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VAT and what it means for you

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Making workers pay: Exploitation of laborers in GCC

Since the 1970s, construction sites dotted with towering cranes, cement-mixers and fleet of dumper trucks have been the most discernible sign of development across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

High-rise residential and office spaces, sprawling retail, leisure and hospitality projects, as well as mega government infrastructure



and development projects, have driven growth in the region's construction industry. Though the pace of construction activity has ebbed and flowed over the last four decades, depending largely on prevailing international oil prices, the construction industry has by and large

managed to sustain itself successfully over the years.

One reason behind the industry's success are the millions of migrant laborers who work day and night in scorching heat and biting cold to see projects completed on time. The plight of these legions of laborers who help build the gleaming skyscrapers, sprawling malls and huge stadiums

experiences in the promised land.

Now, a new report by New York University's Stern Centre for Business and Human Rights titled 'Migrant Workers Pay: Recruitment of the Migrant Labor force in the Gulf Construction Industry' examines the current labor recruitment model of the construction industry in the GCC, and the ways in which this contributes to exploitation of migrant workers and exposes them to abuse by labor contractors. The report, which details how workers are exploited through a complex system of agents and subagents, also offers several recommendations to make the industry better for the millions of South Asian migrants who seek employment in the multibillion dollar construction industry in the GCC.

The research, published last week, shows many of these laborers sell whatever meager possessions they have in their own country, to pay exorbitant amounts to middle-men for gaining the all-important visa to work in the GCC. The middle-men, who are often agents of labor contracting companies in the Gulf, extract huge sums from potential employees promising them long years of continuous lucrative work.

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Kuwait's private-sector promises support for UNHCR activities

A high-level panel discussion held last week at the UNHCR Kuwait headquarters saw leaders from Kuwait's private sector promise support for efforts to ease suffering among Syrians in refugee camps across the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The Head of UNHCR Kuwait office Dr. Hanan Hamdan and UNHCR's Head of Private Sector Partnership in MENA Houssam Chahine were joined in the panel discussion, by the CEO of Alghanim Industries Omar Alghanim and the

CEO of Agility Tareq Sultan.

The discussion focused on what the private sector can do to become more involved in humanitarian efforts, and the impact of the refugee crisis on the region, not just from a geopolitical sense, but also from an economic perspective.

Speaking at the panel discussion, Dr. Hanan said the Syrian crisis has been the biggest since the Second World War, with more than five million Syrian refugees suffering from very bad conditions.

Continued on Page 14

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G20's time for climate leadership



Teresa Ribera

Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in Paris, she was Spain's Secretary of State for Climate Change.

At the start of 2016, the United States was well positioned to lead the global fight against climate change. As the chair of the G20 for 2017, German Chancellor Angela Merkel had been counting on the US to help drive a deep transformation in the global economy. And even after Donald Trump won the US presidential election, Merkel gave him the benefit of the doubt, hoping against hope that the US might still play a leading role in reducing global greenhouse-gas emissions.

But at Merkel and Trump's first in-person meeting, no substantive statements were issued, and their body language made the prospect of future dialogue appear dim. Trump's slogan "America first" seems to mean "America alone."

By reversing his predecessor's policies to reduce CO2 emissions, Trump is rolling back the new model of cooperative global governance embodied in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The countries that signed on to that accord committed themselves to sharing the risks and benefits of a global economic and technological transformation.

Trump's climate-change policy does not bode well for US citizens — many of whom are now mobilizing resistance to his administration — or the world. But the rest of the world will still develop low-carbon, resilient systems. Private- and public-sector players across the developed and developing worlds are making the coming economic shift all but inevitable, and their agendas will

“Since 2008, the regulatory approach taken by the US and the G20 has been geared toward increasing transparency and improving our understanding of possible systemic risks to the global financial system”

not change simply because the US has a capricious new administration. China, India, the European Union, and many African and Latin American countries are still adopting clean-energy systems. As long as this is the case, businesses, local governments, and other stakeholders will continue to pursue low-carbon strategies. To be sure, Trump's policies might introduce new dangers and costs, domestically and worldwide; but he will not succeed in prolonging the fossil-fuel era.

Still, an effective US exit from the Paris agreement is a menacing development. The absence of such an important player from the fight against climate change



could undermine new forms of multilateralism, even if it reinvigorates climate activism as global public opinion turns against the US.

More immediately, the Trump administration has introduced significant financial risks that could impede efforts to address climate change. Trump's proposed budget would place restrictions on federal funding for clean-energy development and climate research. Likewise, his recent executive orders will minimize the financial costs of US businesses' carbon footprint, by changing how the 'social cost of carbon' is calculated. And his administration has already insisted that language about climate change be omitted from a joint statement issued by G20 finance ministers.

These are all unwise decisions that pose serious risks to the US economy, and to global stability, as United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently pointed out. The US financial system plays a leading role in the world economy, and Trump wants to take us all back to a time when investors and the general public did not account for climate-change risks when making financial decisions.

Since 2008, the regulatory approach taken by the US and the G20 has been geared toward increasing transparency and improving our understanding of possible systemic risks to the global financial system, not least those associated with climate change and fossil-fuel dependency. Developing more stringent transparency rules and better risk-assessment tools has been a top priority for the financial community itself. Implementing these new rules and tools can accelerate the overall trend in divestment from fossil fuels, ensure a smooth transition to a more resilient, clean-energy economy, and provide confidence and clarity for long-term investors.

Given the heightened financial risks associated with climate change, resisting Trump's executive order to roll back Wall Street transparency regulations should be a top priority. The fact that Warren Buffet and the asset-management firm Black Rock have warned about the investment risks of climate change suggests that the battle is not yet lost.

Creating the G20 was a good idea. Now, it must confront its biggest challenge. It is up to Merkel

and other G20 leaders to overcome US (and Saudi) resistance and stay the course on climate action. They can count as allies some of the world's large institutional investors, who seem to agree on the need for a transitional framework

of self-regulation. It is incumbent upon other world leaders to devise a coherent response to Trump, and to continue establishing a new development paradigm that is compatible across different financial systems. At the same time,

the EU, which is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome this year, now has a chance to think about the future that it wants to build. These are difficult times, to be sure; but we can still decide what kind of world we want to live in.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

A Bridge to Universal Education



Gordon Brown

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

In a confrontational world where protectionism is on the rise, multilateralism has become an easy target for criticism. But those who doubt its value must have short memories. They seem to have forgotten that the Marshall Plan rebuilt Europe after World War II, NATO kept nuclear war at bay during the Cold War, and foreign aid lifted millions of people out of poverty in just the past few decades.

At the World Bank and the IMF's upcoming annual spring meetings in Washington, DC, delegates will be reinforcing the case for international cooperation. In particular, we will be discussing the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd), a bold plan to ensure that, for the first time in history, all of the world's 1.6 billion boys and girls – including refugees and displaced children in low- and middle-income



countries – are in school and learning.

The IFFEd draws its inspiration from two landmark examples of international cooperation: the joint IMF-World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which wiped out \$100 billion in unpayable debt; and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which has saved millions of lives by

providing immunizations and other services.

The IFFEd, for its part, would facilitate annual investments in education to the tune of nearly \$10 billion. With these resources, we can make significant progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for education, which aims to make primary and secondary education available for all children by 2030.

The quest for universal education is the civil-rights struggle of our age. After years of international neglect, 260 million children are not in school, and 400 million children are functionally illiterate. If current trends persist, by 2030, more than 800 million young people – half of the world's youths – will leave school without the basic skills necessary for the modern labor market. And, by 2050, higher education will be available for 80 percent of young people in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, but for no more than 10 percent of young people in Sub-Saharan African countries.

The need for expanded investment in education is even more urgent for girls and young women. Putting girls in school is the most effective way to keep them free from exploitation, forced labor, trafficking, and child marriage. Moreover, whereas educated women bear an average of two children, the average for uneducated women is five. This higher birth rate for uneducated women creates a vicious cycle. As illiterate young women have more children, average per capita income falls, and those children, having also missed out on an education, must increasingly migrate in search of opportunities elsewhere.

And yet, despite all of the good work being done by multilateral organizations such as the Global Partnership for Education and the new Education Cannot Wait Fund, total education aid has fallen in recent years. From 2010 to today, total funding for education in low- and lower-middle-income countries from bilateral aid and international donors fell from a paltry \$10 per child to \$8 per child. That is barely enough to pay for the cheapest textbook, let alone teachers and school buildings. Worse still, in response to recent pleas for education aid in conflict zones such as Chad, South Sudan, and Gambia, just 2 percent of the requested sum was raised.

As a result, by 2030, a majority of school-age teenagers in certain countries could be out of school and on the streets. Having been deprived of a curriculum that teaches them valuable skills and respect for different viewpoints, they

will become ever more vulnerable to extremist groups that are counting on the West not to keep its promises.

The IFFEd is being launched with a challenge not only to donor countries, but also to the 47 lower-middle-income countries that are home to nearly half of the world's schoolchildren. Developing countries and donors will enter into a compact in which each has a specific role to play to ensure that education is made available for all children.

Under this arrangement, each developing country will commit to achieving education outcomes commensurate with those of the current top 25 percent of countries, and to increasing the proportion of national income invested in education to 5.8 percent, from the current average of 4 percent. In return, donor countries will increase the share of funds for education in their foreign-aid budgets from the current average of 10 percent to 15 percent. They will also backstop development loans from the World Bank and regional development banks.

Even in 2030, the world's poorest countries will not be able to afford around half of their total education costs. So, rather than having to borrow at interest rates of 3.5-4 percent to pay for teachers' salaries, lower-middle-income countries will benefit from a new system of guarantees and low-interest or interest-free credits. And,

by providing for lower-middle-income countries, we will be able to provide more direct grants for the 200 million children living in low-income countries. Using as collateral the \$150 billion of reflows from loans made in the 1970s and 1980s, we can increase the World Bank's capacity to provide grants through its International Development Association. If we also divert a larger share of IDA contributions toward education, we can increase the education-aid funds available annually to the poorest countries from \$1.6 billion (as of 2016) to more than \$4 billion by 2020.

This up-front investment in education would extend the opportunity for a better life to more people than ever before. It would boost employment, slow population growth, and reduce infant and maternal mortality. And, as shown in the Learning Generation report, by 2050, GDP per capita in low-income countries would be 70 percent higher. Most important, it would provide hope to the millions of children who need it the most

“The quest for universal education is the civil-rights struggle of our age. After years of international neglect, 260 million children are not in school, and 400 million children are functionally illiterate.”

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Why it is not okay to **abuse** your customers



Rob Enderle
President and principal analyst of the
Enderle Group, a technology analysis firm

I cannot seem to get out of my head the image of that poor Asian doctor who was recently dragged off that United Airlines flight. The fact that the airline did that to a 69-year-old doctor just so it could save money moving employees around is nearly as unbelievable, as the tone-deaf response from airline's CEO Oscar Munoz, who initially blamed the passenger and only backtracked and offered an actual apology after tremendous media backlash.

There were two paths that United Airlines could have taken to move employees to another location without causing an uproar. One was to increase the voucher amount offered to passengers to a point where it was cheaper to charter a plane to move the employees, or simply to have in place, what many non-airline companies use, a fleet of smaller planes for employees' use.

What is particularly scary about the method that United Airlines chose is that it did not factor in why people were not taking a US\$1,000 voucher to change flights. Its method for choosing which passengers to bump only focused on connections, so those who were ending up at the destination airport were prioritized for bumping.

What if someone's job depended on getting to a location on time? What if someone had a dying relative, a wedding or funeral to attend? What if someone were a doctor who needed to get to a critical patient? None of

those possibilities was been taken into account, and the poor guy who was beaten up was in fact a doctor.

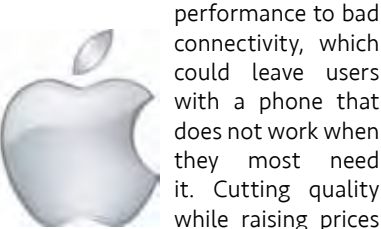
United Airline's decision has cost it millions in brand damage, and because the passenger looked Asian, many from that region are treating this like a racial attack, which could result in sanctions and boycotts. Incidentally, the trade publication PRWeek, which gave Mr. Munoz its 'Communicator of the Year' award, just a few weeks earlier to the bumping incident, said in an editorial: "We're very talented, but we're not psychic... It's fair to say that if PRWeek was choosing its Communicator of the Year now, we would definitely not be awarding it to Oscar Munoz.

The incident might even end up costing the CEO his job — all because it did not have a better way to move employees around, which is kind of ironic given it is in the transportation business. The reason why it took United Airlines so long even to understand the 'dumping' problem was because, in the minds of its executives, customers had stopped being people and had become an exploitable resource instead. But United is not alone in considering its customers as expendable collateral.

While the United Airlines debacle was going on, the chipmaker Qualcomm filed a claim in court alleging that Apple crippled the modems in some iPhones to cover up its use of cheap parts, and that it aggressively acted to prevent anyone, particularly Qualcomm, from pointing it out. On page 46 of the whopping 130-page document that Qualcomm filed, it alleges that Apple not only has been using sub-optimal (read cheap) parts, but also has been threatening to retaliate should anyone point that out. Point 4 on page 46, basically says there are two iPhones in market sold as the same phone: one with cheap parts, and one with good parts, but that Apple

is crippling the good ones so that people cannot tell the difference (and thereby avoid the bad phone).

Many folks think that by buying Apple they are getting the best. However, if Qualcomm is correct, they either are getting a substandard phone — or worse, an intentionally crippled product. The potential consequences range from poor performance to bad connectivity, which could leave users with a phone that does not work when they most need it. Cutting quality while raising prices and aggressively covering that up only works temporarily. Given how we depend on our phones, my guess is that if this is true, it will not end well for Apple.



Often wonder if top executives and boards have some weird undiagnosed disease that causes them, from time to time, to do something so incredibly stupid, or whether they all attended management schools where they taught a chapter that screwing customers is a great business practice.

I recall having a discussion with an IBM executive back in the early 1990s about the company's practice of intentionally creating buggy products



and then charging customers to fix the problems it had created. I asked why they were doing something that seemed insane, only to be told, effectively, that since the customer had no choice, IBM could do what it



Oscar Munoz
CEO
United Airlines

wanted to them and they would pay whatever IBM charged. It remains one of the most idiotic responses I have ever heard, and shortly after I learned that the entire executive team was fired.

To hit aggressive price points with lithium-ion batteries in the early 2000s, Sony covered up that they had not updated their production lines to prevent metal contamination. The batteries



became contaminated and caught fire, forcing massive recalls and pretty much wiping out Sony's lithium-ion battery business and probably began the slow decline of Sony.

It appears that Samsung cut short quality testing to get the Galaxy Note7 out quickly only to find out it was catching fire. In an effort to address that problem quickly, it guessed wrong about the cause, and replacement phones caught fire too. To recover some of the costs associated with its massive recall, Samsung decided to sell refurbished Galaxy Note7s, and I doubt that'll end well. I think Samsung has a death wish.

Between Apple and Samsung, I am not sure which has the stronger tendency for suicidal policies. Apple clearly has a problem, because it is a firm that is valued largely for its innovation, and that is one word that largely has been used in the past tense since Tim Cook took over for Steve Jobs.

While the iPhone has done well —

particularly this last quarter, thanks to Samsung's burning phone issues — nothing else has risen to diversify Apple's revenue or offset a trend of increasing margin pressure. The Apple Watch has languished, the iPad is in decline, and the iPad Pro has been a disappointment. MacBooks, Macs and iMacs have been cash cows for so long that reviving them seems increasingly unlikely. As a result, Apple has moved to a strategy of aggressively cutting costs, while considering charging more and more for iPhones.

Like all of the other examples I have cited here, Apple's alleged action to cripple its phones is customer abuse. If it turns out to be true, then it means that the only difference between Apple and all the rest of these bad



examples is that Apple has taken more money from its customers. I expect that as a reason to buy from a company, being cheated falls pretty low on anyone's list.

From Samsung, to United, to Apple, so far this year has been an increasingly ugly example of executives behaving badly. It really seems like there is an epidemic of stupidity out there. In any case, this month has provided a strong 'teachable moment'. Let us hope a lot of executives learn by watching rather than doing. It is never OK to abuse customers. When companies do, they have translated 'customers' into 'things'. And, nobody likes being treated as a 'thing'.

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Reaching consensus on shared use of Nile Waters

There are eleven countries that have a legitimate claim to the waters of River Nile, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt. The first nine are the riparian countries, which generate the waters flowing along this ancient river, whose source for thousands of years remained a mystery. The Sudan and Egypt are the countries that benefit most from the Nile.

To Egypt, in particular, the Nile is its life blood. Without it, Egypt would be a barren and desolate desert. It is not surprising that it has "threatened to go to war" if its entitlement to 85 percent of the Nile waters, as per 1929 and 1952 colonial agreements with Britain, was tampered with or varied in any way.

In accordance with the agreements, Egypt was given what was tantamount to 'veto powers' over developments along the Nile by the riparian states, so as to ensure that the volume of water going to Egypt remains the same. The

situation has become untenable for these upstream states who rightly felt that these were unfair agreements which tied their hands over a natural resource over which they had an equal right; Egypt's special needs not withstanding. Like Egypt they had needs for hydro-electric dams, water for irrigation, domestic and industrial usage. The bone of contention now is striking a balance between competing interests.

This can only be addressed through a new agreement between all states. The Co-operative Framework Agreement (CFA), which sought to replace the colonial agreements, was a step in the right direction but Egypt has not signed it even though others did. Unless Egypt agrees to a negotiated approach, the alternative will be unilateral actions like Ethiopia's decision to build a 6,000 megawatts dam, without first consulting Egypt.

According to experts cited in a special report on CFA, the massive dam did not affect volume of water



flowing through the Blue Nile to Sudan and Egypt. It was wise for Egypt to 'retreat' from its threat to blow up the dam during construction, a decision which would have had catastrophic consequences beyond Ethiopia and Egypt, and most likely would have engulfed the whole region. Egypt knows that such an adventure would have been seen as a declaration of war on all countries upstream, and would definitely avoid taking that

path. It is high time it realizes that the dynamics have changed over the years as the populations have more than quadrupled in most Nile Basin countries.

Ethiopia has a population of 100 million, making it the second most populous country in Africa (after Nigeria), Egypt has 90 million, Uganda 38 million, Kenya 48 million, Tanzania 51 million. Population growth has adversely impacted on the climate

at a time when demand for water for agriculture, power generation, domestic use and industries has increased exponentially in all countries, Egypt included.

The problem is that population is set to almost double over 50 years in most of Nile Basin countries, further exasperating the water situation.

All the countries must address environmental degradation, whose impact on rainfall is already beginning to show. It is in Egypt's interest and countries of the Nile Basin to invest in reversal of this dangerous phenomenon, which threatens to spread the Sahara Desert down south.

Only through collective action can we save the Nile from 'drying up' and ensure that there is enough water for both down-stream and up-stream countries. Bickering over 'ancient' rights will do us no good.

Ambassador William G. Naggaga
Ugandan economist, administrator and retired ambassador



Gambia at an economic turning point

Officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) say that the Gambia is at an economic turning point following the change of leadership and transition to a democratically-elected government earlier this year.

A delegation from the IMF that visited Gambia and spent over two weeks meeting with stakeholders there, said that despite the challenges that lie ahead, concerted policy efforts plus the support from the international community will be key to ensuring the success of the Gambian economy.

During their visit, the IMF mission met with President Adama Barrow, Minister of Finance Amadou Sanneh, Central Bank Governor Amadou Colley, other government officials, development partners, and representatives of the private sector and civil society. After years of economic mismanagement and massive embezzlement of funds during the 22-year rule of former president Yahya Jammeh, the new government is now being confronted by significant economic challenges.

According to the IMF, the Gambia's economic growth in 2016 is now estimated to have reached only 2.2 percent, down from 4.3 percent in 2015, due to limited availability of foreign

exchange, weak agricultural output and the effect of the political impasse on tourism during high season.

The global lender added that headline annual inflation stood at 8.8 percent in February 2017, driven by higher food prices and the recent depreciation of the dalasi - the local currency - which increases the domestic price of imported goods.

The IMF noted in a statement that the key priority for the new government is to bring public spending in line with available resources, thereby drastically reducing domestic borrowing and interest cost. "Efforts need to include reforms of public enterprises, including the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) and the National Telecom and Mobile Operators (GAMTEL/GAMCEL) to place them on a sound financial footing and limit their drain on the state budget," the statement added.

The Adama Barrow regime disclosed in late January that exiled leader Yahya Jammeh virtually emptied the treasury before leaving the country. The country has however enjoyed the support of international donors and partners who have pledged funds and other assistance to help revive the economy.

African Woman of the Year awards

Gambian human rights activist and the country's acting Vice-President, Fatoumata Jallow-Tambajan, won this year's 'African Woman of the Year' award at a special ceremony held in Dakar, Senegal on 12 April.

The award was presented to Ms. Tambajan in recognition of her work in promoting human rights and women's rights in Gambia, as well as for her role in galvanizing and uniting the opposition against long-term former president Yahya Jammeh.

The annual awards initiated by the pan-African, bimonthly magazine 'New African Woman', recognize,

celebrate and honor African women who have made exceptional impact and change in their countries or communities in the past 12 months. Winners, from 68 shortlisted candidates in 12 categories, were selected by a special panel of judges.

Other winners of this year's New African Woman awards include:



African Woman of the Year Fatoumata Jallow-Tambajan



Moroccan serial entrepreneur Salwa Idrissi Akhannouch for Women in Business award



Nigeria's Joan Okorodudu for Arts & Culture



Ugandan former African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Tumusiime Rhoda Peace for Woman in Agriculture award



Amira Yahyaoui of Tunisia for Woman in Media



Zimbabwean philanthropist and educationist Tsitsi Masiyiwa, for the Woman in Education award



Chief Theresa Kachindamoto of Malawi for Woman in Civil Society award



Kenyan girls-rights activist Vivian Onano for Woman on the Rise award



UN Deputy-Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria, for the Woman in Politics and Public Office award



Namibian ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon Dr. Helena Ndume, for the Woman in Health, Science and Technology award



Mali's Binta Touré Ndoeye for Woman in Finance and Banking



World football body FIFA's first-ever female Secretary General Senegal's Fatma Samoura for Woman in Sport award.



Six violating firms referred to Public Prosecution, 'mandoubs' arrested

Capital Labor Department Director at the Public Authority for Manpower Hassan Al-Khedr confirmed that six companies found to have violated laws were referred to the General Immigration Investigation Department which,

in turn, referred them to the Public Prosecution. In a press statement, Al-Khedr also unveiled a plan to announce the names of some other companies which committed grave violations. He disclosed a number of 'mandoubs'

(representatives of companies) were arrested for forging bank documents and identification cards, affirming they were referred to the General Immigration Investigation Department. He pointed out the establishment

of special offices for immigration investigations in labor departments has greatly contributed to ongoing efforts to eliminate anomalies in processing transactions and in combating corruption.



LuLu Hypermarket launches Beautiful Britain 2017 + Go Organic with LuLu

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its 'Beautiful Britain 2017' promotion and 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign, with an inauguration ceremony held on 19 April at its Al-Qurain outlet. The 11-day festival, which will end on 29 April, is being

held simultaneously at all branches of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Michael Holland, the Acting Deputy Head of Mission at the UK Embassy in Kuwait, in the presence of large gathering of shoppers and top LuLu management.

Large cutout displays of many traditional and popular monuments in UK that attract tourists, are being displayed throughout the hypermarket's branches, as part of the Beautiful Britain promotion, with special prices being offered on all UK branded products. Among the popular food and beverage brands being offered at special prices during the promotion period are, Kettle Brand, Rachel's Organic, Müller, Total, Batchelor, Starbucks, Schwartz, Jamie Oliver, Henllan Bakery, Biona, Harrogate, Churchill's, English Tea Shop and Pertwood Farm, among others.

Meanwhile, the fantastic array of organic food items being presented as part of the 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign, is bound to appeal to shoppers looking for healthy eating options.

The 'Beautiful Britain 2017' promotion, and the 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign reiterates LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to engage with their international mix of customers, by offering food products from all over the world, as well as by providing the widest choice when it comes to food options.



'Underwater' this year's theme at KidZania's 'Kids for a Greener World'

The fun is back with KidZania's 'Kids for a Greener World' annual program. Starting 17 April until 13 May, children can enjoy fun 'underwater' adventures at KidZania, where they will also be educated about the aquatic ecosystems and the importance of preserving them.

Inspired by the Right to Care, one of children's five rights guaranteed by KidZania, 'Kids for a Greener World' focuses every year on different issues pertaining to the environment, to help children become more responsible towards the planet and contribute to creating a better world.

The highly-anticipated 'Kids for a Greener World' kicked-off this year in partnership with EQUATE in a fun aquatic theme about the fascinating 'underwater' world.

Children visiting KidZania during the duration of the program will get to immerse in a variety of water-inspired activities around the city -



from finding hidden gems in an authentic shipwreck treasure hunt, to a magnificent 3D backlight adventure that is guaranteed to take them on an in-depth journey to the aquatic world. At an additional

cost, children visiting KidZania during 'Kids for a Greener World' can also benefit from the 'Underwater Pass' which will enable them to enjoy more fun activities and maximize their experience.

NSH holds cricket tournament for NSH Empower Trophy - 2017

Knowing the passion for cricket among the Indian community in Kuwait, NSH top management

headed by Sabu decided to host a cricket tournament in Kuwait for the NSH Empower Trophy - 2017.

Several teams irrespective of age and grade registered from different locations: Fahaheel, Mahboulla, Mangaf, Abu Halifa, Wafra and others.

The surprising performance of captain Vivek and team put the Fahaheel team in the lead. Though the Mahboulla Lions gave a tough fight, they could not overcome their position.

Vidaya Sagar's Roaring Lions chased away the Jackals who bore witness to their powerful enthusiasm.



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Cooking EGGPLANT to tender, silky perfection

Think eggplant has to be stringy, bitter, greasy, or bland? Chances are you have just never eaten it when it is cooked right. The pale meat of this botanical-fruit-turned-culinary-vegetable is certainly mild in flavor, and its spongy texture means it is prone to soaking up an excess of oil. But all it takes to make eggplant appealing is a little know-how, whether you are grilling it, roasting, sautéing, or blending into smooth dips. Read on to know how to cook eggplant to tender, silky perfection.



Peeling: Because globe eggplant and other large varieties usually have tough skins, peeling it is a good idea, especially if you are serving it in chunks or slices.

If you do not like the idea of removing the skin entirely, you can always partially peel it in striped fashion. When you grill-roast the eggplant and then separate the flesh from the peel, keep the skin on during cooking to keep the eggplant intact.

Salting: Globe eggplant works deliciously in just about any eggplant dish, provided you salt it first. Salting, also known as purging, accomplishes two goals: it pulls out juices that carry bitter flavors, and it collapses the air pockets in the eggplant's sponge-like flesh, thus preventing it from absorbing too much oil and getting greasy.

To salt your eggplant, peel it and then slice, cube, or quarter depending on the recipe. Sprinkle the pieces generously with salt and let them sit in a colander for an hour. Rinse in plenty of water to remove the salt, firmly squeeze a few pieces at a time in the palm of your hand to draw out almost all the moisture, and then pat dry with paper towels. Thorough drying is important; squeezing out excess moisture will give you a less greasy result.

Avoid under-cooking: Eggplant must be completely cooked through until it is meltingly soft, smooth, and creamy. This way it will be flavorful on its own as well as receptive to the other flavors with which you will blend it.

Grilling: To grill, first salt and thoroughly dry the eggplant. Then brush the slices with oil and grill over a medium-hot fire until soft and cooked through. Grill-roasting can get messy, so if you are trying this over an indoor gas flame, line the burner trays with foil or try broiling the pierced eggplant instead. Peel off the blackened skin, drain the flesh in a colander, and squeeze out all the moisture.



Oven-Roasting: As an alternative to grill-roasting, pierce the eggplant in several places and roast it whole and unpeeled on a baking sheet at 177 degrees Celsius until it is quite soft and starting to collapse (almost an hour). Peel and drain it as you would for grill-roast.

Fry and Stir-fry: These cooking methods seem to throw people the most because of how much grease eggplant

can soak up. If you are using globe eggplant, salt it and squeeze dry; other varieties do not need salting. Be sure the oil is very hot and add the slices in the pan in one layer (if you crowd the pan, the eggplant will steam instead of fry and will not cook evenly). Turn often and adjust the heat to avoid burning until the slices are a rich brown color (about one to two minutes). Drain on paper towels.

Quick-cooking Japanese and Chinese eggplant are the best candidates for stir-frying. Cut the eggplant into 1/2-inch cubes. When the oil is very hot, toss the cubes into the pan with a little salt and stir-fry until the eggplant is a rich brown color.



Recipe:

Eggplant with Fragrant Spices and Herbs

Ingredients

2 medium globe eggplant
2 tsp. ground coriander
2 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. turmeric
1/2 tsp. cayenne, or to taste
Salt to taste
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 large onions, chopped
2 tsp. minced garlic
1-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and minced
1 small fresh green chili
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
Fresh lemon juice
Fresh cilantro leaves for garnish

Preparation:

Light a grill fire and grill the eggplants, turning frequently, until the skins are black and parched and the flesh feels soft when pierced with a fork. (Alternatively, prick the eggplant in several places and roast on a foil-lined baking sheet in a 177 degrees Celsius oven until soft, turning two or three times.)

When the eggplants are cool enough to handle, peel the charred skin and place them in a colander to drain. Squeeze gently to get rid of the extra moisture, chop the pulp and set aside.

In a small bowl, combine the coriander, cumin, turmeric, cayenne, and a little salt.

Heat oil in a skillet and fry the onion over medium-high heat until golden brown. Add the garlic, ginger, fresh chili and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant. Add the spice mixture and stir for another few seconds. Then, add the tomatoes and cook over medium heat until soft. Stir in the eggplant pulp and the chopped cilantro. Cook, stirring often, until all the liquid in the pan evaporates and the oil begins to separate and forms a glaze over the mixture (20 minutes). Taste and add salt as required. Serve in a bowl sprinkled with more cilantro leaves.

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Impressing with Impressions

Vidya Satish displayed her vision of art through 'Impressions', an art and photography exhibition at the Gallery Hall of Dar el Cid on 14 April. An engineer by profession and working as an IT professional in Kuwait, Vidya treated art as a form of a creative outlet, which she used as a conduit to broaden her vision of the world and her compassion for nature.

At a tender age, she was inspired by her mother who painted traditional art forms, thereby introducing her to the beautiful world of art. Supported by her family, Vidya gradually developed a passion for the meditative art of painting and grew a penchant for the self-discovery that



Many of Vidya's paintings depicted her joyous childhood, one worth mentioning is 'Nurture Within' showing a young girl wading through a meadow of colorful flowers amid the backdrop of clear blue skies.

it brings. Her quest to explore the world around her, also made her take up photography, thereby widening her kaleidoscopic view. Passion developed into talent and talent was forayed on canvas resulting in 'Impressions', a collection of over 60 paintings and a select 30 of her best works of photography - through the eyes of Vidya signed Nethra meaning 'Eyes'.

'Impressions' was inaugurated by the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain, who was all praise for the artist's works and was deeply impressed by the noble cause behind



the event, as the proceeds from the exhibition would go towards the education of underprivileged children in India.

Baqer Dashti, a media consultant and an ardent art lover, appreciated Vidya for her efforts and requested Ambassador Jain to encourage more such Indian talent to be unfurled in Kuwait. He mentioned that both countries share a deep-rooted bond of friendship, which will be strengthened through such exchange of arts and culture.

Although all of Vidya's paintings are worth a mention, we highlight a few of her most striking ones.

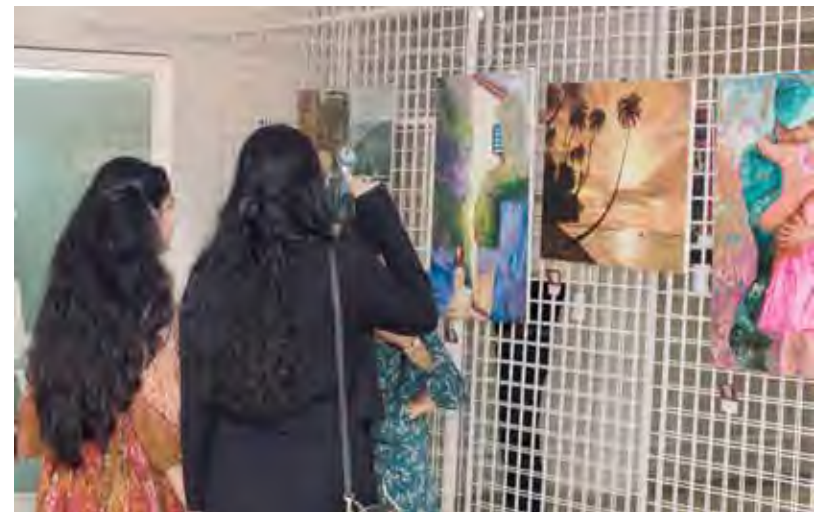
Culture was depicted through 'Rhythm', a painting that covers a temple festival in Kerala, which is attended by hordes of people with color and pompous fanfare. Nature was exemplified through the artist's canvas with paintings like 'In search of Bliss', which took us on a trip through the magnificent river waters to the Blue Mountains. From calm blue, the artist takes us to the fiery skies through the 'Wings of fire'.

Many of Vidya's paintings depicted her joyous childhood, one worth mentioning is 'Nurture Within' showing a young girl wading through



a meadow of colorful flowers amid the backdrop of clear blue skies. Vidya also showcased human emotions like parental love and friendship through her works such as 'Unconditional love' and 'Friends forever'.

When one feels they have had enough of vivid colors, there starts the photography section, which takes us through the talented Vidya's Nethra, this time through her camera lens. Vibrant captures of sea gulls, wonderful pictures of vintage cars, snaps of beautiful Bharatanatyam



poses and sports action clips too, all captured with the grace and elegance of a celluloid maker.

The entertainment enjoyed by music lovers was done by Shreyas Srinivasan, Ashwin Jaiganesh and Shobhit Jain.

Nethra's 'Impressions' exhibit was covered through the eyes of ace photographer and Tamron Kuwait Mentor Guruprasad Hegde.

The 'Impressions' of nature on canvas was well appreciated by people from all walks of life. Vidya

can be proud of her efforts, not only for the natural talent she has been bestowed with, but also for the fact that she is one of those select few who cherishes the 'Joy of Giving' through this exhibition and inspiring other artists as well. With her maiden exhibition, Vidya Satish hopes that her works are a small step in the direction of spreading the peace and joy of giving, thereby brightening the world around her.

Report by **Jacklyne Anand**
Photos: **Guru Prasad Hegde**



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Abdullah Al-Mubarak registered as Kuwait's 9th healthy city

Abdullah Al-Mubarak neighborhood has been registered as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Healthy City Network, the second in Al-Farwaniyah Governorate and the 9th in Kuwait. Head of the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health Dr. Amal Al-Yahya made the announcement on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of the registration agreement.

The network is a world initiative launched by the WHO and was adopted by Kuwait as a project of sustainable development, Al-Yahya said, noting that they are hard at work seeking to develop all Kuwaiti areas into healthy cities in line with the world's criteria. These criteria are environmental, health, educational, economic and social ones, in addition to the preparedness for emergencies and the provision of resources and cadres as well as promoting voluntary work, she noted.

On his part, the national coordinator for the Healthy Cities Network initiative at the ministry,



Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti, said there is a strong desire in all Kuwaiti areas to fulfill the requirements to join the initiative.

Al-Farwaniyah Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah emphasized the "limitless" support by the Governorate to the efforts to include more Kuwaiti areas in the healthy network. Sheikh Faisal added that it is a source of pride that Abdullah Al-Mubarak neighborhood was registered in the WHO Regional Healthy City Network.

Taxes eyed on energy drinks, tobacco

A draft law stipulates imposing tax on certain goods including 100 percent tax on energy drinks and tobacco, in addition to 50 percent tax on fizzy drinks.

A copy of the draft law also stipulates a fine of KD 4,000 for failure to enforce the law and a reward for those who report anyone found to have violated the law. This comes concurrently with the Saudi Consultative Council's approval of the Selected Goods Law which will be referred

to the Saudi Cabinet for implementation.

Implementation of the law is in line with the agreement of GCC countries on imposing selected goods tax that target harmful and luxury items. Selected goods tax is an indirect tax collected from importing companies while the manufacturers and consumers will bear the cost since it will be added to the prices of such goods. This step also aims to help consumers give up harmful products.

Bhavans win gold medals in CBSE swimming cluster competitions



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Indian Educational School, Kuwait) organized the prestigious CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education, India) Swimming Cluster Contests at the Kazma Sports Club from 17 to 20 April.

On 17 and 18 April, the girls swimming events were inaugurated by Mr. T. Premkumar, Principal, Bhavans as well as the Convener of CBSE Kuwait Chapter. In his address, the principal welcomed all the ace swimmers of the Indian Schools in Kuwait and the officials drawn from the various CBSE schools in the country. On 19 and 20 April, the boys entered the pool to compete in the swimming competitions.

The individual champions of the competition are as follows:

Under 11 Girls: Caren Maria Joby (Bhavans Kuwait)

Under 14 Girls: Disha G Shenoy (ICSK) and Irene Susan Jose (Bhavans Kuwait)

Under 17 Girls: Kammalikka Mahendran (Bhavans Kuwait)

Under 14 Boys: Yousef Mohamed (FAIPS, Kuwait)

Under 17 Boys: Aaron Mathew Sherry (Bhavans Kuwait)

Under 19 Boys: Karthik Sivakumar (Bhavans Kuwait)

Bhavans Kuwait maintained its supremacy in the swimming contests in the country by winning the overall championship trophies in the boys' and the girls' categories with 109 and 96 points. The boys' and the girls' teams from FAIPS scored 90 and 78 points respectively to be the overall runners-up of the event.



ICSK Khaitan begins New Academic Year with tree plantation

To instill the concept of 'The Green School', a tree plantation program was held in the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) - Khaitan on the first day of the academic year 2017-18.

The students of Class VIII along with the Principal, senior teachers and distinguished guests, enthusiastically participated in the program. The school received assistance from various philanthropic organizations working for environmental causes to implement this green school initiative. Various types of plants were planted on the school grounds like date palm, berry, olive, lemon and a variety of flowering trees.

Earlier, the school had collected all the used



books from the students at the end of the academic year and combined with used papers collected from the school, sent the entire five tons of waste for recycling.

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Bugsy Malone Interview with budding actor Morgan Gwillim

The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) will treat audiences to an amazing variety of BAIA performances as they take on Bugsy Malone on 5 and 6 May. It is 1920's New York and life on the streets is tough, more so for Roxy Robinson, who finds himself in the middle of the war for new turf.

Fat Sam, who runs the most popular club in town, is at loggerheads with his arch rival, the dapper Dandy Dan who has manufactured a new weapon - the Spurge Gun. Armed with this new style machine gun that has never before been seen before on the streets, Dan and his hoodlums are spreading fear and destruction wherever they go. Only the penniless, ex-boxer, Bugsy Malone can halt this havoc but



can he do so without being 'splurged' himself. Playing the part of Bugsy Malone is Morgan Gwillim, an enthusiastic young actor in love with theatrics and excited over performing on stage.

In this interview, the 11 years old actor discusses his latest foray into BAIA's stage drama.

Tell us a little more about yourself?

I have enjoyed acting since I was 7 years old. My hobbies include listening to music and dancing, but I am actually interested in so many things that it is impossible to count them all.

When did you first and last perform? What

drew you to get involved in the drama?

My first big performance was in Poptastic, a BAIA musical, when I was 9 years old (2015). And Matilda, another BAIA performance, was truly an amazing experience.

I watch a lot of films and I love many actors. My favorite musicals are 'Bugsy Malone' and 'Annie'. In general, I love musicals because they allow you to express your inner feelings with no restrictions.

Why did you audition for the role of Bugsy Malone? What interested you in the character?

The similarities between me and Bugsy Malone's character made me want to audition for the role. We're both cocky and very talkative.

Before auditioning, me and my grandfather watched the musical live in Wales and it immediately interested me because the children in the musical were acting as gangsters and I found that to be an unusual sight.

Why should people come and watch the show? What's special about the show?

It can relate to both adults and children. As children always want to become adults so fast and in Bugsy Malone, you can see how you can remain being a child but still express your feelings as an adult.

What are your dreams and ambitions?

I would really like to become a professional actor as I would love to be able to make people smile, or a firefighter as I would like to help people.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in acting?

Be yourself and act as the role you have been given. Don't be nervous and show the character by expressing your feelings and emotions to the maximum. And if you ever feel nervous, the best way to get rid of it is to use a stress ball to relieve all the stress you are feeling before going on stage.

CRIME

Diesel thieves arrested

Three expatriates of Asian and Syrian nationalities were arrested for stealing diesel from oil sites and storing it in specialized containers inside a livestock pen in Kabad area. The suspects confessed during interrogations that they work for a company owned by a citizen which has a contract with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). They revealed that they have been stealing diesel from the oil facilities of KOC and storing it in the livestock pen. Detectives then discovered that the Kuwaiti citizen was exporting the diesel overseas using falsified documents, and selling it to Asian countries at higher prices. Investigations have been launched to find and arrest him. The three arrested suspects have been referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

Parents acquitted of beating girl to death

The Court of Appeals recently upheld the verdict of the lower court and abstained from issuing a sentence against the parents and the uncle of a girl who reportedly died as the 'suspects' tried to beat the demon out of her body. The parents and uncle thought the girl was possessed by an evil spirit and beat her mercilessly upon the advice of two Egyptian sorcerers. The trio has been released but the Egyptians have been sentenced to six months imprisonment followed by deportation.

Indian held for selling liquor in public

Police have arrested an Indian for selling locally manufactured booze to his customers in public. The arrest came after a Kuwait saw the Indian in front of a house in Khaitan with two bottles of alcohol and informed the Operations Room of the Interior Ministry. A security force dispatched to the spot found 26 more bottles. The suspect and the contraband have been referred to the concerned authorities.

Gang of Jordanians on visit visa caught stealing from faithful

Officers from the General Criminal Security Department arrested two Jordanians for stealing from laborers in Shuwaikh Industrial Area. This came after a Palestinian filed a complaint at Shuwaikh Police Station that some unknown persons stole KD 800 from him while he was praying inside a mosque in Shuwaikh Industrial Area. Acting on the complaint, the officers embarked on a thorough investigation which led to the discovery that a gang of five Jordanians entered the country on visit visa to engage in such illegal activities. The officers arrested two of the gang members - one of whom was nabbed at the airport in an attempt to leave the country. During interrogation, the suspects told police that three of their accomplices already left the country. They said they planned to steal from worshippers and ransack vehicles. The officers found cash amounting to KD 2,000 in the possession of the two suspects whereas the other three gang members took some stolen money with them.

Two Kuwaiti women caught drunk

Personnel from Hawalli security patrols have referred two young Kuwaiti women for drinking alcohol and insulting a police officer on duty. The 'drunkards' were caught at a police checkpoint in Hawalli. When the police asked the woman behind the wheel to pull over for violating a traffic law and demanded to see their Civil IDs, he found them abnormal and at this point they insulted him. During interrogation at a police station, they admitted to attending a party and drinking alcohol.



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26 April

**Gift Boxes and Frames**

Workshop: An event for girls aged 9 years to 14 years, Gift Boxes and Frames Workshop will be held at the TIES Center from 6pm to 8pm. The workshop, headed by Eman Hab Al-Rumman, will demonstrate how to make gift boxes and beautiful frames with a professional look. The workshop is free of cost but prior registration is required to attend. For more information: Visit, www.tiescenter.net or call, 25231015.

**B-Underwater Bubble Show:**

A visually stunning cirque-style show, B-Underwater Bubble Show will be held in Al Jabriyah from 5pm. The event is a blend of drama, mime, dance, puppetry, juggling, contortionism, sand art and magic. Colorful costumes, bright effects and millions of bubbles, large and small, will make this a one-of-a-kind experience for everyone. For more information: Call, 66709925.

27 April

**COMFEST-Comic Festival**

Convention: A three-day pop culture convention combining film and TV, comics, anime, games, cosplay and music will be held on 27, 28 and 29 April at Mishref Fairground, 4A, from 4pm to 11pm. The event will bring upon the ultimate fan experience with international line-up of celebrity and entertainment guests, artists and cosplayers. For more information and to register: Visit, www.comfestkw.com

27 April

Red Bull BC One Kuwait Cypher 2017: One of the biggest one-on-one B-Boy competitions in the world, Red Bull BC One, provides a platform every year for thousands of dancers across the globe to represent their

countries at the World Final. This year, the finals will be held on 4 November in Amsterdam. The Kuwait cypher, a platform for Kuwait's top B-Boys to battle for a chance to represent Kuwait at the Red Bull BC One finals, will be holding their qualifier round auditions on 27 April at the Promenade Cultural Center, and final round on 28 April in Argan Square, Salmiya, opposite AUK, from 6pm to 8pm. For more information and to register: Visit, www.redbullbcone.com.



Music Concert: Humood Al Khudher: Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre will be organizing a music concert featuring Humood Al Khudher, from 8pm to 10pm. Born in 1989 in Kuwait, Humood Al Khudher developed interest and passion for art and music at a very young age. He has released many singles and music videos over the past decade. For more information on the event and to book your tickets: Visit, www.jacc-kw.com

**Music Concert - Badshah:**

Indian Youth Society Kuwait will be showcasing Badshah, a rising rapper from India at the Al-Shaheed Park Amphitheatre, from 8pm. Badshah started his career as a rapper with 'Begani Naar' in 2006 with Yo Yo Honey Singh. He has also worked with Gippy Grewal, Aastha Gill and Diljit Dosanjh. For more information on this event and to book your tickets: Call, 66361912.

29 April

Peak of Al Hamra: A vertical race inside Kuwait's tallest building, Al Hamra Tower will be held from 9am. Individual participants have to climb 60 floors, while team relay has 30 floors each, and fun run, five floors. To register: www.events.pro-vision.com



3 May



Peter Pan: The Never Ending Story: An extraordinary theatre production, 'Peter Pan - The Never Ending Story' musical will be held on 3 and 6 May, at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, Gulf Road, from 8pm to 10pm. This theatre version is a mix of spectacle, magic, stunning visual effects and soul warming music. The show consists of actors, dancers, stuntmen, acrobats and magicians. To book your tickets: Visit, www.jacc-kw.com

5 May



Lifestyle Exhibition: SB Fashions will be organizing a lifestyle exhibition cum sale at UCMAS Kids Club basement, Apsara Bazar Building, near Indian Community School, Salmiya, from 2pm. The exhibition will showcase trending jewelry. Snack counters will also be available at the event. The exhibition is open to all.

Tap Dance Workshop: LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) will be organizing a Tap Dance Workshop by Avalon Rathgeb, from 6 to 18 May at its premises. The workshop is open for student's age 7 to 65 years. The fee is set at KD 45 for six sessions. Students will have a discounted rate of KD 35. For more information and to register: Call, 97267931.

7 May



Wings for Life World Run: A global charity event with a unique fun format, Wings for Life World Run, a run where participants from around the world start their race simultaneously, will be held at BoulevardQ8, Block 8, Salmiya from 2pm. Participants are given the freedom to set their own goals. Half an hour after the beginning of the race, a moving finish line called 'Catcher Car', chases the running along the course, gradually getting faster until each participant is caught. The first runners passed after a few kilometers are the first to celebrate their accomplishments, while the last man and woman to be caught are declared Global Champions. Entry fees and donations are sent to life-changing spinal cord research projects and clinical trials at renowned universities and institutes worldwide. For more information and to register: Visit, www.registration.wingsforlifeworldrun.com.

Parents worried over terrorist groups recruiting their youngsters

The parents of a number of youths have expressed concern to Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs that their children sympathize with DAESH, said informed sources. They revealed that such a stance is adopted not only by boys but also by girls, indicating that the ministry deals with such reports in a confidential manner and offers advices and guidance.

The sources affirmed that many of these youths expressed their sympathy for some terrorist groups on social media, adding that necessary steps are being taken to protect the youths from falling in the trap of terrorism. They stressed that Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs relies on specialists to promote religious moderation among students in schools and universities as well as in mosques in coordination with Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Gulf Bank and Al Sadu Society present educational workshops for children



Gulf Bank is pleased to announce its exclusive sponsorship of a year-long series of educational workshop in partnership with the Al Sadu Society, a distinguished Kuwaiti institution. Titled 'Fun with Textiles', these workshops are designed for children to develop their skills in crafts and textile art techniques. A session was held on Saturday, 22 April at Sadu House, followed by two more in May, and will resume in September and run until the end of the year.

The workshops are free and open to children ages 6-12, although prior registration is required. Each session is open to 12 attendees who will learn and develop creative skills in a relaxed and stimulating environment, with the assistance of professional bilingual instructors. The workshops are structured to ensure that it is fun, flexible and practical. Children will learn how create modern, fun accessories for themselves. Additionally, the children will be able

to explore the exhibits at the Sadu House Museum.

During these workshops, children are given a guided choice of colors, designs and techniques, through which they will be able to develop



their creative skills while having fun. Instructors will be present in each session to encourage children and teach them that crafts are a form of art. Based on Gulf Bank's sponsorship, all workshops are free of charge, and are divided into different and varied activities.

ESF provides INSET staff training



The English School Fahaheel (ESF) is proud to constantly offer staff training and further improve teaching skills. This week's INSET Training took place on the school premises.

Kuwait malaria-free after 388 cases treated 2016

The Ministry of Health affirmed Saturday that Kuwait is currently a Malaria-free zone with 388 cases treated in 2016. Patients with the treated cases have entered Kuwait from other Malaria-infected countries, Assistant Undersecretary for public health affairs Majda AL-Qattan said, on the upcoming World Malaria Day

on April 25. The ministry is following strict procedures to prevent the disease in Kuwait and protect those travelling to infected zones, she said. The disease kills over 400,000 people around the world each year, she added. Meanwhile, AL-Qattan called on those heading to Africa or East and South Asia to take their injections two weeks prior to their travel date at AL-



Sabah Health Zone. The World Health Organization (WHO), will celebrate the Malaria day under the theme "a push for prevention." WHO aims to create a Malaria-free world through a strategy it had adopted in 2015. The Malaria prevention plan for 2016-2030 will involve executing extreme measures to reduce the disease's rates within the next 15 years.



FKH announces membership promotions for surfing lessons



Flow House Kuwait (FKH), an innovative concept waterpark located in Abu Halifa, next to the Kuwait Magic Mall, launched a membership promotion for surfing lessons. The waterpark features a variety of attractions, with the highlight being a one-of-a-kind Flow Rider where visitors can learn how to surf or enjoy riding the waves themselves. General Manager of the Flow House, Hamad Al-Khonaini, announced the surfing school has started daily training sessions and trainers are available to help students learn to ride artificially created waves in a special pool. He added that the first surfing school in Kuwait



and in the Gulf will help promote surfing as an action-packed water sport in Kuwait. Mr. Al-Khonaini assured the public that all safety precautions have been taken care of and the special pool imported from California guarantees safety through its design. He explains that the pool is made of a trampoline surface that makes it impossible for accidents to happen. With a range of membership promotions, FKH hopes to encourage a love for surfing among the community of Kuwait and allow members the opportunity to enjoy an authentic surf experience.

Kalyan Jewellers launches an industry first global campaign

Launching yet another path breaking customer initiative, Kalyan Jewellers, one of the region's most trusted and leading jewellery brands, has unveiled a unique global campaign with 30 Audi A3's on offer. Such an initiative is an industry first, wherein customers across the GCC and India will get an opportunity to win 30 Audi A3's on their purchase at any Kalyan Jewellers showrooms. The Kalyan Jewellers-Audi campaign marks the single largest customer-centric initiative and will run from 10 April until 9 June, 2017 across the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and India. Customers can participate in the promotion by making a minimum purchase across any Kalyan Jewellers showroom across the GCC and India. Those who buy gold jewellery worth KD 50 will receive one coupon and those buying diamond jewellery will receive two coupons. On purchase of gold jewellery worth KD 200, customers are



entitled to get one gold coin free and those buying diamond jewellery for KD 200 will receive two free gold coins free. Winners will be chosen through mega raffle draws held at the end of the campaign.

Higher Committee recommendations to reduce expat population

The higher committee tasked to address the lopsided population structure will most likely suggest a ceiling on the number of expatriates in the country. Expatriates currently constitute two thirds of the country's total population of 4.4 million. This has prompted several lawmakers and officials to call for plausible solutions. Lawmakers who voiced objection to the huge expatriate population have been pushing for drastic measures such as imposing different types of taxes on expatriates. Meanwhile, those who are against such measures argued it is unfair to attack the most vulnerable segment of the society; stressing that action should be taken against those who encouraged these expatriates to enter the country without securing jobs for them. Therefore, the higher committee presented six recommendations to address the issue as follows:

1. Reduce the number of visas allotted for citizens to hire domestic workers by up

- to 50 percent.
2. Around 25 percent reduction in the number of visas allotted for security companies with government contracts.
 3. Set a time limit of about 10 to 20 years for expatriates in certain employment categories to stay in the country, after which they must leave without giving them right to return.
 4. Reduce the number of visas that anyone living in the country can apply for annually. This should be done in coordination with the General Information Systems Department at the Ministry of Interior.
 5. Enact a law to double fines for breaching residency rules.
 6. The weight of population structure imbalance in the country falls on absconding domestic helpers who enter the labor market randomly. This necessitates enactment of a law to punish anyone who helps or incites any expatriate worker to escape from their sponsors.

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VAT and what it means for you

Expectations of a uniform Value Added Tax (VAT) on various goods and services, being rolled out from January 2018 across the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc, is giving rise to calls for businesses to bring their systems and process in line with the new law. Here, we look at how VAT will impact expatriates and their monthly budgets, and whether it is time to speak to your boss about a raise.

Though the exact contours of the new VAT law are still being hammered out by policy makers, and there is talk of granting greater flexibility to individual states on how to define the tax base for imposing the law, what is clear is that VAT will have an impact on your everyday purchases. Basically, VAT is a consumption tax

that is levied on products at every point of sale where value has been added. It starts at the point of raw material sale and then goes up the value added chain to finally reach the retail consumer; with each buyer paying a VAT tax and being reimbursed for that amount by the buyer higher up the value chain, until it reaches the ultimate end user.

Governments usually make leeway in their VAT law so that it does not adversely impact poorer sections of society. Many GCC finance ministries have already announced that the VAT law would exempt staple foods and some sectors such as education, health and social services. The UAE Ministry of Finance has said that essential goods and services such as some



food products, education sector, and healthcare would be exempt from VAT in the emirates.

However, a number of sundry expenses, including for dining out, buying branded and luxury products and electronics, as well as several other goods and services, could be

impacted by the addition of VAT taxes. This could add to a household's monthly budget and lead to an increased cost of living for families in the GCC.

The VAT is being introduced as a means of helping GCC governments to raise other sources of income and is part of the overarching aim of diversifying economies of the region and weaning it away from its reliance on oil revenues. Moreover, VAT is a form of tax that is easier to implement and is less objectionable to many people than a straight-forward tax on incomes. What is not so evident to many is that VAT, unlike an income tax, can also be hiked up gradually over the years without many people realizing or objecting to it.

Kuwait's private-sector promises support for UNHCR activities

Continued from Page 1

She noted that more than a third of the 60 million persons who fall under the mandate of UNHCR are refugees, with five million registered as Syrian refugees. The UNHCR focuses on this group through prioritized programs such as protection, cash assistance, shelter, healthcare and education.

Thanking Kuwait and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for contributing immensely to easing the sufferings of refugees, Dr. Hanan noted that Kuwait's contributions reached US\$1.6 billion, of which \$360 million had been to the UN refugee agency during the period from 2013 to 2016.

Kuwait has previously hosted three international humanitarian pledging conferences, and nine top donors' meetings in support of the international humanitarian response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. In 2016, Kuwait also co-hosted the Supporting Syria and the Region conference held in London, during which the country pledged US\$300 million in support of the Syria humanitarian response over the next three years.

In early April of this year, the UNHCR and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed an agreement worth US\$10 million to improve the living conditions of over 97,000 Syrian refugees in northern Iraq. The agreement was signed at a ceremony attended by Kelly T. Clements, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, and Abdulwahab A. Al-Bader, the Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Highlighting the role that private sector in Kuwait can play in alleviating suffering of the millions of refugees around the world, including 21.3 million who are under the age of 18, Dr. Hanan pointed to the recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the UNHCR and Alghanim Industries. The three-year MoU will see Alghanim Industries provide

support for various key programs aimed at educating Syrian children living in refugee camps in the MENA region. For his part, Alghanim said participating in this event and signing MoU with UNHCR is a huge but long overdue step. The Syrian refugees' situation has been painful to witness and tragic for them to live through, he said, adding that the private sector has a key role to play and can make a big difference for refugees in the region.

The business community needs to be more proactive and that includes Alghanim Industries, and there is an opportunity here to start changing mindsets about a crisis that is not going away, he added. "Hundreds of thousands of Syrian children of school age are missing out on education, we are in danger of creating an entire generation of Syrian children without the skills, confidence, support and resilience to build a livelihood for the future," he confirmed.

The MoU aims to address the educational needs of refugee children, so as to empower and help them overcome their immediate and long-term challenges, through outreach programs, homework support groups, parent engagement and foreign language groups for 10,000 Syrian children in Lebanon, so as to empower the young and help them overcome their immediate and long-term challenges.

The MoU will support the ongoing second shift in Lebanese public schools, which enable retaining Syrian children in the Lebanese national education system, and help bring back some of those who dropped out. For his part, CEO of Agility Tareq Sultan said, "Agility like many other companies has tried to support people in need: From sponsoring 285 families as a part of UNHCR's cash assistance program to donating logistics to move relief supplies to refugees in Greece and Jordan." Sultan indicated that he hoped to see multiple companies working together, engaging with the UNHCR and the private sector for relieving the plight of refugees.

Making workers pay: Exploitation of laborers in GCC

Continued from Page 1

But the harsh reality, as the report reveals, is that many of these workers spend an average of 10 to 18 months' worth of salary just to pay off the costs related to their migration.

If they are lucky, and the construction projects they are hired to work at extends for more than three years, the workers could expect to break-even with what they initially paid to migrate for work. But again, this depends on continuous employment with the contractor and, more importantly, on receiving regular monthly or weekly payments.

However, in recent years, the slide in oil revenue — the main fuel driving economic activity in most GCC states — has impacted the government's ability to pay for many infrastructure developments. This in turn has had a trickle-down effect on the economy, with several construction projects either slowing down or grounding to a halt, leaving workers without any income, often for months at a stretch.

Unlike large construction companies that have other sources of income and can withstand the delay in receiving government monies, the migrant laborer at the bottom of the construction totem-pole is completely dependent on receiving monthly salaries, not only for them and their families to survive, but also to pay back the cost of gaining an employment.

The research points to the 'perverse business model' employed by GCC construction industry, where, in order to reduce the cost of labor on mega projects, the industry passes on recruitment of laborers to callous labor contractors who charge exorbitant fees from potential workers. The study found that workers

from Bangladesh pay the highest fees in the world. Bangladeshis earning just a few hundred dollars a month in the Gulf are paying recruitment fees ranging from around \$1,700 to \$5,200, while Indian migrants pay an average of between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

Rather than providing an opportunity for decent pay and better livelihood, construction industry practices across the Gulf are pushing workers into extreme debt and exacerbating abuses workers are likely to face, such as an inability to change jobs or move to another country due to indebtedness.

"Companies should strive to be in compliance with local law in areas where they are operating," said David Segall, one of the authors of the report. While calling on construction companies to "end the cycle of abuse" by paying for the recruitment costs of construction workers, Segall and his co-author Sarah Labowitz urge Arab governments to enforce laws against the selling of visas. The also ask migrant-sending countries to legalize and regulate their local networks of unregistered recruitment agents.

While there are laws in place against the sale of GCC visas and Gulf-based employers are banned from directly charging migrant workers for their own recruitment, these laws are hardly ever examined or enforced.

There are an estimated 25 million migrant workers across the GCC, many of whom are exploited through low-wage jobs and few protections. Most of these workers arrive in the Gulf for a very simple reason: To make a better life for themselves and be able to send money back to the families and relatives back home, even if it means paying for the work.

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Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8+ launches in Kuwait

The latest Samsung smartphones, Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8+, were launched in Kuwait at a glittering gala held at the Jumeriah Messilah Beach Hotel on 16 April.

The new models, which push the boundaries of traditional smartphones with its seamless screen, hardware design and a variety of new service offerings, received a rousing reception from the large gathering that attended the exclusive event.

"The Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8+ usher in a new era of smartphone design and fantastic services, opening the door for new ways to experience the world," said Tarek Sabbagh, Head of IT & Mobile (IM) Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics.

Available in 5.8-inch Galaxy S8 and 6.2-inch Galaxy S8+, the Infinity Display and bezel-less design form a smooth, continuous surface with no buttons or harsh angles. The phones enable comfortable one-handed operation and Corning Gorilla Glass 5 on both the front and back provides a durable and a high-quality finish.

Featuring the industry's first 10nm processor, the phones offer powerful performance enhancements that lead to heightened speed and efficiency. In addition, the S8 phones have advanced cameras with 8MP F1.7 smart autofocus on the front and a 12MP F1.7 Dual Pixel rear shooter. It is also gigabit LTE and gigabit Wi-Fi ready with support for speeds up to 1 Gbps so users can quickly download



files, regardless of the file size.

The Galaxy S8 and S8+ also offer a wide selection of biometric technologies including a fingerprint

scanner, iris scanner and facial recognition so users can select a secure biometric authentication method that works best for them.

The phones are IP68 water and dust resistant, and offer wireless charging.

The phones also come with Samsung's proprietary Bixby intelligent interface that allow for navigating through services and apps with simple touch, vision and text commands. The two mobiles also offer Samsung DeX, a unique solution that transforms the smartphones into a desktop so users can display and edit data from their phone on their computer screen.

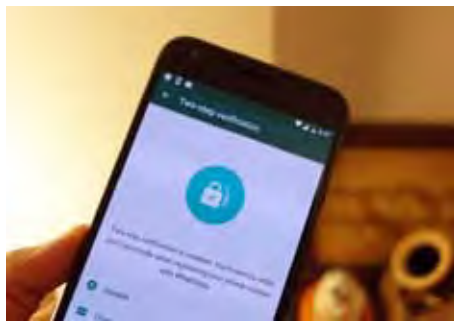
The Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8+ will be available across major retailers in Kuwait from 28 April at KD236 for the Galaxy S8 and KD266 for the Galaxy S8+ and will be offered in a rich color palette including Midnight Black, Orchid Gray, and Maple Gold.

What'sApp new security feature

The two-step verification security feature that WhatsApp recently launched allows users to verify their number when they install the app on a new device more securely. Users will have to provide a six-digit passcode (created by them using this feature) when registering your phone number with WhatsApp again, or during any attempt to verify their phone number through the app.

In order to enable the optional WhatsApp security feature, users have to open WhatsApp > Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable, the company said in its release. Post enabling this feature, users will need to enter their chosen WhatsApp passcode, and optionally provide an email address so that they can recover their account even if they forget the passcode.

The email address will allow WhatsApp to send you a link via email to disable two-



step verification in case you ever forget your six-digit passcode, and also to help safeguard your account.

Notably, WhatsApp says that it does not verify this email address to confirm its accuracy. Therefore, it is highly recommend that users make sure that they provide an accurate email address so that they do not end up locked out of their account if they forget their passcode.

Furthermore, if you have WhatsApp two-step verification enabled, your phone number will not be permitted to re-verify on the app within seven days of last using WhatsApp without your passcode.

This means that if you forget your own passcode, and did not provide an email to disable WhatsApp two-step verification, even you will not be permitted to re-verify on the app within seven days of last using it, the company says.

"After these 7 days, your number will be permitted to re-verify on WhatsApp without your passcode, but you will lose all pending messages upon re-verifying - they will be deleted. If your number is re-verified on WhatsApp after 30 days of last using WhatsApp, and without your passcode, your account will be deleted and a new one will be created upon successfully re-verifying," the company added

Redesigned Google Earth brings guided tours and 3D view

Just in time for Earth Day on 22 April, Google has redesigned Google Earth for web and Android devices. The new version adds new features that let users see 3D maps of specific locations, learn about random places around the world, and take guided tours from their Chrome browser or mobile devices.

Those tours are interactive, and are led by scientists, documentarians, and other experts, helping users learn about our world. Google says more than 50 are available already - under the service's new 'Voyager' section - including a tour of the Tanzanian Gombe National Park

led by primate expert Jane Goodall and her team. Also available are video journeys to six different habitats produced by BBC Earth, and a kid-friendly jaunt to Mexico with Sesame Street muppet Lola, to learn about Mayan ruins.

The new Google Earth also adds an 'I'm Feeling Lucky' button, as borrowed from its bigger search sibling. Click it and the service will take you somewhere unexpected, from opera houses in Italy to hot springs in Japan, before showing you a 'knowledge card' of interesting facts. While you are there, you will also be able to see the location in three



dimensions in your browser or on your mobile device, using the service's new 3D feature. Press the 3D button in the corner of the UI, and you will be able to get a movable drone's-eye view of historical, geographical, or architectural marvels around the world.



Sign in to Microsoft account without password

Microsoft Account holders can now use just their smartphone to sign in. Microsoft is enabling a new phone sign in option as part of the company's iOS and Android Microsoft Authenticator app. While you have been able to use the app for two-factor authentication requests previously, the latest update lets you bypass ever having to enter your password at a Microsoft Account login prompt.

To enable the feature you can download the Microsoft Authenticator app on iOS or Android and select your account from the dropdown button and choose enable phone sign-in. Every time you sign into a Microsoft Account in the future it will generate a login request that you simply match a number on your machine with the number within the Microsoft Authenticator app.

You can always choose to use your password to sign in if you have forgotten your phone, but this process is far easier and ultimately more secure. Microsoft was quick to respond to Google making two-factor authentication a lot easier with a tap to approve feature for its app, and now this new phone sign-in option leapfrogs what Google provides. The competition between the two is a good step towards a future where we might never have to enter a password to log into apps and services.

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Viewing genes inside living cells

Scientists at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in the United States have for the first time developed a way to track genes inside living cells.

The new technique, which allows scientists to watch genes as they move in three dimensions within a living cell, enables the creation of highly accurate 3D maps of their location that helps determine the effect specific genes have.

These maps of gene locations could lead scientists to a vastly more sophisticated appreciation of how our genes work and interact, and how they affect our health. "We are able to image basically any region in the genome that we want, in real time, in living cells. It works beautifully. ... With the traditional

method, which is the gold standard, basically you will never be able to get this kind of data, because you have to kill the cells to get the imaging. But here we are doing it in live cells and in real time," said one excited research team member.

DNA is often depicted as tidy strands stretched out in straight lines. But in reality, our DNA is clumped up inside the nuclei of our cells like cooked spaghetti. "We have two meters of DNA folded into a nucleus that is so tiny that 10,000 of them will fit onto the tip of a needle," said one researcher. "We know that DNA is not linear but forms large, three-dimensional loops. We want to basically image those kinds of interactions so as to get an idea of how the genome



is organized in three-dimensional space, because that is functionally important," he added. Thinking about DNA as a neat line, he noted,

can create misconceptions about gene interactions. Two genes that are far apart in a linear diagram may actually be quite close when folded

up inside the cell's nucleus, and that can affect what they do.

The new approach, developed in conjunction with the University of California, uses the CRISPR gene editing system that has proved a sensation in the science world. The researchers flag specific genomic regions with fluorescent proteins and then use CRISPR to do chromosome imaging. If they want, they can then use CRISPR to turn genes on and off, using the imaging approach to see what happens and thereby overcoming a longstanding limitation of gene imaging.

Using this technique, researchers can look at the single-cell level, while the cell is still alive, and make video images of what is happening inside the cell.

Five life skills to boost well-being

Emotional stability, determination, control, optimism and conscientiousness are five skills that can help raise your prospects for a happy healthy life, says a new study by researchers at University College London.

In a study of more than 8,000 people, aged 52 and older, researchers found a strong link between those five life skills and significantly better health, fewer chronic diseases, less depression, less social isolation and greater financial stability.

While no single attribute was found to be more important than others, a combination of these five skills was seen to produce the best results.

The study found that nearly one-quarter of people with the fewest of those five skills reported depressive symptoms, while just three percent of people with four or five of



the life skills had symptoms of depression.

Almost half of those with the fewest skills said they had high levels of loneliness. Meanwhile, just 11 percent of those with

four or five of the life skills said they had high levels of loneliness, the findings showed.

Slightly more than one-third of those with the least life skills said they had poor to fair health, compared with just six percent of people with four or five of the skills, according to the report.

The researchers were surprised by the range of processes — economic, social, psychological, biological, and health and disability related — that seem to be related to these life skills. Our research suggests that fostering and maintaining these skills in adult life may be relevant to health and well-being at older ages," the researchers concluded in their study.

However, they cautioned that their study was not designed to prove a cause-and-effect relationship.



Depression among children

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, affecting over 300 million people.

To draw awareness of this fact and raise support for this debilitating issue, the theme for this year's World Health Day on 7 April was 'Depression: Let's talk.' Doctors are urging parents to be aware of the signs and symptoms of depression and other common mental health difficulties in children.

While depression is rarer in younger-children (~4%), it generally tends to become more apparent as children move towards adolescence (10-20%). Depression negatively affects how children feel, think and act and sometimes involves the child becoming more irritable and less involved in group activities. It may include negative thoughts, such as 'I'm not good enough,' 'nobody likes me' or 'I'm terrible at this.'

Depression can also include physical symptoms, such as fatigue, weight loss or gain, sleeping difficulties and finding it difficult to concentrate. Children with depression may wish to withdraw from day-to-day activities that they previously enjoyed. Some older children with depression may also experience thoughts of life not being worth living or thoughts of harming themselves. Transitions or changes in a child's life may trigger the onset of a mental health difficulty, such as depression or anxiety. Parents may see these challenges arise following times of change, such as moving school or moving home, or moving to a new country.

Depression may also be linked to some other underlying mental health condition. For example, if your child has become very worried about speaking in public, asking and answering questions in school, and wants to avoid social gatherings at home, then they may be experiencing social anxiety. This shyness, can then lead to depression if it leads to your child becoming isolated from peers.

Depression is also very common in young people who already have physical health conditions. In addition, it is often their mental-health rather than their physical health difficulties that has the biggest impact on quality of life. Depression should not be a stigmatizing condition. It is a common difficulty and the good news is that it is very treatable condition that can lead to big improvements in children's functioning and wellbeing at home and at school.

Parents should talk to their child's pediatrician to identify a qualified mental healthcare professional (e.g. Clinical Psychologist or Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist) who can offer treatments that are evidence-based.

Mosquitoes found to breed on dry surfaces



In an upending of standard wisdom that mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in floating 'egg-rafts' on standing water, new research is showing that a major species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in more varied locations.

The study, by a research-team at the University of Florida, found that most species within the Culex family of mosquitoes lay their eggs in a variety of dry locations. In the study, Culex mosquitoes were placed in screened cages with dishes containing both standing water and partially submerged objects, such as a terra cotta pot or segments of mangrove roots. The researchers were surprised to find that most of the mosquitoes' 'egg clusters' were laid on the dry surfaces of the terra cotta and roots, and not on the surface of the water.

They noted that the breeding habits of one Culex species, Culex pipiens, has

been well-studied because it helps spread West Nile virus to humans. Culex pipiens does tend to favor 'egg-raft' breeding, but other species in the Culex family may not.

This new finding could also have implications on efforts to curb populations of Aedes aegypti — a separate type of mosquito, responsible for spreading the Zika and dengue viruses to humans — which have their own reproductive strategy. Female Aedes mosquitoes lay eggs out of water and, more importantly their eggs do not hatch right away, but remain alive, in a ready-to-hatch state for months.

This means that even if all of the adult mosquitoes are killed off, there are many, many eggs just waiting to hatch when water levels rise high enough to wet them. This calls for added vigilance, not just in killing adult mosquitoes but also in reducing the source population of eggs wherever they are being laid.

Computer work leaves doctors with less time for patients

Physicians are spending more time on their computers feeding in paperwork that they have less time to spend on patients, reports a new study.

The study, based on the daily habits of over 500 doctors in the United States between 2011 and 2014, showed that on average the doctors clocked about three hours with patients and around the same time on their computers filing in reports.

The study found that during the four-year period, doctors saw nearly 638,000 patients face-to-face at least once. The physicians devoted 3.08 hours a day to face-to-face office visits (average 15 minutes each) and 3.17 hours to 'desktop' work.



Much of the desktop work was patient-related, including prescription refills, medical orders, sending messages to patients, and writing notes about patients in their files. These progress notes alone accounted for an average of two hours a day.



BRAZIL

Powdery white-sand beaches, verdant rainforests and wild, rhythm-filled metropolises

The largest country in South America, Brazil occupies almost half the continent. Nearly all of it is in the Southern Hemisphere and much of it is tropical, with vast stretches of rainforest filled with exotic plants and wildlife. Its 7,400-kilometer Atlantic coast is lined with golden sand beaches, and its interior is filled with mineral resources. For tourists, Brazil is both a tropical paradise and an exciting cultural destination with attractions for all tastes, from idyllic beach holidays and jungle explorations to world-class art museums and the pulsing rhythms of Rio's Carnival.



Brasilia: This city's modern-day infrastructure is designed in the shape of an airplane in which each of its sections serve as different districts such as government, commercial, residential and cultural. The city's new and creatively designed buildings attract many architecture aficionados. Most significant is the Three Powers Square, which houses the Presidential Palace, the Congress and the Supreme Court. Other important buildings include the Brasilia Cathedral with its glass roof that resembles hands reaching up to heaven.



Copacabana: Downtown Rio's most fashionable and famous section follows Avenida Nossa Senhora de Copacabana and is bordered all along one side by four kilometers of white sand and breaking surf. The beach is separated from the buildings and traffic by a broad promenade paved in black and white mosaic in an undulating pattern reminiscent of streets in Lisbon, Portugal. The beach is a popular playground filled with sun-worshippers, swimmers, and kids building sand castles whenever the weather is fine. Stroll the streets here to find restaurants, smart shops, cafés, and beautiful old buildings from the days when Rio was Brazil's capital.

Pelourinho: The historic center of the city of



Salvador in Bahia State, Pelourinho's photogenic streets feature brightly colored buildings, many with stucco facades. The colonial city is a convergence of European, African and indigenous cultures.

Amazon Rain Forests: About 20 kilometers southeast of Manaus, the dark Rio Negro waters meet the light muddy water of the Rio Solimões, flowing side by side for about six kilometers before mixing as the Amazon. Boat trips from Manaus



take you to this point, called Encontro das Aguas, meeting of the waters. Other boat trips take you into the heart of the rain forests and the network of rivers, channels, and lakes formed by the three rivers. In the Rio Negro, the Anavilhanas Islands form an archipelago with lakes, streams, and flooded forests that offer a full cross-section of the Amazonian ecosystem. You can see monkeys, sloths, parrots, toucans, caimans, turtles, and other wildlife on a boat trip here.

Gruta do Lago Azul: The 'Blue Lake Grotto' is part of one of the world's largest flooded cavities. Its blue waters extend more than 200 feet deep. The mysterious source of the lake is believed to be an underground river that has yet to be located. The grotto is rich with prehistoric bones, including saber-tooth tigers and giant sloths.

Iguaçu Falls: This waterfall is made up of more



than 270 smaller individual waterfalls, most of which, including Devil's Throat, are on the Argentina side. From the tourist walkways on



the Brazilian side, in Brazil's Iguazu National Park, you get fantastic, though not entirely spray-free panoramic views.

Pernambuco Beaches: The crystal waters,



tall palm trees, and broad stretches of silver sand are only a few of the reasons why Porto de Galinhas is frequently cited as Brazil's best beach. The town stretching along the beach is laidback, colorful, and just the right blend of old-fashioned beach town fun and chic boutiques. Its hotels and resorts lie close to the land instead of soaring in high-rise blocks. Jangadas, picturesque sailboats, will take you out to reef-top pools where brilliant tropical fish swim around your feet in ankle-deep water. You can also take a boat to a lagoon where tiny seahorses swim, and you can scuba dive to explore impressive coral reefs or shipwrecks, kayak in the lagoons and estuary, or buy a fanciful kite from a beach kiosk to fly in the steady breeze.



Carnaval, Rio de Janeiro: Few shows match Rio's pre-Lenten Carnival (Carnival) extravaganza for color, sound, action, and exuberance. This is not just another rowdy street party, but a carefully staged showpiece, where spectators can watch the parades of competing samba dancers from a purpose-built



Cristo Redentor: With arms outstretched 28 meters, as if to encompass all of humanity, the colossal Art Deco statue of Christ, called Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer), gazes out over Rio de Janeiro and the bay from the summit of Corcovado. The 709-meter height on which it stands is part of the Tijuca National Park, and a rack railway climbs 3.5 kilometers to its top, where a broad plaza surrounds the statue. Completed in 1931, the 30-meter statue was the work of Polish-French sculptor Paul Landowski and Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa, and is constructed of reinforced concrete and soapstone. The eight-meter base encloses a chapel that is popular for weddings.

stadium designed by none other than Brazil's best-known architect, Oscar Niemeyer. Called the Sambódromo, this long series of grandstand boxes provides ringside seats to a 700-meter parade route where dancers and musicians from the competing samba schools strut their stuff in a dazzling explosion of brilliant costumes.

Cuisine: Brazilian cuisine has European, African and Amerindian influences. It varies greatly by region, reflecting the country's mix of native and immigrant populations, and its continental size as well. This has created a national cuisine marked by the preservation of regional differences. When in Brazil, try their Moqueca, a fish stew that is served with theatrical flourish as the piping hot clay pot is uncovered at the table amidst clouds of fragrant steam.



Oscar Niemeyer Museum: Oscar Neimeyer was 95 years old when he completed the Museum of the Eye. The museum focuses on art, architecture and design. Popularly known as 'The Eye,' the tower has four floors of exhibition space.



Bangladesh Embassy observes historic Mujibnagar Day 2017



The Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait observed the historic Mujibnagar Day 2017 in a befitting manner in the Chancery in the presence of embassy officials, officials of the Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait, officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and members of the Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait.

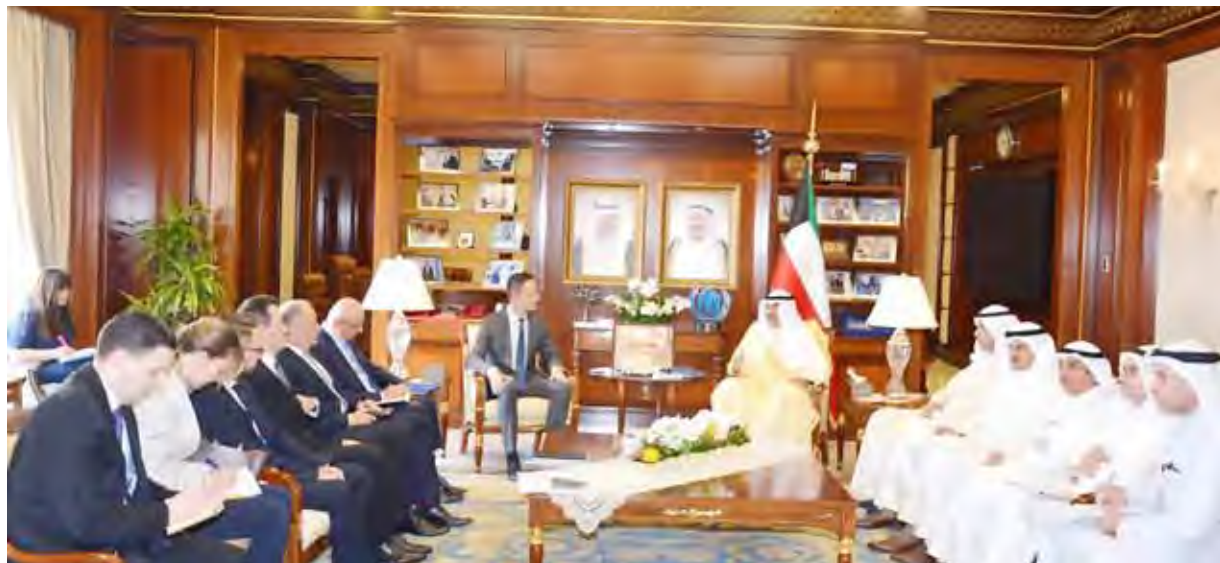
A good number of participants took part in discussion and they highlighted the importance of the historic Mujibnagar Day in the

liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. The Historic Mujibnagar Day is observed by Bangladesh on 17 April each year and is considered a turning point in the liberation war against Pakistan in 1971. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh on 26 March, 1971.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait H.E. S M Abul Kalam in his speech highlighted the events that led

to the formation of the Government in exile and its oath taking in Mujibnagar, the then Baidyanathtala in the Kustia district. He also detailed how the Government in exile led the liberation war in the absence of Bangabandhu and achieved his dream of an independent Bangladesh.

He urged all present in the discussion to be united under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to achieve the 'Sonar Bangla' dreamt by the father of the nation.



Kuwait, Hungary ink 3 cooperation memos

The State of Kuwait and Hungary inked on Wednesday documents stipulating organization of high-level bilateral consultations, cooperation in sports and education and sciences.

The inking of the documents came after First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hosted the visiting Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and trade Peter Szijarto, holding official talks on cementing cooperation in key sectors, issues of joint concern as well as a regional and international affairs.

The two sides during the concluded talks signed three documents; a MoU on holding bilateral consultations between the State of Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the



Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, another memo for cooperation in the sports sectors in addition to a program for educational and scientific cooperation between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education

and the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held a luncheon in honor of the guests at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. Senior ministry officials attended it.

Bangladesh embassy and community celebrate Bangla New Year



The Bangladesh Embassy in cooperation with Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait organized a day-long program at Abbasiya Touristic Park to mark the occasion of Bangla New Year.

The program, which was held on Friday, 14 April, was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait H.E. S M Abul Kalam in a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Bangladeshi Ambassador visited the Pita Uthsab and Panta Ilish stalls, which consisted of homemade sweets, cookies and delicacies. Members of the Bangladeshi community participated in a cultural show, regaling the crowd with their performances of folk, modern, choir, spiritual and patriotic songs as well as a short dance drama and more. Apart from the aforementioned,

some games were also arranged for the children and women in the venue, which added color to the event.

The Bangladeshi Ambassador expressed his appreciation to all



Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait for taking part in the colorful program. He went on to thank the Government and people of the State of Kuwait for their continuous support for the Bangladeshi community.

Japanese embassy announces opportunity to study in Japan

The Embassy of Japan is pleased to announce that the Government of Japan offers scholarship to those who wish to study at Japanese universities as undergraduate and research students.

The Japanese Government Scholarship was established in 1954 in order to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries as well as to make an international contribution to the intellectual field. All Kuwaiti citizens who meet the qualifications below are eligible to apply:

Undergraduate Students

Requirements	Age	Years of Study	Fields of Study
• Completed 12-year school curriculum • Good academic standing	Born between April 2, 1996 and April 1, 2001.	5 years From Apr 2018 to Mar 2023	• Natural Sciences • Social Sciences and Humanities

* Five years of study including one year for studying the Japanese language.

Research Students

Requirements	Age	Years of Study	Fields of Study
• Completed 16-years of school education	Born on or after April 2, 1983.	2 years From Apr 2018 to Mar 2020 Or 1 year and 6 months from Oct 2018 to March 2020	Field of study majored at university or related to it.

*Years of study might extend depending on the major category.

Application forms, detailed information and other conditions can be downloaded from Embassy's website: (http://www.kw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ar/00_000381.html).

The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, 15 June, 2017. Only hard copies, preferably printed on A4 size paper, and mailed through courier or hand-delivered to the Embassy, will be accepted. The application process consists of document screening, written exams, and personal interview.

Academic exams will be held Monday, 19 June, 2017. Applicants are advised to prepare for it by referring to the past exams. (<http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e-32.html#1>)

Past exam until 2015 can be provided for public reading at the Embassy of Japan. For inquiries, please contact cultural section, Embassy of Japan on 25309426.

Kuwaiti FM attends opening of new Bahraini embassy

Kuwaiti First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa jointly attended the opening ceremony of the new Bahraini embassy in Kuwait.





Our Story

Spanning an area of over 10,000 SQM, Flow House Kuwait is a new concept in waterparks. Located in Abu Halifa, next to the Kuwait Magic Mall, the waterpark features several attractions including a kids area, water slides, an outdoor gym and the one-of-a-kind Flow Rider where visitors can learn how to surf or have a go at it themselves.

Taking the innovative concept one step further is the addition of the Clear Lounge Oxygen Bar, which is only the second of its kind in the world. The Clear Lounge allows visitors to be submersed underwater for extended periods of time, replicating the experience of diving in the sea.

For those visitors wanting to spend the day, they have the choice of one of 36 surf themed cabins which vary based on single and double occupancy. Featuring all the services of a hotel, the cabins range in price from 15 KD to 45 KD. Flow House also features an in house Ruby Tuesdays restaurant, and the Clear Lounge Smoothie Bar which serves all natural oxygen smoothies.

For further enquiries or to make a reservation please email us at info@flowhousekw.com or gives us a call at **+965 90013322**

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CLEAR LOUNGE OXYGEN BAR



MEMBERSHIPS

INTRODUCTION CLASS — 20 KD

- 3 visits during operating hours
- Personal coach teaching basic riding fundamentals

STANDARD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — 180 KD

- 30 visits during operating hours
- FHK member shirt
- 10% Discount on all retail purchases
- 10% Discount on all Ruby Tuesday purchases

PREMIUM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — 240 KD

- 90 visits during operating hours
- FHK member shirt
- 15% Discount on all retail purchases
- 15% Discount on all Ruby Tuesday purchases

PLATINUM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — 380 KD

- UNLIMITED visits during operating hours
- FHK member shirt
- 20% Discount on all retail purchases
- 15% Discount on all Ruby Tuesday purchases

LESSONS

GROUP — 15 KD per hour

- Bodyboard and Flowboard lessons
- Sunday through Thursday (4:30 – 9:00pm)
- 4 person limit per class

PRIVATE — 25 KD per hour

- Bodyboard and Flowboard lessons
- Sunday through Thursday (4:30 – 9:00pm)
- 2 person limit per class

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Camp MAUI

At Camp Maui we promote outdoor activities, adventure and unique experiences! Join us for a summer you never want to end. Contact us for more information!

Camp activities include:

- Daily surf lessons
- Access to waterslides
- Oxygen bar diving
- Scavenger hunts
- Weekly field trips
- Swimming lessons
- Arts and Crafts

MAKE EVERY DAY A SURF DAY!

Summer 10, 2017 – July 6, 2017

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

We will be located at Flow House

9650957

@CAMPAULI.KW

Campers:
6 – 14 years old

Volunteer Staff:
15+ years old

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- If you don't have Anghami App, you can download it from App/Play Store
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