



Essentially Kuwaiti **2**

Basmah Marouf: Kuwaiti chef making waves

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ACHIEVER **4**

Satish Sharma, Kuwait's insurance doyen

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Speculation spurs oil to \$80 per barrel

Staff Report

For the first time since November 2014, oil crossed US\$80 a barrel last week fueled by fears that revived sanctions on Iran by the US could



reduce crude exports from OPEC's third-largest producer. In addition, the decline in recent months of crude exports by Venezuela has further roiled an already taut global oil market.

Global inventories of crude oil and refined products have also dropped sharply in recent months due to robust demand and sustained OPEC-led oil production cuts. Oil stocks are expected to drop further as the

peak summer driving season nears, offsetting increases in US shale output. On Wednesday, French oil giant Total warned that it might abandon a multibillion-dollar gas project in Iran if it could not secure a waiver

from US sanctions. The CEO of Total said that he would not be surprised to see oil touch \$100 in the coming months. And, almost on cue, British-Dutch oil and gas multinational Shell announced that it was halting crude exports from a major Nigerian pipeline.

Despite the timed press releases that boosted oil prices, the latest United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report shows that, as of mid-2018, growth in the world economy is surpassing expectations and global GDP is now expected to expand by more than 3 percent this year and in 2019.

In the past, higher oil prices have negatively impacted global growth; so will it be any different this time?

As the economist Anatole Kaletsky observed, "Financial markets have a disconcerting habit: predictions viewed by investors as completely obvious often turn out to be wrong."

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Prince Harry weds Meghan Markle

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have been proclaimed husband and wife by the Archbishop of Canterbury in a ceremony watched by a global audience of hundreds of millions of people on 19 May.

After the couple - the new Duke and Duchess of Sussex - tied the knot at St George's Chapel, they delighted tens of thousands of well-wishers as

they travelled through Windsor in an open-topped carriage. A host of celebrities including Oprah Winfrey, George Clooney and David Beckham were among the 600 invited guests alongside senior members of the Royal family. Another 2,640 members of the public were chosen to watch the ceremony from the grounds of Windsor Castle.



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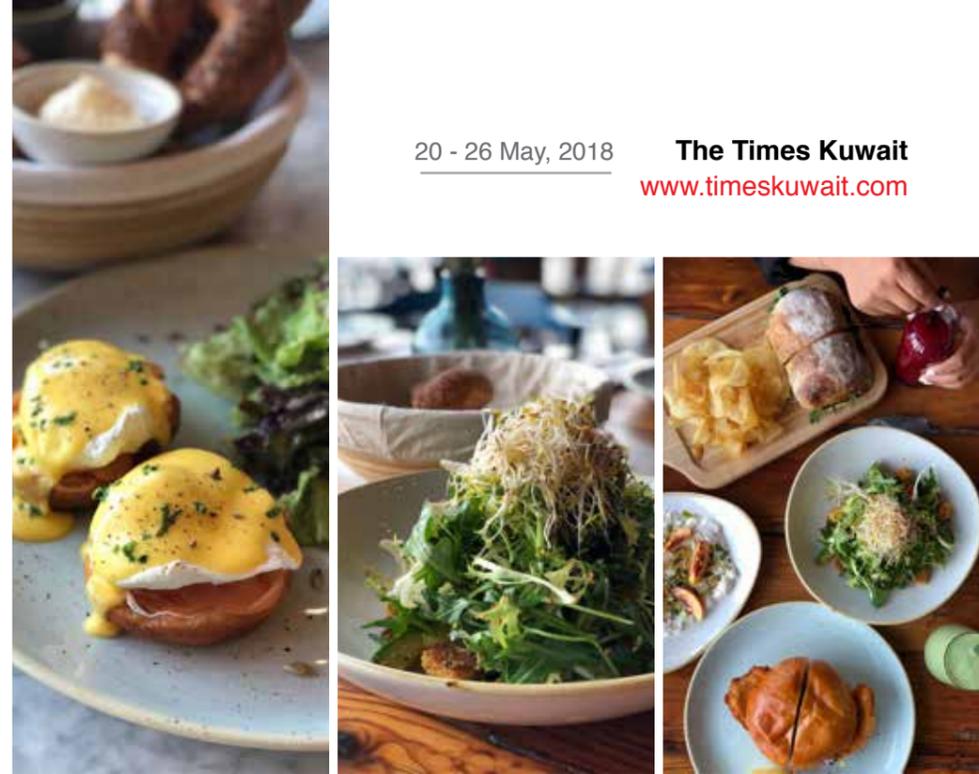
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BASMAH MAROUF



Kuwaiti Chef Making Waves

Nourah Al-Oseimi

Exclusive to The Times, Kuwait

Kuwaitis love food, this is no secret. In fact, Kuwait aspires to be the World Food Capital by 2030. This is an industry that has been booming relentlessly and shows no sign of stopping. However, when thinking of food and Kuwaitis, the underlying assumption is that we are predominantly consumers rather than creators. This was my assumption too until I met Basmah Marouf, 28, executive chef and culinary extraordinaire at one of the town's hottest dining spots - Madison and Heig.

My first question for Basmah was on her earliest memories of food and whether she knew this was something she wanted to do for a living. "I always ate well as a kid, I wasn't a picky eater. I'd spend every summer in Italy."

"The idea started brewing in college, towards the end of my first Bachelor's degree [in Advertising]. I would cook in college out of necessity, nothing special or complicated. That was my first exposure to cooking."

“*on a day-to-day basis, I supervise all aspects of the back of house, making sure everything is up to standard. During rush hours you can find me standing at the expo counter, calling for and pushing plates, making sure they look good.*”

Basmah is the proud recipient of two Bachelor's degrees, one in Advertising and another in Food Service Management. She also holds a degree from Johnson and Wales Culinary School and an MBA from Florida International University. I was notably impressed by how well-educated she is.

Towards the end of her first Bachelor's degree, Basmah moved away from campus to South Beach, Miami. She explained that during this period, Miami was "undergoing its own culinary revolution" and so she spent a lot of her time dining out and experiencing new things. Upon witnessing all of this, a fire



was ignited within her towards the culinary universe. Alas, she was held back by her own doubts and trepidation and so she pursued an MBA instead. It was only when Basmah heard that one of her friends was about to join Culinary School that she realized, "if he could do it, so can I." And indeed, she did.

Basmah returned to Kuwait a little over a year ago, in April 2017. "I wasn't looking for a job in the beginning because I didn't think chef jobs for locals even existed. I was put in touch with one of the co-owners and managing partner [of Madison and Heig] through a mutual friend."

"I met with him and he showed me a presentation of the concept and I remember seeing a New England Lobster Roll, it's American food, I can do that."

Basmah went on to create a 10-course tasting for the owners, they thoroughly enjoyed what she had to offer and hired her on the spot. At the time, the restaurant had not been constructed yet and so Basmah was fortunate enough to be included in every step of the way. "I got to be involved, I got to go in the kitchen and look into the plans. I got to be a part of that, which is super awesome, I didn't think I could get to do that so early in my career."

In addition to being involved with the design of the kitchen, Basmah was asked to complete the crucial task of creating the menu. "To date, that is my biggest accomplishment in my career."

I asked Basmah about her process when undertaking this challenging task. "I pulled a lot of my inspirations from food that I like to

eat, I like food that is salty and sweet. That's why in many of the savory menu items, you see fruit."

"Presentation wise, I like things to be a beautiful mess. I don't like things to be so meticulous. That was a challenge with my staff to undo a lot of the training they have. Just throw it on the plate and let it blend the way it blends."

I've dined at Madison and Heig quite a few times prior to my meeting with Basmah, and I was always impressed by how competent and friendly the staff were. Was Basmah the driving force behind this excellence? Basmah confirmed to me that as the executive chef, she was responsible for some of the hiring decisions.

"I did most of the interviewing, and was involved in the hiring of the kitchen staff, we do everything here, we don't have a central kitchen where things are packaged and they come with a specific set of instructions. Everything is from scratch. I can't teach

about how to run a restaurant is purely from her work experience.

At this point of our conversation, I found myself wondering about the future of Basmah's culinary creations; will the focus remain on American Bistro foods?

"Right now, it's American, I'm sure in the future that will change. Eventually I want to delve deeper into Italian cuisine, because that's just home for me."

As our conversation came to an end, I asked Basmah about the challenges that persist in the culinary community in Kuwait and whether she had any advice for aspiring chefs. Basmah explained to me that chef positions in restaurants for locals usually do not offer competitive packages and so many Kuwaitis feel discouraged to work as an employee in a restaurant and instead opt to open up their own place and work there.

I instantly wanted to know if that was Basmah's plan in the future, to open her own

place. "Sure, but not now. It's not glamorous, people think it is, but it's really not. It's hard work, it's one of the hardest jobs out there."

"As a chef, you have to be an accountant, a cook, an artist and a whole list of other things that people don't realize it takes to be a chef." That sounds like a lot of work but Basmah has observed that the culinary community is definitely growing in Kuwait and her advice to culinary hopefuls is that "it's never too late, one of the reasons I was scared to apply initially is I thought I was too old and too late in the game. It doesn't matter, you can go to culinary school when you're 30 and 5 years later you can be an executive chef somewhere. It's never too late, I wish I had told myself that and gone to culinary school earlier. You have to really love what you're doing in order to stick through it, you have to be a really hard worker."

Despite her pickiness and impeccable standards, Basmah also harbors deep gratitude and affection towards her staff. "I treat my staff like customers. Their needs are a priority. You have to put that care into your staff and you see it back in the quality of the work. If you don't have that kind of work ethic with your staff, you'll fail." Basmah's positive treatment of her staff is clearly reflected in the overall positive ambiance that has been cultivated since the restaurant's opening in December 2017.

I asked Basmah what a typical day is like for her at Madison and Heig to which she responded "on a day-to-day basis, I supervise all aspects of the back of house, making sure everything is up to standard. During rush hours you can find me standing at the expo counter, calling for and pushing plates, making sure they look good. I also do a lot of menu development as our menu is constantly changing, we are aiming to have a fully revamped menu by next season"

In spite of being a highly educated woman, Basmah insists that everything she knows

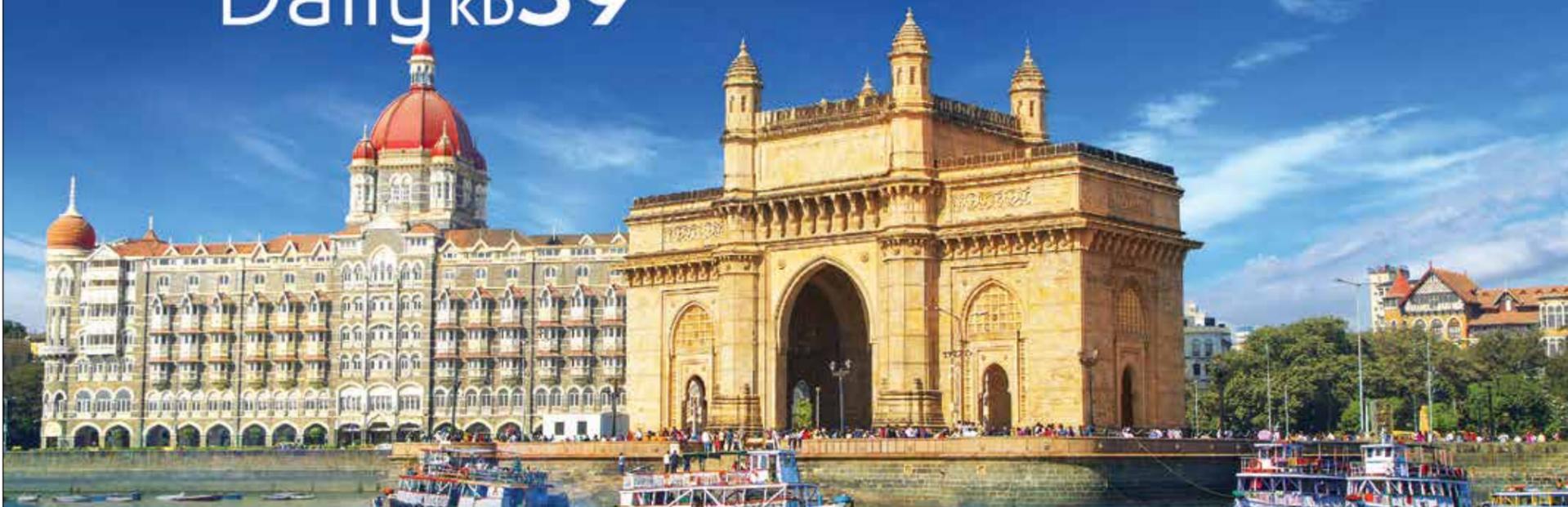
For more information on Chef Basmah visit @chefbasmah on Instagram

For more information on Madison and Heig visit @madisonandheig on Instagram

Nourah Al-Oseimi is a 25-year-old Kuwaiti who holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. Nourah has worked in different places such as the Central Bank of Kuwait and the United Nations. She serves as a free-lance contributing writer to the Times Kuwait - Newsmagazine. Her column - Essentially Kuwaiti - will feature an in-depth look on exceptional young Kuwaitis and their efforts towards the realization of a New Kuwait.

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Satish Sharma

Kuwait's insurance doyen



Staff Report

Satish Sharma is a veteran in the insurance industry in Kuwait with more than 40 years of experience in selling and agency leadership. Having run a profitable agency operations for the American Life Insurance Company (ALICO), now known as Metlife, he today helms his own company, Insure and Secure. An entrepreneur by nature, he has successfully established insurance brokerage offices in Kuwait, Dubai and India, and now serves as a Senior Regional Executive for the GCC, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan for Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA), as well as being their Global Trainer and Certified Agency Manager.

Sharma's family put down roots in Kuwait when his uncle first moved to the country in the 1930s with Sharma's father following in the late 1940s. Sharma was born in Kuwait in 1952 and spent his early years here before moving back to India for his schooling. "I was the first student of the Indian School of Kuwait since my uncle was one of its founding members. Since the school had classes only up to the 1st grade back then, I went to Jaipur for my studies, visiting Kuwait every year during holidays."

“ Kuwait has been very good to my family and me. We have had a very comfortable life here and we are indebted to Kuwait for all that it has given us. ”

On completion of his higher education, Sharma came back to Kuwait in 1973 and took up a job as a typist for an insurance company in 1974. "Things were difficult back then, I remember my salary was KD45 at the time. I joined the insurance industry by accident, my college degree is Bachelor of Science."

But Sharma took an interest in the field and decided to stick to it. After a short stint in local companies, he was tasked to establish a branch for a local Lebanese insurance company in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in the early 1980s. In 1981, he was promoted as General Manager of the company and was for first time challenged to sell insurance. "That is when I got into sales. All of my previous work

was clerical and administrative."

Sharma could not suppress his entrepreneurial drive and in 1983, decided to start his own insurance brokerage. Another pivotal career move came a few years later when he was approached by a mentor to venture into the life insurance business to supplement his general insurance brokerage. In 1985, he joined American Life Insurance Company and became a unit manager.

But on 2 Aug 1990, all the advances he had made in his career were brought to a standstill with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Around seven months later, the tide turned and Sharma was asked by ALICO to re-establish the office after the manager who was previously controlling operations was unable to return following Kuwait's liberation. "People were reluctant to come to Kuwait at that time. There were oil fires blazing, a lot of pollution and little infrastructure support. But to me, Kuwait always presented the natural market, I was born here and my friends and relatives were here, so there was a level of comfort here. To sell insurance, you need to go to people who you know, they are the immediate market. Here, the whole society knew my family. So, I was eager to come back".

But the return to Kuwait was not without its challenges. Sharma returned to Kuwait in April 1991 and restarted the ALICO office but there were a lot of security issues. He operated the office for about a month

and had to leave again. He commenced full operations in August that year, "It was very interesting time, we were trying to find people who wanted to buy insurance, and all the people that we found in the market were trying to encash their policies, surrender them. No one was talking about buying a policy. I needed to make a sale so I started the new phase of my career buying two policies

for my third daughter who was an infant at the time." His career in insurance since then has been marked with many accolades, from recognition in ALICO's Gallery of Stars, as well as from industry platforms such as the Million Dollar Round Table where he is a lifetime member after 24 successful qualifications from 1994-2018 and making it 14 times to the Top of the Table benchmark.

Sharma was a pioneer in starting a bancassurance arrangement in the entire Middle East, the agreement between ALICO and the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) led to the NBK Generation Account. He also partnered with Al Mulla International Exchange Company to provide free insurance to its customers. "I designed a life insurance plan for Al Mulla Exchange tied to remittances. The intention was to help those who were not able to buy regular policies and create a win-win situation for the exchange through customer loyalty, while helping the families of those affected."

Sharma retired from ALICO a few months shy of his 65th birthday and focused on Insure and Secure. In 2017, he was approached by

LIMRA to join their team and he jumped at the opportunity to give back to the industry. As a certified trainer for LIMRA, Sharma has recently held workshops in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and in Manila, Philippines. He is headed to Bangkok, Thailand in May, to train insurance agents on how to achieve success.

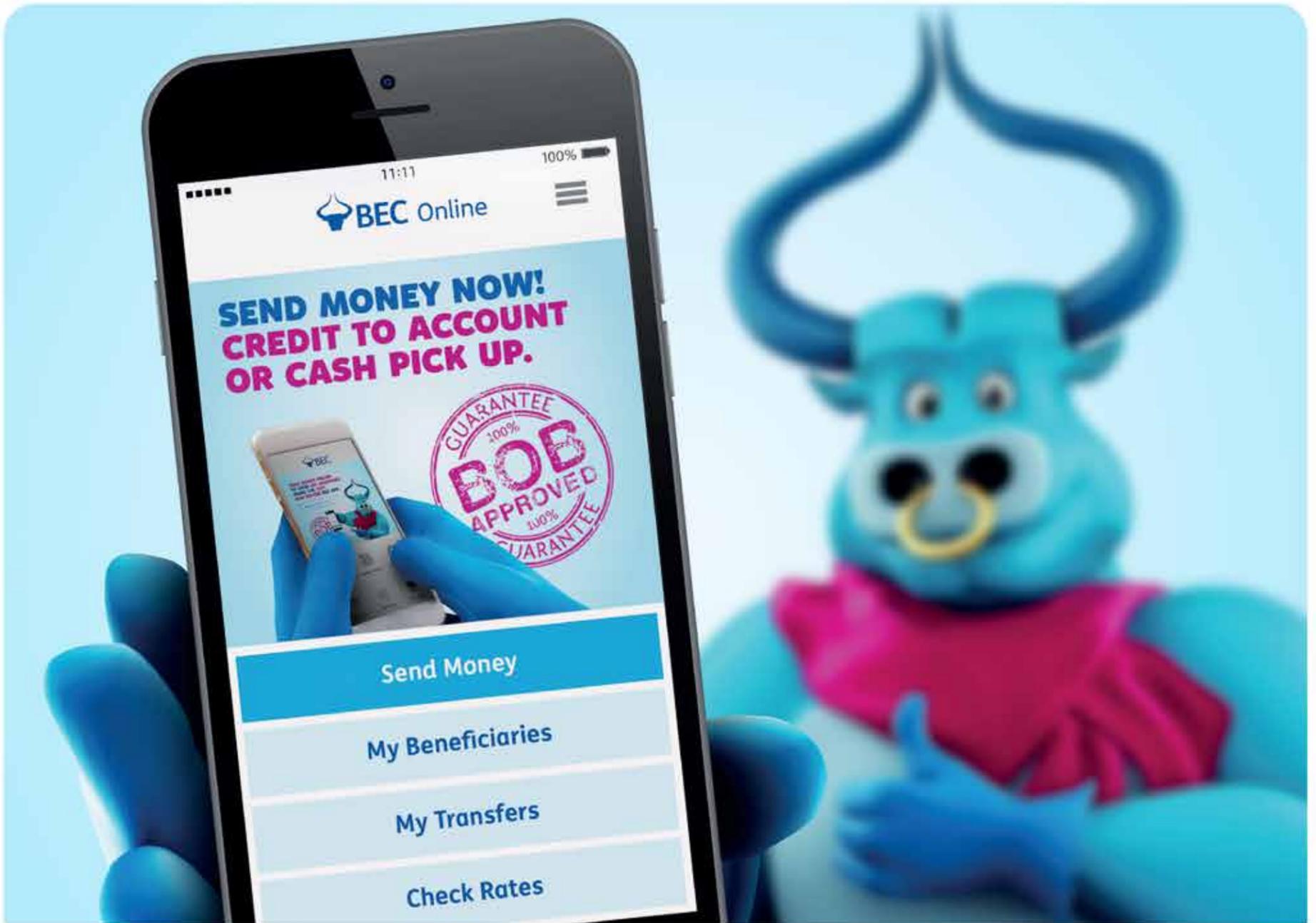
At this stage of life, Sharma is focused on giving back and helping the Indian community. "I have a desire to reach out to Indians in Kuwait who are facing the challenges of stagnant pay and the rising cost of living standards, and limited saving potential. I want to enable them to supplement their income by utilizing their extra work hours to serve as insurance agents." He points out that insurance agents receive immense job satisfaction because of the lives they protect. "Today, if I have been able to sell a life insurance policy to a family, it gives me great satisfaction to know that they will be secure and financially protected in the case of a tragedy." Sharma's formula for success is a simple one, "There are two elements required to become successful, one is vision and the second is action. If you remove either element out of the equation, the result is failure."

Reminiscing about Kuwait, he shares, "Kuwait has been very good to my family and me. We have had a very comfortable life here and we are indebted to Kuwait for all that it has given us." He adds that Kuwait has helped him maintain his roots with India. "Unlike Western countries where you can get citizenship and a passport after living there a certain amount of years, I look at Kuwait's lack of similar provisions as a positive thing because I have maintained my roots with India. We built our lives here but we have also built our lives back home. We have offices in Delhi and Bombay that two of my daughters take care of."

When asked what stirs his nostalgia for Kuwait of the 1950s, he says, "We used to live in Sharq, just across the Dickson house. We didn't have air conditioning or fans and it was still as hot as it is nowadays. My father used to take my brothers and me, in our vests and trunks, to sleep on the beach in the area where Souq Sharq is today. It was the only place that was cool and at 4am as a new day broke, he would wake us up and take us back to the house." Sharma remembers how the house in Sharq, with a courtyard in the center had a well from which water was drawn for non-drinking household purposes, and how Salmiya now a bustling suburbia was a picnic spot with no defined roads leading to it and that the only one cinema hall was in Ahmadi. He commends the progress Kuwait and its government has made, "Kuwait has come up very well and the Kuwaiti government has been good to the foreigners. They followed a balanced approach in economic development as well as in relations with other countries. I am proud of the strong ties Kuwait shares with India."

Despite being in the business of selling life insurance, Sharma has a very optimistic outlook for the future, "The future is always bright. Let today be the first day of your life, forget the failures of your past. The future holds good things for every generation. Life is a cycle and the good that I did yesterday, someone may better today, and another will make excellent tomorrow. At every stage of our life, we have to remain positive about what the future holds for us."





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Smart options for your Suhour

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

Since one should last throughout the entire next day, Suhour should be consistent and chosen in a smart way. Most people choose their Suhoor to be a heavy and consistent meal, but that's a wrong concept:

- You need to avoid sodium at Suhour as salt makes you feel thirsty the next day, so your dish should be refreshing, low in sodium and high in potassium.
- You need to avoid easily digested



food which will make you feel more hungry the next day. Fresh seasonal vegetables and fruits, dates and other dried fruits should always be present on the table.

- Fatouche, taboule and cucumber yogurt are the best salad options to eat at night, as they are consistent and refreshing.

Besides that, you can take a plate of boiled rice with some yogurt, it is fulfilling because of the carbs in it, makes you stay full for a longer period of time, without feeling thirsty. You can take a grilled chicken breast or grilled shrimps as well, but avoid red meat, and seafood (fish, salmon, sardine and tuna) at night as these are rich in sodium and make you directly feel thirsty the next day.

Another option is to have a multi-cereal sandwich with labne or white cheese. Carbs and protein are the best combination for a consistent dinner. Plus fiber is very important at night to avoid constipation, common problem during Ramadan. You can also choose a baked potato with some labne or a low-fat white sodium cheese.

Food to Avoid:

All yellow cheeses, which are high



in sodium and not advisable at night during Suhour. Tea and coffee for Suhour. These 2 are diuretics and will make you crave for water the next morning.

Fried or sweets. It will make you crave for more food because they are directly digested. At the end before going to bed, the best thing to eat is a mixed fruit salad, some dates, prunes or a banana.

Potassium is the substitute for sodium so it is recommended to increase your potassium- rich fruits.

Finally you need to increase your water consumption by taking into consideration choosing a low -sodium water brand.

Question: Dear Mira, I am a diabetic who is fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, I would like to know how I should plan my meals since I am only eating twice a day? And could you help me understand the precautions I should take when fasting, especially as I am taking diabetic medication?

— Fatima Mohammad

Answer: Firstly, if you are taking

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



Speculation spurs oil to \$80 per barrel

Continued from Page 1

The outlook for oil prices could turn out to be such a case, for several reasons. For one, the real reason behind higher prices could be attributed more to speculation than to any real global demand. To 'buy on the rumor and sell on the news' is a time-honored principle of financial speculation. Unprecedented recent purchases of oil contracts by non-commercial speculators in the New York and London futures markets implies that the jump to \$80 per barrel came less from global demand and more from speculators. Moreover, oil for future delivery in 2020 still costs well below \$70, creating what is called a 'deep backwardation' that often portends a step price decline. This financial condition was last seen in the autumn of 2014, just before the most recent price crash.

Moreover, the revived sanctions on Iran by the US could turn out to be an empty gesture, with little or no support from other signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, namely the United Kingdom, Russia, France, and China — plus Germany and the European Union. Already, the EU has begun reviving legislation that will allow European companies to continue doing business with Iran. An updated version of the EU's 'Blocking statute', which was introduced in 1996 to circumvent US sanctions on Cuba, could be put in place before 6 August when the first sanctions are set to take effect. The statute will prohibit European companies from having to comply with the penalties and permit compensation for affected firms.

Even when one looks at the fundamentals of oil production, it is far from clear that sanctions will reduce Iran's exports sufficiently to affect the global balance of supply and demand. Most of the 2.5 million barrels of oil that Iran currently

produces is sold to China, India and Turkey, all of which are likely to ignore or circumvent the US sanctions. The only vulnerable segment of Iran's crude exports are the 750,000 barrels per day that it supplies to the European Union, the South Korea and Japan. Even here, this surplus would doubtless be diverted to countries such as India and China.

The fact that oil traders constantly redirect oil cargoes around the globe explains why most analysts expect sanctions to reduce global oil supplies by less than 500,000 barrels a day. A shift on this scale would be smaller than the 700,000-barrel collapse of Venezuelan oil exports since last year and much smaller than the increase in US daily output of 1.1 million barrels projected over the next 12 months, not to mention the probable reduction in global oil demand caused by the sharp increase in prices since last summer.

Higher oil prices eventually lead to a slow-down in economic growth and leveling of demand in the developing world, while in the industrial world demand could decline due to increasing replacement of oil by natural gas or renewable energy, as well as the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. In short, the global balance of oil supply and demand will depend more on the performance of the world economy and the behavior of other oil producers, than on sanctions to Iranian crude exports.

Another reason why the US-Iran confrontation could lead to lower, not higher, prices is the political fallout from higher prices for the Trump administration. If oil prices rise much further during the summer 'driving season' that soon starts in the US, Trump will be blamed by voters and Republicans could suffer in November's midterm congressional elections, especially in Midwestern swing states.

Mol forbids cellphone use for policemen on duty

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) has taken organizational decisions to control the use of cell phones, social media and firearms by its forces.

This came following reports in social media – the reports which have also been confirmed by the Ministry of Interior – that a large number of securitymen are busy with cell phones while on duty



monitoring roads and/or organizing traffic. In a circular issued by the

Assistant Undersecretary for Operations at Interior Ministry

Major-General Jamal Al-Sayegh, personnel on field duty or other security duties are not allowed to use mobile phones or do any other media activity that has nothing to do with the task assigned to them. The circular also said earphones worn around the necks do not go in line with duty.

The circular stressed the patrolmen

should be active while monitoring the traffic and remain seated inside patrol cars.

The circular added, the law forbids patrolmen to park their vehicles on pavements during security checks. The circular said the forces are fully equipped with portable security equipment and armed with weapons allocated to them.

Nutritionists discuss 'Kitchen Cupboard' journey during gathering in Kuwait



Nutritionists from across Kuwait gathered for a scientific discussion hosted by Nestlé Middle East, focused on innovative means to provide solely 100% simplified ingredients in packaged food.

The gathering highlighted how iconic brand MAGGI is leading the way in providing tastier and healthier food, as part of its efforts towards achieving a number of the 20 commitments to society published by Nestlé Middle East: to 'Simplify our ingredients list' 'Help reduce the risk of under-nutrition through micronutrient fortification', further 'Reduce salt, sugar, and saturated fats in our products', and 'Increase vegetables, fibre-rich grains, pulses, nuts and seeds in our products'.

MAGGI is moving towards including only ingredients people know and love in their products, ones they can likely find in their 'Kitchen Cupboard', as the initiative behind the transformation journey is named.

MAGGI's Product Innovation and Developmental Chef, Mahdi

Katanbaf demystified Oats Soup and the new MAGGI Chicken Stock with Natural Layer of Herbs in a live session, and also shared the tips and challenges of creating new product recipes with superior taste all while maintaining a balanced nutritional profile and 100% simplified ingredients.

Already, the full range of Excellence Soups, and the newly launched Chicken Stock with Natural Herbs are meeting the Kitchen Cupboard criteria. By 2020, all MAGGI products will have achieved the same criteria.

"Our efforts are relentless to continue crafting products only with ingredients you know and love; to put nutrition at the heart of what we do by reducing salt and fats, increasing fortification, and adding more wholesome ingredients such as oats and lentils; caring from field to home; and passing on the goodness of homemade cooking," said Sarah Kanaan, Nutrition, Health & Wellness Manager at Nestlé Middle East.



REDTAG opens new store in Farwaniya



Building on their success throughout the Middle-East, and based on commitment to offer patrons the finest shopping experience, REDTAG opened their 11th store in Kuwait, Farwaniya, at Al Basman Complex.

Inauguration of the new store was attended by senior REDTAG officials and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers of the popular brand. Shehbaz Shaikh, CEO at REDTAG said: "We are thrilled with the opening of our 11th store in Kuwait. It is very important for us, as a brand, to be present where our customers are, and we will continue investing in our expansion plan, to cover the entire country, and be close to our customers, wherever they are."

He added: "Our brand vision is to provide a pleasant shopping experience offering a great variety of affordable, on trend fashion for the whole region, and this new store opening is another step to help us deliver on our promise."

"Our loyal customers' base has been growing since we

opened our first store to reach, today, more than 10 million. Our aim is to continue offering unparalleled value for money deals to our customers, while remaining faithful to our 'Always Fashionable, Always Affordable' brand promise."

In his remarks on the opening of the new branch in Farwaniya, Country Head REDTAG, Yousuf Bhatti said, We will continue to strive to be better at every step, offering our customers the very best. The local consumers recognize that REDTAG offers great value that can be obtained at an affordable price."

"Redtag has always focused on providing excellent fashion value and this has been the single most significant factor for its phenomenal growth and popularity," added Yousuf Bhatti.

With the focus on offering fashion for the whole family in an inclusive shopping environment that perfectly suits Kuwait's lifestyle and core family values. REDTAG now has more than 180 stores throughout the region and the brand has established a firm footprint across the GCC.

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Azerbaijani Ambassador hosts reception on country's National Day

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kuwait H.E. Elkhan Gahraman hosted a reception on 14 May at the Marina Hotel to celebrate his country's National Day, and the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

The Kuwait Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, lauded the exceptional relations between Azerbaijan and Kuwait. He pointed to the many avenues of cooperation pursued between the two countries.

In his address to the gathering, the Ambassador Gahraman lauded the leadership of former president Heydar Aliyev for his efforts in modernization of the country, which is being pursued by the current president. He elucidated, "Nowadays our country has made achievements in all domains. Under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has become a leading power in the



region, registering the highest growth rates and is counted among the best performing economies in the world, and is a country that is highly respected in the world." The ambassador added that the government remains committed to creating an enabling environment that sustains Azerbaijan's internal development and ensures the continued social-economic growth and improving the quality of life of Azerbaijani people."

Lauding the close ties between

Kuwait and Azerbaijan, he said, "High level visits between Kuwait and Azerbaijan have provided ample opportunities to reaffirm friendships and explore new cooperation avenues. Today cooperation between Kuwait and Azerbaijan is in the process of constant development through joint actions and mutual visits involving government officials, business groups and wider public."

The Ambassador reiterated the positives of his country' that has led

to an increase in tourism, he noted, "Developing infrastructure, improving service sector, similarities in culture and most importantly safe leisure in the land embodying mixture of east and west are the main components that attract tourists to Azerbaijan. Simplification of the visa procedures at all international airports led to the growth of the tourist flows from all Arab countries. Six direct charter flights carried out by Azerbaijani Airlines in 2017 allowed more than

17000 tourists from Kuwait to visit Azerbaijan. Kuwait's airline Jazeera Airways already announced direct passenger flights to Azerbaijan starting 23rd June 2017 with a further twice a week flight schedule."

He concluded by saying, "Kuwait-Azerbaijan relations have witnessed remarkable development in recent years. This demonstrates that the political leadership of the two countries are determined to further develop and expand the bilateral ties."



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Traffic department announces Ramadan timings

The traffic department of the Interior Ministry released its official working hours for the month of Ramadan, which are from 10 am to 2:30 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm during which procedures including the vehicle registration, driving licenses, technical testing (car inspection), traffic violation investigation and driving test departments will be handled.

Also mentioned in the directorate was that vehicle inspection companies will operate from 10 am to 2:30 pm and 8:30 am to 11:30 pm.



ILOA bestows responsibilities on student council during Investiture Ceremony

The Indian Learners Own Academy School (ILOA) organized an Investiture Ceremony where members of the school council were conferred titles and investing powers on 29 April.

The Chairman D. K. Sharma and Director and Principal Asha Sharma graced the occasion with their presence. The Vice Principal Dr. Sheeba Balraj welcomed the gathering and introduced the Chief Guest. The School Council Members and the House Appointees were conferred upon with sashes and badges by the Chief Guest and the respective House Wardens and the flags were handed over a symbolic representation of handing over the responsibility to the new Office Bearers. The Principal administered the oath to the leaders.

Kenneth A. Rodrigues addressed the leaders by encouraging them to be good leaders and shoulder the responsibility efficiently. He enlightened them by stating that they have to be the role models to

their peer group and set the standards high for their juniors to follow. The school Head Boy, Rajat Dang delivered his speech, promising to abide by the qualities of a true leader and keeping the mantle of ILOA flying high.



The Head Girl, Adorna Maria Johny, proposed the vote of thanks and vowed to guide and serve the Student Council to the best of her abilities and support the fresh and young front-runners till the finish line.

Preventive diplomacy, mediation, at core of Kuwait diplomacy

Promoting preventative diplomacy, mediation and reconciliation as part of a collective global effort to defuse and contain crises, is the basis of Kuwait's foreign policy said the country's permanent representative to the UN, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi.

Speaking on Thursday, at the open session of the UN Security Council on maintaining world peace and security, Kuwait's senior diplomat at the UN said that the country continues to play an integral part in finding peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The State of Kuwait is a staunch believer in Article 6 of the UN Charter, which called for fully implementing all of the Charter's principles, said Al-Otaibi, indicating that countries opposing the UN document should reconsider their position within the international organization.

Respecting international laws is the first line of defense for all countries to ensure that their rights

were upheld, said the Kuwaiti diplomat, adding that such respect must lead to efforts to improve and reform UN organs, including the Security Council.

Elaborating further on this point, Ambassador Al-Otaibi said that though the respect of international law and UN Security Council resolutions should be a matter of consensus, the treatment of the Palestinian people in the last 70 years seems to run contrary to efforts for peace in the Middle East and the world. The global community failed to hold Israel accountable to violations of the Council's 2334 resolution connected with the illegal settlements expansion on Palestinian territory since 1967 and the ill-treatment of Palestinians, said the Kuwaiti diplomat.

He indicated that the relocation of diplomatic missions to Jerusalem was clear violation of Council resolutions 476 and 478; however, such incident has occurred recently, resulting in



rejection by most countries.

On the situation in Syria, Ambassador Al-Otaibi said that the Security Council had issued several resolutions on the eight-year crisis with the last one being resolution 2401 tabled by Kuwait and Sweden back in February. The resolution called

for a 30-day ceasefire in Syria to allow medical and humanitarian teams to offer help to those caught in the chaotic situation.

The Kuwaiti diplomat touched on the issue of abusing the right to veto, saying that conflicts and disagreements amongst permanent members of the UN Security Council had sometimes prolonged the suffering of people, especially in Palestine and Syria.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi took the chance to express support towards a French-Mexican initiative aimed at restricting using the right to veto when it comes to cases related to war and humanitarian crimes.

In many instances, the Council had become a voice of reason and truth for the world and that was evident in the united efforts to liberate Kuwait in 1991, acknowledged Al-Otaibi, who called on all UN members to reprise such success on matters of today.

Electrolysis and Hydrogen: A Perfect Complement to Gulf's Renewable Energy



By Herbert Klausner
CEO Siemens Kuwait
Exclusive to The Times, Kuwait

As countries across the Gulf region continue the exciting process of expanding their capacity in solar and wind power generation, they will increasingly face two main renewable energy challenges. First, the amount of electricity that they produce fluctuates depending on the amount of sunlight and wind. Second, when they produce electricity it generally cannot be changed to reflect demand from consumers and the grid.

Being able to store this energy for use later and to do so in a way that addresses the fluctuating supply is one solution. One of the most promising of these solutions is the use of electrolysis to produce the highly versatile element hydrogen.

Kuwait is embracing renewables: the country is already generating more than 50 Megawatts (MW) of electricity from thermal solar plant, a 10 MW photovoltaic plant solar power and 10 MW from wind power. It aims to meet 15% of its electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030, and it is developing the 1,500-MW Dibdibah solar PV power plant.

However, like the rest of the world, Kuwait faces the challenge that solar and wind energy produce electricity only when there is sunlight and wind and even when there isn't necessarily demand in the grid. A passing cloud can cause a sudden large drop in electricity flowing into the grid, or the wind could pick up in the middle of the night when everyone's asleep and demand is low.

But electrical grids, and the power demand they feed, require a steady supply. Moreover, while a gas-fired power plant can raise or lower output to meet demand, as already noted, solar and wind plants generally cannot do that.

To address these issues, the world, and the Gulf region in particular, are increasingly looking to energy storage, as it solves both issues. It collects energy when it's not needed by the grid and then releases it to the grid when it is needed. It also can be used to smooth out the fluctuating increases and decreases in supply from solar and wind farms, thereby helping stabilize the grid.

Batteries, whether the chemical form found in phones and computers, or alternative types, such as compressed air or pumped water storage, are one solution. However, as renewable energy begins to comprise a larger and larger share of the energy mix, many think that battery storage at such scale required for large grid-connected networks will be too expensive or will not have enough capacity.

But there is another solution: hydrogen produced by electrolysis.

Hydrogen and the electrolysis process are particularly exciting for countries such as Kuwait that are located in sun-drenched regions.

Electrolysis is the process of running an electric current - in this case produced by renewable energy - through water to produce oxygen and hydrogen.

The Siemens SILYZER solution is an example of this technology. SILYZER can efficiently transform the energy produced by wind and solar generating facilities into hydrogen. This is not only helpful for the renewable sector but also for industry, transportation, and power-to-gas solutions and networks. Siemens has already successfully put several of these renewable energy-powered systems into continuous operation for customers in Europe, including a 5-megawatt (MW) system in Germany.

The significantly greater solar potential of the Gulf, compared to Europe, is one reason Siemens is already in discussions with potential customers in the region regarding plants of up to 400 MW.

For national utilities such as the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the SILYZER process could use excess electricity produced by renewable energy to produce hydrogen that can be stored for months before being used as fuel in a power plant to produce electricity when required. But hydrogen's versatility means it can do a lot more. It is relatively easy to transport, so it can be used in fuel cells to power vehicles - from cars to ships to trains. Moreover, the hydrogen used in car and truck fuel cells does not have to be transported to filling stations. The SILYZER process can be scaled up or down, allowing hydrogen to be produced safely and cleanly onsite.

Using onsite renewable energy, the system would produce 'green hydrogen' for the refueling of future fuel cell vehicles. This is an efficient and flexible solution for producing hydrogen. Beyond its use as a fuel, hydrogen is an important material for industry, including pharmaceuticals and food manufacturing, while in the semiconductor industry, hydrogen serves as a carrier gas.

Hydrogen also is an important input in the petrochemical industry, serving as a building block for many compounds, such as ammonia, methane and other hydrocarbons used in the production of plastics. All of these are major industries in the Gulf.

Significantly, the hydrogen currently used in these processes is produced using natural gas. By using SILYZER to produce hydrogen instead, natural gas could be put to more valuable and value-added uses.

Another exciting use of hydrogen produced with renewable energy, is to combine it with carbon dioxide to generate methane, which can be used as fuel for power generation. This results in a neutral CO2 balance, because when the methane is consumed it releases the same amount of CO2 that was previously fixed.

Siemens plans to work with partners in Kuwait and across the region to unlock the enormous potential of renewable energy. Drawing on innovations like SILYZER and long-established collaborations, Siemens can support Kuwait's leadership in fulfilling its vision for long-term, sustainable development powered in part by renewable energy.

Kuwait said to postpone VAT launch until 2021

Kuwait has reportedly delayed the launch of VAT until 2021 at the earliest but will go ahead with the implementation of excise tax. Kuwait parliament's budget committee said in a statement posted on the assembly's website that the introduction of VAT had been postponed.

"The committee said implementation of value-added tax in Kuwait will be postponed until 2021, and that the finance ministry saw the need to expedite measures for excise tax on select products such as tobacco, energy drinks and carbonated drinks," the statement said. Gulf countries originally agreed to

introduce VAT at a 5 percent rate at the start of this year, but only Saudi Arabia and the UAE did so. The International Monetary Fund has estimated VAT in the UAE will eventually bring in 1.5 percent of gross domestic product. According to a recent report from National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the country's non-oil economy grew by 3.3 percent in 2017, up two percent from the previous year.

While the pace of growth tailed off slightly in the fourth quarter to 2.4 percent, overall the economy has continued to recover from its drastic slowdown in 2014 and 2015.



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EU Exhibition showcases heritage and cultural sights of Europe

In continuation of celebrations marking Europe Day on 9 May by the European Union (EU) member-states, a cultural display titled 'EU Cultural Heritage Exhibition' was held at the Avenues Mall from 9 to 15 May.

The exhibition, organized as part of the first Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and in promotion of 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage, presented 40 unique photographs of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites in the EU member-states. Some of the photographs displayed at the EU Cultural Heritage Exhibition were provided by the EU Commission and the rest were provided by the various European embassies accredited to Kuwait. The opening ceremony of the 'EU Cultural Heritage Exhibition' witnessed the attendance of all European ambassadors accredited to



Kuwait. The ambassadors were also on hand to interact with visitors and answer questions posed to them on various topics.

The exhibition highlighted the importance of having more frequent proactive public diplomacy events

organized by the EU, rather than just by individual member states. The celebrations marking Europe Day, which was held for the first time in Kuwait, had earlier witnessed the staging of a concert titled 'European Days - United in Diversity' by the Embassy of the Czech Republic



in Kuwait on 28 April, in collaboration with National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the Ministry of Defense. In addition, a classical music concert with musical works from Bulgaria was held at the Gulf University for Science and Technology on 5 May.

At the closing of the EU Cultural Heritage Exhibition, the Bulgarian Presidency presented mementos to its Kuwaiti partners as a symbol of gratitude for their participation and support in making Europe Day a grand success in Kuwait.

LFK students shine at graduation ceremony



The Lycee français de Koweït (The French School of Kuwait) hosted a ceremony to celebrate the graduation of the secondary stage of schooling for the twelfth chapter students on 9 May on the school premises. The French Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Marie Masdupuy attended the ceremony as chief guest and offered her best wishes to the graduates.

Taqaddam impact on education



Michael Gordon
British Council Country Director Kuwait
Exclusive to The Times

At present, it feels like we live in an age of political and economic turmoil, our eyes fixed on the latest events in America, Europe and, of course, the Middle East. But quietly, beyond the headlines, big economic changes are happening which may well have far more impact on how Kuwaiti school pupils will grow up, spend their careers and live their lives.

We call those changes globalization and to flourish in this world of flux, many societies are changing their approaches to employment and education. Kuwait's government understands this. It has established the Ministry of State for Youth and has committed to increased school spending. Its 2035 Vision acknowledges that education needs reform to better prepare youth to join a competitive and productive workforce. At the British Council, we too are watching and responding. With our partners HSBC, we are supporting Government policy with our core life skills programme, Taqaddam.

Taqaddam doesn't necessarily teach students how to get high grades or pass exams. But it does instill in them qualities of confidence, commitment, determination, organization and self-belief - qualities they will call upon throughout their personal and professional lives. In today's employment market, the fast-growing youth populations in MENA region face huge challenges. They must compete against worldwide talent for jobs and investment in a globalised, Cloud-connected marketplace. Throughout the Gulf, there is concern about the skill levels of young people graduating from high school and university.

A new British Council report has just surveyed more than 500 business leaders in Dubai, where many multi-national companies have their regional headquarters. Their message was almost unanimous. New arrivals in the workplace need a portfolio of 'soft' skills to take from job to job - problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, people management, the ability to work with others and a commitment to lifelong learning. Communication, especially in the English language, is also essential. We hope that Taqaddam, which means 'moving forward' in Arabic, will help address this issue. The programme has been devised by HSBC and the British Council to bring out the best in students across the MENA region in their key formative years, between 15 and 17.

Taqaddam is delivered as an extra-curricular activity in English, with two workshops and 12 weekly classes. Its gaming-style format and

online access appeals to teenagers, who must complete a number of tasks within a deadline. It encourages students to cultivate five character traits - Spark, Purpose, Confidence, Mettle and Positive Emotions. Spark means being inspired and passionate. Purpose is a strong belief that life is meaningful and worthwhile. Confidence is understanding and believing in ourselves. Mettle is resilience and determination in the face of challenges. Positive Emotions encourages reflection and managing our feelings. The course is designed by our partners the Goodall Foundation, a UK educational charity specialising in character development through self-sufficiency, collaboration and innovation. Khalaf Alzuvi completed Taqaddam last year and has just been appointed a Student Ambassador for the programme, though he's only in Year 11. Khalaf says Taqaddam inspired him, gave him confidence and expanded his view of the world. Something happened in his head, he says. He tells us he's now able to super-focus all his attentions and abilities on a single problem - just like Spiderman! The number of participants - divided equally between males and females - has grown steadily during Taqaddam's three years of operation in Kuwait.

Now, in an exciting development, we're delighted that a new group of students will be joining the programme. For the first time in the region, two Kuwaiti special needs schools will take part. Their teachers begin training in September, with students to follow next year - another group of young people adjusting for the future world of work. April sees the culmination of Taqaddam with our annual Make It Happen competition, when 422 pupils will gather together to pitch ideas for social action and change in their own communities. It will test their organizational, presentational and creative skills, as they seek to persuade the judges that their idea is the one deserving first prize.

Last year's winners included a sandstorm alert system and a programme to support breast cancer victims. Kuwait's Education Ministry is a steadfast supporter. Ministers have attended Taqaddam events and officials have judged Make It Happen competitions.

HSBC staff will also be present. The bank doesn't just support the programme financially, but sends along volunteer staff with years of life and workplace experience. The CEO is a regular judge and hosted a lunch for last year's winners. The other heroes and heroines of Taqaddam are the Kuwaiti teachers who give up their time to deliver the programme, 38 of them this year. They proudly tell us how nervous and shy teenagers quickly blossom into confident and articulate advocates, able to think creatively and work to deadline. All that energy and passion will be on display during Make It Happen. It will be noisy, buzzing and full of vitality - just how we like it. As each year passes, we are increasingly impressed by the maturity and achievement of our Taqaddam graduates. We are proud to help them prepare for a productive and successful life serving their families, their communities, and Kuwait, for decades to come.






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Smart driving licenses soon a reality

Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) last week signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) that authorizes the inclusion of electronic signatures into the process of issuing 'smart' driving license for citizens and expatriates in Kuwait.

As part of the agreement, PACI delivered to MoI the infrastructure to begin incorporating and accepting electronic signature into the new smart driving licenses, which is the



first step in the implementation of the project where electronic driving licenses replace the old ones.

Speaking about the MoU, PACI General Manager, Mussad Al Assousi, said, "This step allows the Ministry of Interior to electronically sign the data stored in the smart driving licenses to authenticate the details and protect it from any tampering or forgery."

He added that the MoU with the Interior Ministry comes following the Authority's success in introducing

the electronic signature projects in over 85 government entities in the country. Some of these government organizations include the Ministry of Justice, to facilitate electronic transactions for judiciary personnel, lawyers; the Public Institution for Social Securities to facilitate the electronic transactions of its clients; the Credit Bank to facilitate the obtaining of loans electronically; and the Public Authority for Manpower to facilitate the transaction of its applicants. In addition, other entities such as the oil sector, banking sector and others also use the authentication infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs, Major General Fahed Al Shuwai'a, lauded the beginning of a new phase of fruitful cooperation with PACI through the efforts exerted in the field of digital certificates (PKI) to fulfill the requirements of the smart driving license project in order to keep abreast of the developments in the field of information technology, particularly in the information security and data security.

He explained, "The Ministry of Interior's Traffic Affairs Sector and Information Technology and Communication Sector will execute the smart driving license project, in cooperation with the United Nations through the United Nations Development Program in the Arab region, and in collaboration with international specialized companies.



This is part of the Ministry's commitment to provide electronic services to the citizens, including the driving licenses which are in line with the international technical specifications and technologies."

Major General Al Shuwai'a added that the new license is fitted with an

electronic chip that contains all the data of the license holder in digital code, according to the international standards. He went on to clarify that the project aims to provide a unique service to the citizens and expatriates that will enable the license applicant to upload the required data and documents online, as well as follow up on the application stages in terms of the accuracy of the details, approval and payment up to receiving the license. The Ministry has designed and executed the self-service systems specifically for issuing the new license to facilitate and expedite the license issuance procedures and to ensure that the best services are provided."



Kuwait's Prime Minister inaugurates Jazeera Airways terminal, honored as first passenger



The Prime Minister of Kuwait, His Excellency, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah on 15 May inaugurated Jazeera Airways' terminal at Kuwait International Airport. The terminal is the first terminal to be owned, built, and operated by a private airline in the Middle East, thus marking a significant milestone in the development and privatization of the Middle East aviation system.

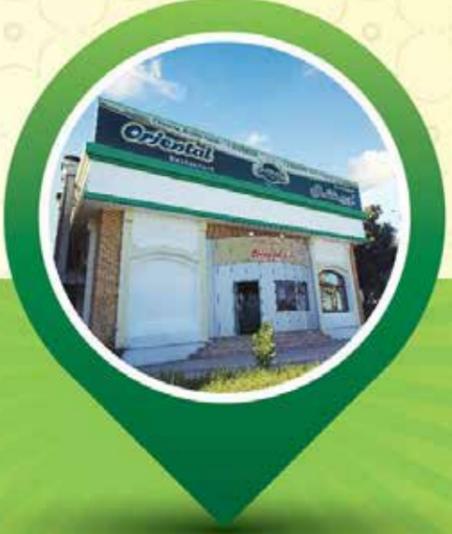
Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister (PM) and dignitaries received a briefing on the terminal's facilities by Jazeera Airways Chairman and founder Marwan Boodai, who also designated the PM as the terminal's first passenger in honor of his visit. Boodai then led the PM on a tour of the state-of-the-art facility, which was built in 11 months. The PM was joined by Her Excellency the Minister of State for Housing Affairs and the Minister of State of Services Affairs Jenan Ramadan, and the President of the Directorate General for Civil Aviation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al Salem Al Hamoud Al Sabah.

Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai said, "We are honored by His Highnesses' visit, and the ongoing support by His Highness and the government as a whole for empowering the private sector towards achieving Kuwait's vision

for the year 2035". Boodai added, "Today is a historic turning point in the development of the Middle East aviation system and a testament to the value that the private sector brings to the development of the country."



With an award-winning design and state-of-the-art facilities, the terminal will start commercial operations next Tuesday, 22 May, and as a result congestion currently experienced at the main terminal at Kuwait International Airport will show immediate signs of relief. We are confident that our travelers will love flying through the Jazeera terminal".

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20 May



Womans Football Tournament: A Womans Football Tournament will be held at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium from 20 to 31 May at 6pm. Interested participants can join by forming a team of 12 or as an individual. Further information will be available upon registration. For more information and to register: Contact: info@eightypercent.com or visit, form.jotform.me/81251347012445

21 May



Dance and Skate: A collaboration between Promenade Ice and Wiggle Kids Club, Dance and Skate will be held at the Promenade Mall, from 5:15pm to 6:45pm. The activity, which includes Zumba, hip hop, capoeira and skating is open to children of age 5 years and above. For more information: Call, 69628855.

22 May



Q8 Cycling Club Weekly Ride: A session of weekly cycle ride will be held by the Q8 Cycling Club, at the Arabian Gulf Street, outside Salmiya. Participants of all age and gender are welcome to take part. For more information and to register: Visit, www.limitlessaction.com.

25 May

Music Gala 2018: British Academy of International Arts will be organizing a Music Gala at its location from 8pm to 10pm. Further information will be available upon registration. For more information and to book your tickets: Contact, psm@baia.edu.kw or call, 1830456 Ext: 2178 or 50962809.

31 May



Ramadan Blood Donation Camp 2018: Organized by Kuwait Pakistan Blood Donors, Pakistan English School and College will be organizing a blood donation camp at their location in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh from 8pm to 11:30pm. The camp is free and open to all.

1 June



Extreme Challenge: Extreme Sports BMX, Scooter and Skateboard challenge will be held at Marina Waves, at 9pm. The fee for each challenge is set at KD5. Further information will be available at the website. For more information and to register: Visit, www.events.pro-vision.com.

Jazz at Home Cabaret Night: Ahmadi Music Group will be hosting Jazz at Home Cabaret Night featuring Ashley Young and Harriet Bushman in Adan Block 7 at 9pm. Further information will be available upon registration. For more information and to get your tickets: Visit, www.eventat.com or write to info@ahmadimusicgroup.com, or Call 5063843.

17 June



Summer Swim Camp: British Academy of Sport will be hosting its Summer Swim Camp 2018 from 17 June to 5 July (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) at its location. Boys and girls aged 3 to 12 years can register for the camp. The camp will be 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.



Summer Sports Camp 2018: British Academy of sport will be hosting its Summer Sports Camp 2018, from 17 June to 5 July (Sunday to Thursday), at the BSK Salwa Campus, from 10am to 2pm. The camp will be 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.



IMA-Kuwait Summer Islamic Classes: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) will be commencing its well-known two month long Summer Islamic classes at the Indian Community School, Junior Branch, Salmiya, on 17 June, from 4pm to 6:30pm. The classes, which will be held on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays will end on 19 August. The program is open to students in Kuwait from LKG up to 12th standard. Offering a syllabus with a wide range of Islamic subjects such as Quran reading/understanding/memorization, Prophet's Life and Day to day Jurisprudence. Apart from this, teachers work on Personality Development of the students and also engage them in various activities including field visits. Competitions will be held on Islamic Quiz, Recitation of Quran and Elocution. Interested parents can register their kids at: www.imakuwait.org or Call, 99632314.

Thought for the week

“ If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.

René Descartes
French philosopher



SPS Summer Camp: Salmiya Play School (SPS) will be organizing a Summer Camp for children from June to August, and those interested are invited to register their children at the earliest. During the months, children will be engaged in a host of exciting activities such as Yoga, Craft, Origami, Clay Modeling and Story Telling among others. Children will also learn important real life skills through various courses including Public Speaking and Writing. The camp is open to children from LKG, UKG and First Grade and three sessions will be held monthly. The camp will be held at the Indian Nursery, Day Care & Child Care Center, situated opposite Salmiya Garden (other side of the 5th ring road), Block - 9, Street - 94, Villa - 15, Rumaithiya, Kuwait. For more information, contact, Tel: 2561 2127, Mob: 9792 7109 and Email: info@salmiyaplayschool.com.

Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre celebrates World Nurses Day



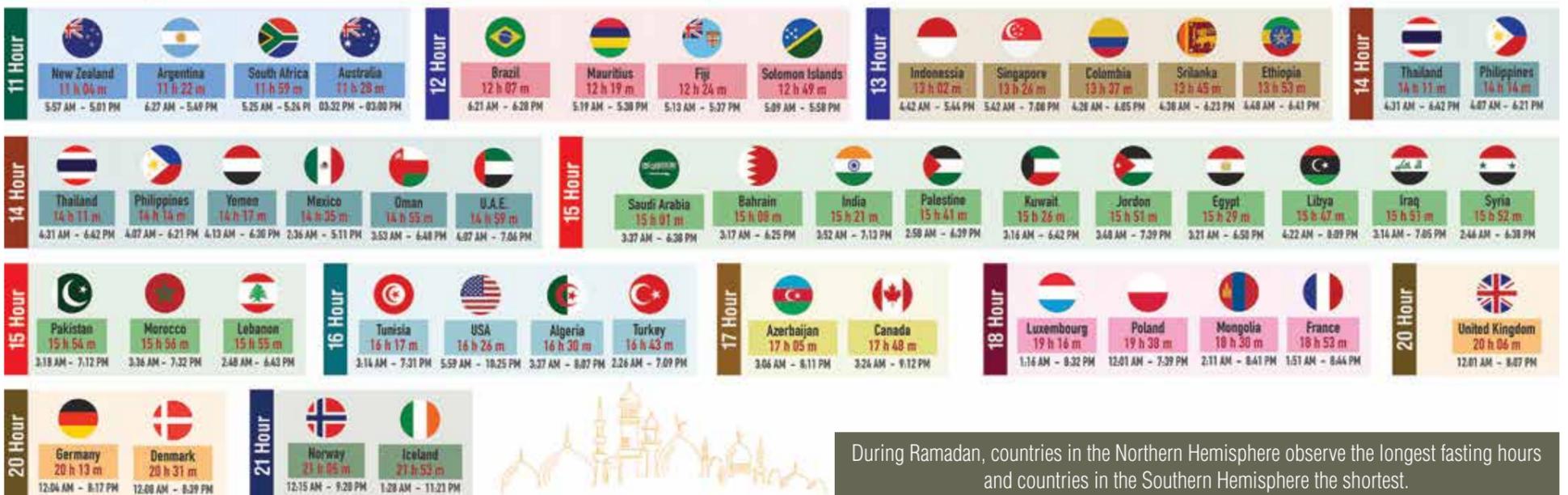
Badr Al Samaa Medical Centre, Farwaniya in association with Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrated World Nurse's Day with a gathering of nurses from the center. Senior Urologist of Badr Al Samaa, Dr. Rajasekharan, Chief Guest for the day, did the honors

of cutting the cake. Abdul Razak, Branch Manager welcomed the audience and Nitin Menon, Marketing Manager gave the vote of thanks. Badr Al Samaa Board of Directors - Mr. Lateef, Mr. Mohammed and Mr. Vinod wished all nurses on this auspicious day.

PRAYER TIMINGS - KUWAIT

DAY	RAMADAN	DATE	IMSAK	FAJR	SUNRISE	DHUR	ASR	MAGRIB	ISHA
Sunday	04	May 20	3:10 AM	3:20 AM	4:53 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:36 PM	8:06 PM
Monday	05	May 21	3:09 AM	3:19 AM	4:53 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:37 PM	8:07 PM
Tuesday	06	May 22	3:08 AM	3:18 AM	4:52 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:37 PM	8:07 PM
Wednesday	07	May 23	3:07 AM	3:17 AM	4:52 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:38 PM	8:08 PM
Thursday	08	May 24	3:07 AM	3:17 AM	4:51 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:39 PM	8:09 PM
Friday	09	May 25	3:06 AM	3:16 AM	4:51 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:39 PM	8:09 PM
Saturday	10	May 26	3:06 AM	3:16 AM	4:51 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:40 PM	8:10 PM
Sunday	11	May 27	3:05 AM	3:15 AM	4:50 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:40 PM	8:10 PM
Monday	12	May 28	3:04 AM	3:14 AM	4:50 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:41 PM	8:11 PM
Tuesday	13	May 29	3:04 AM	3:14 AM	4:50 AM	11:45 AM	3:20 PM	6:41 PM	8:11 PM
Wednesday	14	May 30	3:03 AM	3:13 AM	4:49 AM	11:46 AM	3:20 PM	6:42 PM	8:12 PM
Thursday	15	May 31	3:03 AM	3:13 AM	4:49 AM	11:46 AM	3:20 PM	6:43 PM	8:13 PM
Friday	16	June 01	3:02 AM	3:12 AM	4:49 AM	11:46 AM	3:20 PM	6:43 PM	8:13 PM
Saturday	17	June 02	3:02 AM	3:12 AM	4:49 AM	11:46 AM	3:20 PM	6:44 PM	8:14 PM
Sunday	18	June 03	3:02 AM	3:12 AM	4:49 AM	11:46 AM	3:21 PM	6:44 PM	8:14 PM
Monday	19	June 04	3:01 AM	3:11 AM	4:48 AM	11:46 AM	3:21 PM	6:45 PM	8:15 PM
Tuesday	20	June 05	3:01 AM	3:11 AM	4:48 AM	11:47 AM	3:21 PM	6:45 PM	8:15 PM
Wednesday	21	June 06	3:01 AM	3:11 AM	4:48 AM	11:47 AM	3:21 PM	6:45 PM	8:15 PM
Thursday	22	June 07	3:01 AM	3:11 AM	4:48 AM	11:47 AM	3:21 PM	6:46 PM	8:16 PM
Friday	23	June 08	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:47 AM	3:21 PM	6:46 PM	8:16 PM
Saturday	24	June 09	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:47 AM	3:21 PM	6:47 PM	8:17 PM
Sunday	25	June 10	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:48 AM	3:22 PM	6:47 PM	8:17 PM
Monday	26	June 11	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:48 AM	3:22 PM	6:48 PM	8:18 PM
Tuesday	27	June 12	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:48 AM	3:22 PM	6:48 PM	8:18 PM
Wednesday	28	June 13	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:48 AM	3:22 PM	6:48 PM	8:18 PM
Thursday	29	June 14	3:00 AM	3:10 AM	4:48 AM	11:48 AM	3:22 PM	6:48 PM	8:18 PM

Fasting Duration Around The World 2018



During Ramadan, countries in the Northern Hemisphere observe the longest fasting hours and countries in the Southern Hemisphere the shortest.



Memory of Azerbaijan Leader honored with ceremony

On the occasion of the 95th birth anniversary of the former Azerbaijan Leader Heydar Aliyev, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Kuwait H.E. Elkhan Gahraman hosted a reception on Thursday, 10 May at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Heydar Aliyev, the third President of Azerbaijan from October 1993 to October 2003, is one of the most respected leaders in the history of country. Under his leadership, Azerbaijan underwent development in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres and was elevated to a modernized country from one on the brink of collapse and devastated by war. Azerbaijan witnessed significant increases in economic growth, improvement in its infrastructure and a modernization in the fields of education, oil and gas, manufacturing, and agriculture. His introduced many important political, economic and social reforms that brought about much needed change in the country and saw to it that domestic stability was achieved.

He was also hailed for his judicious foreign policy that helped to strengthen Azerbaijan's independence and sovereignty, particularly with the establishment of beneficial strategic partnerships with regional states and global powers.

His tireless endeavors to attract huge western capital to Azerbaijan, helped spur job growth and lead to the development of several fields. He pursued an ambitious oil strategy signed with Western oil companies that played a crucial role in the establishment of internal stability, the most noteworthy achievements being the multi-billion-dollar 'Contract of the Century' and the construction of the Baki-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. Moreover, the national leader helped in the drafting of a new Constitution, which was adopted in 1995.

Former President Heydar Aliyev grew in stature through his achievements and dedication to his country to be considered a symbol of the modern Azerbaijani state. His legacy continues



to live on in an independent and prosperous nation grounded in democratic institutions, a rapidly developing economy and a swiftly increasing role in the modern world.

Grand Mall opens 52nd outlet in Musallah, Sharjah

Grand Hypermarket, a retail group under the Regency Group opened its 52nd outlet Grand Mall, Mussalla, Sharjah. The inauguration was done by Ruler office chairman, Sheikh Salem Bin Abdul Rahman Al



Qasimi in the presence of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Qasimi, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Khalid Ahmed Al Qasimi, Sultan Al Shamsi, Indian actor Suniel Shetty, DM Health

care CMD Padmasree Dr. Azad Moopan, Regency Group chairman Shamsuddin bin Mohiyuddin, Group managing Director Dr. Anwar Ameen, Directors-Abdul Rehman A P, Abdul Subhaan bin Shamsudeen, Mohammed N V, Mohammed bin Aslam Mohiuddin, Silver Home Director V.T Saleem and government officials, socio-cultural dignitaries, Regency group regional directors, Management officials was witnessed by 1000s of happy customers.

Regency Group Chairman Shamsuddin bin Mohiyuddin, expressed his gratitude towards the rulers of the country, its citizens and expatriates on this occasion.

The Management revealed that there will be a wide variety of offers for selected products, during the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan raffle draw open to Iftar or Ghabka diners at Al Manshar Rotana Hotel

This Ramadan, Al Manshar Rotana in collaboration with Al Kazemi Travel is giving a chance to all the Iftar and Ghabka diners of Failaka restaurant a chance to visit Athens, Greece or Baku Azerbaijan for free.

With an affordable buffet rate of KD13.800 per person for Iftar and KD12 per person for Ghabka, diners can enjoy a wide-spread of authentic Ramadan cuisines, live cooking station, scrumptious desserts, traditional refreshments and an entry to our Ramadan raffle.

During Ramadan, Failaka restaurant will be operating



from sunset till 12 midnight. Sohour will be offered and served daily in the comfort of the guests' room with an a la carte menu and can be ordered through Room Service. For corporate and group gathering, rates start from KD10 for a minimum of 40 attendees, inquiries can be sent to banquets.almanshar@rotana.com.

Ramadan is the time for family, friends, and reflection. Create treasured memories by celebrating traditional Ramadan festivities with loved ones at the Al Manshar Rotana, Kuwait.

BAIA students perform in spectacular show



The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) recently held its highly anticipated 'On Broadway' musical theatre, showcasing some of the most famous songs from Broadway and West End musicals.

The young talent consisted of professional and skilled students aged between 7 and 17, who were under the guidance of the shows director Carly Gillard and her assistant student director Wasmiya Al-Ashour. The big

hit numbers included 'Think of Me' from The Phantom of the Opera, and 'Gaston' from Beauty and the Beast. The students showed a tremendous amount of confidence and talent. Once again, BAIA have delivered an action-packed, fun-filled show much to the delight of the attending audiences.

The next BAIA performance will be the Music Gala on Friday, 25 May held at the BSK Shakespeare Theatre at 8pm. Call 50962809 for more information.

IES honors student achievements at Astral Award Nite



The Award Nite, a function of preeminence organized by Indian Educational School, (IES) to acknowledge and appreciate the exemplary achievements of its students was held on 10 May. The evening was graced by the presence of the Guest of Honour, Fawaz Mohammed, a dynamic entrepreneur and former student of IES, Mohammed Abdulla, Parent of Fawaz, N. K. Ramachandran Menon, Chairman Bhavans Middle East, T. Premkumar, the Principal, Indian Educational School, Rathi Ravindran, Principal, Jack and Jill, Mangaf among others.

The highlight of the program commenced with the awardees honoured and felicitated. The estimable IES scholarship for students who are studying in classes 8 to 12 scoring above 91 percent marks in all subjects in all school tests and examinations was offered to the phenomenal performers, Alicia Rose Sebastian of G9 and Vishnu Balram of G9 amidst thunderous applause.

Scholar badges, scholar blazers, golden medallions and shields for stellar performance in International Exams were a few of the other awards given.

The crème de la crème of Indian Educational School was presented with the scholar blazers, a token of appreciation for scoring the cumulative A1 in all subjects for three successive years; an extraordinary feat indeed. Math Wizards, best speakers and budding scientists, who proved their mettle time and again, were awarded medals of honour and recognition.

A total of two hundred and thirty two students were bestowed upon the awards of proficiency for their extraordinary achievements in the academic year 2017-18.

The guest of honour, Fawaz Mohammed, addressed the gathering and reminded everyone of the significance of determination and perseverance in one's doings, and added "...the mantra of success is to have faith in oneself".

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Maintaining the momentum toward Universal Education



Gordon Brown

Former Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, is United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. He chairs the Advisory Board of the Catalyst Foundation.

On the surface, mass illiteracy seems like an evil that should be easy to eradicate. Achieving that goal requires neither a technological breakthrough nor a scientific discovery. With funding for good teachers and schools, we can provide an education for all children. We need only muster the political will to act.

And yet universal education has long eluded mankind, even when achieving it has been a globally shared objective. Today, 750 million adults, two-thirds of them women, are illiterate, and 260 million children are not in school.

Education is a basic right codified in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was further enshrined in the 1990 World Declaration on Education for All, at a summit in Jomtien, Thailand, and then at the 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal. Achieving universal primary education was one of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for 2015, and universal education has since been included in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

But, despite these commitments, the international community has yet to deliver for the world's children. In addition to those who are not in school at all, 500 million children currently receive no more than a primary education, which itself is often inadequate. And by 2030 — the year when the world has promised to provide universal primary and secondary education for all — an estimated 800 million people will enter adulthood without the qualifications necessary for the modern labor force. Many of them will be illiterate. In many regions of the world, educational standards fall far short of what is needed. In Africa, for example, educational outcomes today are estimated to be 100 years behind those of a typical high-income country. As a result, there is a deepening divide between the half of the world's children who have access to a decent education and the half who do not. Whereas an earlier generation managed to travel to the moon, our generation has failed even to provide a classroom for all of the children here on Earth.

So it is time for bold, innovative action. To that end, the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, which I chaired, has launched the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) as a declaration of war against mass illiteracy and the evils of child labor, child marriage, and discrimination against girls. With discrimination and exploitation denying millions of girls the basic right to attend school, universal education is the civil-rights struggle of our generation.

The Education Commission is waging this war with the most innovative financing solutions we could devise. The IFFEd is mobilizing both public and private funds, marshaling international cooperation, and leading a multinational partnership to make education accessible to all.



The IFFEd has brought universal education to the forefront of the World Bank's plan to take development financing from "billions to trillions." In addition to multiplying donor funding, it is supporting countries that are committed to reforming their education systems, thus ensuring that every dollar goes toward delivering concrete results. By facilitating the largest single investment in education in history, and by encouraging developing countries to spend more, the IFFEd could, over time, provide 20 million more classrooms for children around the world. The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have each committed to using the IFFEd to leverage donations. And these efforts will complement the work of The Global Partnership for Education, the Education Cannot Wait fund, and UN agencies operating in the area of education — UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOCHA, and UNHCR.

By requiring governments to increase their own investments in education as a condition for receiving donor funds, the IFFEd promises to create \$4 worth of additional education resources for every \$1 donated. Our principal aim is to focus on the lower-middle-income African, Asian, and Latin American countries where the majority of out-of-school children, many of them refugees, now reside. These countries are host to some 700 million children — the missing millions in the middle. Unfortunately, less than 1 percent of development bank financing currently goes to education in African and Asian middle-income countries. As a result, these countries are confronted with an untenable choice: either stop sending children to school, or borrow money at much higher rates and risk accruing unsustainable debts.

Looking ahead, it is time for donor countries to step up and respond to our requests for financial guarantees to the IFFEd. We are currently in discussions with 20 possible contributors, underscoring the message that if we achieve universal education, per capita GDP in the poorest countries will be almost 70 percent higher by 2050 than if current trends continued. Extreme poverty rates will be reduced by one-third. The mortality reductions, measured in additional years of life, will be nearly equivalent to what could be expected if the world eliminated both HIV and malaria.

No less importantly, young people will be better prepared for the job market of the future.

They will be in a position to become the next generation of innovators, teachers, and leaders, and all will have the opportunity to realize their full potential. With innovative financing solutions, what was impossible has become

eminently achievable. What seemed to be out of our reach is now within our grasp. Let this generation be the first in history to ensure that all children are afforded the education to which they have a fundamental right.

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