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# Proactive reforms needed for a better future



**THE TIMES REPORT**

A recent statement attributed to the Ministry of Finance said that the ministry is reviewing Law No.79 of the year 1995 pertaining to the fees and financial costs applied to utilities and public services, with the aim of amending some of these charges. The ministry is understood to have submitted a report on this matter, and other financial reforms and plans,

planned in this context, the ministry said adoption of revised tax laws through the drafting of new tax procedures and selective taxes, was also being considered.

Shortly after news of this move emerged, lawmaker Ahmad Al-Fadel, who heads the parliamentary committee for state priorities, said the statements revealed that the ministry is thinking along the lines of introducing taxes on businesses in the country. He affirmed that he would forcefully

a uniform 5 percent Value-Added-Tax (VAT). However, when it came to the time for rollout in January 2018, only two countries, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates introduced VAT, the other four agreed to postpone its launch due to internal political exigencies. Bahrain eventually launched VAT at the start of this year, while the remaining three have delayed the introduction without assigning any firm date for its launch.

Kuwait cited the potential negative impact on consumer spending and the technical challenges involved in implementing a new tax, as reasons for delaying VAT. While it is true that introducing a clear, efficient and effective VAT will take a lot of hard work, analysts believe the real reason for the delay was due to the government's apprehension about getting the law passed through the National Assembly, where many lawmakers are vehemently opposed to VAT. In May of 2018 the parliament's powerful budget committee is reported to have said that Kuwait would not implement value-added tax (VAT) before 2021 at the earliest, but would push ahead with plans to implement a 'sin' tax on select goods, such as tobacco, energy drinks and carbonated drinks.

Kuwait clearly needs a proactive government that is capable of successfully overcoming hurdles and objections from a contentious parliament, and finding suitable solutions to potential problems before they become intractable issues.

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to the Council of Ministers for further consideration and action.

Restructuring fees and other amendments and reforms were needed to increase efficiency and further enhance the development of regulations, policies and procedures in government bodies, said the ministry in its statement. Hinting that other financial measures were also being

oppose any such moves. As chairman of the parliamentary committee on state priorities I will make sure that "the implementation of VAT and the GCC selective tax will never see the light," said the parliamentarian.

With finances strained from a low oil price scenario, the six-nation grouping of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states had agreed in 2016 to introduce

## Hello! KUWAIT

An Expatriate

### Kuwait taxis and the driving licence dilemma

There are approximately 20,000 registered taxis plying the roads in Kuwait. If you ever sat in one you would notice that most of them are small and invariably not very clean. They overcharge and have metres that are rarely if ever used, and unfortunately, most of the drivers do not speak English or have only a smattering knowledge of Arabic. Anyone using taxis in Kuwait is aware of these shortcomings but has to accept it in the face of very few other options.

For a long time Kuwait faced the issue of illegal taxis, which are vehicles used to ferry passengers but not licensed by the traffic department. Campaign after campaign conducted by the interior ministry to arrest and deport eventually reduced the number of such illegal taxis, but many of them then converted their status to become registered taxis.



The sudden spurt in growth of taxis is not because of an increase in tourism or business expansion but because of new rules that keep restricting expats from driving licences and owning their own cars. In its desperate attempt to reduce traffic congestion the ministry has restricted driving licences only to expats of certain professions, who are graduates and have a minimum income level and also have spent a stipulated period of time in the country.

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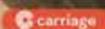


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## Private healthcare sector in disarray over accreditation issue



A state of confusion and paralysis is reportedly prevailing over the private sector health facilities in the country,

following the decision by the Ministry of Health to authenticate the medical certificates and degrees of doctors and other medical personnel at these facilities.

The Ministry of Health is also understood to have stopped the program of bringing in visiting doctors until this issue is resolved.

The problem surfaced after some private health institutions signed contracts with medical personnel abroad to work at their facilities. But when they arrived in the country, the Ministry of Health insisted that they could work only after their certificates and degree were attested by competent authorities. So the medical personnel are now sitting idle

while continuing to receive the salaries as per their contract with the private health facilities.

The owners of these private health facilities had opened new medical centers, dispensaries, clinics, pharmacies or laboratories and have to bear the financial burden in the form of rents for venues that are yet to open their doors and in paying salaries of people contracted to work, but unable to work.

The crisis took a further turn for the worse, when the health facilities hired doctors abroad to visit the country and attend to patients. Accordingly, they fixed

appointments for the patients with the doctors who were scheduled to visit. But since the Health Ministry stopped the visiting doctors program, the owners of these facilities are in a fix with both, the doctors who they contracted to visit Kuwait and the patients who had signed up for appointments.

A clear solution to the problem is urgently required. Some health experts have called for the creation of a temporary supreme committees in the ministries of Health and Higher Education, to establish a mechanism to review the attestation process and, in the meantime, to ensure services are not disrupted in the essential health sector.



## IWG hosts Kuwaiti participants in 'The Arctic Challenge'

International Women's Group (IWG) invited prominent Kuwaiti adventurer Abdullah Al Husainan and his team of 12 explorers to share their unique experiences in challenging the odds with the 'Arctic Challenge'.

The event, held on 6 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, saw the attendance of IWG members and female ambassadors posted in Kuwait, as well as wives of ambassadors and prominent women in Kuwait society.

In her address to the distinguished gathering,

IWG President Anita de Vogel took a moment to remember their beloved IWG honorary president Sheikha Anwar Faisal Al-Sabah, who passed away in September 2019. "Sheikha Anwar was known for her humbleness, kindness and for her care and generosity. God rest her soul, may she rest in peace," said Mrs. Vogel. A short film dedicated to the memory of Sheikha Anwar and her association with IWG was then screened.

Speaking about the 8-day journey that he and his team of 12 adventurers made to the frozen

Svalbard Island, Al Husainan said they loved the adventure to the Norwegian Arctic Ocean, as they wanted to explore the unknown.

He added, "Identifying the very sparsely inhabited and stunningly austere beauty of nature enhanced the physical, intellectual and psychological capabilities, as well as strengthened the values of determination, challenge and patience among the team."

"There were many benefits from that trip; besides gaining a better understanding of

surviving in the polar environment, the team also got to realize that positive thinking was the key to survival, and that all is possible when you have a passion for experience under any circumstances," he emphasized.

An informative documentary film was then screened, which highlighted the many adventures the team had experienced over the years. After the presentation, Al Husainan opened a discussion session with the attendees, who asked interesting questions.

## Government websites hit by hack attack

A recent State Audit Bureau report on the status of data protection at government websites had warned that the cyber protection at most ministries and other public entities were weak.

Unfortunately, most government agencies chose to ignore those warnings. Now it has come to light that earlier in October the websites of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Ministry of Interior (Mol)

and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) had come under attack from hackers.

The hackers allegedly used security loopholes to enter the PACI computer system and steal personal data files before encrypting the data and resorting to extortion. Hackers were also said to have caused disruption in the e-linking systems between Mol, PACI and PAM, as well as other organizations, repeatedly over the past five days.

## Kuwait advances in Global Competitiveness Index

Kuwait has advanced by eight places to reach the 46th rank out of 141 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2019 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Kuwait's jump by eight spots from the 54th rank it held in 2018 came as the country increased its distance to frontier score by 3 points to reach 65.1 in 2019 up from the 62.1 score it attained last year. Kuwait also maintained its top rank in the macroeconomic stability pillar, coming in the first place.

Among the improvements that Kuwait made in 2019 were the health pillar, where the country came in at 12th rank, way up from the 38th position it occupied in 2018; in the financial system pillar, where Kuwait notched a gain of 14 spots, going from 48th rank last year to end up in 34th position in 2019; and in ICT adoption pillar where the country went from 62nd rank in 2018 to 27th spot this year.

Out of the 103 components under the 12 GCI pillars considered for the 2019 report, Kuwait witnessed improvement in 45 components, whereas 14 components remained stable, and the report showed no comparable rate for seven components that were introduced in this report, and



with no available data for two components. Overall, Kuwait improved or stabilized in 9 out of 12 pillars, including in macroeconomic stability, health, ICT adoption, skills, product market, labor market, financial system, business dynamism and market size. The improvements in Kuwait's position in the GCI 2019 coincided with similar improvement in the Ease of Doing Business Index DB2020. Kuwait joined, for the first time, the top 20 improvers out of 190 countries according to the initial announcement made earlier by the World Bank Group. The final ranking will be announced only on 24 October.

This progress has been attained through with the wise leadership guidance and foresight of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said a press release from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

The press release also commended the commitment of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to improving Kuwait's position in international indices, and making it a top priority of the government work program.

Full collaboration and cooperation among relevant government entities, the private sector, and civil society helped Kuwait improve its business climate and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy in accordance with the New Kuwait 2035 vision and its developmental goals, said KDIPA.

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## TCRO marks 108th anniversary of Taiwan's National Day

The Taipei Commercial Representative Office (TCRO) in Kuwait hosted a reception to commemorate the 108th anniversary of National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on Monday, 7 October. Members of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti officials, the Taiwanese community in Kuwait and media personnel attended the event.

In his address to the gathering, TCRO Representative Hua-Wei Mou, lauded the progress Taiwan has achieved in 2019. He stated, "As the 22nd largest economy, Taiwan achieved nearly 2.5 percent economic growth in the second quarter of 2019, the highest among major competitors in Asia. An even stronger performance is forecast for 2020."

He added that Taiwan occupies an important geostrategic position in global

manufacturing, with 'Made in Taiwan' no longer a term limited to components and OEM production, but represents a new economy centered on innovation, artificial intelligence, green energy, and advanced technologies.

The occasion also highlighted Taiwan's support for UN Global Goals, with the country being a vital global partner in helping implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). "We are willing to make important contributions to the SDGs through related UN agencies, including the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Convention on Climate Change, said Mr. Huo

Taiwan also has a strong commitment to the transition to renewable energy. "The goal



is to boost renewable energy to 20 percent of electricity supply by 2025, and the first commercial-scale offshore wind farm will be completed by the end of this year," disclosed the top Taiwanese official in Kuwait.

Praising the close and long-lasting bilateral relations between Taiwan and Kuwait, Representative Mou highlighted several

initiatives undertaken by both countries in the fields of trade, tourism, education and public health. He highlighted the first consignment of custard apple exports from Taiwan to Kuwait, and the recent enrolment of the first Kuwaiti student in Taiwan for a master degree course, as indicative of growing relations between the two countries.

He also called for greater collaborative efforts between the two countries. "It is my belief that Taiwan and Kuwait can further engage with each other in a positive manner, both in the international arena and in the frontier of new economy. We treasure every opportunity to work with the government and the people of Kuwait. Together, we can open a new chapter of sustainable relations between the two countries," said Mr. Mou.

## Hike in maternity care fees for expatriates

Expatriate women seeking maternity care at government hospitals will have to pay substantially higher prices.

According to reports, expat women seeking maternity care at government facilities will be charged KD100 for a normal delivery and KD150 for a cesarean section.

Announcing the revised rates, Minister of Health, Sheikh Dr. Basil Al-Sabah said the fee hike would take effect immediately. As part of the hike in fees, a private room will now cost the expatriate KD100 per day.

Earlier, outspoken MP Safa Al-Hashem had alleged that expatriates bring their pregnant wives to Kuwait so that they can access full maternity care at the government maternity hospital by paying a token fee of KD3.

The decision to increase health service charges for expats was undertaken after the Health Ministry conducted an in-depth study on the costs of health services provided to foreigners. Every aspect of expenses incurred



was examined in detail, from the cost of medical staff to equipment, including the fact that there was a huge disparity between the fees charged in public hospitals for maternity care and private sector medical facilities.

## Kuwait Olympic Committee interested in developing sports locally

Kuwait Olympic Committee aims to develop sports on a local level in the best way possible, Chairman Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said Saturday, 5 October. A number of decisions were taken in terms of re-structuring, which should result in positive outcomes on financing policies for athletes by increasing budgets allocated for their development while also reducing expenses of the administrative sector, he said.

The first decision taken by the Committee pertained to support injured athletes and finance their training camps; either in or outside the country, in addition to diet and nutrition and promoting the role of female athletes as well, Sheikh Fahad noted. He pointed out that the women's gymnastics team will be taking part in the coming Arab tournament in Tunisia.

There will also be a meeting between specialists in the Ministry of Education and the Olympic Committee to discuss integrating sport



texts into school curricula, he said. One of the Committee's priorities, carried on the sports official, is to pick 500 youngsters as part of the 2020 voluntary programs. International relations, sports marketing and broadcasting, in addition to sport and anti-doping laws will all be themes to be discussed late November as part of the Committee's cultural activities, he added.

## ESF appoints heads for academic Year 2019/2020

The English School Fahaheel (ESF) recently gave prestigious leadership appointments to Sixth Form students for the academic Year 2019/2020. ESF is proud to appoint Laia Ramariz as Head Girl and Roland Mbona as Head Boy.

Sara Nusseibeh is Deputy Head Girl and Dyfan Farian is Deputy Head Boy. Heads are pictured with Head Principal Dunlop.





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## Make a roux perfectly

Knowing how to make a roux should be at the top of this list. From a smooth, creamy béchamel to the base of a gumbo - a roux is a technique to master, to love. It can be intimidating due to the ease with which it can be burned - and ruined - but it is nothing that a little practice can't resolve.

A roux is paste that is used as a thickener. It is simply flour cooked in fat. As the proteins in the flour are heated, they expand and disperse evenly throughout the liquid that they are mixed with. Raw flour can be used as a thickening agent; however, cooking the flour first takes away the floury taste and creates a more even and smooth texture.

First, a fat—butter, oil, rendered animal fat—is melted in a heavy-bottomed pan. When it is has been heated, an equal amount of flour is added. The mixture must be whisked constantly, as it will burn very easily, until it has been cooked to the desired color.

There are three major categories of roux that are dependent on the length of cooking. A white roux, used commonly in light, creamy sauces like béchamel, has the shortest cooking time. The flour has been lightly browned but it is still very pale in color. Just beyond the white roux is the blonde roux. It is darker in color and can be recognized by the almost nutty smell that develops as the flours continue to brown. The darkest roux the brown roux which, having cooked the longest, has the deepest smell, flavor, and color. One thing to note is that the longer a roux is cooked—and the darker it becomes—the less ability it has to thicken. Therefore you will need more of a darker roux to

thicken to the same degree than the same quantity of a lighter roux.

A watched pot never boils but an unwatched roux will always burn.

The thing that is so tricky about making a roux is how many variables there are in the process. For a two-ingredient recipe, there are a shocking amount of outcomes. Heat, type of fat, timing, stirring utensil, even the movement of the cook's arm all contribute to the end result. That being said, there is really only one thing that matters when making a roux: patience.

This really is one of those slow-and-steady-wins-the-race moments.

**Step 1:** Start with your fat. Usually, a recipe calling for a roux will tell you what sort of fat to use, as it will affect the flavor so greatly. If it doesn't, a good starting place is butter.

**Step 2:** Heat your butter in a heavy pan over low heat. When the butter has melted and the foaming subsides, add your flour. The quantities should be the same. For example, if you use two tablespoons of butter, you will want to use two tablespoons of flour.

**Step 3:** The moment the flour meets the butter, you'll need to start stirring, either with a whisk or a flat-edged wooden spoon. You will want a utensil that will allow you to keep the mixture moving, to prevent the roux from burning.

At first, the mixture will be fairly liquid but keep stirring. As it continues to cook, it will thicken into a more paste-like substance. Soon, the color will begin to deepen.

**Step 4:** Keep stirring. You will be able to smell the flour cooking—a warm, pleasant, nutty scent. Keep stirring. The only thing you need to worry about is stirring.

The amount of time it will take to cook is dependent on many things, your stove, the fat you use, the type of roux your recipe calls for. For instance, a white roux might only take a couple of minutes, whereas a dark roux will take much longer.

## Thought for the week

“How you start is important, but it is how you finish that counts. In the race for success, speed is less important than stamina”

B C Forbes

## Regular Mustard verses Dijon Mustard

Ask Mira: Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

I enjoy mustard a lot. It is my favorite condiment as it gives my food an extra flavor. But I always wondered what are the exact differences between regular yellow mustard and the Dijon mustard.



For those who do not know, mustard comes from the seeds of a mustard plant, and it is made by mixing those seeds with vinegar, water, spices and flavorings. I am interested in highlighting the differences between Dijon mustard and yellow mustard as these two are the main kinds of mustard we usually buy.

### Dijon Mustard

Its origin goes back to 1865 when Mr. Jean Naigeon modified the traditional recipe of mustard. Instead of using vinegar, Naigeon used verjuice (which is the acidic juice of ripe grapes) in his recipe, and Dijon mustard came into being with this sharp spicy taste. Nutrition-wise, one teaspoon of Dijon mustard provides you with 5 calories and 120 milligrams of sodium, which is considered slightly high (especially for people with high blood pressure). Dijon mustard also has neither iron nor vitamins.

### Yellow Mustard

This is the most popular and widely used type of mustard. It is also called



the 'American Mustard'. Vinegar is not substituted for something else and that makes it milder and less spicy than the Dijon type. One teaspoon provides you with 5 calories and 56 milligrams of sodium (less than the Dijon mustard).

Personally I prefer the yellow mustard over the Dijon type which is sharper and has a more tangy taste.

A special note about mustard as well,

is that the yellow one tends to increase body metabolism by 20 percent if one tablespoon if consumed daily.

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Mira is a go-to source for nutrition and wellness and has joined The Times Kuwait team in a new weekly column discussing nutrition and answering queries. You can send in your questions to [infotimeskuwait@gmail.com](mailto:infotimeskuwait@gmail.com)



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# Traffic point system penalizes drivers for multiple infractions

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) announced the implementation of a traffic point system to deal with errant motorists who flout the traffic laws and commit traffic violations. According to the circular, the tougher policy includes handing out prison sentences to citizens and residents for accumulating traffic points for repeated traffic violations, especially severe traffic violations that lead to loss of life or property.

Expatriates face immediate deportation for driving under the influence of alcohol, or driving without a license, as well as when they reach the maximum point for breaking the red signals or speeding.

In recent months, the MOI has been applying the strengthened traffic laws against violators, meting out punishments such as impounding vehicles and temporarily withdrawing driving licenses to those caught flouting the traffic laws. Under the traffic point system, here is the breakdown of points as follows:



Four points are added to your file for the following traffic violations: crossing the red signal; crossing the maximum speed; driving against the flow of traffic on highways and ring roads, and driving a heavy duty vehicle while holding a light driving license.

Three points are added to your file for the following traffic violations: driving a vehicle with a prior suspended license; reckless driving, committing a disgraceful behavior while inside the vehicle or for allowing such an action to happen, driving unlicensed vehicle, and driving without a numbers plate. Also, drivers will be held accountable for driving a vehicle with number plates delivered by the Traffic Department, but its numbers

were changed partly or wholly; or whose number plates was not delivered by the Traffic Department, and the original numbers were either written or changed. For giving false information in order to unlawfully obtain some documents like a vehicle license, driving license, learning license. Using a private car to transport passengers. Finally, hindering or obstructing the traffic flow on purpose.

Two points are added to your file for the following traffic violations: driving a vehicle with faulty brakes. As a vehicle owner, you permit your car to be driven by a driver who does not have an appropriate license or no license at all. Driving a vehicle whose metal plates numbers are not clear or unreadable; driving a vehicle

with one number plate; or whose color and shape has changed or placed in the wrong place of the car.

One point is added to your file for the following traffic violations: Driving a vehicle without permission, or with expired permission, or in violation of a given permission. Declining to show your vehicle license or driver's driving license to the police.

This is with regards to transport vehicles; drivers will be penalized for exceeding the allowed cargo for transport vehicles. If your transport vehicle is in violation in terms of the dimensions, length, width, height and weight.

Driving a vehicle with disturbing sounds, or driving a 'smoking' vehicle that emits a foul smell. Driving a vehicle with volatile or combustible cargo that may violate health and road safety standards. Driving a vehicle with materials dropping on the highway that can be dangerous, driving a defective vehicle or one with defective tires that may leave it unbalanced.



For regular motorists, the following violations carry a penalty of one point each — using lamps, magnifying sound or warning instrument not allowed by the law. Causing damage to traffic signs, traffic lights, control equipment; or changing their features, places, directions, or covering them with stickers. A failure of the driver to follow the road lines or traffic signs, driving over roads abutment, turning around or entering in the opposite direction of the traffic, driving a vehicle without a valid insurance policy and replacing a major part of the vehicle.

## Complaints blame MPW, PART for failure to maintain roads

Complaints have been voiced by road users against the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) for their tardiness in maintaining roads and conducting timely repairs.

Many road users blamed the daily traffic congestion experienced on Kuwait roads, especially during peak hours, on negligence by the MPW and PART to monitor and ensure proper maintenance of roads.

The recent decision to close sections of the Fourth Ring Road for maintenance from 6pm to 6am is a poorly planned resolution as it paralyzes traffic during the evening rush hour on the main road artery that links three provinces. With very few alternate roads available, the closure of Fourth Ring Road leads to heavy traffic on other roads leading to and from Kuwait City.

Road users complain that the authorities should have planned these maintenance closures before the start of the school season and during



the summer holidays when traffic on roads was significantly less.

The PART was established as a way to conduct speedy and timely maintenance of road networks in the country after conducting proper inspection and evaluation studies.

## Businesses left idle for six months will lose license

Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel, who heads the supreme committee to handle demographic imbalance, has made clear that the committee would exert all efforts to prevent visa trafficking in the country, including closing of fake businesses.

She added that those who obtained business licenses solely to profit from the sale of visas would have their premises shut down and their licenses cancelled. Al-Aqeel was responding to complaints filed by some license-owners whose shops and stores were recently shut down by the authorities.

Issuing resolution number 7/2019 on forming a special committee to follow up on the complaints by license-owners of stores and offices that were recently shut down, the minister pointed out that according to Kuwait license law, any



business license that is not renewed within a year after its expiry, or if the business premises is closed for six consecutive months, the license will be automatically cancelled.

Minister Al-Aqeel stressed that the resolution aims at fighting visa trafficking and the sponsoring of workers for businesses that are idle or inactive, as this has an impact on the demographic imbalance in the country.

Shel urged the owners of businesses that were recently shut down to legalize their status to avoid legal accountability in case of any related violation.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower yesterday launched an inspection campaign at labor residences in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to ensure they meet international hygienic and professional safety measures.

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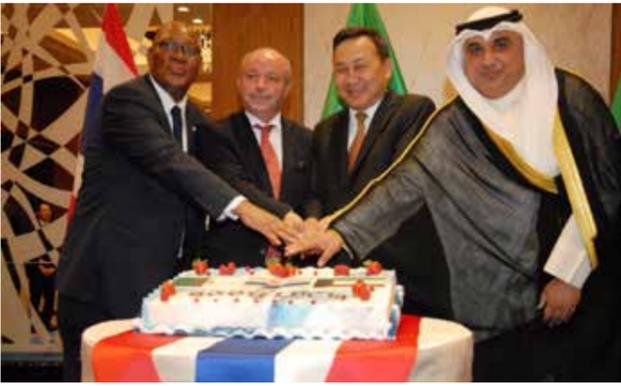
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## Farewell reception held for outgoing Thai and Algerian Ambassadors



Dean of the diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Botswana H.E. Manyepedza P. Lesetedi hosted a farewell reception in honor of outgoing Ambassadors of Algeria H.E. Abdelhamid Abdaoui, and Thailand H.E. Dusit Manapan, on 8 October at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Suleiman Al-Saeed, was the chief guest at the function, which was joined by members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of various International organizations and special invitees.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador

Lesetedi lauded the diplomatic efforts of the outgoing ambassadors and their achievements in strengthening relations between their esteemed countries and their host country Kuwait. He praised the ambassadors' tireless work to deepen the ties and relations between their countries and Kuwait in various sectors of

trade, investment and culture.

He expressed his best wishes to the outgoing ambassadors and wished them the best in their future endeavors. On behalf of his diplomatic colleagues, Ambassador Lesetedi presented mementos to the outgoing ambassadors.



## Crime Beat

### Citizen sneaks past border outpost defying travel ban

Security employees stationed at the Nuwaiseeb border point have been summoned by the security authorities, after it came to light that a Kuwaiti man, who was banned from traveling abroad, managed to leave the country through the Nuwaiseeb border post. The authorities were totally unaware that the man had crossed the border and the incident came to light only when the man — for whatever reason — returned to the country through Kuwait International Airport. A vigilant officer at airport immigration noticed that the man did not have an exit stamp on his passport and on further inquiry found that the man had a travel ban against his name. The man was detained and during interrogation he admitted to leaving the country via Nuwaiseeb border post by hiding under a pile of household items. The Ministry of Interior has opened an investigation into the incident to determine the shortcomings at the border port, and ensure that no one colluded to help the passenger leave the country. A security source said the ministry will check the surveillance cameras to determine if the circumstances are as reported, and accordingly take appropriate legal action.

### Beidoun husband sets fire to Indonesian wife

A Beidoun man allegedly poured an inflammable liquid over his Indonesian wife and set her ablaze. The victim, who was rushed to hospital and admitted in the intensive care unit, is said to be in critical condition. The incident is said to have occurred following a domestic dispute between the couple at their home in Al-Qasr region. In a fit of rage the husband reportedly doused his wife with an inflammable liquid and set her on fire. But on seeing his wife engulfed in flames, the man grabbed a blanket and put out the fire and then rushed his wife to the Jahra Hospital. A case has been registered against the man after his detention at Jahra Police Station. The police are now understood to be waiting for the wife to recover before taking her statement on the incident.

### Deported Indian woman tries a comeback

An attempt by an Indian woman to re-enter Kuwait, after she had earlier been deported for violating the residence law, was foiled by a vigilant immigration officer. The woman brazenly tried to enter the country using a forged passport that was detected at the immigration counter. Security personnel accompanied the woman back on the flight she came in and made sure that she departed back to India.



## Lulu Hypermarket launches Italian Week 2019



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, launched its 'Italian Week 2019' promotion at the hypermarket's Egaila outlet on 9 October. The event was inaugurated by Italian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Carlo Baldocci along with top Lulu management in Kuwait, and in the presence of a large gathering of shoppers, well-wishers and media personnel.

A cultural program featuring traditional songs and dances of Italy entertained visitors at the inauguration event. The promotion, which is set to run till 19 October at all Lulu Hypermarkets in the country, will feature the best of Italian products.

During the 11-day promotional period, a variety of enticing promotional sales are being offered aimed at promoting Italian products, especially the country's excellent food products and



culinary tradition. Special food stalls and sampling counters will present an assortment of tantalizing food choices reflecting the richness of Italian culinary history.

As part of the promotion, special prices are being offered on select products sourced from Italian companies and from leading brands including Crispo, Dececco, Fiorentini, Forno Bonomi, Gecchele, La Mole, Midi, Pozzi and Renna.

Adding to the festive mood of the Italian week are several large and colorful cut-outs of various tourist attractions and well-known monuments around Italy.

The exciting Italian Week promotion once again underscores the hypermarket's continued commitment to providing shoppers with the widest range of products from around the world at highly competitive prices and in a customer-centric retail environment.

## Samsung Galaxy Fold available for pre-order

The highly-anticipated Galaxy Fold is available for pre-order from major retail stores and Samsung brand stores in Kuwait from 8 October.

Galaxy Fold is designed to inspire new experiences: When closed, users can access their essentials on the cover display comfortably with one hand, and when opened, you can explore new ways to multitask, watch videos, play games, and more, on its immersive 7.3-inch Infinity Flex Display.

Galaxy Fold boasts innovative new features for those that want to experience what a premium foldable device can do: To ensure everything

runs smoothly, even when running three apps simultaneously, the Galaxy Fold is equipped with a high-powered, next-generation AP chipset and 12GB of RAM with PC-like performance. The sophisticated dual battery system was specifically engineered to keep up with your needs. Galaxy Fold is also capable of charging itself and a second device simultaneously via Wireless PowerShare, while connected to a regular charger so you can leave your second charger at home. Thanks to immersive visuals on the Dynamic AMOLED display and crisp, clear sound by AKG with the stereo speakers, your



favorite movies and games come to life in rich sound and color. Moreover, the internal screen does not merely bend. It folds. No matter which way you hold—or fold—the device, a camera will be ready to capture the scene, while, apps will automatically show up where you left off. From the screen to the housing, to every element you can see and touch – Samsung's design is flawless.

It's equipped with 12 GB RAM and 512 GB internal storage. Available in Cosmo Black and Space Silver colors, the Galaxy Fold is priced at KD600 for a limited period and until stock lasts.

# Taiwan as prime travel destination showcased at GCC Taiwan Tourism roadshow



The Taiwan Tourism Bureau presented the beauty of Taiwan at the Taiwan Tourism Roadshow at JW Marriott on 10 October.

The multi-city roadshow, part of a series of events across the GCC, is part of Taiwan's efforts to boost tourism from the Middle East to the Asian nation – a booming travel destination.

Ranked the 3rd most welcoming country on the Global Muslim Travel Index in 2019, Taiwan boasts a Muslim-friendly environment that caters to the needs of many visitors from the Middle East.

Dr. Trust Lin, Director of Taiwan Tourism, said, "Besides showcasing an array of tantalizing culinary delights, stunning landscapes, and life-changing experiences for all travellers, Taiwan also offers a rapidly-expanding number of facilities and services centric to Muslim visitors."

Dr. Lin added, "The people of Taiwan are welcoming travellers with open arms as the Middle East market expresses a yearning desire for new experiences in far-flung lands."

Adventure for Middle East visitors begins in Taipei, Taiwan's capital and cultural heart

where visitors can explore night markets, malls, and food stalls – a number of which offer Halal certified cuisine.

Located deep in the mountains of Nantou County, Sun Moon Lake offers breathtaking lake scenery donned by mountainous surroundings. Nearby attractions include Wenwu Temple, the Sun Moon Lake Ropeway, and scenic views on and around the lake.

Located between Taichung and Tainan, the scenic beauty of Alishan's lush forests has old world charm and can be explored

via the 'Alishan Highway', 'Northwestern Corridor, and 'Tsou villages', each offering distinct perspectives of the natural area, tea plantations, local villages, and gushing waterfalls.

A visit to Taiwan must also include a pass through the spectacular Taroko Gorge, which is considered a natural wonder of Asia, and home to cascading turquoise rivers and towering thousand-foot marble walls.

Citizens of Kuwait are eligible to apply for an e-visa to Taiwan, which is a convenient, simple, and seamless visa application process.

## Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Co. unveils new Toyota Supra



The fifth-generation Toyota GR Supra boasting stunning design, high-octane performance, and exciting driving experience, was launched at an event on 3 October.

The launch event was attended by Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO, Bengt Schultz COO, executives of the top management at AlSayer Holding, who was joined by Scott McNicol, General Manager Toyota Sales, Tetsuya Tada, Chief Engineer of new Supra, Naoya Inoue Project Manager and Yoko Nawa Assistant Manager from Toyota Motor Corporation. Also present at the event were sales consultants, and representatives from the media.

Speaking at the conference, Mubarak Naser Al Sayer, CEO, said, "An ambitious journey for Toyota, with the passion for sports cars, design

and performance has arrived at a new milestone. The legacy of this iconic masterpiece from Toyota goes back 40 years, since it started production in 1978. As we always say time rewards innovation, venture and boldness. The last Supra rolled out of production line in 2002, and after 17 years, the Supra is back."

As with all previous generations, the 2020 GR Supra is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive vehicle powered by an inline six-cylinder engine. Its design is visually appealing to sports car enthusiasts while its 3.0-liter turbocharged engine produces up to 335 hp and 500 Nm of torque. The fifth-generation GR Supra's distinct personality is completed by its exquisite interior, which balances function with premium comfort and convenience features.



## Lulu holds Cake Mixing ceremony

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, held a well-attended cake-mixing ceremony on 5 October at its Al-Dajeej outlet.

The event saw the participation of cooking enthusiasts, Lulu Chefs and celebrity chefs from abroad who were especially invited to provide their expertise to the ceremony.

Highlight of the cake-mixing ceremony was preparation of the dried fruits and other ingredients that would go into making the traditional Christmas fruit-cake. The special recipe concocted by Lulu Chefs and the visiting celebrity chefs called for the inclusion of dried fruits, including cherries, plums, raisins, orange peels and other exotic dried fruits, as well as honey, cream and fruit juices, in addition to other cake batter ingredients.

The flavorful batter will be baked into special Christmas and New Year fruit cakes in different tantalizing flavors to celebrate the spirit of the upcoming holiday season.



## Evaluation of ICAI qualification by UK NARIC

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has always strived for academic and professional excellence for its key stakeholders, i.e., students and members. With the aim of expanding the opportunities for professionals in foreign jurisdictions, the Institute had engaged UK NARIC (The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom) a renowned UK national agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on qualifications and skills worldwide, to conduct an independent benchmarking study, evaluating the comparability of the ICAI Intermediate and Final level in the context of the UK education systems.

Pursuant to the same, UK NARIC has announced that ICAI qualification is comparable to RQF Level 7, Master's degree standard. The agency has also benchmarked ICAI Intermediate course and final course separately as being comparable to a RQF



Level 6, Bachelor degree standard and RQF Level 7, Master's degree standard respectively.

Speaking on the UK NARIC benchmarking,

President ICAI, CA. Prafulla P. Chhajed remarked that the benchmarking of the CA qualification comparable to RQF Level 7, Master's degree

standard not only would strengthen the position of ICAI members, but would also help aspiring Chartered Accountants and even corporates gain a better understanding on the standing and relevance of the CA qualification."

ICAI's Vice President, CA. Atul Kumar Gupta, remarked, "As India is increasingly focusing on facilitating export of accountancy services, this evaluation would increase the professional avenues for our members by facilitating recognition of Indian accountancy qualification."

ICAI Kuwait Chapter Chairman CA Sai Devata applauded the efforts of ICAI President and Vice President for this remarkable recognition which will enhance the footprint of ICAI globally. ICAI Kuwait chapter is working closely to sign MOU with Kuwait Accounting and Auditing Association (KAAA) which will mutually benefit both the associations.

# WB lauds economic steps taken by Kuwait



**K**ey economic initiatives launched by Kuwait are steps in the right direction, said the World Bank (WB) in its latest assessment of economic performance of countries in the region. Reforms to laws, privatization of government held assets, public-private partnerships in the generation and supply of electricity and water, as well as in transport, sewage and solid waste management are measures that further buttress Kuwait's economic outlook, said the Bank.

These reforms are especially commendable given the sluggish growth in many other countries that make up the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In its latest economic update for the region, the bank predicted that economic growth in MENA would slow to 0.6 percent this year compared with 1.2 percent last year. The region's growth forecast for 2019 is revised down by 0.8 percentage points from the April 2019 projection due to lower oil prices since April 2019 and a larger than expected contraction in Iran, said the bank.

Economic outlook for the MENA region as a whole is subject to substantial downside risks, most notably, intensified global economic headwinds and rising geopolitical tensions. In the latest edition of the MENA Economic Update titled 'Reaching New Heights: Promoting Fair Competition in the Middle East and North Africa' the World Bank discusses the current sluggish growth due to conservative oil production outputs, weak global demand for oil, and a larger-than expected contraction in Iran.

On the other hand, a boost in non-oil activities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates), most prominently in construction, partially offset the dampening effect on the region's average growth numbers as a result of Iran's economic contraction. "Countries in the region have implemented bold reforms to restore macroeconomic stability, but the projected growth rate is a fraction of what is needed to create enough jobs for the fast-growing, working-age population," said Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Vice-President for the Middle East and North Africa region.

"It is time for courageous and far-sighted leadership to deepen the reforms, to bring down the barriers to competition and to unlock the enormous potential of the region's 400 million people as a source of collective demand that could drive growth and jobs." In the medium-term, the World Bank expects real GDP in the MENA region to grow at 2.6 percent in 2020 and 2.9 percent in 2021. The

projected pickup in growth is largely driven by increasing infrastructure investment in GCC countries and the recovery in Iran's economy as the effects of current sanctions wane. However, the report warns that a further escalation in regional tensions could severely weaken Iran's economy and spill over to other countries in the region. While rising oil prices would benefit many regional oil exporters in the short run, the overall impact would be to hurt regional trade, investment, and spending on infrastructure.

In addition to providing economic growth forecasts for each country, the report highlights how unfair competition results from markets dominated by state-owned enterprises and politically connected firms which deters private investment, reducing the number of jobs and preventing countless talented young people from prospering. "The lack of fair competition is holding back the development of the region's private sector, which history has shown to be the source of broad-based growth and jobs," said Rabah Arezki, World Bank MENA Chief Economist.

## Brazilian singer Cris Delanno enchants audience at 'Waves of Brazil' concert



The Embassy of Brazil in Kuwait, in collaboration with Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (DAI), organized a concert titled 'Waves of Brazil' showcasing Brazilian music and talent, on Sunday, 6 October at the Yarmouk Cultural Center.

The evening featured a talented Brazilian musical group headed by Cris Delanno, who enthralled the large gathering, which included Brazilian Ambassador H.E. Norton Rabesta.

The star of the concert, Cris Delanno, is a popular



composer, and musician, who has traveled the world performing in major concerts, including the Latin Grammy Awards (TV Concert - 2002), Roskilde Festival (Denmark), Gets Bossa Nova (Japan), BossaCabaret (Paris) and during FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010.

Her band is comprised of members Alfredo Cardim, a pianist, and composer, and Ronaldo Silva, a member of one of the best traditional Brazilian drummer families. Both musicians have performed with famous artists.

## Proactive reforms needed for a better future

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The country needs the authorities to take firm decisions and implement them efficiently. Sadly, the country has lacked such bold and perspicacious actions implemented in a timely manner and as a result has lurched from one problem to another. Most of the responses could, at best, be termed as lukewarm, reactive measures that invariably totter at the slightest signs of opposition from citizens and lawmakers.

Moreover, the government's reactions usually come only when it is left with no other option. For instance, take the government's response in the aftermath of the precipitous fall in oil prices in mid-2014. Faced with lower oil revenues that induced tighter economic and financial conditions, the government introduced a slew of austerity measures to cut spending and raise savings in ministries and public entities.

The authorities also took steps to encourage the private sector, reduce bureaucracy and enhance the business climate. To its credit, the government even announced a valiant plan to restructure salaries and rationalize employment benefits of public sector employees. The most visible aspect of the belt-tightening came in the form of raising the price of fuel by 40 to 80 percent in 2016 and reducing the energy and water subsidies in 2017.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and economic experts lauded the steps taken by the government. But soon, the lofty reforms started to crumble one by one. Following public resentment and scathing attacks on the austerity moves by members of the country's litigious parliament, the government began to roll back or scale down many of the measures that it had begun to implement. Lawmakers vehemently opposed to the increase in tariffs, argued that the higher rates would impact inflation and raise the price of goods for Kuwaitis.

As expected, the government's resolve to remain firm on its decisions collapsed. The statement from the authorities that price hikes were needed to encourage consumers to rationalize consumption, also appeared hollow when the largest consumers — Kuwaiti households — were exempted from the increased electricity and water charges, and the hike in fuel prices was softened for citizens by providing them with up to 75 liters of free petrol each month.

Besides delay in launching VAT and excise

taxes, as well as watering-down the subsidy cuts due to objections from lawmakers, the government has also not been able to push through parliament a new debt law. The country urgently needs a new debt law to enable it to approach the international bond market with new sovereign debt issues. But lawmakers have been reluctant to give the green signal, fearing it could lead the government to accumulate heavy debt that would burden future generations.

The government has smoothed over the successive deficit budgets in recent years by dipping into the country's General Reserve Fund. But, over the last few years, this fund has been dwindling as it was not being replenished by a steady flow of excess oil revenues. In January, parliament approved the government budget for the fiscal year 2019/2020 which envisages a deficit of KD7.7 billion, after the mandatory 10 percent of revenue was transferred to the Future Generations Fund. The budget showed an expenditure of KD22.5 billion on a revenue of KD16.4 billion, with the budgetary shortfall representing 15.7 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and marking the fifth year in a row that Kuwait was running a deficit.

The budget also shows that salaries and bonuses of public sector employees at KD15.98 billion takes the biggest bite (71%) on expenditure, leaving only KD3.83 billion (17%) for capital spending, and the remaining KD2.7 (12%) for all other expenses. The government is now hoping that somehow its 17 percent spending on capital expenditure will stimulate economic growth in the country this year.

Since the government cannot touch the public wage bill, or introduce any plans that impose taxes or raise the cost of public services for citizens, or bring about reforms that infringe on entitlements that citizens have become accustomed to, the government is limited to only raising prices or cutting subsidies for expatriates, and perhaps even taxing them in future.

Unrelenting opposition from lawmakers, to the introduction of any meaningful financial, economic and administrative reforms, or to approach the international debt market with sovereign bonds, has meant the government is limited to very few options. It can continue succumbing to popular and legislative demands and run annual budget deficits by dipping from the General Reserve Fund. Or it can decide to take a proactive stance and introduce unpopular reforms today so as to meet the exigencies of tomorrow.

## 'BBQ by the pool' evening every Tuesday at Crowne Plaza



Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Kuwait treated guests to an assortment of tasty BBQ and seafood offerings in its new revamped menu as part of its re-launched 'BBQ by the pool' specialty event. Guests included top management, special invitees, loyal clients, hotel guests and media personnel, who had the opportunity to savor a variety of dishes in a relaxed atmosphere by the poolside.

The setting was attractively adorned in decorations to allow for a beautiful view for diners. As live entertainment played, guests were warmly welcomed by staff and treated to signature welcome drinks and delicious nibbles. The highlight of the evening was the buffet of scrumptious seafood and BBQ dishes including flame-grilled marinated steak, a selection of seafood delicacies and salads. Rounding off your meal was an array of eye-catching desserts complemented by refreshing



mocktails with a modern twist. Waiters provided excellent service, and ensured diners felt at ease, and enjoyed their meal to the fullest. This unparalleled service is a hallmark of Al Thuraya City Kuwait restaurant.

Al Thuraya City Kuwait is deeply rich in international history, and persists in exploring dining innovations to provide its clientele with remarkable cuisine options, amazing service, and a fantastic atmosphere. With nine restaurants part of its brand, it is unparalleled on the dining landscape in offering new innovations, rich international flavors, and opulent environment for dining in company. The latest iteration of its specialty international cuisine evening is BBQ nights by the pool, wherein guests can savor the best barbecued meats and seafood dishes in a serene dining setting every Tuesday night from 7 - 11 pm.

# Charges for public utilities, services, to be revised

Costs for the use of public utilities and public services could go up following a review by the finance ministry of Law No-79 of the year 1995 pertaining to the fees and financial costs applied for public services.

The ministry is understood to have submitted a report on this and other financial reforms and plans to the Council of Ministers for further consideration and action. The ministry said in its report that

the restructuring fees, amendments and reforms were needed to align costs with services in the present context.

The move is also intended to increase efficiency and enhance the development of regulations, policies and procedures in government bodies, regarding fees and financial costs charged for the use of public utilities and services.

The ministry added that other financial measures being planned include the

adoption of revised tax laws through the drafting of new tax procedures and selective taxes.

On another note, the government is planning to compel the private sector to reduce the number of expatriates, and increase the employment of national, with the aim of adjusting the demographic imbalance in the country and lowering unemployment among citizens..

Latest figures from the Central Statistical

Bureau show that there are currently around 73,000 nationals working in the private sector, while the government plan aims to increase this number to 130,000 by 2021. At present there are 1.6 million expatriates employed in the private sector and the government aims to bring this number down to 1.1 million by 2021. Recent data from the government reveals that at the end of June there were nearly 16,000 unemployed nationals in the country.

# Porsche Centre Kuwait welcomes the new Cayenne Coupé

Porsche, a German automobile manufacturer, has extended its Cayenne range with the addition of the Cayenne Coupé – a version that features an all-new body shape, two different roof concepts and impressive performance. Launched at a showcase event held by Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company at Porsche Centre Kuwait, the model is available in three derivatives; the Cayenne Coupé, Cayenne S Coupé and Cayenne Turbo Coupé.

Speaking during the launch event, Peter Green, Group General Manager, Behbehani Motors Company, said: "We are delighted to unveil the Cayenne



Coupé for the first time here in Kuwait. A truly worthy addition, this model offers the option of an extra sporty variant within our SUV range. The

Cayenne Coupé also reinforces the evolutionary approach Porsche takes when developing its sports cars for the new era. Inheriting the same technical



capabilities implemented in the third generation Cayenne, alongside a sharpened design, the Cayenne Coupé is more progressive, athletic,

and emotional in its own right. I have no doubt that this impressive model will generate interest amongst current Porsche owners and enthusiasts alike."

Designed to advance driving dynamics, all Coupé models include 20-inch wheels, Power Steering Plus and Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) as standard. Benefiting from a generation of powerful and efficient engines initially implemented in third generation Cayenne models, the Coupé versions arrive with increased power through the addition of a Sport Chrono Package fitted as standard.

# DDI participates in Seventh Annual Clinical Congress in Oman

Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), took part in the Gulf Chapter of the Seventh Annual Clinical Congress by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. The conference was held in Muscat, Oman from 10 till 12 October.



Dr. Ebaa Al-Ozairi, Chief Medical Officer of DDI, who was elected to be the first female president of the Annual Clinical Congress for this year, inaugurated, chaired and presented many sessions and lectures at the conference. Many other

healthcare professionals and specialists from the Institute and the region attended this conference and presented as well. There were more than 1000 delegates and high-profile international speakers. Dr. Ebaa Al Ozairi also chaired the diabetes educator course, innovative addition to the Annual Congress with speakers from Dasman Diabetes Institute. The



Institute also had posters and abstracts highlighting the importance of Remission Clinic at the Institute.

Furthermore, Dasman Diabetes Institute participated in this conference by setting up their own booth. The PR and Media team was present to provide booklets, brochures and giveaways to the conference participants, as well as answer any queries, and showcasing the new research and innovative clinics like the Diabetes Remission and others. Dasman Diabetes Institute continues to direct its efforts to address the diabetes epidemic through focused diabetes research, integrated prevention, training and education.

# Kuwaiti taxi and the driving licence dilemma

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

So the need to use taxis is prevalent and it makes good business sense to run a taxi service to serve the large number of expats who do not qualify for driving licence. According to the regulation if an expat is not a graduate then he or she is not entitled to a driving licence. However the same rule does not apply to either taxi drivers or domestic visa holders who are not graduates but entitled to driving licence by way of their status . Then there are Kuwaitis who are entitled by way of their nationality.

Statistics in Kuwait indicate that there is a car accident every 10 minutes. Almost 1 million traffic accidents have taken place since 2012 and deaths from traffic accidents have been more than 400 every single year since 2012. Despite all attempts, Kuwait has been unable to shrug off an infamous world ranking in accident averages, the figures indicate that the task is formidable.

If the attempt was to reduce accidents and improve driving culture then the present system of granting licences might also be faulty. Taxis plying roads from morning to night to pick up passengers might also be a cause of traffic congestion and rash driving, as much as limiting people from driving because of their qualification or profession.

Nobody is discussing the process of granting driving licences, where the testing standards by any means is neither international nor capable of screening unqualified drivers who are a threat on the road not only to themselves but also others using it.

Driving tests should be taken much more seriously, even more so the process of selective screening of applicants who qualify. Collection of traffic fines, increasing penalties and deporting or arresting rash drivers have not been able to stem the traffic woes in the country. Perhaps raising the bar and allowing only people who pass a rigid examination in driving might be a long term solution.

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# CAPPADOCIA

## Beyond Dreams

EMAN BOARAKI @emytravels  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Located in central Turkey, the Cappadocia region with its plethora of caves and valleys is one of Turkey's most sought after areas by tourists and topographers alike.

What made me want to visit this place was the intriguing idea of how houses were built within caves. I was amazed by the unique geographical structure that was unlike anything I had ever seen. Years of erosion have made this treasure trove, home to small smurf-sized villages, rock-cut churches and Cappadocia's famous Fairy Chimneys; leaving no reservations as to why it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Leaving the metropolitan life behind, tourists have access to Cappadocia, and by bus or train for a more scenic journey.

Cappadocia serves as the ideal location for hikers and born wanderers. During my 14km hike, I was blown away by the breathtaking scenery as well as the fascinating churches and monasteries, which were carved into the soft rocks; creating a beautiful atmosphere.



Mirroring this hidden gem they call home and carrying their traditions with pride, the locals do not disappoint with their kind, simple and friendly nature. Throwing commercial lodgings out of the window, Cappadocia offers its visitors the opportunity to live as locals do, in homes built within caves.

As we walked through the valleys of Cappadocia, one of the locals showing us around informed us that each valley has a distinctive name based on the legends that took place in that area. Of all the valleys we came across, three stood out to me the most: The Rose Valley, Imaginary Valley and Ihlara Valley.

The Rose Valley obtained its name from the deep red hues surrounding the area. The contrast between the towering rock formations and the bijou villages offered picture perfect views. Craving something sweet? You can always pick out some fresh grapes on the way as you continue hiking and the views unfold.

Bring your inner child along at the Imaginary Valley, where a multitude of rock formations take on the shapes of different animals, making this valley like a sculptured zoo in the heart of Cappadocia.



As you hike through the Ihlara Valley, found between Nevşehir and Aksaray, listen to songs of nature swirling in the wind; from the birds, to the trees and water, the place is full of life. While hiking in that area, we found a quaint restaurant that served food made by local elderly women. Placed on a small ledge surrounded by water and ducks, the restaurant's location was remarkable.

Finally, if hiking does not quench your thirst to explore, you can see Cappadocia with our feathered friends in the sky in the city's famous hot air balloons. The splendid view from the clouds is one that is the envy of all photographers.



# No More Half-Measures on Corporate Taxes



**JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ**

A Nobel laureate in economics, is University Professor at Columbia University and Chief Economist at the Roosevelt Institute. He is the author, most recently, of *People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*.

Globalization has gotten a bad rap in recent years, and often for good reason. But some critics, not least US President Donald Trump, place the blame in the wrong place, conjuring up a false image in which Europe, China, and developing countries have snookered America's trade negotiators into bad deals, leading to Americans' current woes. It's an absurd claim: after all, it was America or, rather, corporate America that wrote the rules of globalization in the first place.

That said, one particularly toxic aspect of globalization has not received the attention it deserves: corporate tax avoidance. Multinationals can all too easily relocate their headquarters and production to whatever jurisdiction levies the lowest taxes. And in some cases, they need not even move their business activities, because they can merely alter how they 'book' their income on paper.

Starbucks, for example, can continue to expand in the United Kingdom while paying hardly any UK taxes, because it claims that there are minimal profits there. But if that were true, its ongoing expansion would make no sense. Why increase your presence when there are no profits to be had? Obviously, there are profits, but they are being funneled from the UK to lower-tax jurisdictions in the form of royalties, franchise fees, and other charges.

This kind of tax avoidance has become an art form at which the cleverest firms, like Apple, excel. The aggregate costs of such practices are enormous. According to the International Monetary Fund, governments lose at least \$500 billion per year as a result of corporate tax shifting. And Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley, and his colleagues estimate that some 40 percent of overseas profits made



status quo. Under the prevailing 'transfer price system,' two subsidiaries of the same multinational can exchange goods and services across borders, and then value that trade 'at arm's length' when reporting income and profits for tax purposes. The price they come up with is what they claim it would be if the goods and services were being exchanged in a competitive market.

For obvious reasons, this system has never worked well. How does one value a car without an engine, or a dress shirt without buttons? There are no arm's-length prices, no competitive markets, to which a firm can refer. And matters are even more problematic in the expanding services sector: how does one value a production process without the managerial services provided by headquarters?

The ability of multinationals to benefit from the transfer price system has grown, as trade within companies has increased, as trade in services (rather than goods) has expanded, as intellectual property has grown in importance, and as firms have gotten better at exploiting the system. The result: the large-scale shifting of profits across borders, leading to lower tax revenues.

It is telling that US firms are not allowed to use transfer pricing to allocate profits within the US. That would entail pricing goods repeatedly as they cross and re-cross state borders. Instead, US corporate profits are allocated to different states on a formulaic basis, according to factors such as employment, sales, and assets within each state. And, as the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (of which I am a member) shows in its latest declaration, this approach is the only one that will work at the global level.

For its part, the OECD will soon issue a major proposal that could move the current framework a little in this direction. But, if reports of what it will look like are correct, it still would not go far enough. If adopted, most of a corporation's income would still be treated using the transfer price system, with only a 'residual' allocated on a formulaic basis. The rationale for this division is unclear; the best that can be said is that the OECD is canonizing gradualism. After all, the corporate profits reported in almost all jurisdictions already include deductions for the cost of capital and interest. These are 'residuals', pure profits, that arise from the joint operations of a multinational's global activities. For example, under the 2017 US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the total cost of capital goods is deductible in addition to some of the interest, which allows for total reported profits to be substantially less than true economic profits.

Given the scale of the problem, it is clear

that we need a global minimum tax to end the current race to the bottom, which benefits no one other than corporations. There is no evidence that lower taxation globally leads to more investment. Of course, if a country lowers its tax relative to others, it might 'steal' some investment; but this beggar-thy-neighbor approach does not work globally. A global minimum tax rate should be set at a rate comparable to the current average effective corporate tax, which is around 25 percent. Otherwise, global corporate tax rates will converge

on the minimum, and what was intended to be a reform to increase taxation on multinationals will turn out to have just the opposite effect.

The world is facing multiple crises, including climate change, inequality, slowing growth, and decaying infrastructure, none of which can be addressed without well-resourced governments. Unfortunately, the current proposals for reforming global taxation simply do not go far enough. Multinationals must be compelled to do their part.

“Tax avoidance has become an art form at which the cleverest firms, like Apple, excel. Aggregate costs of such practices are enormous. According to the International Monetary Fund, governments lose at least \$500 billion per year due to corporate tax shifting.”

by US multinationals are transferred to tax havens. In 2018, around 60 of the 500 largest companies, including Amazon, Netflix, and General Motors, paid no US tax, despite reporting joint profits (on a global basis) of some \$80 billion. These trends are having a devastating impact on national tax revenues and undermining the public's sense of fairness.

Since the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, when many countries found themselves in dire financial straits, there has been growing demand to rethink the global regime for taxing multinationals. One major effort is the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative, which has already yielded significant benefits, curbing some of the worst practices, such as that associated with one subsidiary lending money to another. But, as the data show, current efforts are far from adequate.

The fundamental problem is that BEPS offers only patchwork fixes to a fundamentally flawed and incorrigible







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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Greta Thunberg's Moment



## PETER SINGER

Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University and Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne. His book *Ethics into Action: Learning from a Tube of Toothpaste, about the successful strategies for change developed by Henry Spira, was recently re-issued with a new preface.*

**T**his is all wrong!" These words begin the most powerful four-minute speech I have ever heard. They were spoken by Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage climate activist, at the United Nations Climate Action Summit last month, and followed a week of climate strikes and marches attended by an estimated six million people.

The marchers were predominantly the young people who will have to cope with more of the costs of climate change than the world leaders Thunberg was addressing. Her tone of moral outrage was therefore apt, as was the leitmotif of her speech: "How dare you?" She accused the world's leaders of stealing the dreams of the young with empty words. How dare they say that they are doing enough? How dare they pretend that "business as usual," coupled with yet-to-be-discovered technological solutions, will solve the problem?

“Thunberg justified her outrage by pointing out that the science of climate change has been known for 30 years. World leaders have looked away while the opportunities for a timely transition to a net-zero greenhouse-gas economy slipped by.”

Thunberg justified her outrage by pointing out that the science of climate change has been known for 30 years. World leaders have looked away while the opportunities for a timely transition to a net-zero greenhouse-gas economy slipped by. Now even the heroic effort of halving emissions over the next ten years would, Thunberg pointed out, give us only a 50 percent chance of keeping global warming below 1.5° Celsius.

Passing that limit risks setting off uncontrollable feedback loops leading to further warming, more feedback loops, and yet more warming. Thunberg referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate



Change's report indicating that to reduce the risk of exceeding 1.5°C to one in three, we will need to limit global carbon dioxide emissions from now until 2050 to 350 gigatons. At the current rate, we will exceed this limit in 2028.

According to the Climate Change Performance Index, no government in the world has yet achieved a 'very good' performance in protecting the world's climate. Sweden, Morocco, and Lithuania are currently doing the best, with Latvia and the United Kingdom not far behind. The United States is in the bottom five, along with Saudi Arabia, Iran, South Korea, and Taiwan.

The ethical issue is not difficult to adjudicate. For affluent countries, which are responsible for most of the CO<sub>2</sub> that is now in the atmosphere, there can be no ethical justification for continuing to emit greenhouse gases at far higher per capita levels than the people in low-income countries who will suffer most from climate change. To impose on them a one in three chance of warming beyond 1.5°C is playing a kind of Russian roulette, as if we had put a revolver against the heads of tens or perhaps hundreds of millions of people in low-income countries — except that we have loaded our six-chambered revolver with two bullets rather than one. For affluent countries, on the other hand, the required transition to a clean economy would bring

some transitional costs, but in the long run would save lives and benefit everyone.

How will we get there? Thunberg ended on a positive note: "We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not."

Can young people really wake the world to the urgency of changing direction? Can they convince their parents? School strikes will trouble parents, especially parents who then need to arrange child care, but will they influence political leaders? What can be done to keep climate on the agenda until governments get serious about reducing the risk of catastrophe? 'Extinction Rebellion', an international movement that began last year with a Declaration of Rebellion in London, advocates civil disobedience. Extinction Rebellion calls for thousands of activists to block roads and shut down transport systems in major cities around the world, not just for one day, but for long enough to impose real economic costs on governments and business elites, all the while maintaining strictly nonviolent discipline even in the face of government repression.

Civil disobedience was first used as part of a mass movement by Mahatma Gandhi (born 150 years ago) in South Africa and subsequently in India. In the United States,

its most famous proponent was Martin Luther King, Jr., in the struggle against racial segregation. Civil disobedience played a role, along with other forms of protest, in ending the Vietnam War. In each of these examples, resorting to civil disobedience is now widely regarded as courageous and right. There are statues of Gandhi around the world, and in the US, King's birthday is a national holiday.

The failure of governments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions is no less wrong than British rule in India, the denial of equal rights to African-Americans, or the war in Vietnam — and it is likely to cause harm on a far larger scale. So, civil disobedience also would be right if it can persuade governments to follow the science and do what is necessary to avert catastrophic climate change.

There may be other effective forms of nonviolent protest that no one has yet tried. Thunberg first became known for standing alone outside Sweden's parliament holding a sign saying, in Swedish, 'School Strike for Climate'. No one could have predicted that this then-15-year-old girl would start a movement supported by millions of young people and gain a platform from which to address the world's leaders. We need more innovative ideas about how best to convey the urgency of the situation and the need for a sharp change of course.

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# Antimicrobial resistance rising drastically

Over the past few decades people living in many low-and middle-income countries have become wealthier and as a consequence they have begun consuming more meat and dairy products. In several countries in Africa meat consumption has grown by more than half while in Asia and Latin America the growth is over two-thirds.

To meet this growing demand, animal husbandry has become industrialized, with an increased reliance on the use of antimicrobials to treat and prevent infections among animals, as well as to increase their weight and improve profitability.

Excessive and indiscriminate use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry is one of the reasons for the rapid proliferation of bacteria resistant to antimicrobials around the world. Drugs that were once highly potent

have begun losing their efficacy in deterring bacteria. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is now posing a serious threat to the health and lives of both animals and humans.

With only limited surveillance capacities, antimicrobial use is typically less regulated and documented in low- and middle-income countries, relative to wealthier industrialized countries. Researchers at ETH Zurich recently published a map of AMR in animals in low- and middle-income countries which showed where, and in which animal species, resistance occurred for the common foodborne bacteria Salmonella, E. coli, Campylobacter and Staphylococcus.

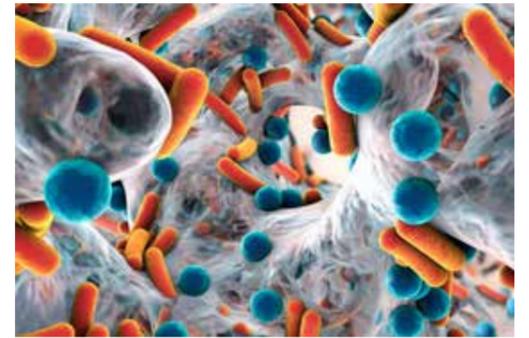
According to this study, the regions associated with high rates of AMR in animals were in northeast China, northeast India, southern Brazil, Iran and Turkey. In these countries, the bacteria listed above are now

resistant to a large number of drugs that are used not only in animals but also in human medicine.

The researchers introduced a new index to track the evolution of resistance to multiple drugs — the proportion of drugs tested in each region with resistance rates higher than 50 percent. Globally, this index has almost tripled for chicken and pigs over the last 20 years. Currently, one third of drugs fail 50 percent of the time in chicken and one quarter of drug fail in 50 percent of the time in pigs.

This alarming trend could affect the sustainability of the animal industry and potentially the health of consumers. Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem. There is little point in making considerable efforts to reduce it on one side of the world if it is increasing dramatically on the other side.

The researchers have now created an



open-access web platform [resistancebank.org](http://resistancebank.org) to share their findings and gather additional data on resistance in animals. For example, veterinarians and state-authorities can upload data on resistance in their region to the platform and share it with other people who are interested.

## People eat more when dining with friends



People eat more with friends and family than when dining alone, in a phenomena that science describes as 'social facilitation'.

Previous studies found that those eating with others ate up to 48 percent more food than solo diners and women with obesity eating socially consumed up to 29 percent more than when eating alone. Researchers at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom who evaluated 42 existing studies of research into social dining found that eating 'socially' has a powerful effect on increasing food intake relative to dining alone. Eating with others is more enjoyable and enhanced reward from social eating

could increase consumption, said the researchers. Moreover, social norms might 'permit' overeating in company but sanction it when eating alone. Providing food also becomes associated with praise and recognition from friends and family, strengthening social bonds.

However, this social facilitation effect on eating was not observed in studies which had looked at food intake amongst people who were not well acquainted. People want to convey positive impressions to strangers. Selecting small portions may provide a means of doing so and this may be why the social facilitation of eating is less pronounced amongst groups of strangers.

Findings from previous research suggest that we often choose what (and how much) to eat based on the type of impression that we want to convey about ourselves. Evidence suggests that this may be particularly pronounced for women eating with men they wish to impress and for people with obesity who wish to avoid being judged for overeating.

Social facilitation can be seen as a natural by-product of social food sharing — a strategy that would have served a critical function in our ancestral environments. This also explains why it is more likely to occur in groups with individuals who are familiar with each other.

## Teabags release billions of microplastics in your tea

Billions of microplastics could be floating around in the tea you are about to sip. But wait, do not throw away the tea, the potential risk arises only if you are using plastic tea bags, paper-based tea bags and loose tea do not pose a threat to your health.

Researchers at McGill University in Canada, report that a single plastic tea bag releases as many as 11 billion micro-sized plastic particles and 3 billion nano-sized plastic particles into 95-degree C water.

For their study, the researchers purchased four different types of tea bags sold at cafes and stores in Montreal. They removed the tea from the bags to ensure the contaminants came from the bag and not the tea itself. They then analyzed the brewed water under an electron microscope to find billions of microplastics, and the much smaller nanoplastics, had leached into the water from the bags.



The levels of plastic discovered were thousands of times higher than those reported previously in other foods. For example, previous studies had shown that a gram of table salt could contain 0.005 microgram of plastic, whereas in one brewed tea bag contained over 16 micrograms of plastic.

The findings do not necessarily prove that tea drinkers are in any grave danger. Surprisingly, despite widespread criticism on the dumping of plastics and how they make their way into our food chain, so far there has been no scientific evidence of the long-term effects of plastics on the human body.

So how do we know if the teabag we are using is made of paper or plastic. One identification of plastic tea bags is their silky smooth exterior and clear visibility which enables you to see the tea particles inside the bag.

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## Get the most flattering trouser suit

**Y**ou can't always wear summer dresses to the office, and often, you don't want to spend extra time planning outfits. To reduce the time it takes to get ready, try this season's answer to one-step dressing: the trouser suit.

And this season's suiting options ensures that getting dressed in the morning is more contemporary than cliché. The key lesson to achieving the optimal tailored look is focusing on fit and colour. Here are some tips to choose a flattering, versatile trouser suit:

**The key to a perfect blazer:** When it comes to deciding which style to go for, a trial and error mindset is recommended. Some prefer the androgynous structure of a double breasted blazer and its sharp silhouette, belted or not, whilst others prefer a single buttoned jacket for ease and simplicity. Regardless of if you side with the former or latter, fit is paramount. Trying on a variety of sizes and even resorting to the skill of a tailor will guarantee a flattering silhouette, no matter the style opted for.

**Be bold with color:** If you're accustomed to wearing a neutral-colored suit day in, day

out, or have not ventured into suiting before, perhaps color is exactly what needs to be embraced. You can try pink hues or perhaps a beautiful iteration in a bold color like neon pink is a great way to avoid the sombre-suiting rut, and a particularly welcome option if the weather is dreary outside.

For the less daring, a Prince of Wales check is a more subdued option than a block color. Alternatively, you can opt for traditional black and white or a multi combination check for a look imbued with interest. And if a neutral color palette is obligatory for your wardrobe, choose deeper shades of grey or navy to encourage a more polished tone to your overall look. If you can't make a statement with color, pay extra attention to cut and fit, as these can be just as impactful.

**The bottom half is all about balance:** Whether you purchase your blazer's matching bottom half or go rogue and choose a complementary tone instead, the correct

fit should balance the shape of your blazer perfectly - while the wrong one could have the polar opposite effect and drown your frame in too much material.

If your blazer is of the boxy variety or is somewhat oversized, your bottom half should be streamlined to balance it out - belted straight or tapered trousers are perfect.

**If you opt for a more fitted silhouette on top, you have two options:** either follow suit with fitted trousers, or experiment with a wider cut leg which can also be worn with a knit for more casual office days or at the weekend.



## DKNY marks 30th Founding anniversary with chic Fall 2019 campaign



**D**KNY, a popular fashion brand, celebrated its 30th founding Anniversary with an exciting party at its Alyasra Fashion's DKNY outlet at the Grand Plaza, The Avenues on 3 October. Popular Kuwaiti bloggers, special invitees and DKNY fans attended the fun event.

The brand also launched its exciting Fall 2019 campaign featuring powerful, graphic portraits of native New Yorkers Halsey and the Martinez brothers.

In the campaign, Halsey and the Martinez brothers sport the most directional pieces from the DKNY fall 2019 collection: checked suiting,

raw denim and leopard-print athleisure for her; fresh tailoring, classic outerwear and easy essentials for him. With a stark black-and-white

aesthetic accented by a bold red logo, the imagery references DKNY's innovative heritage campaigns of the 1990s.

## Best layered haircut according to face shape and hair type

**M**ost women walk into a salon and tell their stylist to give their hair a trim, keep the layers long and the length intact. There's no denying this is the safe way to go about getting a haircut. And while this prevents you from getting a bad haircut, it also prevents you from getting a really good one. Haircuts and layers should always compliment your face shape. Whether you have fine short hair or thick long hair, layers are a great option for adding style, texture, and switching up your look. Not to mention they can add dimension to thinner hair while simultaneously taking bulkiness off of thicker hair.

To determine the best hairstyle to fit your unique look, find the best cuts for face-framing layers, ahead.

**Layers for an oval face shape:** When picking the perfect layers for a narrow, oval-shaped face, avoid a cut that will make your face appear too long. Face-framing, longer layers will keep the attention centered on your beautiful face, as opposed to the no-layer look that will lengthen your face. Try a long hairstyle with layers starting just under the chin to show off that face shape and give it a more chiseled look.

**Layers for a square face shape:** If your forehead and jawline run parallel to each other, you most likely have a square face shape. In this case, the wrong kind of layers can make your face seem broad. Go easy on the layering, keeping them light and not overly defined to create the illusion of a softer jawline. An ideal look for those with a square face is the long bob. This chic style will elongate your face and create a soft, feminine look.

**Layers for a Round Face Shape:** Round-shaped faces typically have little to no natural contouring in their structure. While this may seem like a negative thing, it means you have a lot of options when it comes to flattering layers. Long, mono-length looks give the illusion of a longer face, while shorter, choppy styles give the appearance of higher cheekbones and a more defined jawline. An A-line bob is a great way to flatter a round face as it creates a more angular structure.

**Layers for a Heart Face Shape:** Heart-shaped faces typically consist of a broadened forehead, narrow jaw and more defined cheekbones. When catering to a heart-shaped face, it's best to layer the hair in such a way that they naturally fall away from the face as opposed to hugging it. This helps broaden the jawline and balance out your facial structure.

# Microsoft's revamped Surface lineup has fans interested



Last week, Microsoft proved to all that besides creating cutting-edge software it was also adept at developing superbly designed hardware. To prove this, Microsoft launched a slew of products in its Surface lineup that sent fans drooling and critics struggling to find faults with it.

The new lineup included the Surface Laptop 3, the Surface Pro 7, the Surface Pro X, Surface Earbuds, and the upcoming Surface Neo and Surface Duo. With all that surface to cover, let us get going.

"The next decade will be about creation, and amplifying what we can do as humans," CEO Satya Nadella said at the Microsoft Surface 2019 event in New York City last week. "It's that ambition that ... underlies the approach to Surface and everything we do today."

The Surface Laptop 3, Pro 7 and Pro X are available for preorder in select markets. The Surface Neo and Duo are dual-screen devices that will be available for the 2020 holiday period.

The Surface Laptop 3 is the perfect everyday laptop, with the 13-inch version starting at US\$999 and going up to the 15-inch version, starting at \$1,199. The company claimed that it is the fastest 15-inch laptop currently available. imed.

The Laptop 3 offers fast charging, achieving 80 percent in an hour. It has a larger trackpad, and USB-A and USB-C ports. It has improved cameras, OmniSonic speakers, and dual far-field Studio Mics.

Microsoft has positioned the Surface Pro as the most versatile 2:1 device you can buy, with a 10th-generation Intel Core processor, USB-A and

USB-C ports, and a battery with all-day life, and prices that start at \$749.

The Surface Pro X has a 4K UHD screen, more than 2 teraflops of graphics processing power, a 13-inch edge-to-edge display, and an always-on feature using LTE. It is 5.3mm thick and weighs just over 760g. It uses the Qualcomm Microsoft SQ1 chipset, which combines the Qualcomm Snapdragon technology with an integrated artificial intelligence accelerator.

The Surface Pro X is the first Windows-based PC to have an integrated AI engine, said Panos Panay, chief product officer of the Microsoft Devices Group. "With Qualcomm, we also redesigned the GPU and other pieces of silicon." The Surface Pro X runs the full power of Windows, Microsoft Office, and the Edge and Chrome browsers. Its Signature Keyboard includes pen docking and charging for Microsoft's new Slim Pen.

Microsoft also announced several new features in Office to leverage the capabilities in the new Surface lineup.

The Surface Neo has a 360-degree full-friction hinge consisting of 60 coax cables, and two 9-inch screens with Gorilla Glass 5. Put together, the screens make up a 13-inch display. The Neo runs full productivity apps. It has a removable keyboard and comes with a Surface Pen. It is also compatible with a Bluetooth mouse.

Apps open on the left-hand screen when launched. They can be dragged with a finger to span both screens. Both screens can be used to run different apps simultaneously. The Surface Neo uses the 11th generation Intel Lakefield processor, and will run Windows 10X, an operating system designed to offer Windows 10 functionality on dual-screen devices. The Neo aims to bring back Microsoft as the innovator in hardware, and will help the dual-screen ecosystem, said analysts.

And rounding up the products launched was the foldable Surface Duo, which offers mobile phone functionality with an industry-pushing technology that also pushes possibilities. The Duo has two 5.6-inch screens that unfold to make one 8.3-inch screen. Like the Neo's screens, they can be arranged in various combinations. The Duo also runs Android apps, thanks to a Microsoft partnership with Google.

## Making your dumb TV smart

Unless you are stuck to satellite dish or cable and direct-to-home TV programming and services, you would have noticed that a lot of new television content relies on having an Internet connection. Many of the best TV shows and movies are now found online, and often available exclusively via streaming services like Netflix, Hotstar, and Amazon Prime Video.

Though your smartphone supports popular streaming services, viewing a film on a screen that fits your palm is not the same as viewing it on a 50-inch television screen. But then, chances are that you are still viewing content on an old 'dumb' television that is not smart enough to stream content off the net. So how do you make your dumb TV smart?

The simplest way is to go get a dongle or streaming stick that you then plug into the HDMI port on your television. There are numerous options in this category, all offering different features and abilities that let you connect to online services, including Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV or Chromecast.

If all you need is a device to cast content or mirror the screen of your Android smartphone, you could potentially make do with one of a number of Chromecast 'clones' available both online and offline. These plug into the HDMI port on your TV and add Miracast support, letting you directly mirror the screen on your Android smartphone or cast the screen from a number of apps, including Netflix and VLC Media Player.

An even more affordable option to make your TV smart is to connect your laptop to your TV using an HDMI cable and mirror the content on your laptop

to the television screen. You can use the laptop as a controller and fetch whatever content you want, which can be downloaded, through specific apps or even an Internet browser. However, be aware that the downside to using a cable to link your laptop to the TV is that everyone looking at your TV will be able to see your notifications and private conversations.

Another option to give greater brain power to your television is to use a game console that you might



have around the home. If you have a Sony Playstation 4 or Microsoft Xbox One, or any of their different variants, you can use these as smart streaming devices. These consoles connect to the Internet and have apps available for many of the streaming services, including Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Spotify, YouTube, Plex, and Twitch, to name a few. The other advantage is that you could also use the bigger screen for your games. If you already own a gaming console then install the right apps and your TV instantly becomes smart.

## Instagram launches 'Create' to publish your nostalgia

Instagram last week transformed its popular Throwback Thursday into an official feature and launched it as part of the new Instagram 'Create' mode.

Create makes Instagram a more multi-purpose social network with the flexibility to adapt to a broader range of content formats. The highlight of Create is the 'On This Day' option that shows a random feed post you shared on the same calendar date in the past. Tap the dice button to view a different On This Day post, and once you find one you prefer, you can share it to Stories as an embedded post people can open.

The launch could make it easy for users to convert their old impermanent content into fresh ephemeral content. That could be especially helpful because not everyone does something 'Stories-worthy' every day. The new mode helps you combine interactive stickers, drawings and text without needing a photo or video to share.

The new Create Mode inside the Stories composer, replaces Type mode with more options for sharing without your camera than just posting text. You can access it by



swiping right at the bottom of the screen from the Stories camera, instead of left to other options like Boomerang. Create lets you use features otherwise added as Stickers atop photos and videos, but on their own with new suggestions of what to share:

Instagram is also offering a new version of its Giphy-powered GIFs feature inside Create. It lets you search for a GIF and see it tiled three times vertically as the background of your Create post, rather than laid on top. Through all these features, Create lets people generate new things to share even if they are laying in bed or stuck somewhere.

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العرض صالح من 10 أكتوبر لغاية 23 أكتوبر / حتى نفاذ الكمية

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<p><b>1.990 KD</b></p> <p>كريم فير اند لوفلي لتفتيح البشرة للرجال 100 جم 2 حبة FAIR &amp; LOVELY MAX FAIRNESS CREAM MEN 2X100GM</p>	<p><b>1.690 KD</b></p> <p>أكسس مزبل عرق 2 حبة 150 مل AXE DEO TWIN PACK 150 ML</p>	<p><b>1.890 KD</b></p> <p>دوف كريم الجمال 250 مل 2 حبة DOVE BEAUTY CREAM 2X250ML</p>	<p><b>1.290 KD</b></p> <p>تفكيكه صابون ياردلي 100 جرام 6 حبة YARDLEY SOAP ASSORTED 6 X100 GM</p>	<p><b>0.890 KD</b></p> <p>نيفيا كريم مرطب 150 مل 2 حبة NIVEA CREAM 2X150ML</p>	<p><b>0.690 KD</b></p> <p>داير فاتيكا كريم للشعر 140 مل 2 حبة DABUR VATIKA HAIR CREAM 2X140ML</p>	
<p><b>0.695 KD</b></p> <p>باراقوت زيت الصبر/التحيا 250 مل PARACHUTE ALOE VERA OIL 250ML</p>	<p><b>0.295 KD</b></p> <p>باراقوت زيت النخلة جوز الهند الطافي 200 مل PARACHUTE PURE COCONUT OIL 200ML</p>	<p><b>0.695 KD</b></p> <p>باراقوت زيت النخلة جوز الهند الطافي 500 مل PARACHUTE PURE COCONUT OIL 500ML</p>	<p><b>1.790 KD</b></p> <p>جل غسل الوجه 150 مل من سائل SIMPLE FACE WASH GEL 150 ML</p>		<p><b>4.990 KD</b></p> <p>مجموعة كريم محببه المميز للوجه بالشفرة (النهار + الليل) 50 مل PONDS AM CREAM (DAY+NT) 50 ML @ 40/50% OFF</p>	
<p><b>3.990 KD</b></p> <p>تشكيلة عطور 100 مل + 50 مل صديقه من فوجج FOGG ASSTD PERFUME 100 ML + 50 ML GIFT PACK</p>		<p><b>1.690 KD</b></p> <p>بانتنين شامبو 400 مل 2 حبة PANTENE SHAMPOO 2X400 ML</p>	<p><b>0.790 KD</b></p> <p>بانتنين بديل الزيت 350 مل PANTENE OIL REPLACEMENT 350 ML</p>	<p><b>1.790 KD</b></p> <p>شامبو بانتنين تشكيلة 700 مل + 400 مل مجانية PANTENE SHAMPOO ASSTD) 700 ML + 400 ML</p>		
<p><b>2.145 KD</b></p> <p>نيفيا كريم مرطب لإحساس ببشرة ملساء 200 مل 2+1 NIVEA SOFT SMOOTH SENSATION 2+1 200 ML</p>	<p><b>1.245 KD</b></p> <p>نيفيا صابون مرطب 100 جم 5+1 مجانيه NIVEA CREAM SOAP SOFT 100GM 5+1 FREE</p>	<p><b>0.790 KD</b></p> <p>داير هيربولين جلي بترولوم 425 مل + 115 مل سعر خاص DABUR HERBOLENE PETROLEUM JELLY 425ML+115 ML SP</p>	<p><b>1.395 KD</b></p> <p>داير فاتيكا تفكيكه شامبو 400 مل 2 حبة @ سعر خاص DABUR VATIKA SHAMPOO ASSTD 2 X 400 ML @ SPL PRICE</p>		<p><b>0.845 KD</b></p> <p>داير أملا زيت للشعر بالياسمين 300 مل + 100 مل مجانيه DABUR AMLA JASMINE HAIR OIL 300 ML+100 ML FREE</p>	