

## Reduce paperwork and improve performance

Acknowledging that performance levels and the quality of education imparted by many public schools in Kuwait leave a lot to be desired, the country's Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares said that public education lacked the administrative flexibility enjoyed by private educational institutions.

Admitting that public education

### Minister of Education Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares

is subject to bureaucratic rules and bylaws that are supervised by the Civil Service Commission, whereas the private sector has its flexible rules and work mechanisms, the minister emphasized the need for introducing a comprehensive and flexible system capable of developing public

education and enabling it to compete with private education. He called for streamlining the Ministry of Education by transforming "thinking patterns and management approaches, as well as reducing paperwork and improving performance in the Education Ministry.

Saying that the role of his ministry



is mainly to enhance the quality of education process in the country, Minister Al-Fares regretted the lack of an institutional evaluation system, especially for assessing the performance of schools. Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Haitham Al-Athari maintained that "the situation in public and private schools is the same.

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## College of Aviation Technology leading Kuwait's education drive



Staff Report

Located just off the Fahaheel expressway in Abu Halifa, the College of Aviation Technology (CAT) is Kuwait's newest and definitely most specialized college in the field of aviation. The newly built campus is still undergoing final touches to its impressive look, nevertheless, students are already enrolled and courses underway.

"We started in 2015 and the first batch of students enrolled last year for the two-and-half-year diploma course in aeronautical maintenance engineering," deputy dean of the college Eng Marzouk Al Sharifi disclosed in an exclusive interview with The Times, Kuwait. CAT offers a range of professional courses from introductory and foundation courses that provide an insight into aircraft systems

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## Tourism – An economic and social phenomenon



Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. More than one billion tourists travel the globe each year and this number is expected to nearly double by 2030.

Modern tourism is closely linked to development and encompasses a growing number of new destinations. These dynamics have turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress.

Continued on Page 19



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# The psychological importance of wasting time

*There will always be an endless list of chores to complete and work to do, and a culture of relentless productivity tells us to get to it right away and feel terribly guilty about any time wasted. But the truth is, a life spent dutifully responding to emails is a dull one indeed. And "wasted" time is, in fact, highly fulfilling and necessary.*

Don't believe me? Take it from the creator of "Inbox Zero." Merlin Mann was commissioned to write a book about his streamlined email system. Two years later, he abandoned the project and instead posted a (since deleted) blog post on how he'd spent so long focusing on how to spend time well, he'd ended up missing valuable moments with his daughter.

The problem comes when we spend so long frantically chasing productivity, we refuse to take real breaks. We put off sleeping in, or going for a long walk, or reading by the window—and, even if we do manage time away from the grind, it comes with a looming awareness of the things we should be doing, and so the experience is weighed down by guilt.

Instead, there's a tendency to turn to the least fulfilling tendency of them all: Sitting at our desk, in front of our computer, browsing websites and contributing to neither our happiness nor our productivity.

"There's an idea we must always be available, work all the time," says Michael Guttridge, a psychologist who focuses on workplace behavior. "It's hard to break out of that and go to the park." But the downsides



are obvious: We end up zoning out while at the computer—looking for distraction on social media, telling ourselves we're "multitasking" while really spending far longer than necessary on the most basic tasks.

Plus, says Guttridge, we're missing out on the mental and physical benefits of time spent focused on

ourselves. "People eat at the desk and get food on the computer—it's disgusting. They should go for a walk, to the coffee shop, just get away," he says. "Even Victorian factories had some kind of rest breaks."

It's not as though we need to work so hard. As Alex Soojung-Kim Pan, author of REST: Why You Get More

Done When You Work Less, writes in Nautilus, luminaries including Charles Dickens, Gabriel García Márquez, and Charles Darwin had quite relaxed schedules, working for five hours a day or less.

The truth is, work expands to fill the time it's given and, for most of us, we could spend considerably fewer

hours at the office and still get the same amount done. Sometimes even the activities that are meant to be a treat—watching a movie, or going for a run—can be weighed down by a sense of responsibility.

Guttridge says he's heard of CEOs who watch movies on fast forward, so that they can get the gist quickly. And perhaps they do, but they certainly won't experience any of the pleasure that comes from immersing yourself in a cinematic world.

"Wasting time is about recharging your battery and de-cluttering," he says. Taking time to be totally, gloriously, proudly unproductive will ultimately make you better at your job, says Guttridge. But it's also fulfilling in and of itself.

Even the much-maligned TV binge-watch can be a transporting experience—if you relax and enjoy it. One study found that watching TV is considerably less enjoyable for those who then berate themselves as "couch potatoes."

At the end of the day, all of us have the urge to while away time flicking through a magazine, walking around the block, or simply doing nothing. We should embrace these moments, and see them as what they are: time well spent.

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# The Multibillion-Dollar U.S. Spy Agency You Haven't Heard of...

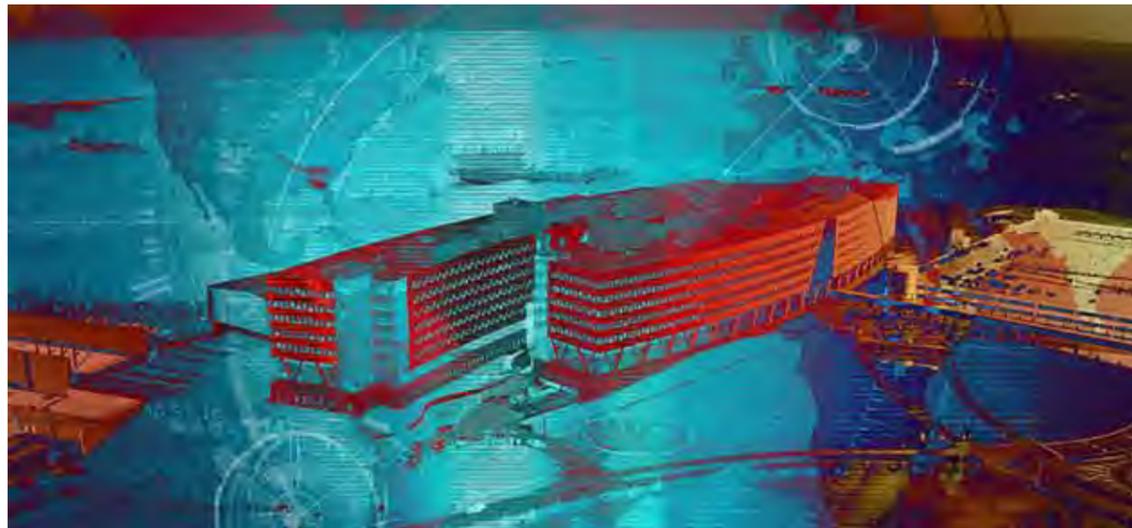
*Eye in the sky that could spy on citizens*

By James Bamford

On a heavily protected military base some 15 miles south of Washington, D.C., sits the massive headquarters of a spy agency few know exists. The National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency (NSA) remains by far the most shadowy member of the Big Five spy agencies, which include the CIA and the National Security Agency.

Despite its lack of name recognition, the NSA's headquarters is the third-largest building in the Washington metropolitan area, bigger than the CIA headquarters and the U.S. Capitol. Completed in 2011 at a cost of \$1.4 billion, the main building measures four football fields long and covers as much ground as two aircraft carriers. In 2016, the agency purchased 99 acres in St. Louis to construct additional buildings at a cost of \$1.75 billion to accommodate the growing workforce, with 3,000 employees already in the city.

The NSA is to pictures what the NSA is to voices. Its principal function is to analyze the billions of images and miles of video captured by drones in the Middle East and spy satellites circling the globe. But because it has largely kept its ultra-high-resolution cameras pointed away from the United States, according to a variety of studies, the agency has never been involved in domestic spy scandals like its two far more famous siblings, the CIA and the NSA. However, there is reason to believe that this will change



under President Donald Trump.

Throughout the long election campaign and into his first months as president, Trump has pushed hard for weakening restraints on the intelligence agencies, spending more money for defense, and getting tough on law and order. Given the new president's overwhelming focus on domestic security, it is reasonable to expect that Trump will use every tool available to maintain it, including overhead vigilance.

In March 2016, the Pentagon released the results of an investigation initiated by the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General to examine military spy drones in the United States. The report, marked 'For Official Use Only' and partially redacted, revealed that the Pentagon

used unarmed surveillance drones over American soil on fewer than 20 occasions between 2006 and 2015. (Although the report doesn't identify the nature of the missions, another Pentagon document lists 11 domestic drone operations that principally involved natural disasters, search and rescue, and National Guard training.)

The investigation also quoted from an Air Force law review article pointing out the growing concern that technology designed to spy on enemies abroad may soon be turned around to spy on citizens at home. "As the nation winds down these wars ... assets become available to support other combatant command (COCOM) or U.S. agencies, the appetite to use them in the domestic environment to collect airborne

imagery continues to grow."

Although the report stated that all missions were conducted within full compliance of the law, it pointedly noted that as of 2015 there were no standardized federal statutes that "specifically address the employment of the capability provided by a DoD UAS (unmanned aircraft system) if requested by domestic civil authorities." Instead, there is a Pentagon policy governing reconnaissance drones that requires the secretary of defense to approve all such domestic operations.

Under these regulations, drones "may not conduct surveillance on U.S. persons" unless permitted by law and approved by the secretary. The policy also bans armed drones over the United States for anything other than

military training and weapons testing. However, in 2016, unbeknown to many city officials, police in Baltimore began conducting persistent aerial surveillance using a system developed for military use in Iraq.

Few civilians have any idea how advanced these military eye-in-the-sky drones have become. Among them is ARGUS-IS, the world's highest-resolution camera with 1.8 billion pixels. Invisible from the ground at nearly four miles in the air, it uses a technology known as 'persistent stare' — the equivalent of 100 Predator drones peering down at a medium-size city at once — to track everything that moves.

With the capability to watch an area of 10 or even 15 square miles at a time, it would take just two drones hovering over Manhattan to continuously observe and follow all outdoor human activity, night and day. It can zoom in on an object as small as a stick of butter on a plate and store up to 1 million terabytes of data a day. That capacity would allow analysts to look back in time over days, weeks, or months. Technology is in the works to enable drones to remain aloft for years at a time.

Still, unlike domestic electronic surveillance by the NSA, which has been closely scrutinized and subjected to legislation designed to protect civil liberties, domestic overhead spying has escaped the attention of both Congress and the public. The Trump administration may take advantage of that void.

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# Toward a Global Treaty on Plastic Waste



**Nils Simon and Lili Fuhr**

Nils Simon is a political scientist and Senior Project Manager at adelphi research. Lili Fuhr heads the Ecology and Sustainable Development Department at the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

If there are any geologists in millions of years, they will easily be able to pinpoint the start of the so-called Anthropocene – the geological age during which humans became the dominant influence on our planet's environment. Wherever they look, they will find clear evidence of its onset, in the form of plastic waste.

Plastic is a key material in the world economy, found in cars, mobile phones, toys, clothes, packaging, medical devices, and much more. Worldwide, 322 million metric tons of plastic were produced in 2015. And the figure keeps growing; by 2050, it could be four times higher.

But plastic already is creating massive global environmental, economic, and social problems. Despite requiring resources to produce, plastic is so cheap that it often is used for disposable – often single-use – products. As a result, a huge amount of it ends up polluting the earth.

Plastic clogs cities' sewer systems and increases the risk of flooding. Larger pieces can fill with rainwater, providing a breeding ground for disease-spreading mosquitos. Up to 13 million tons of plastic waste end up in the ocean each year; by 2050, there could be more plastic in there than fish. The plastic that washes up on shores costs the tourism industry hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

Moreover, all that plastic poses a serious threat to wildlife. Beyond the dead or dying seals, penguins, and turtles that had the bad fortune of becoming entangled in plastic rings or nets, biologists are finding dead whales and birds with stomachs stuffed with plastic debris.

Plastic products may not be all that good for humans, either. While the plastics used, say, to package our foods are usually nontoxic, most plastics are laden with chemicals, from softeners (which can act as endocrine disruptors) to flame retardants (which can be carcinogenic or toxic in higher concentrations). These chemicals can make it through the ocean and its food chain – and onto our plates.

Addressing the problem will not be easy; no single country or company, however determined, can do so on its own. Many actors – including the biggest plastic producers and polluters,



zero-waste initiatives, research labs, and waste-picker cooperatives – will have to tackle the problem head-on.

The first step is to create a high-level forum to facilitate discussion among such stakeholders, with the goal of developing a cooperative strategy for reducing plastic pollution. Such a strategy should go beyond voluntary action plans and partnerships to focus on developing a legally binding international agreement, underpinned by a commitment from all governments to eliminate plastic pollution. Negotiations on such a treaty could be launched this year, at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in December.

Scientists have already advanced concrete proposals for a plastic-pollution treaty. One of the authors of this article proposed a convention modeled after the Paris climate agreement: a binding overarching goal combined with voluntary national action plans and flexible measures to achieve them. A research team from the University of Wollongong in Australia, taking inspiration from the Montreal Protocol, the treaty that safeguards the ozone layer, has suggested caps and bans on new plastic production. Some might ask whether we should embark on yet another journey down the long, winding, and tiresome road of global treaty negotiations. Can't we engineer our way out of our plastic problem?

The short answer is, probably not. Biodegradable plastics, for example, make sense only if they decompose quickly enough to avoid harming wildlife. Even promising discoveries like bacteria or moths that can dissolve or digest plastics can provide only auxiliary support.

The only way truly to address the problem is to slash our plastic waste. Technology might

“*But plastic already is creating massive global environmental, economic, and social problems.*”

be able to help, offering more options for substitution and recycling; but, as the many zero-waste communities and cities around the world have shown, it is not necessary.

For example, Capannori, a town of 46,700 inhabitants near Lucca in Tuscany, signed a zero-waste strategy in 2007. A decade later, it has reduced its waste by 40%. With 82%

of municipal waste now separated at source, just 18% of residual waste ends up in landfills. Such experiences should inform and guide the national action plans that would form part of the treaty on plastics. The European Commission's "circular economy package" may provide another example worth emulating. Though it has not yet been implemented, its waste targets have the potential to save the European Union 190 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year. That is the equivalent of annual emissions in the Netherlands.

Of course, the transition to zero waste will require some investment. Any international treaty on plastic must therefore include a funding mechanism, and the "polluter pays" principle is the right place to start. The global plastic industry, with annual revenues of about \$750 billion, surely could find a few hundred million dollars to help clean up the mess it created. A comprehensive, binding, and forward-looking global plastics treaty will not be easy to achieve. It will take time and cost money, and it will inevitably include loopholes and have shortcomings. It certainly will not solve the plastic pollution problem on its own. But it is a prerequisite for success.

Plastic pollution is a defining problem of the Anthropocene. It is, after all, a global scourge that is entirely of our making – and entirely within our power to solve as well.

## India plans to install 75 million toilets by 2019, with a little help from Bill Gates

October 2, 2019 is an important date for India's government. Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth, it marks the proposed finish line for "Clean India," the country's ambitious plan to install 75 million toilets around the country.

Right now, 600,000 of the world's 1.7 million who die annually from unsafe water and sanitation (due primarily to open, unclean toilets) live in India. As billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates recently wrote on his blog, those kinds of conditions make a plan like Clean India worthy of both praise and financial support. Over the past several years, The Gates Foundation has donated millions in aid and grant money to both federal governments and private companies. Some of those donations were

used to create high-tech toilets for use in low-income countries. In 2012, the Gates Foundation issued a challenge to design a revolutionary toilet that was safe, sustainable, and affordable. The four winning designs were awarded grants totaling \$3.4 million, with the expectation that they could help transform underserved areas.

The largest grant, for \$1.3 million, went to RTI for its Integrated Waste Treatment System. The toilets disinfect liquid waste, dry out and burn solid waste, and turn that waste into electricity that further powers the toilet. Each unit costs roughly \$2,500 and can accommodate 50 people per day. Another design is the eToilet, India's first automatic, unmanned, electronic public toilet. Lights switch on only during use, in order to save



energy. Meanwhile, voice commands help people use the toilet correctly. Each use costs only a few cents. Gates says that the presence of toilets isn't enough to improve sanitation. People still need to use those toilets. "Clean India has ingenious

ways of tackling that problem," Gates wrote. In certain places, groups of children will team up to alert people defecating out in the open that public toilets are the smarter and safer option. Billboards remind people the toilets exist. Even the country's money features the Clean India logo.

More than 30% of India's villages have been declared free of open defecation, Gates wrote. Last year, the rate was only 8%. The program is one of Gates' favorites, he says, because it shows a government can make gigantic leaps in public health so long as it focuses its attention on the problem, measures it, and uses the feedback to tweak the system. Gandhi's 150th birthday is two and a half years away, and India seems fully set on meeting its goal.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT



# Brexit or Breakup?



**Carl Bildt**  
Former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.



Even after abandoning its empire, the United Kingdom hesitated for decades to join Europe. But it eventually did, and in the past half-century it became a proponent of European Union enlargement, and a champion of key EU policies such as the single market.

But soon it will be one year since the UK decided, by a slim majority, to leave all of that behind. In the past 11 months, we have been told repeatedly that "Brexit means Brexit" – a phrase that leaves one none the wiser as to what Brexit actually means. But now that the UK has invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the fog has started to lift. The UK has clarified some of its objectives for leaving the bloc, and we can begin to get a sense of how the process will play out over the next few years.

For starters, we know that the divorce will not be easy. Rather than pursuing a Norway- or Turkey-style arrangement, in which the UK would maintain some access to the single market or customs union, British Prime Minister Theresa May has opted for a "hard Brexit." She has made it clear that controlling immigration and leaving the European Court of Justice's jurisdiction are her primary objectives. And with her Conservative Party poised to win a solid majority in the general election on June 8, the UK will almost certainly stay this course.

In its negotiations with the EU, May's government will want to discuss a new UK-EU partnership alongside the terms of the divorce. But, so far, the European Council has furnished its chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, with a mandate only for the divorce stage of the process. It will not expand that mandate to include talks on a future UK-EU partnership until the first stage nears completion.

Moreover, the remaining 27 EU member states' finance ministries are demanding that the UK settle its financial obligations to the bloc, lest they get saddled with the UK's bill. There will be haggling over what the UK owes; but, as a matter of principle, the EU can hardly budge much on this issue.

Thus, one can be virtually certain that the UK will formally leave the EU by the end of March 2019, and that it will not have a final agreement on a new partnership in hand. Barring a separate agreement on some kind of transitional arrangement, the UK could be heading for a brutal exit: new tariffs, severed institutional relationships, and diplomatic tensions.

On the other hand, with such an agreement, the UK could leave with a reasonable divorce settlement that includes guiding principles for a new UK-EU partnership, to be discussed in another round of negotiations. Assuming good will on both sides, such negotiations could possibly be concluded by 2022. Any new partnership that emerges will most likely resemble the arrangement between Ukraine and the EU: something like the Deep

and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, along with additional agreements covering complicated sectors such as transportation and agriculture. But while the DCFTA was a boon to Ukraine's economy, a similar deal for the UK would represent a huge step backwards, not least because it would require a new border regime that would disrupt the integrated value chains on which many UK firms depend.

The UK will also have to establish a number of new agencies for regulatory issues that are currently being overseen by the EU, such as nuclear safety, pharmaceutical testing, aviation, and food standards. And, given that one of the UK's top priorities will be to maintain its economic relationship with the EU – no other relationship is as important – whatever new agencies it creates will have to uphold the standards that the EU will demand. Beyond that, the UK will also have to pursue individual arrangements with all of the non-EU countries that are a party to any of the Union's 48 trade agreements with the outside world.

There was once much talk about a post-Brexit free-trade deal between the United States and Britain. But enthusiasm has waned, and one now hears talk of the UK joining some kind of US-EU trade deal at a later date.

Another priority on the negotiating agenda will be the nearly five million EU citizens who have suddenly found themselves on the wrong side of the new divide, and whose immediate rights and future prospects will need to be addressed. Most of these people are in the UK, and most of them make important contributions to the UK's economy. For example, Barclays Bank alone employs 3,000 citizens from other EU countries.

The devil will be in the details. The May government insists that it wants to control immigration, but no one really wants to see new visa barriers in Europe. Either way, many companies will have to start making adjustments, especially in the automobile and aerospace industries, which are highly integrated across borders. In fact, Lloyds of London is already establishing operations within

the EU; and Goldman Sachs has announced that it is relocating some jobs away from London.

I sincerely hope that a brutal exit in the spring of 2019 can be avoided, and that the "deep and special partnership" that the UK talks about will materialize by, say, the spring of 2021. But, after some rather acrimonious conversations in recent weeks, one cannot be confident that either outcome will come to pass.

As for the remaining EU member states, we

should not lose site of the fact that we need one another. In a couple of decades, we will constitute no more than 4% of the global population. The EU – with a renewed Franco-German axis at its core – will have to deal with its many other challenges, and chart its own future.

The same goes for the UK, which must decide if it still wants to be a part of Europe, albeit outside of the EU; or whether Brexit actually means Breakup.



“

*The devil will be in the details. The May government insists that it wants to control immigration, but no one really wants to see new visa barriers in Europe.*

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## Taking beans to a whole new level

Despite many a food writer's best efforts, dried beans are a tough sell for the home cook. This is because the cooking process could not be simpler: Soak beans overnight in plenty of water. Drain, then cover in a pot with fresh water. Simmer until tender, seasoning with salt somewhere along the way. And then: voila!—a delicious, nourishing pot of beans.

And since a mediocre pot is surprisingly easy to make when a can is involved, a majority of home cooks opt for the easy way out. But there are ways to ensure that every pot comes out perfectly. Listed below are three of them.

### Pinterest

**Avoid undercooking beans:** This is a very important step. There cannot be even a hint of grainy texture in your finished beans, not only because their tender, creamy splendor is compromised, but because your body will punish you while struggling to digest them. Sometimes they take all day to cook, sometimes just an hour. Play by the beans' rules and ignore the clock. As you simmer, check thoroughly for doneness. A popular rule is to taste five beans before taking the pot off the heat, ensuring that they are all nice and tender.



**Salt and fat are key:** Beans are plenty virtuous. Salt and fat soften that a little. Other aromatics—herbs and bay leaves, or stock essentials like carrot, onion, celery, parsley stems, and garlic—can be added to the cooking liquid as well, but are not mandatory. Just remember to fish them out at the end. At minimum, pour in a generous few glugs of olive oil at the beginning of cooking, which flavors the beans and enriches the bean broth, and then, towards the end of the cooking time, add salt, tasting the broth until it is well seasoned.

**What you do with the beans matters:** A simple pot of beans is just, well, a simple pot of beans. You might use it as a side dish, or in salads, or bowls. But this is the beginning of what those beans can do. They can be a pot of soup, a batch of chili, or the base of runny fried eggs.



### Make that pot of beans, a day or two in advance if you like:

Then, in a Dutch oven, give a mess of sliced onions, cubed cabbage, garlic, and canned whole tomatoes a quick fry in plenty of olive oil (This specific assortment could go in lots of different directions, like swapping fennel for onions, sturdy chicories for cabbage, adding a squirt of harissa to



the pan, playing around with spices and dried herbs). Then tip the beans and their broth into the Dutch oven, bring it all to a boil, and transfer the whole thing—covered—into the oven for an hour and a half.

The baked beans that emerge are tender, rich, and sweet because of the onions and cabbage that melt into the creamy broth. They can be ladled into bowls and drizzled with some olive oil on the day you make them.

### Here are a few more ways you can opt to turn those beans into meals.

Serve the baked beans as you would your favorite chili, with an assortment of toppings (shredded cheese or crumbled feta, minced jalapeno, sour cream or plain yogurt), with steamed rice on the side.

Spoon the hot beans over garlic-rubbed slabs of toasts, and put a poached or fried egg on top. Drizzle with olive oil.

Or, in that same vein, scrape the beans into a smaller gratin dish, crack eggs into little divots in the beans, and bake them once more. This way, you will have eggs baked in beans, which goes very nicely with a good loaf of bread.

Serve the beans over piles of soft polenta or any other grain you like, such as farro or barley, with or without a simple green salad on the side.

Eat the beans with charred tortillas and all your favorite taco fillings: slabs of avocado and piles of pickled onions, crumbled queso, and your favorite salsa or hot sauce.



# High level Brazilian delegation visits Kuwait

**B**razil's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Blairo Maggi, led a business and government delegation on a visit to Kuwait as part of a tour of four Arab countries to enhance ties in trade, investments and cooperation with these countries.

During his visit the minister addressed a meeting of representatives from the Kuwaiti business sector at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) wherein he encouraged the creation of fresh prospects for economic cooperation between the two countries through partnerships between Kuwaiti investors and



companies, with their Brazilian counterparts.

He stressed the large industrial potential of his country in the fields of food supply, livestock, fish wealth, infrastructure and logistics,

and added that the advantages of investing in Brazil included swift and smooth flow of capital, full exemption on direct investments, and a strong capital market.

For his part, KCCI Deputy Chairman Abdulwahab AlWazzan lauded the deep-rooted ties between Kuwait and the South American country. He added that Brazil has the world's 8th largest economy, and called for more effort to promote bilateral economic cooperation. In a similar vein, Al-Wazzan said that Brazil is Kuwait's 19th largest trade partner, and as a result there was a need to work harder in promoting bilateral ties, especially economic ones.

He affirmed that the KCCI is ready to promote the investment opportunities available in Brazil among Kuwaiti businessmen and firms. Brazilian ambassador to Kuwait Norton Rapesta highlighted the role of the private sector in enhancing economic and trade ties between the two countries, which next year will



celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations.

Speaking to the media on conclusion of his visit Minister Blairo Maggi expressed optimism that a new chapter in trade relations would be established. Ambassador Norton disclosed that this was the first high-level visit in almost 12 years. Brazil was keen to further enhance relations

with Kuwait and the GCC states in all spheres of activity.

Brazil plays a major role as a global supplier of agricultural products and is among the leading exporters of sugar, coffee, orange juice, soya bean, beef, chicken meat, corn and wood pulp. Bilateral trade between Kuwait and Brazil is currently around \$500 million.



## BBF holds monthly meeting



**T**he British Business Forum (BBF) held its monthly meeting on 14 May at the British embassy premises. Arthur Berber, BBF general secretary, welcomed the gathering and introduced the speakers for the evening, who were executives from the Crown Agents, an international development company.

Crown Agents are specialists in governmental procurement and operate in almost 100 countries through partnerships with governments, aid agencies, NGOs and companies. They help make lasting changes to the systems and organizations to combat fundamental challenges to the local prosperity. They are also

one of the world's leading experts in public procurement and supply-chain management, with permanent offices in

22 countries and a presence in another 18.

A lively question answer session was followed by dinner.



## ICSK Amman celebrates Colors' Day

**C**olours' Day was celebrated in Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Amman on Thursday, 4 May. Children of Pre-Primary classes came dressed up in rainbow colors and demonstrated the significance of the different colors with models and presented how the colors appear in nature. The presentation of the action song 'Deep Deep Deep' and dance 'Lets star jump' added charm to the assembly.

This day was great fun for the children and helped them identify and differentiate between various colors as well as encouraged them to talk and think about how colors enhance and influence their lives. The classrooms were beautifully decorated with specific colors by the teachers.



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# Achieving the Amir's 2030 vision of diversifying Kuwait's energy mix



**Bedanga Bordoloi**

Kuwait Manager, EY's Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) practice. The views expressed here is of the author and does not reflect that of any organizations.

Kuwait is reliant on the burning of fossil fuels for its energy and water production. According to Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW), electricity consumption is growing at almost 8 percent a year, which means that generating capacity has to be doubled every decade. By 2030, approximately 900,000 barrels of oil per day will be used to cover the demand for electricity and water.

This will be one-third of Kuwait's oil production. Such demand will pose significant challenge to the energy sector's capacity in terms of fuel and infrastructure. In order to diversify its energy mix, Kuwait has set



“

The target though might appear ambitious at first sight for a country that has a meager 12 MW of renewable energy generation capacity installed by the end of 2016.

”

its renewable energy goal to increase share of renewable energy generation to 15 percent by 2030, which will be roughly equivalent to 4.5 GW of power production.

Electricity produced from renewables will ensure Kuwait's energy security in the future, as less oil and gas has to be consumed domestically thus freeing up more oil for exports to increase the country's revenues. Renewable energy will also positively contribute to the economy through job creation, attracting investment, and private sector growth. Renewable energy technologies will allow Kuwait to tackle the twin

issues of air pollution and carbon emissions.

The target though might appear ambitious at first sight for a country that has a meager 12 MW of renewable energy generation capacity installed by the end of 2016; it is achievable as Kuwait is endowed with abundant renewable resources. Kuwait has 1900 kWh/sq. m/year of solar potential and 1605 hours /year of wind potential.

Kuwait should in-principle have no trouble reaching and exceeding its target, if the political will exists and the renewable energy program is rigorously implemented. More progress is required in market infrastructure, policies and building technical and commercial skills.

Some of the groundwork to turn the renewable energy vision into reality has already progressed. Together with relevant stakeholders, Kuwait's oil industry has initiated a number of large-scale renewable energy

projects and some in gasoline stations, power plants, green buildings etc. With numerous projects in the pipeline, the focus now should be on implementing projects in a timely manner, building necessary local capabilities and on developing new projects to be able to reach the target. In addition, setting a vision reflects the government commitment towards renewable energy, while the next logical step would be to develop a comprehensive renewable energy framework with supporting policies and regulations to attract more investments. Demonstrating success in Kuwait will open up additional opportunities for its finance sector and help Kuwait attain an international role in the renewable space and more importantly in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Realizing the opportunity will require close collaboration between policy makers, research institutes, oil sector and financial institutions.

Better policy definition and establishing a road map for a circular economy will help development of renewables, further de-risk projects, and support the development of new and innovative structures. In the short and medium term, Kuwait will need to follow up with concrete steps towards implementation of the Amir's vision to maintain its leadership in the energy sector and establish its credibility in the renewable energy space.

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## BEC launches sixth branch in Mahboula



**B**ahrain Exchange Company W.L.L. (BEC), one of Kuwait's leading worldwide money transfer and foreign exchange companies, has announced on 14 May the opening of its 41st retail outlet in Mahboula.

Situated behind Alia Hospital, the new branch is BEC's sixth in the most populated residential area in Kuwait. Open from Saturday to Friday, 9am - 9pm, the branch will cater to the many locals and expatriates in the area, who require money transfer and currency exchange services. Customers can expect to receive BEC's highly competitive rates on currency exchange and BEC's full suite of money transfer services, including Cash Pick-up and Credit to Account through EzRemit and MoneyGram.

To celebrate the opening and to welcome new customers to the branch, BEC gave away 500 gifts to the first 500 customers who undertook a money transfer or currency exchange transaction. Commenting on the

new branch, Mathews Varughese, General Manager of BEC said, "At BEC we aim to be where our customers need us, by offering conveniently situated branches to make their important money transfers back home to family and loved ones. Mahboula branch will serve as an accessible location for the many expats residing in this most populated area and will save our customers time and money travelling to further away BEC locations."

BEC currently has 41 branches conveniently located across Kuwait and specialises in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 46,000 locations in 30 countries through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram an international remittance company. BEC also has its own online money transfer service allowing customer to send money fast, safe and securely from the comfort off their own home or office.



## College of Aviation Technology leading Kuwait's education drive

Continued from Page 1

and maintenance processes, to European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approved courses required to become a licenced maintenance mechanic, technician and engineer.

Built over a 55,000 sqm campus,

40 years experience having worked in Kuwait Airways and Kuwait Air Force," Al Sharifi points out proudly adding that this combination of experience and knowledge will work the best to the students benefit.

The College of Aviation Technology (CAT) in Kuwait is affiliated with Air



CAT has hangars, different workshops, classes all approved by EASA and giving the 250 enrolled students an excellent learning platform and education facilities of the highest standard.

"Our trainers are some of the most experienced in the industry with over

Service Training, Perth, Scotland and is one of a kind in the Gulf Region & Middle East. It is also accredited by Kuwaiti Private Universities Council and is a part of Al-Hayat College Company for Educational Services KSC that has other two activities under it. One of which is Al-Hayat



College for National Training that is accredited by PAAET and registered at Public Authority for Education & Training (PAAET) and registered under the Civil Service Council; and the other is Consultancy Services.

The college has put in place state-of-the-art facilities for students enabling on hand experience, as well as imparting knowledge from its most experienced trainers. The college also offers short courses for mechanics and technicians thereby filling a long felt requirement for

locally trained personnel. The unique aviation education offered will help Kuwait take a leadership role in the Gulf region in aviation education and technology, Eng Al Sharifi disclosed, adding that the philosophy that students learn best by doing is closely implemented at CAT.

AlSharifi added that the rigorous academic and technical training by the faculty helps in building discipline and confidence of the students, in addition to onsite trainings that are undertaken by the students.

The first batch is expected to graduate in 2019 and the college is equipped to accept up to 1,000 applicants per semester. Students enrolled include Kuwaitis, Arabs, Indians and there are even 13 girls in the first batch, Al Sharifi disclosed, adding that student interest is very high. "We plan to introduce new courses such as Air Traffic Controller and an initial pilot training course where the practical courses will be done in UAE with a college in Dubai," Al Sharifi added.

## Reduce paperwork and improve performance

Continued from Page 1

Describing claims that Kuwaiti parents are opting for private foreign schools when searching for developed education for their children as "untrue", the undersecretary said, "There are high and low-quality private schools and the same applies to public school." Al-Athari also affirmed that teaching methods in both schools are identical. He said that the Ministry of Education does not rely on the tautological methods, but rather on skills-focused ones. Public schools methods focus on teaching students thinking, interaction, teamwork and technological skills, he clarified.

However, Dr. Fatma Al-Hashem, who sends her children to an American school in Kuwait, said she has chosen an American curriculum because it focuses on harnessing different skills and teaching children critical thinking and innovation.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Haitham Al-Athari

"Foreign schools also organize many activities and events and are not confined to studying. Such activities are not available in public schools due to the high-density of students in classrooms," she said, adding that foreign schools also help students master the English language.

She believes that the private



Dr. Siham Al-Qabandi.

educational institutions have succeeded in making the school an attractive place for students by giving greater attention to the essence of the educational process, changing traditional teaching methods, heeding students' needs and better equipping them with the skills they need for the future. Another Kuwaiti



Dr. Siham Al-Qabandi.

parent, who expressed her deep conviction that the best investment is in the children's education, said, "I noticed since the beginning that private education focuses on developing student's personality through teaching them self-reliance, interaction and teamwork, as well as on the need to abide by laws and

regulations. Moreover, teaching methods applied in foreign schools help discover students talents."

Ahmad Saleh, a father of a school-going child also echoed a similar view. "I have chosen foreign schools because of their discipline and advanced educational systems that do not focus on memorization and dictation, but on skills," said Saleh.

Saleh explained that educational methods in the private sector depend on teamwork, mind activity and searching for information in different sources. He stressed that development of curricula and educational system in public education should be a top priority for the state.

He said foreign education was "an indispensable necessity" to catch up with scientific development. Public education does not "cope with the spirit of the time and therefore cannot be base for a true scientific renaissance," he said.

Visit  
**5**

# OFF-BEAT & UNIQUE

*travel destinations in 2017*

*Follow the road less taken and add these unique places to your travel bucketlist*



**1** Kenya

**K**enya is not just for safaris and animal viewings. From insane parties and luxurious hotels to adventurous and thrilling activities including bungee jumping, river

rafting and more, this country is as diverse as it gets. Most nationalities can get an e-visa (two -three working days) or Visa on Arrival (Indians and some other nationalities).



**2** North Korea

**I**t is not as difficult to visit as you might think, unless you work in media. The stipulations include going through government approved tour operators who will arrange for North Korean guides to assist you all the way - no independent travel is allowed. Photography and local interaction might be limited, but insights into this secretive country would be an amazing and unique experience.



**4** Iceland

**W**hile popular with backpackers in Europe or with tourists who chase the beautiful Northern Lights, Iceland isn't really 'top of mind' for anyone travelling from the UAE. To explore the country at its best, choose a tour package that will allow you to enjoy Iceland's best attractions which include the northern lights, Blue Lagoon (a geo-thermal spa in a lava field), erupting hot springs in Geysir, Gullfoss Waterfall and much more.



**3** Rann of Kutch, India

**W**hile very well known to Indians living in the country, this destination is under-rated as an international tourist destination. One of the largest salt deserts in the world, the Great Rann of Kutch in

Gujarat is a white desert and the best time to go would be during the three-month long Rann Utsav. Romantic getaways, adventure trips or culture discovery, you can do it all here.



**5** Gansbaai, South Africa

**F**or the one of the most thrilling experiences ever, head down to Gaansbai known for their dense populations of great white sharks and whales. Dive down in a cage with sharks surrounding you and very possibly, snapping at

you. The whale watching stations still stand in this seaside town though whales in South Africa are now protected by law against any kind of hunting. This is where you will also find the southern-most indigenous forests of South Africa.

# Taiwan

**Majestic mountains, fantastic hiking trails and exuberant festivals**

With legacies as varied as its adventure landscape and spirited traditions thriving alongside the cream of Asian sophistication, Taiwan is a continent on one green island.

**Taipei:** Taiwan's capital city is home to some of the country's most impressive cultural treasures, both modern and historical. Chief among them is the National Palace Museum, which houses the most extraordinary collection of Chinese art anywhere in the world. Another highlight is the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall. Commemorating the former president of the Republic of China, the hall features an exhibit of



his cars as well as a mock-up of his former office, and a ceremonial guard change takes place on the hour. Outside, palatial buildings flank a large square in the style of Beijing's Forbidden City. To experience the pulse of the city as well as its world-class foodie culture, head to the Shilin night market, Taiwan's largest.

**Taitung:** Less developed than Taipei, the atmosphere of Taitung is pleasant and laid back. Situated on Taiwan's east coast where the Eurasian and Philippine Sea tectonic plates meet, it is home to an impressive geological landscape.

## Festivals



**Taiwan Lantern Festival:** The Lantern Festival arrives on the first full moon of the Chinese calendar and marks the last day of traditional Chinese New Year celebrations. The lanterns are meant to ward off evil spirits and bring families closer together to watch as they flood the streets. The lanterns play their own theme music and tower over 10 meters tall, with many featuring ornate designs that correspond with the signs of the zodiac. Taiwan began recognizing this Chinese festival in 1990 as an effort to spread the traditional folklore to the masses. One of the most important events that takes place on this evening is the Fengpao ceremony, where thousands of firecrackers are burned and hung in the Wumiao Temple. The lantern event and the fire ceremony together are known as 'Fireworks in the south, sky lanterns in the north' and are meant to call in wishes for the New Year.



Head to Siaooyeliou, a veritable sculpture park of rock formations molded by sea erosion, or cross Taitung's famous eight-arched bridge, built to resemble a dragon, to reach Sansiantai Island, a



nature reserve offering exceptional views of sunrise and sunset. And step back in time with a visit to the Caves of the Eight Immortals, the discovery site of Taiwan's oldest prehistoric civilization.

**Taroko Gorge:** This 18km marble-walled gorge has been a popular walking and hiking destination since the 1930s. It began as coral deposits deep under the sea. Under pressure from geological forces, the coral was transformed into limestone and then marble, schists and gneiss. Five million years ago, as Taiwan was lifted from the sea by the collision



of the Philippine and Eurasian plates, the gorge began to be formed. In essence, the upward thrust of hard rock, combined with the erosion of the soft layers from water and landslides, left towering canyon walls that are so narrow in places that you could play catch with someone on the other side.

**Blue Tears:** Every year from late spring to the end of summer, algae called dinoflagellates



teem in the waters along the coast of the Matsu archipelago, and when disturbed by waves or paddles, they emit a surreal blue glow. 'Blue Tears', as they are called, have been spotted along all of Matsu's islets, including Dongyin, Nangan and Beigan. Usually the darker the sky, the calmer the sea, and the hotter the weather, the better your chances of spotting them. June to August are the best months to see 'Blue Tears', though you can theoretically spot them any time between April and September. During 'Blue Tears' season, Beihai Tunnel also runs night-time tours for those who wish to see the phenomenon in the setting of a former military



tunnel.

**Alishan Forest Recreation Area:** Visiting Alishan may almost feel like a cliché, but do not lose heart - there may be equally beautiful and less-visited places in Taiwan, but Alishan, with its giant cedar and soaring pines reminiscent of sculptures or temples, not to mention the uncanny way in which clouds, wind and sun



interact with it, can still take your breath away. **Bao'an Temple:** Recipient of a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for both its restoration and its revival of temple rites and festivities, the Bao'an Temple is a must-visit when in Taipei. This exquisite structure is loaded with prime examples of the traditional decorative arts, and the yearly folk arts festival is a showcase of traditional performance arts. The temple was founded in 1760 by immigrants from Quanzhou, Fujian province, and its modern size and design

began to take shape in 1805. The main resident God is Baosheng Dadi (Saint Wu), a historical figure revered for his medical skills. The rear shrine is dedicated to Shengnong, the God of agriculture.



**National Palace Museum:** Home to the world's largest and arguably finest collection of Chinese art, this vast collection covers treasures in painting, calligraphy, statuary, bronzes, lacquerware, ceramics, jade and religious objects. Some of the most popular items, such as the famous jade cabbage, are always on display. The historical range at this museum is truly outstanding. Even within a single category, such as ceramics, pieces range over multiple dynasties, and even back to Neolithic times.

**Minquan Old Street:** Sansia's name (Three Gorges) reflects the fact that it sits at the confluence of three rivers. The town prospered as an important transport hub for charcoal, camphor and indigo dye, as is evident in this old block of red-brick merchant houses and residences dating from the end of the Qing dynasty to the early years of the Japanese colonial era.

The street, tastefully restored, looks much as it did 100 years ago. On weekends there is a lively market atmosphere as the little shops operating from behind dark-wood doors sell specialty snacks, tea, vintage toys and souvenirs, and run indigo tie-dye workshops. Street performers also work the area, making this a fun venue to take in after the spiritual and aesthetic treasures of Tzushr Temple.



# Philippines TESDA Chief visits Kuwait, holds meeting with schools

**Ricky Laxa**  
Staff Writer

**T**echnical Education and Skills Development Academy (TESDA) Secretary Atty. Guiling Mamondiong visited Kuwait Friday and held meetings and site visits to Philippine schools in Kuwait in view of TESDA's proposal to hold courses within the premises for the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Kuwait.

In his brief meeting with the heads of the Philippine schools, Mamondiong discussed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's mandate to establish collaborations with educational facilities within the Middle East for OFWs to avail the 1,500 courses available under the certification of TESDA.

"Let us bring to our OFWs these courses so they can enrich their skills and better qualify them for the jobs they want to apply.

TESDA would also like to ensure that we focus on courses most needed in the



localities," stated Mamondiong.

Furthermore Mamondiong explained that TESDA can tap on local qualified trainers to handle the classes which would be supervised by TESDA representative.

He also said that attention would be given to courses that OFWs needs for their current jobs or should they intend to change profession or work in Kuwait. Classes he stressed are free of charge and that each course will be paid for by TESDA for each OFW who would like to avail the courses. "TESDA

understands that facilities are not free, so we offer to pay for the facilities via registration for each OFW.

Mamondiong was on brief tour around the Middle East to carry out the President's mandate. He also noted that accreditations are available for those who may want to establish an extension of TESDA facilities in different areas and that courses can be coordinated with the institution.

"I am hopeful that Kuwait will respond positively on this offer for the benefits of

our OFWs who had no opportunity in their areas to avail the courses. We would like to hold meetings and dialogues with local institutions and government sectors which may be able to assist on this project," added Mamondiong.

Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Alejandro Padaen commented that once the agreements have been laid out, OFWs should not miss the opportunity, as not only are the courses free but that it was a chance for OFWs to enrich themselves with additional information and enhance their skills thereby providing them with the added qualifications for better salaries.

The meeting was attended by TESDA Secretary, Philippine Labor Attaché, Welfare Officer Nestor Burayag, TESDA Regional Director Carlos Flores, representatives from ICSEA, Philippine International English School and New Kuwait Philippine International School. Visits to the premises were made immediately after the meeting.



## Venal Thanima 2017 ends with a colorful finale

**T**hanima hosted a three-day residential camp Venal Thanima 2017 for 200 Indian students living in Kuwait at Juli'a from 4 - 6 May. The theme of the camp was 'Back to Books' and focused on creating awareness in students about the importance of reading and books. Campers enjoyed various fun-filled games, activities and interactive sessions. The students hosted numerous activities themselves throughout the three days, which was a novel platform for them to learn and

gain new perspectives.

Aisha Wafia was selected as the 'Icon of the Camp', while Danie John Thomas and Liya Febi (Sub Junior), Asher Bejoy and Arya Anand (Junior), Suhag and Ruth Shibu (Senior) were adjudged as the best campers from each group who stood out in their performance, receiving certificates, trophies and a 3-day free stay with family at Frontline Resorts. Redos Library, Readers Library-A and Power House Evolution were the best groups and received prizes.

## IMWA conducts EDUMEET 2017



**I**ndian Muslim Welfare Association (IMWA) conducted the EDUMEET 2017 at Salmiya Indian Model School on 12 May. EDUMEET is an annual event held by the association where Indian students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their talents. The highlight of the event was an essay writing competition and an inter-school debate competition. Sanjeev Saklani - Attache of Education at the Indian Embassy, also graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He expressed his appreciation for IMWA's efforts to host such events for the benefit of the children from the Indian Community in Kuwait.

Alison Larkin Koushki conducted an interactive presentation with the audience, based on her project REALL, 'Read English Actively for Language and Life Skills'. In her technique, students use the arts - drawing, painting, music, drama, and choreography - to celebrate literature.

This was followed by the debate competition where 12 participating schools, including IMWA's own talented team, debated the topic, 'Have we exchanged our traditional values for a pair of jeans?'

The results of both the essay writing and debate competition were declared immediately after the event and certificates and prizes were distributed to the winners by the chief guest Sanjeev Saklani and IMWA Executive Council members.

### Debate Winners

Winner - Mohammad Mishal  
Indian Community School, Senior Branch  
1st Runner up - Ketan Maheshwari  
Indian Educational School  
2nd Runner up - Ayisha Wafiyath  
Indian Community School, Khaitan Branch

### Debate School Trophy

Indian Community School, Senior Branch -  
Mohammad Mishal & Aneez Mohammed

### Essay Writing Winners

#### GROUP A (Class VII - VIII)

Winner - Zainab Al Ghazali  
Salmiya Indian Model School  
1st Runner up - Ram Prakash  
Salmiya Indian Model School  
IMWA Talent - Faiza Hanif  
Integrated Indian School



#### GROUP B (Class IX - X)

Winner - Anfal Uzma Deenaz  
Indian Community School, Senior Branch  
1st Runner up - Yusra Asad Khan  
Indian Community School, Senior Branch  
IMWA Talent - Ayisha Wafiyath  
Indian Community School, Khaitan Branch

#### GROUP C (Class XI - XII)

Winner - Aqeela Ahmad  
India International School  
1st Runner up - Niranjana Anand  
Indian Education School  
IMWA Talent - Summayya Parveen  
Indian Community School, Senior Branch

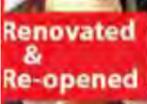
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# Harboring runaway domestics may carry penalties

**M**P Askar Al-Anazi has presented a proposal to add one paragraph to Article 21 of Amiri Decree number 17/1959 on the residence of foreigners. Article one of the bill stipulates adding a paragraph to the above mentioned decree to read as follows: "A person who harbors a runaway expatriate household worker shall bear the expenses for the latter's repatriation without prejudice to the rights of the sponsor."

In the explanatory note of the bill, the lawmaker pointed out that in 1959, Amiri Decree number 17/1959 was promulgated to regulate residency of foreigners; stipulating rules, terms and conditions concerning their stay in

the country. He explained the rising number of household workers escaping from their sponsors to work for others contradicts the decree and it negatively affects sponsors who incur losses particularly since they bear the recruitment and residency costs.

He revealed the bill aims to protect the rights of the sponsors of runaway household workers and for those harboring these workers to bear the repatriation costs without depriving the original sponsors of their rights.

On the other hand, a source quoted Board Chairman of Al-Dura Domestic Workers Recruitment Company Eyad Al-Sumait as saying that the company will take care of



all recruitment procedures and refer maids to sponsors at competitive prices. He added the headquarters

of the company, which will open in September, will be located in Al-Awadhi Tower along Ahmad Al-Jaber

Street, Kuwait City and branches will be opened in cooperative societies to ease procedures for those planning to hire household workers.

He affirmed the company will work hard to reduce the price by half of the current price to be not more than KD 500 to KD 600, depending on the availability of workers and the countries sending domestic helpers to Kuwait.

He said the company is obliged to ensure the safety of recruited domestic workers and that they are free from diseases before coming to Kuwait by requiring them to undergo tests in medical centers accredited by the Ministry of Health in their countries of origin.



## Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrates International Nurses Day



**M**alabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the biggest jewelry retailers in the region, celebrated International Nurses Day in association with Chest Diseases Hospital on 13 May at the Chest Diseases Hospital. International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on every 12 May, coinciding with the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds undertook the initiative to celebrate the International Nurses Day as a token of appreciation to the nurses for their selfless contributions. Commenting on the celebration, Afsal Khan - Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds,

said, "Malabar Gold & Diamonds is glad to associate with Chest Diseases Hospital to celebrate the International Nurses Day and we thank the management and officials for the whole hearted support."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has honored 15 senior officials of the Chest Diseases Hospital by presenting them a memento as a token of appreciation for their service. A cake cutting ceremony along with some fun games was arranged as a part of the event. The event also marked the importance of World Hygiene Day that was declared by the World Health Organization to be recognized on 5 May.

## Kuwait Unit of Mamooty organize charity initiative

**K**uwait Unit of Mamooty Fans and Welfare Association distributed kits containing food products among residents of four labor camps in Abbasiya. The



charitable donation would provide the expatriate workers with some relief as the private company that had employed them have not paid their salaries in the last four months.

The function was inaugurated by the social worker and media person, Hamsa Payyannor, who handed over the first kit. The function was conducted under the leadership of Kuwait Unit Chairman Sainuddin Mukkum, President Manaf Manu, Secretary Ali Venat, Treasurer Jobin and Vice Presidents, Ramshid K P and Niyas Majeed.

## ESF wins ministry's best awards

**T**he English School Fahaheel (ESF) was honored to receive two prestigious awards from The Department of Private Education at The Ministry of Education. School nurses were honored to receive 'Best School Clinic' Award in a private school for the modern Clinic at ESF.

Upper School Librarians received 'Best Library' Award in a private school for the recently refurbished state-of-the-art Upper School Library. Congratulations from the Management, staff and students on a job well done.



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# 5 & ABOUT

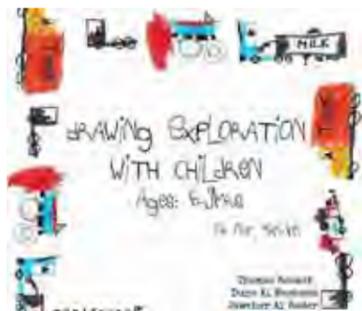
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## 25 May



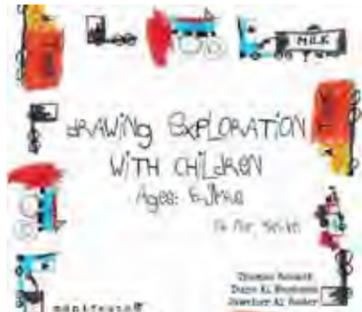
**Graish Shuwaikh:** A one-day exhibition offering all types of local artisanal food products under one roof: Garish Shuwaikh, will be held at the Shuwaikh market, 5th street, Shuwaikh Industrial area, from 4pm to 10pm. The exhibition is free and open to all. For more information: Visit, [vendor@shuwaikhmarket.com](mailto:vendor@shuwaikhmarket.com) or call, 69699990.

## 26 May



**Drawing exploration with children:** A one-day workshop, Drawing Exploration with Children will be held at Manifesto13, Al-Mulla Complex, Ibn Khaldoun St. Block 216, Bldg 14, Hawally, from 11am to 1pm. The workshop will be facilitated by Thomas Bosket, New York Times leading color expert and Parson's School of Design's faculty member of the year, Duna Al Mashaan, Early Childhood Specialist, and Jawaher Al Bader, Art Educator. The workshop is open to children aged 6 years to 9 years. For more information: Call, 65652524.

## 27 May



**Total barre endurance 1:** A high-energy four-hour workout workshop, developed by the Merrithew team will be held in Hawally eMall, from 9am to 1pm. This workshop is a great opportunity for instructors looking

to bring music-inspired movement to their clients. Following the class template used in the Total Barre Foundation Course and with the same level of intensity, instructors will learn unique choreography to create a biomechanically well-balanced and fun Barre program. The workshop is open to all.

## 29 May



**Chef stations event:** Chef Stations will be organizing cooking events and workshops from 29 May to 10 June at Souk Sharq, from 6pm. The Chef Station provides a platform for culinary enthusiasts of all categories to showcase their talents and develop their skills. Since its very beginning in 2015, the Chef Station has carried out more than 100 free participatory cooking programs and trained over 1,000 participants. Cooks between the ages of 14 to 34 years can participate in the event. For more information and to register: Email [Info@chefstationevent.com](mailto:Info@chefstationevent.com), or call, 66991671.

**Singing Superstar Season 2:** Indian Youth Society will soon be hosting the second season of Singing Superstar. Singing enthusiasts will now have an opportunity to showcase their talent. Registrations have commenced, but the final date and venue is yet to be announced. For more information and to register as a participant: Visit, [www.indianyouthkuwait.com](http://www.indianyouthkuwait.com), or call, 66361912.

**Free yoga classes:** NYF is offering free yoga, breathing, meditation and reiki classes by a well-experienced female yoga teacher for all age groups. Classes will be assigned on the basis of health issues, stress and any other problems. For more information and to register: Call, 99315825.

**Free fitness classes:** B.FIT Studio is offering free fitness classes: Zumba, Masala Bhangra workout, aerobics, toning and much more, in Salmiya. For more information: Call, 65077062. Free drum classes: Free professional drum classes are available at Salmiya for learners of all age groups and experience levels. For more information and to register: Call, 94974295.

# Kuwait Airways appoints new CEO

**K**uwait Airways has appointed Ebrahim Abdullah Al-Khuzam as its new CEO, taking over from Rasha Al-Roumi, who resigned last month. Formerly MD of AREF Investment Group KSCC, advisor to the chairman of Kuwait Finance House and GM of telco Zain, Al-Khuzam was announced one of the newly appointed board members of Kuwait Airways in the wake of Al-Roumi's resignation, and will now take on the additional role and duties of the CEO, the national carrier confirmed.



Al-Roumi resigned as CEO in April, citing "lack of government backing" and preferential treatment to other carriers in the country. The only female airline CEO in the Arab World, Al-Roumi was appointed in 2014. She had been pursuing an ambitious plan to turn around one of the Middle East's oldest carriers, after two decades of tumbling profits left its

owners considering selling off the airline. In a heated letter announcing her resignation, Al-Roumi said the government had refused to honor a \$1.9 billion (KD 600 million) payment it had earlier pledged to, and provided preferential treatment to another domestic competitor, according to the Kuwait Times. One of Al-Khuzam's first duties will be to carry out an assessment and review of the airline's five-year strategic plan - 'Transformation Plan' - that was announced in September 2016.

"I would also like to acknowledge all the good work that our management and employees have achieved in recent times, as we look to position the official national carrier of Kuwait back in its rightful place - as one of the key airlines in the region," Al-Khuzam said.

"While it will be my job to assess the progress Kuwait Airways is making, with regards to the five-year 'Transformation Plan', I would like to assure all passengers, employees and stakeholders, that the ambitious acquisition strategy of 35 new aircraft, by 2021, and a thorough reform of the airline's operations, commercial and service infrastructure will be a consistent guideline for taking the airline forward, over the coming years," Al-Khuzam added.

Al-Khuzam's first official engagement as CEO of Kuwait Airways was to meet with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) representatives.

# Team Shifa Al-Jazeera Soccer Kerala wins KEFAK Grandhyper Soccer League



**K**erala Expats Football Association, Kuwait (KEFAK) Soccer League Season 5 ended with Team Shifa Al-Jazeera Soccer Kerala defending their title in three straight seasons. Final match against Team Champions FC was in all respect a fight between two equals, in front of a packed gallery. First half ended goalless with lots of chances and both teams defending well. In the second half the Soccer Kerala star striker Shafeeq scored the winning goal of the match in its 89 minute driving the devastating blow to the opponent, who had no time left for any kind of recovery. Third place through Tie-Breaker went to Team Big Boys 4:3 against Blasters Kuwait. KEFAK Masters League also had its final match the same day, between Team Young Shooters Abbasiya and C.F.C. Salmiya. In a goalless two halves the winner was decided through Tie-Breaker 3:2 where Young Shooters Abbasiya emerged as champions. Third place went to Team Big Boys in their match against Al Fouz Rouda.

Awards were declared for Soccer League, Shiva Prasad of Kerala Challengers (Best Goal Keeper), Muneer Karim of SPARX FC and Appunni of Blasters Kuwait (Best Defenders), Ramsheed Tamboos of Soccer Kerala (Player of the Tournament), Ershad of Champions FC (Top Scorer), Rafeeq of Big Boys (Popular Player), Aneesh of Brothers Kerala and Shamil of MAK Kuwait (Emerging Player), Aftab of SPARX FC (Promising Player) and for Masters League, Saleem of Fahaheel Brothers (Best Goal Keeper), Samad of C.F.C. Salmiya (Best Defender), Mohammed of Young Shooters (Player of the Tournament) and Shafeeq of Al Fouz Rouda (Top Scorer) were selected. Fair Play award went to Al Fouz Rouda for Masters League and Kerala Challengers took the award for Soccer League.

GrandHyper Regional MD Ayoub Kacheri, KEFAK officials Ghulam Mustafa (President), Mansoor Kunnatheri (Gen. Sec.), Shabeer Kalathingal (Treasurer), O.K. Razzak, Ashique Cadiri (Vice-Presidents), among other noteworthy guests distributed the trophies to the winners.

# Integrated Indian School recognizes leadership during Investiture Ceremony 2017



**T**he young talents of the Integrated Indian School were bequeathed with the responsibility of leading their school during an Investiture Ceremony on 11 May. The young students were all prepared to perform their leadership duties and discharge the responsibilities entrusted upon them by the school.

Guest T. Premkumar pinned the badges to the newly elected Head Boy Alwyn Alex and Head Girl Tashfiah Tasnim, and handed over the flag to them. Principal Thomas administered the oath to the new cabinet members and class prefects. Head boy Alwyn Alex delivered the commitment speech on their newly assigned responsibilities.

The Integrated Indian School Principal gave a very warm welcome to all dignitaries, and in his speech, he encouraged the students to be disciplined in their life and to always remember their commitment towards society. The Chief

In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the important role of education in shaping the modern society. He also congratulated the newly appointed Cabinet Members and Prefects.

# Preparations underway for COP23 Climate Summit

Presenting his political vision at the May conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC), Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, called for forging a "grand coalition, to accelerate climate action before 2020 and beyond, between civil society, the scientific community, the private sector and all levels of government, including cities and regions.

The Fijian Prime Minister, who is the incoming president of the COP23 Summit scheduled to be held in November 2017, said, "We are all vulnerable and we all need to act together." Addressing delegates from over 140 governments, who attended the two-week-long May session of UNFCCC that concluded in Bonn, Germany last week, Prime Minister Bainimarama stressed on the need to build greater resilience for all vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

The COP23 Summit will aim to boost access to climate adaptation finance, renewable energy, clean water and affordable climate risk and disaster insurance and to promote sustainable agriculture. The summit is also expected to call for harnessing innovation, enterprise and investment to fast track the development and deployment of climate solutions that will build future economies with net

zero greenhouse gas emissions, in an effort to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Highlighting the concept of 'Talanoa' which will guide the Presidency's interactions throughout 2017, the prime minister clarified that Talanoa meant a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that builds empathy and leads to decision making for the collective good. In her address to the conference, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa thanked the incoming presidency for their "inclusive and transparent approach in providing clarity on the priorities for the November conference."

During the May sessions, governments made progress towards the Paris Agreement's implementation as it relates to guidelines across a wide range of issues including transparency, adaptation, emission reductions, provision of finance, capacity-building and technology. The aim is to complete



the guidelines by COP24 in Poland in 2018. "I am very encouraged by this progress," said Ms. Espinosa. "These guidelines are essential for making the Paris Agreement fully operational and to ensure its central role in global climate action over the years and decades to come."

On the sidelines of UNFCCC's May conference a series of technical expert

meetings were held to showcase actions that can assist countries to scale up adaptation and emission reductions before 2020. Singapore presented its Smart Nation Programme, which harnesses the power of networks, data and IT to improve quality of life and create economic opportunity. Meanwhile, host demonstrated how the private sector can actively be

engaged in renewable energy. For its part, the Centre for Climate Intelligence for Agriculture in Brazil promoted its sustainability and disaster risk measures to assist farmers.

Preparations for COP 23 are well underway and on track for opening day, 6 November, which is slightly less than six months from now, it was announced on the final day of the conference. The UN climate change secretariat is working with the Governments of both Fiji and Germany on organizational arrangements under the concept of "One Conference, Two Zones", which focuses on a close integration of the zones to ensure that negotiations, events and exhibits are integrated into one conference. The secretariat is also working with the City of Bonn to take the COP to the citizens, with academic and science events, art exhibits, music and other climate-related opportunities. A sustainability action plan is also being developed to deliver a climate-friendly COP.

## Digital India Summit adds thrust to India's digitalization drive

SAH Rizvi

Special to The Times Kuwait

In what is seen as a major push towards digitalisation, Indian cooperative banking sector has decided to move decisively to translate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship project of Digital India with a slew of measures and modernization drives that were revealed at the Digital India Summit held in Mumbai earlier this week.

Bombay Mercantile Cooperative which powered the summit has already launched the first of its kind 'Tab Banking' which assists the bank's clients to open their account at their doorstep with just a finger print and Adhaar (Unique Identification) details. "This will entail no paper work, no time consuming processes and no visits to bank, but just a finger impression," said Bank chairman Zeeshan Mehdi. "This is just the beginning, we plan to set up new payment gateways, new platforms to touch even the rural belt of India with our banking module," said Mehdi, adding that the Digital Mission will reshape and redefine the way banking was done



till now. So enamoured was Union Minister of State for Minorities Affairs (Independent Charge) and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who told the huge gathering at the summit that he was fully prepared to open his account in the bank with such a wonderful tab banking.

The tone of the summit was set by Union Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal, who described 2017 as the year of momentous economic reforms while stating that the initiatives of the government had brought about various changes to budget, such as merging the railway budget with Union budget and passing the finance bill before 31 March, for the first time.

"Now we will roll out the goods and services tax from 1 July, which will make it easier to do business in the country," Meghwal said on inaugurating

the Digital India Summit. "GST will help facilitate doing business in the country. For instance, logistic charges in India are very high compared to the US and Canada, but with GST these charges will come to par with these developed countries."

The glittering function at Grand Hyatt was attended by MPs, political leaders, professionals and a huge army of bankers from the cooperative sector. While stressing that post-demonetization of high value currency notes, the country has rapidly moved towards digitization, Minister Meghwal added that the Digital India initiative will hurt illicit economic activities. He clarified that the push for digital India will enable accounting of illicit transactions, which in turn will lead to consumption growth, while encouraging investments and promoting exports, as a result of which GDP will also grow."

Addressing the second session, Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the task is enormous but Digital India has come to stay and would usher a golden era in the Indian financial system. He said the prime minister's bold initiatives such as demonetization and GST will not only result in economic resurgence but will benefit the common man at all strata. "The government is targeting even those who are standing in the last row," the minister said in his spirited address.

Citing an example from his own ministry, the minister said this year more than 70 percent of application for Haj pilgrimage came online through the special app that his ministry had rolled out earlier this year. "It was amazing as many experts had voiced concern to go online for Haj registration but we went ahead"

"Till last year no one could have ever thought that the entire procedure of Haj application including payment could be handled by a click of mouse, but we did it," Minister Naqvi said. He added that his ministry had also taken several initiatives to educate youngsters in minorities institution on computer learning while modernizing Muslim religious schools known as Madrasas.

In his welcome address, Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Chairman Zeeshan Mehdi said the advent of modern information technology had changed the idea of conventional banking and transformed almost all spheres of economic activities.

He went on to note that the Prime Minister's emphasis on a cashless, or 'less cash' economy requires active involvement of all stakeholders. "It is here that the co-operative banking sector, which caters to the banking needs of millions

of Indians, has an important role to play in supporting the country's journey towards digital transformation," Chairman Mehdi pointed out. "This summit is a step forward in that direction.

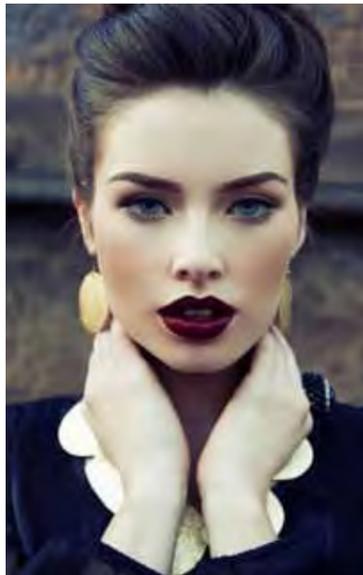
We have all gathered here to discuss, deliberate and prepare a blueprint that could be our positive contribution to the vast mission that lies ahead of us," he concluded.

### REQUIRED

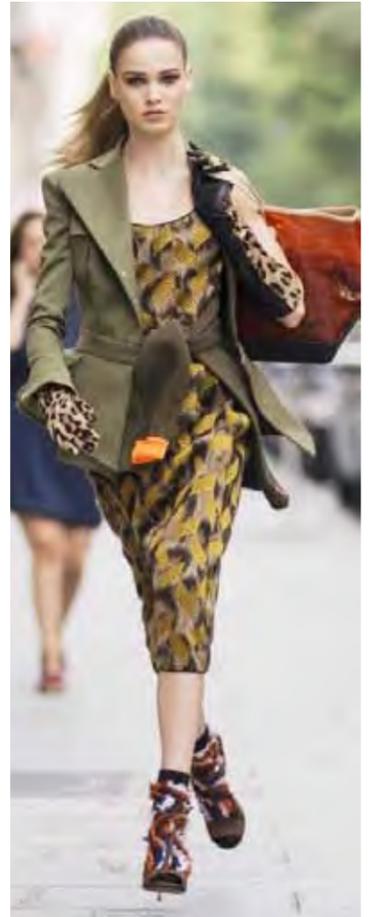
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- **Office Manager** : 3 years' experience
- **Company Agent (Mandoub)** : 5 years' Kuwait experience as Mandoub
- **Procurement Manager** : 10 years experience in same industries

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Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.



# Guide to mixing and matching



## MAKEUP Swaps to make RIGHT NOW

Those who approach beauty as a way to enhance their best features often presume that newly-popular makeup trends aren't for them. And those who see makeup as an artistic expression of self? They often avoid jumping on the most popular bandwagon for fear of blending in with everyone else.

While not every makeup trend is a winner for everyone, trying new products and styles is the best way to get out of a rut and find fresh, new inspiration when creating your unique aesthetic. Here are some ways to evolve your look this summer, no matter your aesthetic or personal take on makeup, all thanks to some new makeup trends.

**Replace your black or brown liner for something colorful:** Nothing beats a clean swipe of winged liner in inky black. Though the eye-opening look will never not be a winner, it's not exactly groundbreaking. To give it a new twist, replace black or brown with a swipe of colored liquid liner in any shade that strikes your fancy.

**Trade red lipstick for on-trend mauve:** Listen, red lipstick will always be en vogue — always. But it's also one of those looks that needs to be reinvented from time to time to stay fresh, whether by adding gloss, trying it blotted, or by doubling down on a

glossy stain. This year, give the classic hue a break for a shade that feels incredibly fresh: mauve. Like red, the color looks good on everyone.

**Replace matte lipstick with a blurred lip:** For a look that's totally made for summer, try the blotted lipstick, in which lip color is dabbed onto the center of the lips and buffed out with fingers.

The resulting effect is softer than a stain — and imperfectly beautiful. The best products for the effect have a formula with no shine, which feels like a balm, but delivers a diffused finish, and definitely pick a light shade.

**Forget classic liner — try dots instead:** Most dotted eyeliner looks worn by celebs as of late have been rendered in graphic black. For a more subtle and summer-ready take on the trend, try pointillism with pastels, white, or soft metallics. Using lighter shades doesn't just create a softer look, it is much more forgiving should smudging occur.

**Replace tightliner with a watercolor effect:** Good news for those who live fast and messy: bedhead lipstick isn't the only beauty trend that is swapping coloring within the lines for a blotted look. The same approach works for eye makeup as well. Instead of a neat stroke of eyeliner, give definition by diffusing shadow on the lower lashline for a soft-focus effect.

**Update your cat-eye with negative space:** There is something about negative space eyeliner that gives instant cool-girl cred to anyone who wears it. Double down on the effect with negative space done in vivid color. A saturated shade and a unique shape will foist you into beauty guru territory.

In a world of trends, fashionistas know that making a unique statement is all about standing out in their own way. And as observed by many women, the best way to make an impact is by mixing and matching — from textures to patterns to eclectic statement pieces. These seemingly simple choices are one of the easiest ways to flaunt your personality, so here are some tips that will inspire you to get reacquainted with your wardrobe and start pairing pieces.

**Match stripes:** Don't ever let anyone tell you that stepping out in one pattern is a fashion faux pas. You can pull off a single-patterned look, like head-to-toe stripes, through clever use of clothing items with modern cuts. Trade out those boring black and white numbers for stripes that pack a punch; multi-colored lines are no doubt attention-grabbing, but monochromatic stripes in varied sizes are just as impactful. You can break up your outfit with a solid belt or choose pieces with varying sizes of the same pattern.

**Mix textures:** To create a winning combo that is sure to be eye-catching, you can always count on juxtaposing contrasting textures. For example, a leather skirt balances out a lighter, more feminine patterned top. This style

tip also works if you are feeling a little nervous about taking the print plunge; how about meshing different textures, keeping within the same color palette while you experiment with bold patterns.

**Match colors:** From your dress to accessories and even your eye shadow, sticking to one color can be a fun way to play up any hue that you look good in. Select on-trend colors that are enjoying an all-time high in fashion, and make up your monochrome outfit. This type

of trend is super minimalist and mod, particularly if you pick out an ensemble with extra detailing like ruffles or buttons.

**Mix styles:** Feminine women flock to girly outfits that feature ruffles or embroidery, leaving those with an edgier style feeling left out of the trend. Make a statement by picking up usually masculine shapes with hints of feminine trimmings, say for example, scalloped edging can take the place of pinstripes on the sides of luxe wool trousers, which can be paired perfectly with patterned pumps.

You can also match an ultrafeminine skirt with a blouse that has a touch of athleisure, or even better, go bold with clothing items in autumn-appropriate shades and bigger, bolder patterns. Play around with different styles to get into the latest trends and make it your own.

**Mix and match denim:** The denim-on-denim trend is always going to be popular. To avoid looking too matchy-matchy, pair up different washes and/or textures. Layering light and dark wash will give your look a bit of variation, while bold embroidery adds a unique twist to any piece. If you're feeling lazy, the easy route is to wear a full jumpsuit or overalls in denim for effortless double-denim dressing.



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# Study suggests eating red meat and sweets could increase risk of gout

Consuming a Western diet can increase the risk of developing gout, a new study suggests. Researchers have discovered that people are more likely to have the painful condition if they indulge in red and processed meats, soft drinks, French fries, sugar, sweets and desserts.

However, they also found that a diet rich in fruit, vegetables, nuts and wholegrains may protect against gout. Research on 44,000 men found eating these types of foods in preference to red meat could prevent the crippling condition. The team from Harvard Medical School in the US believe they help lower levels of a chemical called uric acid which causes gout.



“ But Dr. Choi said that a high fruit and wholegrain diet 'may provide an attractive preventive dietary approach for the risk of gout.' ”

They hope the findings could lead to a new treatment for gout based on a diet of fruit, nuts and wholegrains.

Gout is a form of arthritis which affects about half a million adults in the UK, or 4 percent of the population. It occurs when small crystals form inside the joints causing sudden attacks of severe pain and swelling. The condition is most common in men over 30 or women after the menopause. It is caused by a build-up of uric acid which forms tiny crystals near the joints. But the study suggests that fruit, vegetables, nuts and wholegrains contain powerful ingredients that prevent this build-up.

Dr. Hyon Choi looked at the records of 44,444, men aged 40 to 75 who had never been diagnosed with

gout. They all completed detailed food questionnaires and were given scores based on how much fruit, veg, nuts and wholegrains they ate.

The men were followed for the next 26 years over which time 1,731 were diagnosed with gout.

Those who with the highest scores who ate the most fruit, vegetables and wholegrains were 32 percent less likely to be diagnosed with gout.

The findings of the study are not conclusive and the scientists cannot be certain that these foods prevent gout. But Dr. Choi said that a high fruit and wholegrain diet 'may provide an attractive preventive dietary approach for the risk of gout.'

He said this would also prevent high blood pressure - which affects

many gout patients- thereby treating two birds with one stone.

A spokesman for the UK Gout Society said: "Gout is excruciatingly painful and left untreated it can cause irreversible damage to the joints. While diet and lifestyle are important, it is only a small contributor to the likelihood of getting the condition.

Other important risk factors for gout include family history and genetics, being overweight, taking certain medicines, diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol, heart disease, kidney problems and, in some cases, crash dieting. If you think you have gout it's vital you go and visit your doctor as gout is eminently treatable." The study was published in the British Medical Journal last night.

# Researchers use twitter to track the flu in real time

*"This flu is horrendous. Can't breathe, can't sleep or eat. Muscles ache, fever 102. Should have gotten the shot. Time for a movie marathon."*

The above tweet looks like 140 characters of misery. But in the hands of Northeastern's Alessandro Vespignani and his colleagues, it is so much more.

An international team led by Vespignani has developed a unique computational model to project the spread of the seasonal flu in real time. It uses posts on Twitter in combination with key parameters of each season's epidemic, including the incubation period of the disease, the immunization rate, how many people an individual with the virus can infect, and the viral strains present.

Tested against official influenza surveillance systems, the model has been shown to accurately forecast the disease's evolution up to six weeks in advance-significantly earlier than other models. It will enable public health agencies to plan ahead in allocating



medical resources and launching campaigns that encourage individuals to take preventative measures such as vaccination and increased hand washing.

"In the past, we had no knowledge of initial conditions for the flu," says Vespignani, who is also director of the Network Science Institute at Northeastern.

The initial conditions- which show where and when an epidemic began as well as the extent of infection- function as a launching pad for forecasting the spread of any disease.

To ascertain those conditions, the researchers incorporated Twitter into their parameter-driven model. "This kind of

integration has never been done before," says Vespignani. "We were not looking for the number of people who were sick because Twitter will not tell you that. What we wanted to know was: Do we have more flu at this point in time in Texas or in New Jersey, in Seattle or in San Francisco? Twitter, which includes GPS locations, is a proxy for that. By looking at how many people were tweeting about their symptoms or how miserable they were because of the flu, we were able to get a relative weight in each of those areas of the U.S."

The paper on the novel model received a coveted Best Paper Honorable Mention award at the 2017 International World Wide Web Conference last month following its presentation. It was one of only four papers out of more than 400 presented to be selected for an award.

# Thin people not more prone to Alzheimer's disease

Findings of a Danish study of nearly 100,000 people overturns the notion that being thin somehow raises a person's odds for Alzheimer's disease. Instead, the Danish research suggests, people with early stage Alzheimer's disease can have less appetite and lose weight. Hence, it's the illness that may be causing the thinness, not the other way around.

"Although prior studies found an association between Alzheimer's disease and being thin, the new findings suggest this is not a causal relationship," study senior author Dr. Ruth Frikke-Schmidt said in a news release from Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism. Her team published its findings in the journal on May 9.

According to the researchers, there has long been uncertainty over any link between a person's BMI - a measure of weight combined with height - and their risk of Alzheimer's disease.



To help settle the issue, the researchers examined blood and DNA samples collected from almost 96,000 people in a major Danish population study. Of these people, 645 were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The DNA of these patients was analyzed for signs of five gene types associated with BMI. The participants were then divided into one of four groups, based on their genetic likelihood for being overly thin. As the researchers explained,

using people's weight-linked genes as a yardstick is a "cleaner" research method than simply measuring their weight, because genes are unaffected by other risk factors or diseases that accompany high and low weight.

The research showed that gene variants tied to low BMI were not associated with an increased risk for Alzheimer's disease.

The scientists did find a relationship between gene variants associated with having a high BMI and type 2 diabetes -- an effect that's long been recognized. People who had these genes were more likely to develop the blood-sugar disorder, the researchers said. But there was no such connection in terms of Alzheimer's.

The bottom line: "We found individuals with lifelong low BMI due to genetic variation were not at increased risk of Alzheimer's disease," said Frikke-Schmidt, who is an associate research professor at the University of Copenhagen.

# Cotton swabs causing injuries in kids' ears



New study reveals that thousands of kids are winding up in US emergency rooms every year for ear injuries caused by cotton swabs.

The analysis of federal data found that about 263,000 children were treated in emergency departments for ear injuries caused by cotton swabs over the 21-year period from 1990 through 2010.

That works out to about 12,500 such injuries a year, or about 34 injuries a day.

The two biggest misconceptions are that the ear canals need to be cleaned in the home setting, and that cotton tip applicators should be used to clean them; both of those are incorrect.

The ears canals are usually self-cleaning. Using cotton tip applicators to clean the ear canal not only pushes wax closer to the ear drum, but there is a significant risk of causing minor to severe injury to the ear.

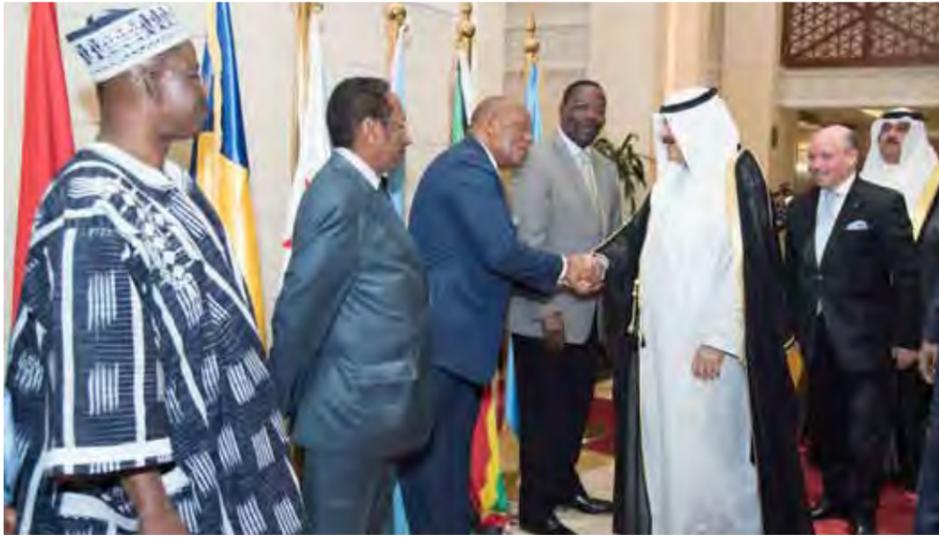
Indeed, most of the injuries occurred while using cotton swabs to clean the ears (73 percent), the findings showed. The rest occurred while playing with cotton swabs (10 percent), or with children falling when they had cotton swabs in their ear (9 percent).

The majority of injuries occurred when children were using cotton swabs by themselves (77 percent), followed by when a parent (16 percent) or sibling (6 percent) was using a cotton swab to clean a child's ear.

About two-thirds of patients were younger than 8, and children under 3 accounted for 40 percent of all injuries, according to the report.

The most common injuries were foreign body sensation (30 percent), perforated ear drum (25 percent) and soft tissue injury (23 percent). Foreign body sensation was the most common injury among children aged 8 to 17, while perforated ear drum was the most common among those younger than 8.

Ninety-nine percent of patients were treated and released. However, damage to the ear drum, hearing bones or inner ear can result in dizziness, balance problems and irreversible hearing loss, the researchers noted. The study was published online May 8 in the Journal of Pediatrics.



## Africa Day celebrated with grand reception



The Ambassadors and heads of the Africa diplomatic missions to Kuwait jointly hosted a reception on Thursday, 18 May at Messila Jumeirah Hotel to commemorate Africa Day. Members of the diplomatic corps, Kuwait officials, members of the African community and media personnel attended the function.

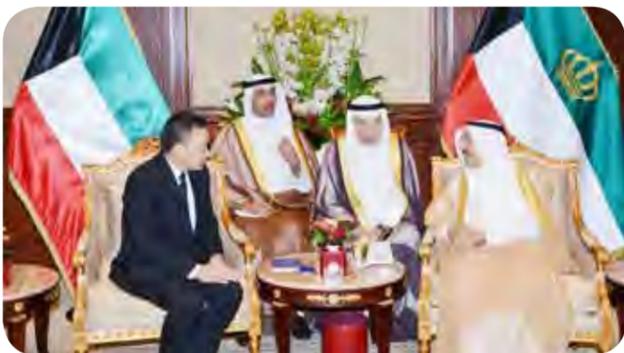
Africa Day, which is celebrated on 25 May,

marks the founding of the first joint African initiative, Organization of African Unity (OAU), spearheaded by the leaders from 30 of the 32 African states following their independence from colonial and imperial powers. On 25 May, 1963, the OAU was created in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and expanded with the addition of 21 states, with South Africa inducted as the 53rd

member on 23 May 1994. The OAU started its operations on 13 September, 1963, when its Charter was adopted. The OAU provided a platform for Africans across the continent to work towards bringing about progress and freedom to African countries, as well as inculcate dignity and pride in the African people.

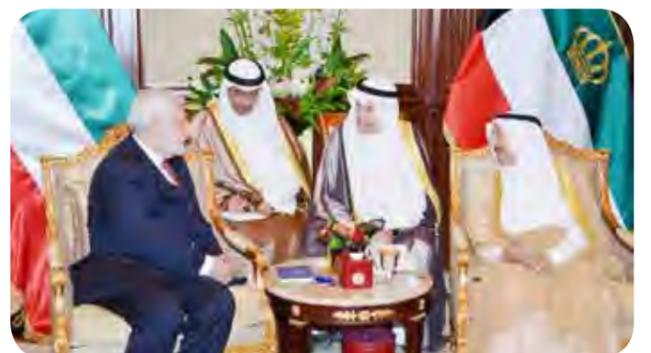
Africa Day is celebrated with pomp and

fanfare in many African countries and abroad as the day commemorates the beginning of a united Africa that fought for political and economic emancipation for its people, and symbolizes the determination of Africans to forge ahead overcoming foreign domination and exploitation. In 2002, the OAU was dissolved and was replaced by the African Union (AU).



### H.H. the Amir receives credentials of newly appointed ambassadors

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday credentials of newly-appointed ambassadors of Thailand, Afghanistan, Maldives, Zambia, and Colombia. The ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in addition to a host of Amiri Diwan and foreign ministry officials.





## French Ambassador commemorates country's National Day



The Ambassador of France to Kuwait H.E. Christian Nakhle hosted a reception at the Marina Hotel on 17 May to mark the country's National

Day. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah was the chief guest among a large gathering of diplomats, government officials and dignitaries.



## Georgia's envoy to Spain becomes UNWTO Secretary General

Georgia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Spain Zurab Pololikashvili has been elected Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Until recently, he was Georgia's Permanent Representative to the UN World Tourism Organization.

Zurab Pololikashvili will hold the Secretary General's post until 2021. The election was held as part of the 105th session of the UNWTO Executive Council, in Spain's capital, Madrid.

According to the Georgian Foreign Ministry, this is the first case where a Georgian candidate has assumed a leading position at a significant international organization. The elections were conducted within the framework of the 105th session of the Organization's Executive Council, in Madrid. A majority of the Council Member States voted in favor of Zurab Pololikashvili. The election of the Georgian



candidate as UNWTO's Secretary General highlights Georgia's role and aspiration to make its contribution to the implementation of world governance.

Besides, Zurab Pololikashvili's election to an influential post in the World Tourism Organization clearly indicates that the international community supports Georgia's reforms and achievements in the tourism area. From 2005-2010, Zurab Pololikashvili worked in President Saakashvili's government,

first as the Deputy Foreign Minister, and then as Georgia's ambassador to Spain.

He served as the Minister of Economic Development of Georgia from 2009-2010. Until 2012, he was Vice President of the TBC Group and CEO of FC Dinamo Tbilisi. In 2012, he was appointed Georgia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain for a second time.

## Tourism – An economic and social phenomenon

Continued from Page 1

Today, the business volume of tourism equals or even surpasses that of oil exports, food products or automobiles and is the fourth largest export sector in the world accounting for over \$1.5 trillion in exports annually. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries.

This growth goes hand in hand with an increasing diversification and competition among destinations. The

global spread of tourism in industrialized and developed states has produced economic and employment benefits in many related sectors - from construction to agriculture or telecommunications.

The contribution of tourism to economic well-being depends on the quality and the revenues of the tourism offer. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) assists destinations in their sustainable positioning in ever more complex national and international markets. As the UN agency dedicated to tourism, UNWTO points out that particularly developing countries stand to benefit from sustainable tourism and acts to help make this a reality.

## German ambassador to open energy exhibition



On 22 May 2017, the German Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Karlfried Bergner and the Oil Minister Essam Abdul Mohsen Al-Marzouq will open the travelling exhibition 'Germany's Energiewende' at The Avenues.

"Hardly any field of German politics is followed with such great interest as the 'Energiewende' - or energy transition," said Ambassador Bergner.

With its Energiewende plan, Germany aims to shift to a more sustainable, affordable, and secure supply of energy. To this end, at least half of German electricity demand should be covered by renewable energies by 2030, in the long run it should be at least 80 percent. At the same time, German energy demand should be halved by 2050 compared to 2008. Also, all nuclear power plants in Germany are to be switched off by 2022. "It is evident that the path towards a more sustainable energy future does not end at Germany's border. Therefore, our exhibition advocates for strong international cooperation towards a global Energiewende," added Ambassador Bergner.

The exhibition was organized by the German Federal Foreign Office with the aim to show those interested parties various aspects of the energy transition plan, what it means to the German people and what its essential elements are. Since its inauguration in April 2016, the exhibition has been organized in more than 30 locations globally including in South Africa, Mexico, the US, Colombia, Poland, Saudi-Arabia and Malaysia.



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