended a left-wing free-kick. The result



was harsh on the African side, who had wasted numerous chances in the first half and were denied late on when Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand produced a fine save from Hakim Ziyech. But Iran took the victory, only their second in World Cup history after a 2-1 win over the United States at France 1998.



Morocco became the second African side to concede a late winning goal in the World Cup on Friday, after Egypt lost 1-0 to Uruguay in Group A, thanks to a last-minute header from Jose Gimenez. Iran did not attempt a single shot in the second half and were the first team since 1966 to score a goal in a half of World Cup football without attempting a shot.

Aziz Bouhaddouz is just the third player to score an own-goal as a substitute in a World Cup match, after Laszlo Dajka (1986 for Hungary against USSR) and Petit (2006 for Portugal against Germany).

Late Gimenez header earns Uruguay victory

Uruguay snatched a late winner as they began their World Cup campaign with a dramatic victory over Egypt, who left Mohamed Salah on the bench. Jose Gimenez headed powerfully into the net in the 90th minute as he met Carlos Sanchez's free-kick to give the South Americans a winning start in Russia.

Salah, who scored 44 times for Liverpool this season, remained an unused substitute as he continues to recover from a shoulder injury sustained in last month's Champions League final. Without Salah, Egypt lacked a cutting edge and had looked on course to earn a point in their first match at a World Cup finals since 1990 before Gimenez's

late goal.

Uruguay have won their opening match at a World Cup tournament for the first time since 1970, when they beat Israel. Egypt are still winless at the World Cup finals, failing to win five matches (drew two, lost three). Jose Gimenez's winning goal in the 90th minute was Uruguay's latest winning goal in a World Cup match since Daniel Fonseca's 92nd minute winner against South Korea in June 1990.

Russia thrash Saudi Arabia 5-0 in tournament

The 2018 World Cup opened in spectacular fashion as Russia defied their recent poor form to score five past Saudi Arabia and record the biggest win by the host nation in the opening game of a World Cup since 1934. Russia's victory means that the host nation has never lost their opening match in any of the 21 editions of the World Cup (won 16, drew six - there were two hosts in 2002).

Russia (5-0) recorded the second biggest victory by a host nation in their opening match at a World Cup, after Italy v USA in 1934 (7-1).



Saudi Arabia have not won any of their past 11 games at the World Cup (drew two, lost nine). Their last win in the competition dates back to the group stages of the 1994 edition (1-0 v Belgium). Artem Dzyuba scored for Russia just 89 seconds after coming off the bench; the quickest goal by a substitute at a World Cup since Marcin Zewlakow for Poland v USA in 2002.

In this game, Sergei Ignashevich became the oldest player to ever appear in a World Cup match for Russia/USSR (38 years & 335 days old).

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5 & ABOUT

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

22 June



English Enhancement Interactive Workshop: A free English Enhancement Interactive Workshop will be held at the Panasonic Tower, Kuwait City, from 3pm to 5pm. For more information and to register: Visit, www.icsakuwait.com or call, 99302850, 97674076.



Friday Morning Run: For sports enthusiasts, Friday Morning Run will be held every Friday until December, at Marina Crescent, from 7am. The spot is open to all.



Find Your Voice: Kuwait Challengers Toastmasters will be organizing Find Your Voice, a free public speaking event at the Gulf University for Science and Technology, at 6pm. The event is free and open to all. For further information and to register: Visit their Facebook page, [kuwaitchallengers](https://www.facebook.com/kuwaitchallengers).

Ongoing



Twilling Tweeds and Sadu Heritage Exhibition: A celebration of traditional craft and culture, the Twilling Tweeds and Sadu Heritage: Textiles in Dialogue project is being showcased at the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Center until 30 June. Details on timings are available on their website. The project brings two diverse groups working with textiles to provide a global context for a local craft. Twilling Tweeds, a collaboration between Scotland and Pakistan, will be displaying their work alongside Sadu House, a local museum and nonprofit. For further information on the event: Visit, www.asckw.com.



Contemporary Iraqi Graphic Exhibition: Boushahri Art Gallery is currently hosting the Contemporary Iraqi Graphic Exhibition at its location in Salmiya, Baghdad Street 36, in front of Al Laheeb Mosque, until 20 June, from 8:30pm. For further information: Call, 25621119.



Festival of the Lion Kingdom - Adventures of Moana: The Festival of the Lion Kingdom and Adventures of Moana is being held at the Ice Skating Rink in Kuwait City until 20 June. The two tribute shows are performed by amazing performers from London's famous West End theaters. The two shows are 45-minute long each separated by a 30-minute intermission. Audience can experience the musical extravaganza of the Festival of the Lion Kingdom and embark on an incredible journey with the spirited young Moana as she teams up with the demi-god Maui to fulfill an impossible quest. For further information and to book your tickets: Visit, www.eventat.com.



Summer Swim Camp: British Academy of Sport is currently hosting its Summer Swim Camp 2018 at its location until 5 July. Boys and girls aged 3 to 12 years can register for the camp. The camp is run by European qualified teachers and certificates will be given to all participants at the end. Further information on timings and fees will be available upon registration. For more information and to register: Call, 99458013, 25623604 ext: 2177/2178 or email, info@bas.edu.kw.

Thought for the week

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall
British primatologist and anthropologist



Summer Sports Camp 2018: British Academy of sport is currently hosting its Summer Sports Camp 2018, at the BSK Salwa Campus, from 10am to 2pm, until 5 July. The camp is open to children aged 3 to 12 years. Activities such as gymnastics, karate, swimming, board games, water polo, Zumba, cooking class and more will be a part of the camp. Further information will be available upon registration. For more information and to register: Call, 99458013, 25623604 Ext: 2177/2178 or email, info@bas.edu.kw.



Exhibition Form: Contemporary Art Platform is currently hosting an exhibition at its location in Shuwaikh, from 10 am to 4pm and from 8:30pm to 11pm. The exhibition will be open until the end of the month. For more information: Visit, www.capkuwait.com.



Exhibition Connections: Contemporary Art Platform is currently hosting an exhibition at its location in Shuwaikh, from 10 am to 4pm and from 8:30pm to 11pm. The exhibition showcases the art of Ramon Aular. Ramon Aular's work of art reflects the indissoluble bond between his roots and what surrounds him. The exhibition will be open until the end of the month. For further information: Visit, www.capkuwait.com.

Art Exhibition: Handala: Contemporary Art Platform is currently hosting an exhibition at its location in Shuwaikh, from 10 am to 4pm and from 8:30pm to 11pm. The exhibition will be featuring a selection of works from 1967-1985 by the artist Naji Al-Ali. The exhibition will be open until the end of the month. For more information: Visit, www.capkuwait.com.



A Studio Trip Workshop: A four-hour working tour of different studio sections: DIY Studio, Paint Studio, Recycle Studio and Cooking Studio is currently being held at the Artspace, Salmiya from 11am to 3pm, until 23 June. For further information and to register: Call, 97775273.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Why the G7 Is a Zero



Jim O'Neill

A former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management and a former UK Treasury Minister, he is Honorary Professor of Economics at Manchester University and former Chairman of the British government's Review on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Though US President Donald Trump's appearance at the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Quebec last week was not particularly well received, I find myself sympathizing with his skepticism toward the group. I have long doubted that the annual meeting of leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States serves any useful purpose.

Back in 2001, when I coined the BRIC acronym, I predicted that the growing economic importance of Brazil, Russia, India, and China would eventually require a significant change to global economic governance. At a minimum, I observed, global-governance bodies should include China, if not all of the BRICs.

At the same time, I pointed out that there was little reason for France, Germany, and Italy to be represented individually, given that they share a currency, a monetary policy, and a framework for fiscal policy (at least in principle). And I questioned whether Canada and the UK should still be included among the world's most important economies.

It has now been 17 years, and the G7 is still serving little other purpose than to keep its member states' civil servants busy. Yes, it still comprises the seven Western democracies with the largest economies, but barely so. At this point, Canada's economy is not much bigger than Australia's, and Italy's is only slightly bigger than Spain's. The G7 is an artifact of a bygone era. In the 1970s, when the G5 was expanded to include Canada and Italy, the new grouping really did dominate the world economy. Japan was booming, and many expected it to catch up to the



US; Italy was growing, and nobody was thinking about China. But this year, China is projected to overtake the entire eurozone. And at its current rate of growth, it will effectively create a new economy the size of Italy in less than two years. Moreover, India's GDP is already larger than Italy's, and crisis-ridden Brazil is not far behind.

In other words, the only global legitimacy that the G7 can claim is that it represents a few major democracies. But 85 percent of the increase in world GDP (in US dollars) since 2010 has come from the US and China, and nearly 50 percent from China alone. Another 6 percent has come from India, while the dollar value of the Japanese and EU economies has actually declined.

In light of these realities, the G7 would be much more relevant if Canada, France, Germany, and Italy were replaced by China, India, and a single delegation representing the eurozone. But, of course, there is already a body that represents the current G7 countries as well as the BRICs: the G20, which was formed 1999.

Since its first formal summit in 2008, the G20

has served a clear purpose as a forum for the world's leading economies. For any smaller club to be justified, it must have the same legitimacy as the G20. Representing the democracies that had the largest economies in the 1970s is no longer good enough. After all, India and Brazil also have functioning democracies, and could soon become more prosperous than France and the UK.

Trump provoked outrage when he demanded last week that the G7 re-incorporate Russia, which was kicked out following Russian President Vladimir Putin's 2014 annexation of Crimea. But it is worth asking what global challenges the current G7 is even capable of addressing, outside of narrow economic issues. From terrorism to nuclear proliferation to climate change, there are hardly any issues that can be solved without the help of non-G7 countries. And though the Western media depicted Trump as the black sheep of the summit, Italy, too, now has a government that favors rapprochement with Russia.

The recent G7 circus has added to the impression that Western policymakers are

incapable of getting a grip on some of the world's most pressing issues. To be sure, global financial markets showed little concern about the disarray in Quebec last weekend. But, among other things, that may simply reflect the fact that the G7 no longer matters.

Looking ahead, it is clear that the G20 offers a better global-governance forum than does the G7 in its current state. Although a greater number of participants makes it harder to reach a viable consensus, it is also much more representative. Most important, the G20 includes the countries that will be indispensable for solving global problems now and in the future.

That said, a smaller, representative group of countries could still have a future role to play alongside the G20. But only if it is properly conceived. To that end, the world's leading think tanks should start offering specific ideas about the future of global governance. For my part, I will look forward to leading the charge when I assume the chairmanship of Chatham House next month.

General Reserves at risk even with oil at \$100

Continued from Page 1

and raise the maturity period of its debt instruments to 30 years from the maximum of 10 years at present. But parliament in its infinite wisdom has balked at the move and has so far denied the government the luxury of these market-oriented financial reforms. Attempts by the government to introduce a law that would allow the state to issue sukuk — Islamic bonds structured to generate returns to investors without infringing Islamic law — have also still not taken off. The current legal framework does not allow the government to raise financing through Islamic bonds.

In September 2017, it was reported that the parliament was close to approving the draft law

that would allow the government to extend borrowing limits and raise the maturity period of its debt instruments. The fact that the finance minister was still urging lawmakers last week to accept their "shared responsibility" and approve the government's proposed reform plans, speaks volumes of the difficulty in getting things passed through the country's often contentious parliament.

Voicing concern over the delay in getting parliamentary approval for the reform package, the finance minister said, "The objective behind the bond issuance bill is to maintain the state's financial condition and economic stability, as Kuwait suffers from some real challenges and structural problems that needed to be addressed rapidly before they worsen". He also

clarified that approving the proposal did not mean that the government would rush out and start issuing bonds. "Entering international stock markets is studied carefully and there is good governance and a wise administration to manage the bond issuance."

To gain wider acceptance among lawmakers for the financial reforms, the finance minister added that along with the reform package the government would also introduce its national program for economic and financial sustainability that aimed to promote the private sector and diversify the economy by encouraging the non-oil sector. In addition, he promised that the government would continue to ensure that the state's subsidies would reach to the people who really deserved them.

It remains to be seen whether Minister Al-Hajraf's latest stark warnings or carrots will move the parliamentarians to act any more quickly or decisively. Apparently, what the lawmakers who often hinder implementation of reforms for political reasons fail to realize is that in financial markets the window of opportunity in never left open permanently. "We believe time is a very important aspect... and, as we all know there are windows in the market, warned Abdulaziz Al-Mulla, head of the debt management department at the ministry of finance, during the recent Euromoney conference in Kuwait. That window could be closing even as the lawmakers continue to douse and debate the issue, and that would be yet another missed opportunity for Kuwait.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Greener, Greater Cities



Pascal Mittermaier
Global Managing Director for Cities at The Nature Conservancy.



What should a 'green' city look like? Should it resemble Copenhagen, with its high rates of bicycle commuting and recycling? What about Curitiba, the capital of Brazil's Paraná state, with its pedestrian-centered planning? Or perhaps Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, which is powered entirely by renewable energy?

With more than 50 percent of the world's population now living in urban areas — a share that is rising fast — the answer to this question will shape our collective future. But it may be more straightforward than we realize: to make cities 'greener' — that is, less polluted, more resource-efficient, and more environmentally resilient — we should make them literally greener.

Discussions about 'greening' cities typically recognize the importance of sustainable infrastructure and smart urban planning. What they often overlook is that nature is the world's original infrastructure, and nature-based solutions can help cities address some of the

benefits of planting trees are highly localized. But that makes them particularly effective as a targeted intervention — say, as a screen against a busy road or industrial area, or to protect vulnerable areas like schools and nursing homes.

Moreover, planting trees in lower-income, under-resourced neighborhoods, which often have less canopy cover, can help to mitigate environmental inequality. That is why my organization, The Nature Conservancy, is working with other nonprofits, community organizers, and public-health researchers in Louisville, Kentucky, to plant more trees in areas with low canopy cover, and to conduct the first controlled trial of trees as a medical intervention.

Another major urban challenge that nature can help address is water management. The materials that compose modern cities are mostly impermeable, so they cannot absorb rainwater. As a result, during heavy storms, the runoff overloads drainage systems, causing pollutants to run through city streets and into local ecosystems.

Rain gardens — small pockets of native vegetation planted in natural depressions and low points — can resolve this problem by collecting and filtering rainwater, so that it can be reabsorbed by the Earth, resulting in recharged aquifers and increased biodiversity. In Chinese 'sponge cities' such as Shenzhen, rain gardens, together with green roofs and artificial wetlands, are already being used to manage storm water, aided by permeable paving materials that allow water to filter through to the substrate.

Natural interventions beyond a city's borders can also help to address water-management challenges. In Nairobi, increased agricultural activity in the Upper Tana watershed resulted in such heavy sediment runoff that it reduced water flows downstream to the city. The resulting water shortages disproportionately hurt the poorest residents, who were often forced to buy jerrycans of water at exorbitant prices. Hydropower production also fell.

Now, Nairobi is working with its rural neighbors to use nature-based solutions to address water-security issues at the source. Through the Nairobi-Upper-Tana Water Fund, the combined resources of government and business are helping farmers implement more sustainable agricultural practices, such as the use of cover crops, resulting not only in increased water flows to Nairobi, but also in higher agricultural yields.

Other water funds that The Nature Conservancy has helped to develop around the world have proved to be similarly beneficial. This is important, because nearly half of all cities around the world experience periodic water scarcity, with those that rely on surface water especially vulnerable.

Nature-based solutions may not be sufficient to solve all of the challenges facing a particular

city. Urban areas may also need well-designed, sustainably built infrastructure to manage air and water, and integrated clean-energy systems and efficient public-transit options to help reduce pollution and carbon emissions.

But nature-based solutions — if sufficiently funded and implemented in an equitable manner — offer benefits that we can no longer afford to ignore. The technology and infrastructure that have allowed cities to flourish in the past carried high costs, from pollution to flooding to biodiversity loss. As climate change reshapes our

planet, these threats are growing and shifting, compounding the challenge further.

We cannot solve the problems created by concrete and turbines with more concrete and turbines. We need flexible solutions that can make our cities more resilient, sustainable, and adaptable, without undermining the urban dynamism and prosperity on which we rely. Nature itself can offer such solutions and be a catalyst for healthier, more vibrant neighborhoods, driving investment and making cities more successful by any measure.



“
Nature-based solutions — if sufficiently funded and implemented in an equitable manner — offer benefits that we can no longer afford to ignore.
”

biggest planning challenges they face, such as air and water pollution, water scarcity, and extreme heat, all of which are now being exacerbated by climate change.

In some cases, nature-based solutions are at least as cost-effective as conventional built infrastructure, not least because they can often address multiple challenges at once. And, as planting trees along streets demonstrate, such solutions do not have to be complicated. Street trees, research shows, can help reduce air pollution — the single biggest threat to human health, especially in urban areas, according to the World Health Organization — by filtering fine particulate matter, such as that emitted by internal-combustion engines. They are also highly effective at combating the 'urban heat island effect', which can result in dangerously high summer temperatures. Of course, the

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Wearing HIGH HEELS without paying the painful price

Heels are essential to (most) wardrobes, but there is nothing worse than putting together an amazing outfit for a night out, only to be sidelined an hour in because your feet are throbbing in pain.

It is the age-old question asked by every shoe-loving woman at one point or another: How in the world do I wear high heels without the pain? Is it even possible? Are we relegated to a 'grin and bear' mentality for life in the name of looking—and feeling—awesome? Turns out, a fabulous pair sky-high shoes and pain-free feet are not mutually exclusive.

Here are some tips on how to wear stylish shoes without paying the painful price

Make sure you are wearing the right size: The No. 1 mistake women likely make is not having the right shoe size for their foot. Your foot size changes over the years, even as much as one full size, especially after having kids. Have your feet sized once a year, and do it if you have never had it done. Have your feet measured when you are buying shoes, for width and for length as well.

Educate yourself on your own foot type: Know your foot type. One way is to wet your foot and step onto a piece of construction paper. When you make an impression, it will show you how much your foot is flattening or how high of an arch you have. You can look at a person's foot type and see why they are having pain.

The thicker the heel, the better: Avoid thin heels: the stilettos. They cause your foot to wobble around. Sometimes, the dress is just going to call for a stiletto, as long as it is something that is occasional. If you are wearing stilettos everyday, you might want to consider a chunkier heel style and change it up a bit.

Avoid thin soles, opt instead for a platform: Thin soles will almost always give you pain on the bottom of your foot. You want a thicker sole or a little bit of a platform, which will offset some of the pressure when you are walking. A rubbery material will absorb that pressure.

Take breaks: Kick your shoes off throughout the day and stretch your ankles and toes.

Stretch your feet after you take your shoes off: The stretches that you will want to do are the stretches that will target the front of the foot and ankle, like pointing your toes down, and pulling your toes up with a strap to get the Achilles' tendon and the calf muscles. And then side to side to get to the instep and the outside of the foot.

Try a shoe with more coverage up top: The more coverage you have on the top of your foot, the better. Sometimes high-heeled boots are actually something you can wear all day and they do not bother your feet as much. In the summer, you can try something with an ankle strap or a big wide strap across the top. If you are prone to blisters and friction, you might want to try that style, something that covers more of the top of your foot.

Those over-the-counter shoe inserts really do help: One thing to try are the over-the-counter products that market themselves for high heels. They are called metatarsal or ball of the foot pads. They are oval-shaped pads that go under the ball of the foot, usually made from a silicone gel. They combat soreness under the ball of the foot. Especially if it is made of silicone, it will hold your foot steadier in the shoe so your feet are not sliding forward as much, which will protect your toes from friction and blisters.

Summer fruit body scrubs

Whether you are gifting one to a friend or whipping one up for yourself, there really is nothing like getting a seasonal homemade body scrub! The process of making the skincare from scratch is as simple as beauty DIYs get, not to mention the added bonus of amazing aromas from the fresh-from-the-market fruits. Just imagine the scents from cantaloupe + kiwi, fig + lime and even banana + chocolate!? Yeah we went there, along with two other spa-level combos sure to leave you feeling soothed and serene. But your sense of smell will not be the only thing stimulated from these five summer fruit body scrubs — your skin will be getting the hook up, too!



Cantaloupe + Kiwi + Lava Salt: Black lava salt is a primo gentle exfoliator. This in combination with the super hydrating cantaloupe and vitamin C-packed kiwi will leave your skin feeling ultra-soft and give it a subtle glow.

Ingredients:

- ½ cup cantaloupe
- 1½ cup kiwi
- ½ cup lava salt
- ½ cup grapeseed oil

Chop up the cantaloupe into small bits, and add that to the bowl along with chopped kiwi. Muddle the fruit together and then add the lava salt. Add the grapeseed oil and mix together gently, then transfer to a jar.



Coconut + Fig + Lime:

Figs are full of vitamin A and beta-carotene, which helps hydrate your skin as well as slow down signs of aging. Coconut oil is a go-to hydrating and protective agent, especially for your skin.

Ingredients:

- 2 figs
- 1 lime
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup coconut oil

Slice figs into quarters, then cut the skin away with a sharp knife and add the pieces to a mixing bowl. Zest a lime into the bowl and use a muddler to smash it all together until the ingredients become well mixed. Then add the shredded coconut and the coconut oil, mix it all together and scoop it into a jar. Finish with thin slices of lime and fig so that you know what is responsible for your refreshed look!



Chocolate + Banana + Coffee: Coffee is not only an exfoliating agent, but it is also a natural bronzer. Bananas help fight acne and protect against free radicals, and the coconut oil makes everything feel extra lush.

Ingredients:

- 2 bananas
- ⅔ cup ground coffee
- ½ cup coconut oil
- grated chocolate to your 'taste'

Break apart the banana into piece that will easily muddle into a paste, then add the coffee and muddle together. Add the coconut oil and stir to incorporate, then top with chocolate shavings and scoop it on up!



Grapefruit + Honey + Sugar:

The brown sugar base will gently exfoliate your skin to make way for grapefruit — a natural brightener — and the raw honey, which is best known for helping to clear up acne.

Ingredients:

- ⅔ cup raw honey
- ⅔ cup brown sugar
- ½ grapefruit

Pour honey into a bowl and add the brown sugar. Squeeze the juice from half of a grapefruit into the bowl and mix the ingredients together. Pour into a jar and you are done. Now you know the secret ingredients for natural brightened and toned skin!

Pineapple + Mango + Brown Sugar:

Pineapple and mango have enzymes that will help clear up any problematic patches on your skin, as well as help to brighten and tighten all over. The brown sugar acts as a gentle exfoliant.

Ingredients:

- ½ cup mango
- ½ cup pineapple
- ½ cup brown sugar

Chop both the pineapple and mango very finely and add the fruits to your mixing bowl along with the brown sugar. Use a muddler to smash the ingredients together, then scoop into a jar. Perfect for gifting with slices of these tropical treasures on top!

Store your body scrubs in airtight containers in your fridge for as long as the fresh ingredients do not spoil — up to a week, to be safe. Remake often, so that your skin will not have to feel nostalgic for one of the most luxurious summers it ever experienced!



Gene test allows breast cancer patients to forgo chemotherapy

Patients with the most common type of early breast cancer can safely forgo chemotherapy based on results from a new 21-gene test on their tumor, says a new study on the subject.

The study, published on 3 June at the plenary session of this year's annual meeting of the American Society of

receive chemotherapy, this risk of recurrence will be significantly reduced, enabling more patients to be cured.

Previously, the challenge doctors and patients have faced is what to do if a patient has a mid-range score. It was uncertain whether the benefit of chemotherapy was great enough to justify the added

positive, HER-2 negative) that had not spread to lymph nodes. Researchers examined outcomes of the 69 percent of patients who had intermediate scores on the 21-gene test.

Patients were randomly assigned to receive chemotherapy followed by hormonal therapy or hormone therapy alone. Researchers examined the chemotherapy and non-chemotherapy groups for several outcomes, including being cancer free, having cancer recur locally or to distant sites in the body and overall survival.

For the entire study population with gene test scores between 11 and 25- and especially among women aged 50 to 75- there was no significant difference between the chemotherapy and no chemotherapy groups. Among women younger than 50, outcomes were similar when gene test scores were 15 or lower. Among younger women with scores 16 to 25, outcomes were slightly better in the chemotherapy group.

"The study findings will greatly expand the number of patients who can forgo chemotherapy without compromising their outcomes. We are de-escalating toxic therapy," claimed the researchers.



Clinical Oncology in Chicago, would allow about 70 percent of patients diagnosed with the most common form of breast cancer to avoid chemotherapy.

The test examines 21 genes from a patient's breast cancer biopsy sample to determine how active they are. The tumor is assigned a 'recurrence score' from 0 to 100; the higher the score, the greater the chance the cancer will recur in distant organs and decrease survival. If patients with higher scores

risks and toxicity. Previous studies demonstrated that patients with low scores (10 or lower) did not need chemotherapy, while women with high scores (above 25) did require and benefit from chemotherapy. The new study examined the majority of women who fall in the intermediate range of 11 to 25.

The study enrolled 10,273 women who had the most common type of breast cancer (hormone-receptor

Fear of spiders, snakes innate in us

Previous studies have shown that one to five percent of the population in developed countries is affected by a real fear of spiders and snakes, even though in most of those countries there are nearly no spiders or snakes that pose a threat to humans.

However, the drawback of most previous studies on this topic was that they were conducted with adults or older children, making it hard to distinguish which behavior was learnt and which was inborn.

Now, scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences (MPI CBS) in Leipzig and the Uppsala University, Sweden, have made a crucial observation: Even infants at the age of six months, when they are still very immobile and have no knowledge of whether these animals are dangerous, produce a stress reaction when they see a spider or snake.



The researchers found that when shown pictures of a snake or a spider, instead of a flower or a fish, the babies reacted with significantly bigger pupils. Under constant light conditions, this change in the size of the pupils is an important signal for the activation of the noradrenergic system in the brain, which is responsible for stress reactions. Accordingly, even the youngest babies seem to be stressed by these groups of animals, said the researchers.

"We conclude that the fear of snakes and spiders is of an evolutionary origin. Similar to primates, mechanisms in our brains enable us to

identify objects as 'spider' or 'snake' and to react to them very fast. This obviously inherited stress reaction in turn predisposes us to learn these animals as dangerous or disgusting. When this accompanies other factors, it can develop into a real fear or even phobias. "A strong panicky aversion exhibited by the parents or a genetic predisposition for a hyperactive amygdala, which is important for estimating hazards, can mean that increased attention towards these creatures becomes an anxiety disorder."

Interestingly, it is known from other studies that babies do not associate pictures of rhinos, bears or other theoretically dangerous animals with fear. "We assume that the reason for this particular reaction upon seeing spiders and snakes is due to the coexistence of these potentially dangerous animals with humans and their

ancestors for more than 40 to 60 million years and therefore much longer than with today's dangerous mammals. The reaction which is induced by animal groups feared from birth could have been embedded in the brain for an evolutionarily long time.

For modern risks such as knives, syringes or sockets, presumably the same is true. From an evolutionary perspective they have only existed for a short time, and there has been no time to establish reaction mechanisms in the brain from birth. "Ask any parent and they will tell how difficult it is to teach their children about poking their fingers into an electric socket.

Most health supplements provide no real benefit

Many popular vitamin and mineral supplements provide no consistent health benefit or harm, suggests a new study by researchers at the University of Toronto.

A systematic review of existing data and single randomized control trials from January 2012 to October 2017 found that multivitamins, vitamin D, calcium and vitamin C — the most common supplements — showed no advantage or added risk in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, heart attack, stroke or premature death. Generally, vitamin and mineral supplements are taken to add to nutrients that are found in food.

The researchers said they were surprised that they could find "so few positive effects for the most common supplements that people consume". They added that while their review showed that using multivitamins, vitamin D, calcium or vitamin C did no harm, there was no apparent advantage either.

The study found folic acid alone and B-vitamins with folic acid may reduce cardiovascular disease and stroke. Meanwhile, niacin and antioxidants showed a very small effect that might signify an increased risk of death from any cause.

The findings suggest that people should be conscious of the supplements they are taking and ensure they are applicable to the specific



vitamin or mineral deficiencies they have been advised of by their healthcare provider.

The team reviewed supplement data that included A, B1, B2, B3 (niacin), B6, B9 (folic acid), C, D and E; and beta-carotene; calcium; iron; zinc; magnesium; and selenium. The term 'multivitamin' in the review was used to describe supplements that include most vitamins and minerals, rather than a select few.

"In the absence of significant positive data — apart from folic acid's potential reduction in the risk of stroke and heart disease — it is most beneficial to rely on a healthy diet to get your fill of vitamins and minerals," said the researchers. They added that no research on supplements has so far shown that they were better than healthy servings of less processed plant foods including vegetables, fruits and nuts.

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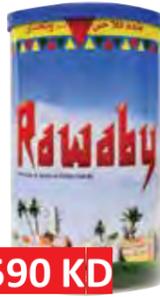
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