

PPP crucial to tackling economic needs of the region

Adopting the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for future infrastructure spending would mean GCC governments can save

to attract more foreign investment, create jobs and encourage the transfer of skills to the public sector. This was the consensus during



valuable public finances during the current challenging period, according to accountancy and finance body ICAEW. It would also enable them

ICAEW's Corporate Finance Faculty round-table about PPP prospects in the region, which was held in Dubai last week.

The distinguished panel of speakers and invited guests discussed how the governments and businesses in the region can work together to address the economic diversification needs of the region, as well as tackle challenges and seize opportunities associated with PPP in the region. Panelists agreed there was a lack of understanding about the PPP concept in the region, which is largely considered to be purely a financial tool.

Speakers explained that GCC governments have to appreciate that the PPP model is a long-term partnership that brings to the public sector a number of benefits including the transfer of expertise, innovation and efficiency from the private sector. It also transfers many risks, that typically have been borne solely by the public sector, to the private sector.

Panelists advised that in order to facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors, there was

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OPEC needs to rethink its production cutting strategy

The decision by several Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and NOPEC (non-OPEC) states to cut oil production from January 2017, has had a tangible effect on global oil markets. Oil inventories worldwide have fallen on average by about 1.8 million barrels per day (mmb/d) since November 2016.

However, industry analysts say that though oil inventories have fallen, the global oil glut is proving to be more tenacious than expected. Petro-states are realizing that balancing supply and demand is a much more formidable challenge than just turning off the oil valves and waiting for the dollars to roll in. Market vagaries and political

vacillations are having a much larger than predicted influence on oil prices. In what is perhaps an admission that production



cuts have so far failed to soak up the excess oil sloshing in global markets, Saudi Arabia and Russia, two of the world's top oil producers, agreed last week to extend

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Science and International Development Policy



Anne-Marie Slaughter and Kate Himes
Anne-Marie Slaughter, President and CEO of New America, is the author of *Unfinished Business: Women Men Work Family*. Kate Himes, former American Association for the Advancement of Science Policy Fellow at USAID, is Foreign Policy Interrupted Fellow and Adjunct Faculty at The Evergreen State College.



On the surface, the village at the foot of the Tian Shan Mountains looks similar to its neighbors. Men stand near the canal wearing traditional kalpak hats, children play in the river, and women bake naan, the round flaky Kyrgyz bread. But unlike other communities along the Aspara River, this village is addressing the water security challenges they face, rather than ignoring them.

Supported by a science-based international development program, the newly created local water management council now meets with a similar council across the international border in Kazakhstan. Together, the councils solved a decades-old problem that affected the ability to feed children, threatened regional security, and prevented enforcement of a 1948 treaty determining how much water each village may use to grow crops.

Applying local solutions to development challenges, these Kyrgyz water management councils built diversion canals and installed

a simple meter to monitor the amount of water used by each village. Constructed from material available in the villages, the new canals connect to the meter and computers, allowing real-time water-flow data to be shared in each village. Though the development assistance has concluded, these international water managers now are mitigating the impact of increasing water flow from glacial melt, while intensifying regional agriculture demand by co-designing water-use forecasts and planting drought-tolerant crops.

Scientific water management thus solved both a development problem and a diplomatic problem, increasing water supply and fostering habits of transnational cooperation that empower villagers to tackle problems. A team of scientists and engineers, rather than diplomats

and conflict-resolution experts, can provide a valuable pragmatic lens on what may appear to be a tangled set of political and cultural issues. During US-Soviet arms-control negotiations during the Cold War, and, more recently, during international negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, Western and Iranian physicists often found common ground more readily than the politicians.

Science- and engineering-based solutions to global challenges have also sparked major innovations, such as the Green Revolution, which tackled the devastation caused by wheat rust, and pioneering immunization techniques that dramatically reduced the spread of measles and polio. And such solutions continue to address development challenges.

A recently developed microbicide reduces the

transmission of HIV/AIDS by 39%. Geospatial data locate freshwater sources and improve development assistance effectiveness. And a new diagnostic tool identifies the presence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and guides medical staff to precise treatment solutions.

The list goes on. The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) alerts governments to possible food shortages. The Volcanic Disaster Assistance Program provides real-time information about impending natural disasters, from volcanoes to subsequent earthquakes and tsunamis. Looking forward, dirt-powered fuel cells could light remote villages so children can study, and large-scale water desalination plants may generate drinking water from the ocean.

These are all examples that Mark Green, who has just been nominated to head up the US Agency for International Development, should bear in mind. Green's commitment to the "aid reform agenda" has been hailed by organizations like the US Global Leadership Coalition, a network of CEOs and NGOs committed to elevating both development and diplomacy. And he was deeply involved in establishing the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which provides aid to countries that meet clearly specified economic and political criteria.

To advance his goals, Green would do well to increase the role of science and technology in development practice, building on the work of the Global Development Lab at USAID, launched by Barack Obama's administration. Scientific experimentation and technological innovation advance effectiveness and accountability through clear metrics of success and failure.

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Maintaining Growth in a Fast-Aging Asia



Changyong Rhee

Changyong Rhee is Director of the Asia-Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund and a former chief economist at the Asia Development Bank.



Asia has been the world champion of economic growth for decades, and this year will be no exception. According to the latest International Monetary Fund Regional Economic Outlook (REO), the Asia-Pacific region's GDP is projected to increase by 5.5% in 2017 and 5.4% in 2018.

Despite escalating geopolitical tensions, most countries in the region have maintained

of purchasing power parity) when its old-age dependency ratio, benchmarked against the US experience, peaked or will peak. As the chart above shows, with the exception of already-rich Asian economies such as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore, per capita income in Asian economies falls, or will fall, far short of other advanced economies at similar stages of the aging cycle.

For example, when China reached its old-age-population peak in 2011, its per capita income was still only at 20% of the US level; and when Vietnam reached it in 2014, that figure was just 10%. And despite its young population and strong growth, India's per capita income will only have reached 45% of the US level when its old-age population peaks in or around 2040; and that assumes, optimistically, that India will maintain very strong growth over the next few decades.

This demographic trend has far-reaching implications for the region. Asian countries will have significantly less time than advanced economies have had to prepare for the transition to an aged society. Worse, they will have to manage the high fiscal costs of aging while they are still relatively poor, which will create new social pressures, which are already apparent in the "old" Asian countries.

Moreover, slowing productivity growth could compound Asia's demographic problem. Since the 2008 financial crisis, productivity growth has decelerated in Asia's advanced economies and, to a lesser extent, in its emerging economies, too. Thus, the region's push to catch up with countries at the global technology frontier has stalled over the past decade.

To boost productivity in the future, Asian governments will have to implement well-targeted structural reforms today. Considering Asia's rapidly aging population, it is crucial that such reforms include policies to protect the elderly, enhance social safety nets, and drive long-term growth. Governments will also need to make it easier for women and older

workers to participate in the labor force, by expanding child-care facilities and creating incentives for firms to relax their retirement-age requirements.

As Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Singapore have shown, immigration can soften the blow from rapid aging. And by strengthening pension systems, including through minimum

guaranteed benefits, governments can provide a safety net for the vulnerable elderly and reduce incentives for precautionary savings.

These policies should be supplemented by productivity-enhancing reforms. Different countries will have different priorities, but all will need to make larger investments in education and life-long training, while pressing ahead with labor- and product-market reforms.

Finally, advanced Asian economies should focus on improving innovation, by allocating research and development spending more effectively, and by raising productivity in the services sector. Emerging and developing countries, for their part, will need to attract more foreign direct investment, boost domestic investment, and expand their capacity to adopt new technologies.

their economic momentum. They have benefited from policies supporting strong domestic demand in China and Japan, and from favorable global conditions. Growth is picking up across many advanced and emerging market economies, and financial markets have, for the most part, proven to be resilient.

Nonetheless, Asia will still have to confront fundamental medium- and long-term challenges, not least the aging of its population - a problem that is well known to most policymakers. In past decades, the region reaped a demographic dividend from its young, expanding workforce and strong growth policies. But this dividend has already run out for "old" countries such as Japan and China. With fertility rates declining and people living longer, the workforce is shrinking and getting older at the same time.

To be sure, not all Asian countries are aging at the same rate. In China, Japan, Korea, and Thailand, these demographic trends could subtract anywhere from 0.5 to a full percentage point from annual growth over the next three decades. But in "young" countries such as India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, the working-age population will actually increase, adding from 1-1.5 percentage points to average annual growth over the same period.

And yet, even these young countries will not be spared from the effects of an aging population. In this year's Asia-Pacific REO, we point out a little known fact: almost all of Asia is at risk of growing old before ever becoming rich.

Why is this occurring? For starters, although Asia is not the most aged region in the world today, it is aging remarkably fast. One indicator of this is the old-age dependency ratio: the share of the population that is 65 and older. In Europe, it took 26 years, on average, for this ratio to increase from 15% to 20%; in the United States, it took more than 50 years. Among Asian countries, only Australia and New Zealand aged at similar speeds. In most other countries in the region, this transition took - or will take - less than 15 years.

So, being the world growth champion simply isn't enough. To see why, consider each country's per capita income (in terms

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To boost productivity in the future, Asian governments will have to implement well-targeted structural reforms today.
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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Confronting Europe's Illiberals



Guy Verhofstadt

Guy Verhofstadt, a former Belgian prime minister, is President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (ALDE) in the European Parliament.

European politicians have mastered the art of wagging their finger, most recently at Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and US President Donald Trump. Sadly, the same cannot be said for our ability to formulate political solutions and implement common policies.

The refugee crisis has shaken Europe to its core, because, rather than taking collective responsibility for managing the flood of migrants and refugees into Europe, we have mostly shifted the burden to frontline countries. This has eroded European solidarity. Likewise, our inability to come together to stop Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's war crimes against his own people has left a void that Putin and Iran have filled.

European leaders too often shout from the sidelines when they should be on the field, acting to defend common European interests. And as if our failure to ensure stability in our

own neighborhood was not enough, we have also allowed right-wing populist and nationalist movements to take off within the European Union itself. These movements, actively fomented by Russia, have produced homegrown political leaders who frighteningly – but not surprisingly – resemble Putin and Erdoğan.

Poland's de facto leader, Jarosław Kaczyński, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in particular, have been busily constructing illiberal states within the EU. Since coming to power in 2010, Orbán has been using his large parliamentary majority to rewrite Hungary's constitution for his own ends. Apparently, winning elections is not enough. He now wants to shred the liberal values that he once championed as a young centrist politician, and cement his control over Hungary's political process. In recent years, he has pursued this project through varied and ruthless means. The government regularly harasses or raids civil-society and nongovernmental organizations. Media outlets that disseminate Orbán's propaganda receive tax breaks, while those that criticize him are taxed so heavily that they eventually have to give up. This means that EU money is effectively being used to stoke Euroskepticism.

In what is only the latest outrage, Orbán's government is attempting to shut down Central European University in Budapest. Although CEU, founded by the Hungarian-American investor and philanthropist George Soros and led by the human-rights scholar and former Canadian opposition leader Michael Ignatieff, is just 26 years old, many of its departments already rank among the top 50 in the world. Nonetheless, Orbán has refused to talk with Ignatieff; consequently, the university could be forced to

close by the end of the year.

In fine autocratic fashion, Orbán has tried to smear CEU with hysterical reporting about the university's foreign financing. And, because he wants to portray CEU as "un-Hungarian," he usually neglects to mention that he himself received a Soros-funded scholarship to study at Oxford soon after the collapse of Hungary's communist regime.

Orbán's attack on CEU amounts to more than a violation of academic freedom. Now that he has weakened Hungary's constitutional court and free press, he wants to undermine critical thinking itself. If he succeeds, he will have removed yet another check on his power. And, by shutting down such a prominent US-supported institution, he can send a message that no one who has stood up to him has won.

Despots throughout history have used the same tactics. But Orbán is doing so in the EU of 2017. It is worth remembering that, in order to join the EU, Hungary had to meet stringent accession criteria, including credible democratic institutions and adherence to the rule of law. The fact that those high standards are now being systematically eroded has introduced a paradox for the EU. Once a country has gained entry into the bloc, there is little that can be done to ensure that it maintains democratic standards and upholds European values.

The European Commission can launch as many "infringement procedures" against Hungary as it wishes; Orbán will simply ignore them with smirking pleasure. After months of discourse with Hungarian government officials, the EU's only option now is to invoke Article 7 of the Treaty of Lisbon, which could ultimately remove Hungary's voting rights within the EU.

Invoking Article 7 is not a "nuclear option," as some have claimed. Rather, it is the logical response to a member-state government that has routinely violated citizens' fundamental rights and EU values. Earlier this month, deeply concerned members of the European Parliament, after two previous attempts, finally approved a resolution that will pave the way for EU sanctions against Hungary. From the standpoint of European parliamentarians, there is no reason why sanctions cannot be quickly implemented.

The European Commission has already documented the facts of the case against Hungary, complete with arguments and counter-arguments. If two-thirds of MEPs now approve sanctions, the file will be forwarded to the European Council – at which point European heads of state will have no choice but to address the matter.

Europe's credibility already suffers because some of its leaders hold ambiguous attitudes toward Erdoğan, Trump, and Putin. But continuing to waver over Orbán's transgressions will have even more serious long-term costs. We Europeans must aspire to be more than just participants in an internal market. We need to restore the values-based community that once helped us face down dictators like Francisco Franco, António de Oliviera Salazar, and the Greek colonels, and that united Europe after the collapse of communism.

A values-based community has no place for governments such as those that now rule Hungary and Poland. The EU should invoke Article 7 as soon as possible, and with the broadest possible majority among member states. And, after Orbán, we must turn our attention to Kaczyński.

GLOBSEC Forum in Bratislava to See 1,300 Guests from 70 Countries

Some 1,300 guests from 70 countries are set to attend the 12th edition of the international security forum GLOBSEC 2017 due to begin in Bratislava this Friday 26 May.

It's the largest number of participants in the history of the event, GLOBSEC conference president Robert Vass told journalists at



Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, 47, is among the panellists at this year's GLOBSEC conference in Bratislava

a press conference in Bratislava earlier in the day. He added that the share of women participating in the forum is 40 to 60 percent.

As many as 12 foreign affairs ministers are scheduled to attend the conference, including Turkey's Foreign Affairs Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. Among the most prominent guests at the event will be NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller, European Council President Donald Tusk, Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, advisors to US President Donald Trump as well as representative of Russia's State Duma Vyacheslav Nikonov.

The main topic of the conference is

'Adapting (to) the Future'. "We can see that the dynamics of change in the international environment as well as the technological changes that are emerging are really exponential and our western institutions are often unable to adapt [to them] with the same dynamics. [The handles of the] scissors are opening up and various problems are emerging. And this is the key topic of the conference – to define the main trends," said Vass.

The GLOBSEC president went on to say that the forum doesn't only focus on security issues any more, but it's focus is being shifted in a more strategic direction. This year's conference is therefore divided into four main areas – the fourth industrial revolution, global changes and trends, the future of the West and western institutions and globalisation versus protectionism.

According to GLOBSEC Honorary Chairman Rastislav Kacer, the world as such is dynamically changing at the moment. "I think that we can all feel that the world is becoming too fast and complex. We can observe the rise of extremism that offers easy solutions," said Kacer, adding that the GLOBSEC conference has been trying to bring about scope for a professional discussion based on values. Kacer further stated that he's convinced democracy and the free world represent the best framework for the world's functioning.

The GLOBSEC conference will be opened on Friday by Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak (a Smer-SD nominee), Slovak President Andrej Kiska and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda. It will run until Sunday 28 May with closing speeches delivered by Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD), his Czech counterpart Bohuslav Sobotka and Donald Tusk.

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Preparing freezer friendly Burritos

The secret to a successful stress-free breakfast or dinner is a freezer-friendly burrito stash. Filled with a variety of delicious items, frozen burritos heat up quickly and are filling enough.

Preparing burritos to stock your freezer only takes about 30 minutes, and with a few smart details they will be as delicious as they were on the day they were prepared.



The tortilla: Large, burrito-sized flour tortillas are the best bet for your EFBs (Easy freezer burritos) since they are easy to wrap and the least likely to tear. Corn or alternative-flour tortillas (like spelt or sprouted grain) tend to be drier, which makes them more susceptible to tearing



when rolling. Choose something pliable and fairly thick so all those delicious fillings stay snug inside your burritos, and try to find a package that specifically says 'burrito-size' on it (these will be around 10 inches wide).

The rice and beans: As with any burrito, rice and beans are essential to a good EFB. Not only do they add bulk to your meal, they also provide a solid foundation upon which you can layer



your wet toppings. This minimizes the risk of your burritos getting soggy before they get a chance to freeze.

The rice: You could easily make a batch of rice specifically for these burritos. But part of the beauty of the EFB is it is the perfect vehicle for leftovers, which is why you can use whichever leftover rice you have in the fridge.



The beans: Whether you prefer them plain or refried, canned or dried, beans are critical to the EFB. Refried beans are best suited because they deliver a hit of creaminess and bring together all the other fillings. Whole black or pinto beans are perfectly fine too—just make sure you drain them well. Whatever beans you use, just remember blandness is the first enemy to burritos. Since it is a lot of individual components in one compact package, you have to make sure each ingredient is well-seasoned before it goes into your EFB. That includes your rice and beans.



The protein: Your options here are pretty much limitless. Here are a few ideas to get you started (remember to always use cooked meat for your EFBs.): Crumbled tofu, shredded rotisserie chicken, smoked tempeh, sliced leftover steak, spicy braised chicken thighs.

The vegetables: Leftover roasted or sautéed vegetables are a great way to sneak a little more nutrition into your EFB. Avoid vegetables with high water content because they will end up making your burrito a soggy, wet mess in the microwave. Avoid adding any veggies you would not want to eat hot, like shredded lettuce, cucumbers, radishes, and avocado.

A few vegetarian filling ideas would be: Sautéed leafy greens (like Swiss chard, kale, and collard greens),



caramelized onions, roasted sweet potato, sautéed peppers and onions, roasted corn, slow-roasted shallots.

The cheese: Although it is not strictly necessary to add grated cheese to your EFBs, it can make a world of difference. A dose of gooey, melted cheese adds an element of creamy richness that just brings everything together.

Assembly and wrapping: Before you begin to wrap your EFBs, make sure you have your workstation set up with your fillings, tortillas, and utensils. You want to create an EFB that is completely sealed on all sides, which will prevent your fillings from spilling out. Here is how to do it: Lay a tortilla flat in front of you and spread a few tablespoons of rice and beans horizontally across the center of the tortilla. Pile on about a cup total of protein, vegetables, and cheese. Fold the left and right sides of the tortilla in over the filling, then roll the burrito, starting with the unfolded edge closest to you and rolling away from your body.

Storing: For storing, place them seam side down on individual sheets of aluminum foil and wrap before storing them in the freezer. At this point, you could also stack them in freezer-friendly gallon-sized plastic bags for neater storage. The burritos can be frozen a month ahead, although you would be hard-pressed to keep them around that long.

Heat and eat: Remove from the foil, then wrap in a damp paper towel. Place the wrapped burrito on a plate and microwave on high for two to three minutes, until heated through. Serve with a variety of sides, such as pickled red onions, sliced jalapeños, sliced avocado, salsa, sour cream.

Forbes Middle East celebrates Kuwait's success

Forbes Middle East recently held an event to recognize and celebrate achievements of the Kuwaiti companies and business leaders making an impact in Kuwait. The magazine unveiled the top 50 listed companies, top private companies making an impact in Kuwait and the most powerful women in Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information graced the event with his presence and delivered a

continue to encourage business leaders and connect companies with decision makers at such events, we would like to congratulate and thank all the leaders who have successfully contributed to the regional economy and to the development of the country."

Forbes Middle East, for the second consecutive year, unveiled the Kuwait Guide 2017 which included rankings in three major categories: top 50 listed companies, top 10 private companies making an impact and most powerful women in Kuwait, with ten in business



keynote speech on Kuwait's vision and its plan for 2035.

Speaking at the event he said, "I appreciate the attempt of Forbes Middle East in recognizing the efforts of these business leaders and their continuous persistence in helping put Kuwait on the global map. We are all jointly working towards our vision of New Kuwait and are combining forces to deliver in all areas of development. I am grateful to Dr. Nasser and Forbes Middle East for inviting me to this event and express my gratitude to all the business leaders wishing them luck in their future endeavors. I would like to congratulate all the business leaders and I wish them luck in all their future endeavors."

Khuloud Al Oman, Editor in Chief, Forbes Middle East, said, "As we

and one minister.

The top 50 listed companies were ranked on four metrics: sales, net profits, assets and market value. Each company received four separate scores based on where it ranked in each metric with specific cutoffs. All the scores were added to reach a composite score and thus rankings were structured. Aggregate sales and profits of all ranked companies were \$30 billion and \$4.2 billion respectively and they had \$267.5 billion in aggregate assets and an aggregate market value of \$61 billion. Market value and currency conversions were as of April 6, 2017, while the audited financial statements for 2016 were used. Of the 50 companies on the list, investments sector dominates with nine entries, followed by banks and real

estate with seven each. The largest bank in Kuwait, NBK, topped the list.

Privately held companies are the backbone of major Arab economies. To rank the top 10 companies, data from company websites and documents were collated. A set of measures like number of employees, age of the company, global presence and number of subsidiaries were used for ranking these businesses. Companies from the diversified sector dominated the rankings followed by the retail and investments sector. Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi & Sons Company topped the list.

Women have played an integral role in Kuwait's economy, with many senior executive roles in local companies being held by them. To rank the top women in Kuwait, size of the company, their positions and sphere of impact were taken into consideration. Among the 11 women ranked, around 10 of them occupy senior leadership roles across various companies and one woman, Hind Subaih Al-Subaih, the Minister of

Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, represents the government sector.

Forbes Middle East has support from valued partners, including Al Tayar Travel Group, one of the largest



travel and tourism companies in the region as strategic partner; Danube Properties, one of the leading property development companies in the U.A.E as industry partner; Arab India Spice, a global leader in the pulses and spice industry from the UAE as support partner: Al Anba, one of the oldest

Arabic language daily in Kuwait as the exclusive newspaper partner. The event is managed by Tarteeb media.

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Across the region, Forbes Middle East sets the pace for preemptive business journalism. By uncovering trends and anticipating opportunities in the regional marketplace, each monthly issue brings top executives the information critical to their success - in both Arabic and English language editions.

The magazine researches and publishes original rankings, based on methodologies set by Forbes Media.



NGIS holds Investiture ceremony

NGIS held its investiture ceremony for the year 2017-18 on 15 May. During the ceremony, the students of grade 5 and grade 6 were honored as the office bearers by the principal Mr. Felix and Vice Principal Ambika Suree Kumar.

BSK students excel in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Challenge

A group of students from Years 6, 7 and 8 at the British School of Kuwait (BSK) took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Challenge. This challenge is aimed at Year 7 and 8 students in the UK, in which the top 40% achieve a Bronze award, the top 20% achieve a Silver award and the top 7% achieve a Gold award.

Of the students who participated from BSK, 3 students achieved Bronze, 4 achieved Silver, 11 achieved Gold and 6 have qualified for the next round, the prestigious Junior Mathematical Olympiad.

Congratulations to Moheb Eskaross in Year 8, Omar Deebas, Mazin Bersy, Rares Morosan, Mukta Kondpalle and Mahrukh Zahoor in



Year 7 for qualifying for the Olympiad and Yaqoub Alabdulmuhsen for being in Year 6 and achieving a Gold award.

Well done to all who took part and the best of luck to those who are through to the next round.

The happy students were delighted to join BSK Founder Madame Vera Al Mutawa MBE, Head Teacher Ms Emma Bowie and their Maths teachers Mr Simon and Mr Milton for a celebratory photograph.

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Divorce rate in Kuwait reaches an alarming 60 percent

Around 60 percent of marriages in Kuwait have ended in divorce so far this year, according to statistics issued by Ministry of Justice for the first quarter of 2017.

Figures indicate that there were 2,001 marriages in January and February, down from 2,425 in the same period last year. They also show that there were 1,193 cases of divorce in the first two months of 2017, up from 1,180 last year.

According to the results of a field study conducted by Ministry of Justice on the marital situation and causes of divorce in Kuwait, there are several factors behind the increasing divorce rate. One such is that of loans and financial assistance provided by the state to newly married couples. Many young people, who are seeking ways to make easy money, have been resorting to 'interest-driven marriages' in order to

obtain loans and benefits. However, after they achieve the objectives, they file for divorce with the agreement of their spouses. Another reason mentioned in the research was the wish to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship.

Calls for action to curb the growing phenomenon of divorce in Kuwait are not new. Several lawyers and sociologists in the country have been calling for rewriting the divorce laws after official

figures indicated that the trend in divorces showed an alarming annual increase. The lawyers said that the Kuwaiti law was a major factor. Under the law, a divorcee gets a salary, a house, a car and a maid and at the same time, she is free of all marriage commitments.

Kuwait has one of the highest divorce rates in the region. Negligence, inability to shoulder responsibilities and adultery are cited as the main causes of divorce. This

and the blatant interference of families in the lives of the couples. According to the ministry, a formal end to marriages at a young age should be imposed and the society should work on consolidating values and training young people on assuming family responsibilities. Families should not interfere in the lives of the couples and a commission to reconcile spouses and to bridge gaps between them should be set up.

Prominent Indian community member and leading businessman M. Mathews passes away

Adoyen of the Indian community in Kuwait and leading businessman Mathunny Mathews passed away on 20 May, at the age of 81, at his residence in Qadisiya.

The late Mr. Mathews had been bed-ridden for a while, following a protracted illness that had seen him hospitalized. Fondly referred to as Sunny Mathews and popularly known as Toyota Sunny, due to his long association with Al-Sayer Group, the local agent for Toyota automobiles, he was a prominent and well-respected figure in the Indian community.

Since arriving in Kuwait in 1956 at the age of 20, the young Mathews took up different jobs before joining Al-Sayer Group. He worked his way up the ranks and was instrumental in raising the profile of Al-Sayer Group to make it one of the leading automobile agencies in the

region. Retiring in 1989 as Managing Director of Al Sayer Group, he then set up his own companies Al Safeena Rent-a-Car and Al Safeena General Trading and Contracting Company.



Mr. Mathews was a leader of the church and, the founder and chairman of Jabriya Indian School, as well as one of the founding members of Indian Arts Circle, a community cultural and social organization, of which he was the president for well over a decade. However, Mr. Mathews is best remembered for his role in helping with the evacuation of over 170,000 Indians, who were stranded in Kuwait following the

Iraqi Invasion in 1990. Hailing from Kerala, Mr. Mathews leaves behind his wife Mary Mathews and three children, Joy Mathews, Annie Mathews and Susan Mathews.



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Science and International Development Policy

Continued from Page 2

Evidence-based solutions call for evidence: results delivered, not resources invested. Original development solutions grounded in science are thus created in parallel with innovative monitoring systems that require program evaluation. The result is an efficient and effective use of public and private financing.

Moreover, science and technology-based approaches to development can sidestep partisan posturing. Notwithstanding the intense political debate in the US over climate change, science is upheld globally as a neutral endeavor, and often provides an opportunity for bilateral and multilateral cooperation that complements - and strengthens - diplomatic relationships. In recent years, a large number of civilian agencies - including those with a science focus - have been engaging in international assistance programs and initiatives, covering areas such as public health, education, disease prevention, police training, trade promotion, and clean water.

Perhaps most important, the scientific method instills habits of mind - the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and good government - that are not only intrinsically valuable, but also

essential for twenty-first-century economic progress. In a 2016 commencement address at the California Institute of Technology, the surgeon and writer Atul Gawande described science as "a commitment to a systematic way of thinking, an allegiance to a way of building knowledge and explaining the universe through testing and factual observation."

That commitment implies a "weird way of being," Gawande continued. "You are supposed to have skepticism and imagination, but not too much. You are supposed to suspend judgment, yet exercise it. Ultimately, you hope to observe the world with an open mind, gathering facts and testing your predictions and expectations against them."

Science and technology can never be a panacea; the neutrality of the scientific method will always run up against the passions and interests of politics, which can drive scientists to create nerve gas and atomic weapons as readily as new seeds and desalinated water. Still, now more than ever, in what Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt calls the "age of intelligence," the dissemination of new tools and habits to expand knowledge is a core element of human development around the world.



As we approach the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims must prepare to answer a flurry of questions by people unaware of what it really means.



Fasting, or 'sawm' as it is known in Arabic, is one of the five pillars of Islam and a very spiritual time for Muslims all around the world.

But to some, there is an air of mystery surrounding the practice and confusion about what exactly the rules are.

Here are some common misconceptions and explanations that quash the misplaced beliefs:

Myth: Fasting helps lose weight

Fact: Fasting is not aimed at weight loss nor does it help you lose weight. While breakfast generally jump-starts metabolism and helps burn fat faster, fasting reduces overall calorie intake and tells the body that the calories absorbed are less than the ones needed. This pushes the body to slow down the metabolism and conserve energy to remain efficient, activating the body's natural protective mechanism to resist what it perceives as starvation. This slows down the calorie-burning rate, which, at the contrary, might lead to weight gain.

Myth: A heavy suhour will help you fast easier

Fact: Suhours should not be heavy. Big meals loaded with calories and fat, regardless of their amount, cannot compensate for energy lost during long fasting hours. Even if we eat more than normal, there is the tendency to feel low on energy on the next fasting day because of the deprivation of food. The key to surviving a whole day of fasting is eating the right foods. Suhour has to be balanced in carbohydrates, protein and good fat, that is egg omelet with vegetables and whole-grain



slices of bread plus green vegetables or a little bit of mashed avocados. The most important thing is not to consume fried foods and foods high in salt during suhour in order to prevent excessive thirst the next day.

Myth: Fasting eliminates toxins from the body

Fact: Eating does not create toxins in one's body. It is eating the wrong food items and consuming unhealthy meals that gives the body oxidative stress. For instance, while fasting, having simple sugars (Arabic sweets, cakes, juices) and eating a lot of fried food will not help in removing toxins from the body.

The most important thing, whether fasting or not, is to limit unhealthy food and maintain a diet rich in antioxidants. This fights free radicals that cause illnesses, malaise and diseases. Make sure to consume super foods like fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds, salmon, avocado and more. Fasting alone is not enough to remove toxins. It has to be accompanied by a healthy and balanced diet.

Myth: It is not safe to exercise when fasting

Fact: Exercising while fasting can be safe if one can work out on empty stomach. The only problem with exercising while fasting is that the body is not receiving energy from food. What might happen is depletion of muscles to produce energy that is already stored in the muscles as glycogen.

If you want to exercise while fasting, you can do it directly before Iftar and then replenish your energy needs from the food, or after consuming a light Iftar (1-2 hours post meal) and then again have a post-workout meal rich in protein and carbohydrates to replenish your energy levels. It is also imperative to seek the advice of your health care provider prior to starting any exercise routine.



Maintaining exercise habits during fasting

If you are planning to quit your exercise routine during Ramadan, think again. Experts are of the opinion that exercise and fasting can go hand in hand. Here are some tips on how to maintain your workout plans while you fast during the holy month.

The exceptions: There are some exceptions to exercising during fasting. For instance, if you suffer from any chronic diseases, injury or complication, you can continue to exercise, but with caution.

In particular, people with type 1 diabetes should not exercise at all, as this can upset their glucose levels profoundly. Type 2 diabetics, however, can continue to exercise at a low-intensity level, but for a maximum of 30 minutes, focusing on aerobic and strength training. If you suffer from high blood pressure or hypertension, you can also continue to exercise, but at low-intensity, or around 75 percent of your maximum heart rate. For example: a 60-year old woman's maximum heart rate would be 160 beats per minute and 75 percent of 160 is 120 beats per minute. So, a 60-year old hypertensive woman should not exercise during Ramadan at a heart rate of more than 120 beats per minute. These maximum heart rates depend on age, gender and health risk factors.

If you are recovering from an injury or any other health complications, when fasting,

exercise at low-intensity for a maximum of 30 minutes, as your body will be using more energy during the recovery phase of injury or pain. This is because not enough energy and glycogen stores are retained for more than 30 minutes when exercising. In addition, people with chronic diseases or complications often do not take their medication while fasting, which makes it difficult to manage sugar and cholesterol levels and blood pressure during Ramadan.

When to exercise: The ideal time to train is about 90 minutes before sunset (Iftar). After a moderate exercise session, you will not be able to adequately replenish the glycogen stores you burnt during exercise, thus resulting in symptoms like dizziness and nausea. This time is ideal because you will be breaking your fast soon afterwards and replacing the energy and glycogen you lost when exercising.

Here are some tips for exercising during Ramadan:

- Terminate exercise immediately when feeling dizzy or nauseous
- Plan when to sleep and when to wake up
- Consider naps and schedule rests as your body experiences more fatigue during Ramadan
- Have a 'working lunch' (since you do not have to eat), then arrange with your boss to leave an hour earlier at the end of the day. This will allow you to get in some time for training before you break your fast.
- Intermittent exercises such as Action Soccer or cricket after sunset and evening prayer is a good way to maintain physical activity and fitness
- Endurance, speed and agility training should be avoided completely.
- Diet and hydration guidelines:
- Try to consume 6 to 10 grams of carbohydrates per kilogram of body weight
- Eat 1.2 to 1.2 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight
- Your fat intake should be 20 to 30 percent of your total energy intake



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PRAYER TIMINGS - KUWAIT

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

With Best Wishes:



Eating Right during Ramadan



Ramadan is around the corner and families have already started preparing for the fasting month by stocking all the essential food items.



Avoid salty and sugary foods: Eating sweets immediately after iftar will result to bloating and cause a delay in digestion. It will also cause a fluctuation in the blood glucose level, which will lead to you craving for more sweets. That is why, it is recommended to have sweets in moderation two to three hours after

iftar. Delightful sweets in Ramadan are hard to resist. To avoid consuming too many calories, indulge and enjoy with your family the tasty and creative delights while making sure you always practice portion control and moderation.

The more the food is salty, spicy and processed the more it will make

you thirsty the following day. The body breaks sugary foods faster, and this will also make you hungry sooner.

Avoid coffee: If you are a coffee drinker, try and reduce your coffee consumption two weeks prior to Ramadan in order to avoid headaches and sleepiness.

Fasting during Ramadan can improve one's health, but only if done in the proper manner, if not, it can cause more harm than good.

After long hours of fasting when you see a good spread of appetizing iftar in front of you, eating healthy can sometimes be a distant dream.

But that can be taken care of.

All you have to do is prepare and eat food made from fresh ingredients, cooked in a healthy manner for a nutritious Ramadan meal.

Follow the given tips and make a few lifestyle changes to get the best out of this Ramadan.

Start your meal with dates: Dates are a very important source of sugar that will replenish the energy you lost throughout the long hours of fasting,



it is rich in fibers that will regulate your bowel movements. They are rich in magnesium and potassium as well.

Stay hydrated: Summer is almost here and temperatures are hitting high. So you have to make sure that you drink enough water after you break your fast so that you do not feel thirsty or have any signs of dehydration the following day.

Avoid thirst: Avoid salty foods, such as canned or processed foods, salted nuts, and pickles, because these

will increase your thirst during the fasting period. Also avoid foods that are too spicy or salty, and consume more fruits and vegetables that are refreshing to prevent getting thirsty.

Break your fast slowly: Start with dates, water, followed by soup, a bowl of salad and then go to the main meal. If you feel full after the salad, you can take a break and continue your meals later. Overeating can cause stomach pain and bloating which is a very common problem that people face during Ramadan. Starting your iftar meal with a warm soup comforts the stomach after a long day of fasting, replenishes your body with fluids and help prepare the digestive system for this meal.

Make healthy food choices: Choose whole grains, lean meat, chicken breast, fish, olive oil in moderation and whole fruits instead of fruit juices. Stay away from fried food, and food high in fat. Meats, legumes, eggs and dairy products are rich in proteins. Ensure you have at least one of these sources in every Ramadan meal since proteins are very important for your body cells. They also increase your satiety level thus reducing the temptation for eating sweets.

Divide your meals: Having three meals is still important during this holy month: iftar, a light evening snack, and suhoor. This would help you avoid continuous snacking throughout the non-fasting hours.

Divide your main course into three parts. Have one quarter of the plate filled with complex carbohydrates, one quarter with lean meat or meat alternatives, and half with vegetables. This will ensure that you have a healthy balanced meal.



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BREAKING Bad Habits this Ramadan

Habits pretty much help us run our daily lives. Whatever we do is a result of some habit we have developed at some point in our lives. It goes without saying that the habits we have, impact our life and health of the body and soul. Good habits nourish it while bad habits deprive it of the peace required.



friends. Collective action to change is very powerful.

Think of yourself as a new person: This simple psychological shift in your thinking about your own image can do wonders. Tell yourself, "I cannot continue this ill-behavior. I am better than that. I am stronger. I am wiser."

Reward success: The most fundamental law in all of psychology is the "law of effect." It simply states that actions followed by rewards are strengthened and likely to recur. Setting up formal or informal rewards for success greatly increases your chances of transforming bad habits into good ones, and is far more effective than punishing yourself for bad habits or setbacks.

Get help: Tell someone about your effort to change if it helps. He or she may keep you on track and may offer some good advice. Read books that will encourage you to do virtues actions.

Resolve to continue on: Giving up bad habits or learning good habits requires regular maintenance and determination. It is a long, ongoing process, and is more difficult than the first few steps of change. So ensure that you follow up.

Develop a relapse strategy: How do you ensure not to return to your bad habit you are trying to change? Some people donate money to a good cause every time they return to sinning or a bad habit. This reminds them of the 'cost' of going back to old bad habits. Others try physically demanding acts to deter them from reverting to old ways.



The month of Ramadan is considered as the month of blessings, improving oneself and developing good habits. It provides a platform in the form of fasting to break the bad habits and replace them with good ones.

Here are a few steps you can follow to break those bad habits.

Acknowledge your bad habits: The first step is to admit you need to change. If you are in a state of denial, you will not recognize that you have a bad habit to change.

Pick a habit for this month: Prioritize your bad habits and focus on one for this month. If you are committed to changing at least one habit, you will see remarkable results.

Realize that it is in us to change: You can break

any bad habit if you really want to. No one else can change your habits, if you do not want to.

Intention and plan to change: A healthy process of change in character requires a gradual pace, which entails planning. Develop concrete milestones to measure your progress.

Replace a bad habit with a good one: Completely eliminating a habit is more challenging than replacing it with a more productive one. Moreover, it is crucial to replace



the lost natural needs, such as the need to socialize and to be entertained with something healthy. For instance, it is easier to replace your addiction to TV with a physical workout or reading the Quran.

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Dos and Don'ts for non-Muslims



The holy month of Ramadan is here, which means fasting during daylight hours and breaking the fast in the evening with Iftar. While non-Muslims are generally well aware of the dos and don'ts to be practiced during Ramadan, here are some tips they should keep in mind:

- **Do not eat or drink in public during fasting hours.** Most Muslims in Kuwait fast during Ramadan (exceptions include pregnant women, elderly people, someone who is unwell) and yet go about their jobs with the same dedication. It is, therefore, important to respect those who are fasting and avoid eating or drinking in public.
- **Meetings are fine, but no work lunches:** To expand on the point mentioned above, those fasting will be open to meeting colleagues outside office for work purposes. They will even be courteous enough to entertain you if you accidentally invite them for a work lunch, though they may not eat anything. Therefore, avoid work lunches as much as possible. Schedule meetings early in the morning, or a couple of hours before Iftar.

- **Iftar is a special meal.** It is the meal you have after ending the fast for that particular day. So, if you are a non-Muslim who is invited by a Muslim friend for Iftar, you should not refuse, and you should certainly not say you will not eat because you are not fasting.
- **Be a little flexible.** If you have a friend or a colleague who is fasting, understand if you see they are low on energy. Fasting for a whole day is not easy. Even if you eat and hydrate yourself at night and early morning, the body will soon run out of energy during the day.
- **Do not tell your Muslim friends you want to fast to lose weight.** Ramadan is not about fasting to lose weight. It is about teaching yourself discipline. It is about abstinence, about keeping yourself pure. It is something you should follow everyday of the year. In fact, most people who fast during Ramadan end up gaining weight. This is because of irregular eating patterns and heavy meals at Iftar. There is nothing wrong in fasting as a non-Muslim.

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Médéric Payne, CEO of Home Centre, said: "Ramadan is the perfect occasion to celebrate



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In addition, Home Centre plans to organise a 'Share a Table' iftar in association with charitable institutions. Through hosting this event, the retailer aims to convey the message of the importance of sharing and encourage people to share some precious moments over a delectable iftar spread.

The 2017 Ramadan collection will be available at all Home Centre stores located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaheel and Sama Mall and can also be viewed online on www.homecentre.com.

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Marriott Hotels in Kuwait hold food donation campaign



As part of their ongoing 'Spirit to Serve our Community' initiatives, the JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait and Arraya Ballroom organized a charity drive to donate a wide range of food items to Kuwait Red Crescent. The main goal behind it was to support the Kuwait humanitarian society's efforts to help the less fortunate and underprivileged families in Kuwait.

The donation was handed to representatives

from Kuwait Red Crescent by Cluster General Manager of Kuwait Marriott Hotels, Mr. George Aoun and members of the Associates Relation Committee (ARC).

Mr. Aoun said: "teaming up with the Red Crescent Organization for a good cause reaffirms the corporate social responsibility of Marriott properties in Kuwait. We hope that our initiatives will help people whose conditions did not enable them to have a fulfilled life.



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5 & ABOUT

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

29 May



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

02 JUNE



Music Gala: The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) will be organizing a Music Gala at the Shakespeare Theatre on the BSK Campus, Hawalli, from 8pm to 11:30pm. The event is open to all and tickets are on sale at the BAIA office. For more information: Email, info@baia.edu.kw or call, 50962809, 25623604.

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

Free yoga classes: NYF is offering free yoga, breathing, meditation and reiki classes by a well-experienced female yoga teacher for all age groups. Classes will be assigned on

the basis of health issues, stress and any other problems. For more information and to register: Call, 99315825.

Free fitness classes: B.FIT Studio is offering free fitness classes: Zumba, Masala Bhangra workout, aerobics, toning and much more, in Salmiya. For more information: Call, 65077062.

Free drum classes: Free professional drum classes are available at Salmiya for learners of all age groups and experience levels. For more information and to register: Call, 94974295.

FOSA holds family get-together



Kuwait Chapter of Farook College Old Students' Association (FOSA) conducted a family get-together and a farewell event for Haneef Mohammed and Hijaz Ismail on Friday, 19th May 2017, at Kuwait Medical Association Hall, Jabriya.

The program started at 1:30 p.m. with a buffet luncheon. The official function started with a Qira'at offered by Bhamiya Ashraf followed by a welcome speech by Riyas Ahmed, Presidential address by Mr. Mohammed Rafi, Felicitation speech by Basheer Batha, Raja Gopal

& Ashraf Vakath and ended with the vote of thanks by Ashraf P.T. The event was graced by the presence of Ibrahim Kutty C.H, Chairman of Re-set (Rural education-social empowerment trust), who presented the farewell mementos to Haneef Mohammed & Hijaz Ismail. The program also included various cultural activities and games, controlled by Riyas, Rameez, Dr Musthafa & Zubair M.M, and a Gazal musical concert by Muhammad Rafi kozhikode & team. Overall, the event was successful and concluded at 5:30 p.m.

CEB to suspend operations in Kuwait, Doha and Riyadh

Cebu Pacific Air (PSE: CEB) will suspend its service to and from the following destinations: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Doha, Qatar.

CEB will fly the last of its four-times-a-week service from Manila to Kuwait on June 13, 2017, and its Kuwait-Manila flight on June 14, 2017. The thrice-weekly Manila-Doha-Manila route will have its last flight on July 1, 2017; while CEB's last flight



from Manila to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will depart on July 2, 2017, while the

Riyadh-Manila flight will leave on July 3, 2017.

CEB will retain its other long-haul services to and from Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Sydney, Australia, with a view to increasing frequencies to these destinations in the future. The airline also flies to 24 other international destinations across Asia and USA; as well as 37 domestic destinations.



Talal & Lulwa Alajeel CRYchess 2017



Organized by Friends of CRY Club (FOCC) Kuwait, the CRYchess 2017 tournament concluded successfully on 12 May at the Gulf Indian School (GIS), Fahaheel. The club's main mission of supporting disadvantaged children in India as well as sensitizing children in Kuwait on the main purpose behind participating in CRYchess, continued this year too.

CRYchess tournament is open to all school-going children with no minimum age limit; the youngest player this year was 5-year-old Rahyan Anees and the number of participants this year crossed 150. The participants were divided into five groups with 32 children in each group.

The participants were reminded that "with Cry everyone wins", because in addition to giving their best to be a winner in the game, their presence at the tournament was also making winners out of those disadvantaged children back in India, who often do not have the opportunity to enjoy a childhood.

The event was a resounding success. The 'Kid's Corner', with numerous games and gifts, attracted large number of children. The Corner was run entirely by the 'CRYbuddies' - children who had dedicated their time and effort contributing towards the FOCC mission. The CRYbuddies were Qaisarali Merchant, Kynara Fernandes, Tamara Fernandes, Moiz Godhiwala, Mohammed Godhiwala, Hamza Kachwalla, Nafisa Basrai and Sukaiyna Ghasia. The food stall was set up by Amrutha Kitchen, Kuwait, providing delicious snacks, meals and beverages throughout the day.

Meanwhile the 'Buy for CRY' stall was full of books, toys and household articles on sale at a huge bargain, as well as some interesting outside FOCC partners who took this opportunity to support the cause, by marketing their services under the 'Buy for CRY' banner.

The winners in each group were, in the order of first, second and third place, as follows:

Yellow Citrine: Aaron Rajish Joseph, Mathew George and Reuben Darrius Pereira
Blue Sapphire: Hitesh Kumar Puvvala, Ram Tewari and Aduath Rames Pillai
Red Ruby: Sanskar Mishra, Ditto Ben Joseph and Swastik Goth
Green Emerald: Rajeev Ram Prasad, Rohit Ram Raghupati and Akshat Jain;
Violet Amethyst: Rushil Magazine, Jonathan Vinay and Ebin Shibu.

All the participants were also awarded a medal and a certificate.

FOCC expressed their gratefulness to GIS for providing the facilities for the tournament during the past three years and hoped to continue the relationship well into the future. The event was sponsored by Dr. Hind Albahar for the third year running, and the organizers expressed their appreciation for her continued support to FOCC. This year, two of the last year's participants, Issac Abheek (4 times winner) and Prasanna Reddy came of age and offered their time as Arbiters.

PPP crucial to tackling economic needs of the region

Continued from Page 1

a need for a good 'Public Procurement Law' which is transparent and sets out the processes to be followed for all forms of public procurement.

"Using PPPs to develop infrastructure means governments have the opportunity to shift large upfront capital spending off their near-term financing commitments. However, PPP has to be structured in the right way from the outset. There needs to be an approach by both the government and the private sector providers that looks carefully at how the deals can be structured in the most effective and efficient manner. Because it is a partnership, it must be attractive and beneficial not only for the government, but also for those investing their personal

funds," said Michael Armstrong, ICAEW Regional Director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA).

Speakers also agreed that the most important lesson learned in other jurisdictions that can be applied in the GCC is that each PPP structure should be tailored to serve the project. Parties need to be patient in order to get the structure right and must not rush PPPs.

Panelists applauded Abu Dhabi's approach in implementing PPPs. The Emirate was recognized for having established a PPP model that works well and has successfully completed PPPs in energy, infrastructure and educational sectors.

The event was attended by close to 100 ICAEW members and senior business representatives from the major global and regional financial organizations.

Kuwait eyes developing different transport sectors

Kuwait is looking forward to implementing "Vision 2035" where government eyes development of various transport sectors, electricity and information technology.

This development will be through the projects of the airport, railways, metro, bridges, seaports and desalination plants and modern networks, as part of a sophisticated infrastructure pillar.

Infrastructure is a main pillar to achieve the new vision as it has a close connection with the desire of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to transform Kuwait into an international financial and commercial hub so as to attract investments.

For achieving this move, His Highness the Amir laid on May 9 the cornerstone for the new terminal at Kuwait International Airport in the presence of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

As a result, the government has prioritized the sophisticated infrastructure as part of its programs to direct big investments in this field to be in line with world-class standards in order to help Kuwait meet its future aspirations and achieve sustainable development. The Kuwaiti government is keen on developing infrastructure, as it is the backbone of all economic and social activities in civilized societies for achieving development and welfare.

Kuwait has worked on investing in the development of infrastructure to be one of the top performing countries at the economic level, as it is a key factor of attracting national and foreign direct investments. This contributes to increasing GDP by raising efficiency and productivity of capital.

The government has set out some targets to achieve the modern infrastructure represented in increasing the capacity of Kuwait International Airport, tackling traffic problem, developing the North of Kuwait as an economic and urban area and connecting it with neighboring countries, raising capacity of ports and meeting growing demands for electricity.

The infrastructure includes five programs topped with developing air transport system, which aims to speed up capacity of Kuwait International Airport through executing a new Class A passenger

terminal in accordance with international standards. It accommodates for 25 million passengers upon the completion of all phases.

Meanwhile, the development of the land transport system seeks to contribute to evolving North of Kuwait as an economic and urban area, linking it to roads connected with neighboring countries in order to limit traffic congestion and help the private sector participate in construction and development of projects in the State.

The project aims to build a 37-km sea bridge through the Kuwait Bay. It includes the



establishment of two islands containing buildings for traffic services and bridge maintenance as well as a fuel station and other services.

The project will shorten the distance between Kuwait City and Sabbiya City, as well as provide other services. The scheme seeks to establish a railway network with a length of more than 570 km, develop the land transport sector and services, activate land connections with neighboring countries, as well as secure and facilitate the movement of passengers and goods.

It aims to contribute to reducing pollution resulting from the use of vehicles and trucks, and cutting dependence on roads transport for both passengers and cargo, as part of treating traffic congestion and increasing investment rates.

It also seeks to encourage the private sector to participate in construction and development projects in the country and to benefit from practical experience, which has a positive influence on local



His Highness Amir, Turkish Pres. oversee launch of new airport terminal.



economy through transferring technology and knowledge, which enhance efficiency of employees and develop services as well as create more jobs.

The project eyes activating the connection between local areas and cities, reducing users of private means of transport and thus cutting traffic congestion, in addition to providing more than 1,500 jobs.

Concerning maritime transportation system, it seeks to maximize the capacity of ports to support the transformation of Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. The project seeks to establish a port with 24 berths and about eight million containers, reconstruct and rehabilitate

the Boubyan Island, modernize an industrial zone, provide new jobs for citizens, receive large ships and promote tourism. It aims at upgrading services provided by seaports, increasing their capacity and receiving modern container vessels.

The fourth project is based on developing and increasing capacity of electricity production in order to meet growing demands, as well as work to raise the strategic stock of water to meet the current and future demands because of urban expansion.

The project targets increasing production capacity of distillation plants and strengthening strategic water reserve, as well as producing 60 million imperial gallons of fresh water per day.

It will attempt to increase the capacity of power plants and the production of electric power within 250 megawatts.

The fifth project seeks to develop infrastructure of information technology, and modernize the latest techniques as well as provide new services.

The project, which covers more than 67,000 plots of land in 33 areas, aims to use the latest technology and provide new telephone services (such as Internet and video) via fiber optic cables, which are characterized by fast transmission, high quality and low prices covered in several areas.

Grand Hypermarket opens its 9th branch in Kuwait



As part of the Ramadan offerings to its valuable customers, Grand Hypermarket will open its newest branch in Mahboula; block 2, on Wednesday, May 24, at 4 pm. This was announced at a press meet held on Sunday.

This is the 43rd branch GCC-wide and the 9th in Kuwait for Grand Hypermarket, which is part of the leading Dubai-based business group, Regency. Kuwait's well-known community leaders and business figures will be present at the inauguration ceremony. Speaking at the press meet, Group Managing Director, Dr Anwar Ameen stated that Grand Hypermarket differentiates itself by providing consumers with high-quality products, uniquely selected to suit their tastes and price sensitivities. "This way we make sure the consumers enjoy a complete shopping experience," he added.

Grand Hypermarket offers a

wide range of products including food stuffs, world-class electronic appliances, home appliances, footwear, health and beauty items et al. Perishable goods are shipped by air on a daily basis to ensure they are available fresh to the end users. Customers will be able to enjoy interesting discounts across all product segments as part of the inaugural offer. Moreover, exciting offers and discounts will be available throughout Ramadan at all the Grand Hypermarket outlets across the country.

For his part, Mr Ayyoob Kacheri, Kuwait Regional Director, stated that this opening is on track with Grand Hypermarket's expansion plans in the region, "and will be soon followed by another outlet in Mahboula, near Express Bay on block 1."

Participants at the Press Meet
Sheikh Dawood Salman Al Sabah (Chief Patron- Grand Hyper Kuwait)



Jassim Mohammed Khamis Al Sharrah (Chairman, Grand Hyper Kuwait)
Dr Anwar Ameen (Regency Group Managing Director)
Aboobacker Mohammed (Regency Group Executive Director)
Ayyoob Kacheri (Regional Director)
Dr Abdul Fathah (Director)

Mohammed Suneer PC (CEO)
Thehseer Ali (General Manager)

About Regency Group

UAE-based multinational company, Regency Group, was established in 1994, growing rapidly in a span of a decade-and-a-half to emerge as a highly

reputed brand among consumers. It set its footprints in a wide-range of industries including trading, hospitality, F&B, healthcare and steel manufacturing among others. The business group imports its high-quality stocks directly from countries like India, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Europe.

The Regency Group has a strong presence in the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, Azerbaijan, India and other countries, and serves about 119,000 customers in the five GCC countries every day. Grand Hypermarket is the group's leading retail-shopping brand that focuses on delivering satisfaction to consumers by offering affordable high-quality products. About 4,100 employees from different nationalities are working under the group. This year the group is planning to make deep inroads in the SME sector through strategic expansions.

Kuwaiti jobless refusing jobs offered

Some Kuwaiti citizens desire particular work



About 35 percent of Kuwaiti citizens registered under the employment waiting list are not serious about finding jobs, especially considering the fact that many of them had refused positions in certain ministries quoting sources from the Civil Service Commission (CSC). They explained that some of them refused

jobs almost 27 times, which indicate that they are not serious about getting a job. Majority of these people are above the age of 45 years. Some of them desire particular kinds of jobs in certain state institutions, and such desires are not easy to fulfill. Meanwhile, Director of Selection at CSC Rateb Al-Uraifan revealed that

6,000 youths among the job applicants keep refusing the jobs that they are being offered. He insisted that CSC aims to provide jobs to every youth but many refuse to be employed in certain ministries, affirming that the applicants have the right to refuse job offers but many times, their refusals are not justified.



Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons unveils all-new LC500



Mohamed Naser Al Sayer and Lexus, one of the Al-Sayer Holding Companies has unveiled the all new LC, the world-class prestige luxury coupe to introduce a new era of uncompromising design and performance.

The launch, which was held at Lexus Center Shuwaikh, was attended by distinguished guests: Project Manager of the LC Manabu Ochiyata, General Manager for the MENA region Koji Nagata, Chief Representative of MENA Regional Office Takayuki Yoshitsugu, accompanying delegates from Lexus along with members of the press and media. Also present at the launch was Faisal Bader Al-Sayer Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Holding along with top Management of the Group.

Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said: "The LC is not just a luxury car; it is a great feeling and experience. Offering the classical segments, but now moving the product line-up."

"The journey of evolution at Lexus will continue as it aims to become a luxury lifestyle brand. And we at Al-Sayer will reflect the Lexus values to offer 7 star customer experience exceeding expectations," said Business Director Lexus Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Mahmoud Abou-Zahr.

Available now in Lexus dealerships across the GCC and Levant, the LC combines stunning design, scintillating performance, long-distance comfort and premium craftsmanship to join an elite group of international grand touring coupes.

BAIA breaks records with Dance Exam Results



The British Academy of International Arts (BAIA) has received the highest distinction pass rate from a weekend of dance examinations under the National Association of Teachers of Dance (NATD). These dance exams included graded Contemporary examinations and Trophy Dance Awards in Ballet, Tap, Modern, and Jazz.

A staggering 75 dance students entered under dance teacher, Ms Claire Findlay, after completing 3 terms of learning the exam work. These examinations are recognised as part of the national qualification framework in England, which allows the students to obtain UCAS points to put toward entry for University's in Europe.

The overall result concluded with an impressive 90% distinction grade and the rest merit level. This is the highest success score BAIA has ever been awarded.

The examiner, Mrs Harita Stavrou, has been working with BAIA to develop the contemporary dance program and offering training to both teachers and students.

BAIA holds classes in Classical Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, and Contemporary starting from ages 3 years old. For further information on what BAIA has to offer in dance, music, drama and art please contact us on the details: Facebook: thebaia and Instagram: baiainq8.

Puppets Come Alive at SIS

Puppets are an aspect of our history and everyday lives. From marionettes to the Muppets we see them on television, on videos or in live performances. Children can believe and relate to them, they can enter and explore the fascinating inventive world that puppets create.

Puppets can stimulate children's imagination, encourage creative play and discovery and are a wonderful interactive way to introduce narrative to even the most reluctant reader. They are a powerful way of bringing story time to life. Puppets can provide a focus for role play, encouraging the child's imagination and involvement in activities and can play a fundamental part in the recitation of stories and verse.

The creative kindergarten teachers of the Smart Indian School staged a mesmerizing puppet show on 18 May for the kindergarten section, enacting the story of The Little Red Riding Hood. Various characters of the story were brought alive using sock puppets, hand puppets, stick puppets and



many more made from recycled materials.

The audience of the little kindergartners enthusiastically applauded the act and were able to narrate the story as how they perceived it. A puppet making activity was arranged for the children giving them a learning opportunity to enact any character of their likes. The young learners were exhilarated by the efforts their teachers had put into making learning a wonderful experience for them at Smart Indian School.



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Expats 'reduction' should be in line with relevant economic study

Consultant for the Higher Committee on Projects Dr Jassem Al-Fahad has said the idea of reducing the number of expatriates should be in line with relevant economic study. He added advanced countries are making use of expatriates to establish economic cities.

Dr Al-Fahad added the Kuwaiti economic plan entails the construction of new cities, which will be residential, investment and commercial in

nature operating on a comprehensive investment system. This implies that the cities will be open to residential and investment opportunities the expatriates will be part of.

He hinted the anticipated open area, especially Northern Kuwait, will contribute to restructuring the population and reduce several administrative problems and legal violations to propel the country to achieve ultimate success. He



reaffirmed the country is in a dire need of new vision regarding the labor market. He observed that individuals and companies lack sources of revenue since the government is in control of economic resources, especially oil. He noted no legal mechanism is available for private sector involvement, because the country was not planned in advance for economic activities, while the ancient Kuwait depended on vocations and trade.

BAS organizes third Awards Evening



The British Academy of Sport (BAS) recently organized its third Awards Evening at the Shakespeare Theatre on the BSK campus.

The Head Coaches from 10 different

sports courses selected the best 90 students from almost 2000 who registered for Sport Activities from September 2016. The event was attended by Board members Sadiq Al Mutawa and

Madame Vera Al Mutawa MBE as well as H.E. the Romanian Ambassador Daniel Tanase, H.E. the Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahoub, H.E. the Serbian Ambassador Vladimir Kohut, and many

others. BAS Director, Lucian Anisia, gave a report of the year's main events. Trophies and medals were presented by an array of Ambassadors and VIPs to the Most Improved, the Best Technique and

Coach's Award for each sport.

Apart from the individual sporting categories, BAS also offered two special Awards, the Global Traveler Award and a Special Achievement Award.



Investiture Ceremony at ICSK Khaitan



The Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) - Khaitan held its Investiture Ceremony on 18 May in the presence of Chief Guest, Vice President for Academic Affairs at 'Gulf University for Science

and Technology', Kuwait Dr. Salah Al-Sharhan, Director of E-Learning, Center of Excellence at Gulf University for Science and Technology Mohsin Rakhangi, Principal, Vice Principal and parents.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the national anthems of Kuwait and India.

The traditional lighting of the lamp ceremony was held, followed by a welcome speech by Principal K.G. Shirsath. The members of the Senate were administered the oath of office by the Vice Principal Ravi Ayanoli.

Dr. Salah in his speech recounted his experiences and reminded the students that hard work and only hard work with values would help anyone to attain greatness. The vote of thanks was proposed by the President of the School Senate Reyhan Khaleel.

Marina Hotel welcomes Ramadan with Iftar and Ghabka offerings



Marina Hotel welcomes Ramadan 2017 with an array of Iftar and Ghabka offerings during the holy month.

Among several options within the hotel's dining choices, an exquisite Iftar buffet with Arabic and international cuisine is offered at the Atlantis restaurant. The buffet includes a variety of delicious desserts complimented by a selection of tea flavors and Arabic coffee.

Kamar Al Marina Tent inside the Six Palms will be offering Ghabka and Sohour buffet with a wide selection of delicacies. It is fully equipped to accommodate up to 200 guests at a time. For the entire period of Ramadan the 'Kamar Al Marina Tent' will be sponsored by KLM-Air France.

For larger groups seeking a unique Iftar experience as well as for private functions and corporate events, Salwa Sabah Al Ahmed Theatre and Hall will provide special personalized attention.

The highly qualified and professional chefs of the hotel will prepare mouthwatering dishes to satisfy every palate. Guests can feast on an extensive array of Arabic and Oriental cuisine in a tranquil setting complemented by live cooking stations, sweets, beverages and a wide selection of flavored Shisha. General Manager of Marina Hotel, Nabil Hammoud said, "The Holy Month of Ramadan invokes traditions and in deep respect for those traditions, we have come up with several offerings for Iftar."

Aqua Park announces Ramadan timing; Special offers during Ramadan

Aqua Park announced a special offer during Ramadan. Throughout the holy month, two people can enter the facility using only one ticket, General Manager Mohammad

Khoursheed said in a press release. Aqua Park opens every day in Ramadan from 8:00 pm to 2:00 am. Special prices are available for companies and groups, Khoursheed added.



Canada



Sky-high mountains, glinting glaciers, spectral rainforests and remote beaches

Awe-inspiring scenery, vibrant cities and a welcoming atmosphere all make Canada a popular tourist destination. As the largest country in North America, Canada is a vast land encompassing majestic mountains, spectacular coastlines, virgin forests, spacious prairies and Arctic tundra. While much of the nation is of British and French descent, Canada is home to a mosaic of multicultural communities.



Ottawa: Located at the confluence of the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau rivers in southeastern Ontario, Ottawa is the capital of Canada. As the nation's capital, Ottawa is home to many financial, commercial and federal establishments including Parliament Hill, the government seat where the ceremonial Changing of the Guard takes place daily during the summer. Running right through the heart of the city, the Rideau Canal is Ottawa's star attraction. In winter the canal becomes the world's largest ice skating ring.



Toronto: The capital of Ontario, Toronto is the most populated city in Canada as well as one of the largest cities in North America. With a large number of ethnic districts like Chinatown, Little India and Little Italy, Toronto is also one of the world's most culturally diverse cities. The city's main tourist draws range from impressive landmarks such as the iconic CN Tower and the fairy tale castle of Casa Loma. Additionally, the Toronto Islands are a popular destination with beaches and outdoor activities.

Vancouver: Situated between the Coast Mountains and the Pacific Ocean in British Columbia, Vancouver is favored for its majestic landscapes that present a natural playground where tourists can swim in the ocean, rollerblade through scenic parks and snow ski in



the mountains all in one day. The third largest metropolitan area in the country, Vancouver is one of the most popular places to visit in Canada. Vancouver's star attraction is Stanley Park which covers a huge area of woodlands, gardens and green spaces. Some of the city's other top sites include Granville Island's remarkable food market and Chinatown's vibrant array of shops.

Montreal: The second largest city in Canada after Toronto, Montreal is the cultural and financial capital of the Quebec province. Boasting the largest French-speaking community outside of Paris, France, Montreal is a bustling metropolis comprised of a downtown district, a historic quarter, entertainment district and several distinctive neighborhoods. Montreal's main sights include downtown skyscrapers like the Olympic Tower, the historic buildings of Old Montreal and several family attractions like theme and water parks.

Calgary: The largest city in Alberta, Calgary is situated between the Canadian Prairies and the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. After oil was discovered nearby in the early 1900s, Calgary boomed into what is now one of Canada's largest metropolitan areas, attracting thousands every year to its world-famous rodeo event, the Calgary Stampede.



This Old West celebration is held over ten days in July with rodeos, chuckwagon races, parades, competitions, crafts and food.

Quebec City: This city may be the capital of the Quebec province in eastern Canada, but its French heritage, architecture and language make it appear more like a charming European village. Perched on a hill overlooking the St. Lawrence River is Vieux Quebec, the city's historic district.

A walk along the cobblestone streets of the Old City offers encounters with attractions like the Citadel and the Place-Royale, the area where explorer, Samuel de Champlain, established the first North American-French settlement. The



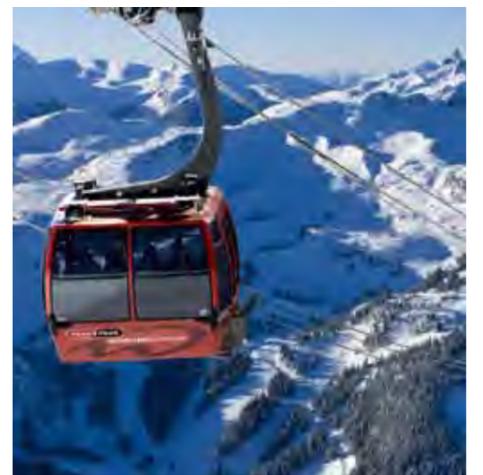
city's icon, the stunning Chateau Frontenac, is regarded as the most photographed hotel in North America and offers tours even without an overnight stay.



Vancouver Island: Named after the British explorer George Vancouver, Vancouver Island is the largest island off the West Coast of the North American continent. Located across from Washington State, it is accessible by ferry through the San Juan Islands from Anacortes, from Port Angeles on the state's Olympic Peninsula, or from Vancouver on mainland British Columbia. Vancouver Island is famous for the quaint city of Victoria, the gorgeous Butchart Gardens, the surf town of Tofino and the wilderness in the north, where one can catch a ferry to Prince Rupert, and another to Alaska from there.



Niagara Falls: This is a series of three awe-inspiring waterfalls situated on the border of Canada's Ontario and the United States' New



Whistler: Thanks to a couple of spectacular mountains called Whistler and Blackcomb, the Whistler resort is the largest and most famous alpine ski destination in North America. Located in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia, Whistler is a two-hour trip from Vancouver along Canada's most scenic drive, the Sea-to-Sky Highway. At the base of the two mountains are three quaint villages, Whistler Village, Creekside and Upper Village. The Peak 2 Peak gondola transports visitors from the villages to the mountains.

York. The Ontario side of the Falls is called Horseshoe Falls and offers the best views and most attractions. The immediate area surrounding the Falls is a premier tourist spot teeming in observation towers, restaurants, souvenir shops, casinos and high-rise hotels. One of the best places to view the Niagara Falls on the Ontario side is from Queen Victoria Park where the Falls are illuminated and fireworks are displayed nightly during the summer.



Banff National Park: Located in the province of Alberta, the Banff National Park is not only Canada's first national park, but also one of the nation's largest and most visited national parks. The park's breathtaking scenery and wildlife draw many tourists every year along the Trans-Canada Highway, which passes through the park. Banff National Park's large concentration of wildlife includes mammals like black bears, grizzly bears, bison, moose, bighorn sheep, wolves and bald eagles.



South African ambassador holds tourism seminar



Ambassador of South Africa H.E. Mzolis Bona hosted a tourism seminar at his residence in Mishref last week to a select gathering of the travel industry and media to highlight the various tourism and investment opportunities in the country.

A detailed presentation on various touristic destinations and investments were made to the gathering.

Ambassador Mzolis Bona disclosed that the embassy had streamlined visa services and reduced processing time from one week to just three days.



OPEC needs to rethink its production cutting strategy

Continued from Page 1

their production cuts through to March of next year. In a joint statement, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih and Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak pledged "to do whatever it takes to achieve...market stability, predictability and sustainable development."

Ahead of the crucial OPEC meeting in Vienna on 25 May, a realistic assessment of the impact of production cuts in place since January, reveal two main factors behind the oil glut and Brent prices remaining in the mid \$50 range since the start of the year. First, much of the OPEC cuts since January have been borne by Saudi Arabia, and the other two GCC oil surplus states of Kuwait and the UAE. Also, among NOPEC nations, with the exception of Russia, most others have not lived up to their pledged cuts.

But there are limits to how much Saudi Arabia and its GCC allies, as well as Russia, can dial back production to shore up prices as their economies continue to bear the pain of production cuts. Riyadh has already cut down its output by 500,000 barrels per day, which is more than any other OPEC member.

Making matters worse, Iran, which is just emerging from years of sanctions on its oil exports is reluctant to deliver any significant contribution to the pledged OPEC production cuts. On the contrary, the Islamic Republic is ramping up production to regain its lost market share. Also, countering the production cuts by OPEC, are other member countries such as Nigeria, Iraq and Libya, where production had in recent years been besieged by conflicts. These countries have now begun to increase their production.

The second factor behind why, despite the best efforts by petro-states, oil continues to trade in the relatively low range is that their production cuts have galvanized dormant shale producers in the United States to revive production.

OPEC has been trying to choke or at least contain US oil boom for the last three years. By flooding the market from late 2014 on, the cartel hoped to drive oil prices so low that shale wells would be uneconomic. Though the strategy was not a total failure — some US shale projects were shuttered as producers took a sabbatical while prices were low. However, ever since oil prices rose over the \$50 mark, shale producers have been coming back in droves. Overall the US shale oil boom has proven a lot more resilient than anyone in OPEC or NOPEC expected.

Even as oil prices languished last year, US oil production only fell by about 800,000 barrels a day — but then quickly bounced back this year to more than 9 million barrels a day, even though crude prices are about the same. And the US oil and gas rig count — another indicator of a country's total production — rose again in May to nearly double what it was a year ago.

Energy analysts believe that due to production and efficiency breakthroughs, shale can easily stay competitive even with oil as low as \$45 a barrel, which means OPEC may have to come up with a Plan B or even a Plan C at their meeting this weekend in Vienna.

Guyana ambassador visits The Times offices



Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana H.E. Prof. Dr. Shamir Ally and his wife Mrs. Maryann visited The Times Kuwait offices recently and met with Managing Editor Reaven D'Souza. Ambassador Ally gave a brief account about the various investment opportunities and also the tourism potential in Guyana.

Though included as part of the Caribbean region, Guyana is located in northern South America and has one of the largest rain-forests on the continent. The recent discovery of oil has thrust Guyana into a lucrative investment opportunity for potential investors.

Preventing Violent Extremism through a Peace Culture Campaign by Global Citizens with International NGOs



Faced with the dire need for the international cooperation on policymaking in areas of security and education by governments to counter extremism accompanied by violence and conflict, a global campaign for a culture of peace is projected by international NGOs to raise public awareness on coexistence, tolerance, and mutual understanding, and encourage civic participation.

Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), an international NGO under the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), will hold a campaign for peacebuilding titled "Walk&Talk to Prevent Violent Extremism" in many cities around the world with its international association NGOs. On May 28th, participants and social representatives

including politicians and leaders of civil society and youth organizations, and media will participate in the peace campaign in Sydney, Australia. As a part of the campaign, a project titled '#Have I Received All?' (#HIRA) will be introduced to bring up the issues on the right of the people under racial segregation and sexual discrimination and to promote civil participation in such campaigns to solve the problems that the society are facing on.

During the campaign, participants are expected to have time for reflection on how values and thoughts in each individual determine their behavior, which allows to embrace the principles shared by the international society for peace — respect for human life, coexistence, sustainability, and a sense of kinship with

humanity. Further, the peace walk events in cities around the world, including Sydney, are planned to promote a peaceful environment in local communities with voluntary participation by citizens beyond differences in nationality, ethnicity, religion, age, and gender.

This global campaign has been hosted by HWPL and international NGOs since 2013 when the Declaration of World Peace was declared and 30,000 citizens joined the peace walk. International youth have taken the leading role in developing peace walks as a peace project worldwide. HWPL has initiated projects in 120 countries for conflict resolution and peacebuilding, which includes legislation that promotes peace, interfaith dialogues, youth empowerment, and peace education.

PROMOTION VALID FROM : 24 TH MAY TILL TO 30 TH MAY 2017 / TILL STOCK LAST



BEST Grand HYPER OFFER

 <p>0.395 KD APPLE RED / KG</p>	 <p>0.640 KD POMEGRANATE INDIA / KG</p>	 <p>0.170 KD WATER MELON / KG</p>	 <p>0.470 KD PEARS (ROSEMARY) / KG</p>	 <p>0.275 KD GRAPE WHITE BOX</p>	 <p>0.080 KD ONION INDIAN / KG</p>
<p>MAY 24,25.</p>  <p>0.295 KD SARDINES / KG</p>	<p>MAY 24,25.</p>  <p>0.990 KD SQUID/KG</p>	 <p>0.590 KD EGG 50/60</p>	<p>MAY 26,27</p>  <p>2.390 KD INDIAN MUTTON / KG</p>	<p>MAY 24,25</p>  <p>1.490 KD BEEF W/ BONE / KG</p>	 <p>1.790 KD AHLIA SUGAR 8KG</p>
 <p>2.495 KD BAB AL HIND XL BASMATI RICE 5 KG</p>	 <p>4.790 KD ROYAL UMBRELLA THAI PARBOILED RICE 20KG</p>	 <p>2.490 KD NIRAPARA MATTA RICE (U) 10KG</p>	 <p>2.190 KD NOOR SUNFLOWER OIL 2 X1.8 LTR</p>	 <p>1.790 KD MAZOLA SUNFLOWER OIL 2X1.8 LTR</p>	 <p>2.490 KD ALMONDS WHOLE/KG</p>
 <p>0.890 KD NADEC FF MILK/LABAN 3 LTR</p>	 <p>0.690 KD NADEC FRESH YOGURT 2 KG</p>	 <p>0.545 KD NADEC JUICE 1.75 LTR ASSRTD</p>	 <p>1.495 KD SADIA WHOLE CHICKEN 2X1100GM</p>	 <p>0.825 KD ABC FULL CREAM MILK 4X1LTR</p>	 <p>0.695 KD GOLDEN RAISINS KGS</p>

 <p>32.990 KD SAMSUNG J1 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> camera (5+2) 1 GB RAM 5.1" 8 GB memory 4.5" display 	 <p>28.990 KD SAMSUNG J111</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> camera (5+2) 1 GB RAM 5.1" 8 GB memory 4.3" display 	 <p>7.990 KD NOKIA 130</p>	 <p>48.990 KD SAMSUNG J5 PRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> camera (13+5) 2 GB RAM 5.1" 16 GB memory 5" display Finger Print 	 <p>31.990 KD LENOVO TIDO POWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> camera (8+5) 2 GB RAM 6.0" 16 GB memory 5" display 	 <p>4.990 KD (64 GB) 1.490 KD (16 GB) 2.590 KD (32 GB) SANDISK USB FLASH DRIVE</p>
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