



LOCAL
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Government proposes plans to phase-out subsidies by 2020

THE TIMES

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Expatriate bashing not the solution to Kuwait's problems

Concurring with the view recently expressed by several local and regional media outlets, we believe that blaming foreigners for all the shortcomings in Kuwait is a refrain that has run its course. It is time for the country to do an honest introspection, in order to identify and rectify the real reasons why Kuwait continues to underperform, at least in relation to other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

In recent years, social media and other media sources have been rife with complaints against expatriate workers, blaming them for everything from crowding at hospitals to traffic congestions. Lately, politicians, in an attempt to grab media attention and placate their electoral base, have joined the expatriate bashing spree, coming out with outlandish accusations against foreigners. While one politician compared expatriates to colonists and squatters, another said that foreigners were competing with citizens in every field, "even for the air we breathe."

"Isn't time for us to put an end to this?" asked Safaa Al Hashem, a parliamentarian in the current National Assembly. "We must

reform the current system. We must impose taxes on expatriates, not on Kuwaitis," she added. Other politicians have called on the government to deport 100,000 expats annually to balance the country's demographics. After Al Hashem's "air we breathe" comment, fellow lawmaker Abdul Karim Al Kandari called for a special session of parliament to discuss what he called the "alarming increase in the number of expats versus Kuwaiti nationals. We refuse to be a minority in our own country," he said.

These tirades against expatriates were not the first made by parliamentarians, nor is it likely to be the last. Expatriates currently account for nearly 70 percent of the 4.4 million people in Kuwait and are an easy scapegoat for many of the economic hardships felt by citizens on the back of the government's falling oil revenues.

Recently the government responded to citizens' criticism of overcrowding at local hospitals by reserving morning hours only for citizens and limiting expatriate hospital visits to evening hours, except in case of emergencies.

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Private sector in region crippled by chronic challenges

Rampant corruption, political instability, poor access to finance, widening skills gaps, excessive red tape, and unreliable

electricity supplies are among the major factors identified by a recent survey on what continues to stunt private sector growth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The results of the survey, conducted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in association with the World Bank, were revealed by the President of EBRD, Sir Suma Chakrabarti, while speaking at the World Government Summit that recently concluded in Dubai.

Stressing that the formal private sector is MENA's main engine for growth and job creation, the EBRD president said, "Our findings are daunting, but I'm optimistic about the chances of dismantling them bit by bit," he said. "I base that optimism on the readiness on which national governments and entrepreneurs are moving to remedy these problems themselves."

The obstacles hampering private sector growth in the MENA region were revealed following the extensive survey which drew responses from over 6,000 businesses in countries across MENA, including from firms in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen.

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KUWAIT National Day & Liberation Day

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Europe's Critical Elections



Guy Verhofstadt

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



Upcoming elections in the Netherlands, France, and Germany will be held in what is arguably the most febrile political environment since the European Union's creation. The post-war liberal democratic order is under threat everywhere, but particularly in Europe, where the EU is confronting challenges that include an increasingly aggressive Russia, the constant threat of terrorism, democratic disenfranchisement, and uneven economic growth.

Following the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum and Donald Trump's election as US president, the question facing Europe is straightforward: Will populist and nationalist forces exert the same influence in core countries of the EU?

In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders and his far-right Freedom Party are polling strongly ahead of next month's election. Wilders approves of Trump's executive order barring entry to the

US for anyone from seven Muslim-majority countries. Like Trump's chief strategist, Stephen Bannon, Wilders views the world through a racist prism, and he believes that he is engaged in a battle to save Western civilization from Islam.

No other Dutch parliamentary party holds

such views, so a Wilders-led government is still far from certain. With Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte holding his ground, Wilders will most likely be denied power in the end.

Meanwhile, in France, far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen is currently ahead in the polls for the presidential election, which will be decided in two rounds in April and May. Le Pen has promised to hold a referendum on France's membership in the eurozone, despite warnings from the Bank of France that leaving the monetary union could increase the French national debt by €30 billion (\$31.8 billion) annually. She has also expressed a desire to dismantle such fundamental components of European integration as free movement for European citizens.

In the UK's Brexit referendum and the US presidential election, voters from large metropolitan areas overwhelmingly supported "Remain" and Hillary Clinton, respectively. We will likely see a similar pattern in the French election. But while older voters have fueled resurgent British and American nationalism, Le Pen owes much of her support to younger cohorts - a worrying sign of the extent to which key segments of the French electorate feel disenfranchised.

A Le Pen victory would undoubtedly destabilize Europe politically and economically. With the dangerous nationalist demons of Europe's past unleashed, the EU as we know it could easily disintegrate. But those who believe in liberal democracy, the rule of law, and European integration still have time to mobilize around an alternative candidate - who would most likely prevail in the second-round run-off with Le Pen and, one hopes, bring about much-needed reforms and uphold

France's proactive role in Europe. In Germany's election later this year, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is unlikely to be able to mount a credible bid for the Chancellery, despite any support that it receives from Russia. But the next chancellor - whether it is Martin Schulz of the Social Democrats (SPD) or still Angela Merkel - will have to lead a global coalition of the willing to defend what is left of the post-war order. Such an effort should include Canada, Australia, and Western allies in Asia, but it must start by putting Europe's house back in order.

Europeans recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty, which marked a seminal moment in the history of

European integration. As we have learned in the intervening years, the EU's powers are insufficient to address all of the challenges that now confront Europe.

Germany must help to rectify this situation by offering a vision for a more confident and ambitious Europe - one that can overcome internal divisions, see to its own security, and sustainably manage migration.

If new movements emerge to counter the forces of nationalism and populism, this would not be a far-fetched scenario.

And while former UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, Wilders, Le Pen, and their peers continue to pose as plucky anti-establishment underdogs, this conceit is wearing thin, owing to their own success - and, in UKIP's case, to financial scandals.

If far-right nationalist leaders do come to power in some of the larger Western countries, they will soon discover that making populist promises is easier than keeping them - as Trump is now discovering amid the alarmingly chaotic start to his administration. Trump, the Brexiters, and their counterparts elsewhere have yet to prove that they can ensure broadly shared economic prosperity and defend global-governance systems by conducting themselves competently and professionally on the world stage.

It should be obvious that, in a globalized world where individual nation-states are increasingly impotent, no heady brew of populist nationalism can deliver the change that people are demanding. Fortunately, liberal democracy still offers a progressive alternative, and a victory by Merkel or Schulz in Germany, following the defeat of Le Pen in France, could herald the emergence of a global counter-offensive.

Meanwhile, new pro-European centrist movements have already sprung up across Europe, from Nowoczesna (Modern) in Poland to Ciudadanos (Citizens) in Spain. These parties do not peddle lies, and they do not owe their success to Russian-sponsored propaganda bots or social-media trolls.

Now that some populists have come to power, liberals have a responsibility to hold them to account and offer an alternative vision. Belittling the people who voted for Brexit, Trump, and their European equivalents is not a sound strategy. The new global demagogues must be judged by their deeds, and vanquished with truth, reason, and respect for democracy.

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World Trade Organization Reborn?



Arvind Subramanian

Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India



For too long, the World Trade Organization has languished, to lift a reference from T.S. Eliot, by the "waters of Lemman" (Lake Geneva). Once the world's preeminent multilateral trade forum, the WTO has been steadily marginalized in recent years, and recent rebukes of globalization, such as the United Kingdom's Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump as US president, suggest that this trend will accelerate. But these outcomes may actually have the opposite effect, owing to three key developments that could enable the revival of the WTO – and of the multilateralism that it embodies.

The first development is the decline of alternative trade arrangements. The WTO reached its peak in the early 2000s, a few years after the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations concluded, and a time when more countries, most notably China, were acceding to the organization.

But major trade players like the United States and the European Union subsequently shifted their focus from multilateral trade agreements to bilateral, regional, and mega-regional deals. The mega-regionals – namely, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – posed a particularly grave threat to the WTO. Yet those are precisely the deals that the Trump administration is rejecting, or at least postponing. European integration had a similar impact on the WTO, as it provided an alternative platform for managing intra-European trade. But the European project has fallen on hard times, the most salient sign being the UK's impending departure from the EU. After Brexit, the WTO will probably become an important forum for Britain's trade relations with the world. Any further disintegration of the EU will only bolster that trend.

Of course, it is possible that regional trade agreements in Asia and elsewhere will continue to flourish. But new leadership would have to emerge. And no single systemically important country today meets the rigorous requirements of such leadership: internal political stability, economic dynamism, relatively contained risk, and a steadfast commitment to open markets.

However counterintuitive that may sound, a second development that bodes well for the WTO's revival is voters' increasing rejection of hyper-globalization. Hyper-globalization is essentially 'deep' integration.

It goes beyond creating open markets for goods and services to include increased immigration (in the US and Europe), harmonizing regulations (the ambition of the TPP and the

TTIP), and intrusive adjudication of domestic policies (the investor-settlement procedures under NAFTA and the TPP). In the EU's case, it even entails a common currency. For such integration, regionalism is much more effective than the WTO.

Now that 'deep' is out, the WTO could once again become an attractive forum for trading countries to do business. Make no mistake: there will still be a lot of globalization for the WTO to facilitate and manage, not least because of the inexorable march of technology. The mesh-like structure of trade and investment connecting countries, embodied in global value-chains – what Aaditya Mattoo of the World Bank and I have called "criss-crossing globalization" – will prevent significant backsliding.

The third development that could reinvigorate the WTO is a more protectionist stance by the Trump administration. If the US raises tariffs or implements a border-adjustment tax favoring exports and penalizing imports, its trade partners are likely to turn to the WTO for adjudication, given the organization's demonstrated dispute-settlement capability.

The WTO could, therefore, become the place where US trade policies are scrutinized and kept in check. The universality of WTO membership, previously seen as an impediment to countries eager to move ahead with new rules and agreements, could be its main strength, as it implies a high degree of legitimacy, which is essential to minimize trade tensions and the risk of conflict. In my book *Eclipse*, I argued that multilateralism offered the best means for ensuring the peaceful rise of new powers. But it seems that the same argument could apply equally well to the management of receding powers.

But the WTO's revival will not happen automatically. Willing stakeholders must actively pursue it. The most obvious candidates for the job are the mid-size economies that have been the greatest beneficiary of globalization, and that, unlike the US and some European countries, are not currently under pressure from a globalization-averse public. The champions of multilateralism should include Australia,

Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and possibly China and Japan. Because none of them is large, with the exception of China, they must work collectively to defend open markets.

Moreover, they must open their own markets not only in the traditional areas of agriculture and manufacturing, but also in new areas such as services, investments, and standards.

In doing so, these countries would also be responding to the increasingly transactional approach to sustaining openness that the larger traders are being compelled to adopt.

The world needs a robust response to the decline of hyper-globalization. Multilateralism, championed by mid-size trading economies with a strong interest in preserving openness, may be it. To the shores of Lemman they must now head.



“

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Radio remains Africa's most influential media

Despite the onslaught of modern communications means, including television, internet and smart phones, radio remains the most dynamic and engaging mass media in the world and which continues to be the major source of information and influence in Africa.

Since earmarking 13 February as World Radio Day in 2011, the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been working to promote radio communication as a means to find 'greater solutions' to the planet's problems. This year's World Radio Day, which is themed around the concept of 'Radio for You', saw more than 550 events being held around the world.

Speaking at the launch of this year's World Radio Day, the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova said: "Advancing fundamental freedoms and promoting public access to

information is essential to bolstering good governance and the rule of law, to deepening inclusion and dialogue. In tackling new challenges, in responding to climate change, in countering discrimination, radio can provide an accessible and real-time medium to bridge divides and strengthen dialogue."

In a survey conducted following last year's World Radio Day, UNESCO obtained several interesting statistics on radio prevalence in Africa:

In Tanzania, 83 percent of people get news and information from radio, making it the leader of both media and non media sources.

Radio remains the most accessible and used medium in Zambia. Access to radio and television in urban areas is about equal (85% for radio and 79% for TV) while in the rural area the difference is more significant (68% for radio and 26% for TV).

Community radio is the fastest



growing form of radio communication in Africa. In the 11 African countries surveyed by UNESCO, while local commercial radio grew by an average of 360 percent between 2000 and 2006, community radio grew by a striking 1,386 percent.

For the majority of listeners in

Kenya the most popular thing learned from radio was politics, with 21 percent indicating it as the thing they learned most.

Radio is said to be the most reliable and affordable medium of exchanging information and knowledge in many communities across Africa where

access to electricity, internet, and television is limited.

Radio offers the opportunity for small communities whose voices are not heard on wider medium, to express themselves on touchy subjects, which affects their country or community, while being at the same time protected behind 'a voice'.

Where social media and audience fragmentation can put us in media bubbles of like-minded people, radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and foster positive dialogue for change. By listening to its audiences and responding to their needs, radio provides the diversity of views and voices needed to address the challenges we all face. Radio informs us and transforms us, through entertainment, information and audience participation. Having a radio means you are never alone - you always have a friend in radio.

Tanzania mining urged to clean up image

Tanzania literally sits on a goldmine; the country also has sizeable quantities of gemstones, diamonds and a vast array of other much-sought-after minerals. Tanzania is Africa's fourth largest gold producer with the shiny metal accounting in 2015 for \$1.27 billion in revenue, which was 89 percent of the country's total mineral exporting revenue.



Despite these mineral resources and income, Tanzania remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Among the factors exacerbating this poverty are global mining companies. Over the years, these mining companies with headquarters in Canada, UK and elsewhere in Europe have been able to influence policies and win dubious mining contracts that gave them unfettered access to extractive mining, which ruthlessly exploited the country, its people and

its environment. A 2008 mining report revealed how the country was losing large amounts of money from foreign investment in the sector due to low royalty rates and generous tax exemptions.

There is also the question of transparency - some companies are said to be falsifying production and profit figures. Many of these companies while continuing to loot the country of its resources, have claimed a difficult operating environment and falling global prices to report recurring annual losses.

Now, the country's President John Magufuli has ordered the companies to either shape up their act or ship out. "It is inconceivable that companies continue to operate if they were perennially making losses; it is better for them to leave," he said. Tax evasion, corruption and mismanagement of the country's natural resources have been at the core of the President's agenda since he came to power last year.

One of the leading gold mining companies in Tanzania is the Canada-based Acacia Mining, formerly known as African Barrick Gold, which despite mining from three separate mines has repeatedly reported incurring losses. The company declared a net loss of \$52 million in the first quarter of 2015, after setting aside \$70 million to settle an historic tax bill from the government.



AfDB approves funding injection in Shelter Afrique

Early this month the African Development Bank (AfDB) disbursed an equity investment of US \$8.2 million in Shelter Afrique, a Development Finance Institution investing in affordable housing for Africa. Shelter Afrique is owned by 44 African countries, together with the AfDB and African Reinsurance Corporation as shareholders. Last week, the Bank announced that it is also arranging for a further immediate loan of \$20 million to the company to consolidate the position of the housing specialist for 2017 and beyond.

"These new resources show that the AfDB is fully committed to the growth and development of Shelter Afrique, which plays a vital and unique role in the development of affordable housing across Africa. Affordable

housing is a key issue at the heart of the 'High 5' priorities for our Bank. At the same time, the AfDB takes issues of governance seriously.

With the strong measures taken by Shelter Afrique to improve its governance and the support of its shareholders, the company can move to the next stage of its development," said Gabriel Negatu, Director General at AfDB's East Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office.

Shelter Afrique had recently been in the news with speculation of overstated asset quality and substandard management operations. Following those allegations, the Board of Directors of Shelter Afrique took immediate steps and appointed a reputable firm to conduct an independent forensic audit.





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Government proposes plans to phase-out subsidies by 2020

The government may perhaps decide to repeal all forms of subsidy by March 2020 if it implements the remaining aspects of the recommendations contained in the report of Ernst & Young, which the Ministry of Finance assigned to prepare the roadmap for subsidy reform.

A source noted the report was ready a few months ago, but was kept under wraps to avoid undue parliamentary reaction, adding its

implementation is not binding until all concerned authorities approve of it.

He explained that the government had already applied certain aspects of the recommendations regarding fuel, electricity and water subsidies.

Four major steps have been proposed for future action. The steps include gradual reduction in the rate of fuel subsidy, and increase in prices of electricity and water to reduce the rate at which the prices affect consumers. With regard to aviation fuel, the



government was advised to remove subsidy for foreign companies since it appears the purpose of doing that has not been met and finally about liquefied gas whose price the report recommended a thorough study to restore its proper market value.

The report recommended gradual removal of subsidies from other sectors such as the overseas medical treatment, education sector, social welfare, rent allowances, social aid and inflation.



Al-Rashed International Shipping celebrates National and Liberation Days



Al-Rashed International Shipping Co., one of the leading shipping companies in Kuwait, organized a decoration competition to commemorate the National and Liberation Days of Kuwait. All nationals of its various departments participated in this competition to creatively decorate the offices in a style that matched the beauty of Kuwait with all its sparkling lights.

This small competition was a way for the company employees to build on the feelings of solidarity and share in the appreciation for the close community spirit fostered between different nationalities on the occasion.

Many nationalities come together during Al-

Rashed's special initiative to emphasize the pride of various expats for having built a good life in Kuwait.

During the competition, the employees were very creative and artistic when highlighting the best elements of ancient and modern Kuwait and created beautiful scenes that depicted the rich culture and traditions of the country. Some members of staff even took the extra initiative to introduce home-made crafts to the overall decorations. It was an enjoyable time for everyone involved, and many appreciated the steps taken by Al-Rashed International Shipping Co to make their employees feel part of the celebrations.

ICSK participates in charity initiative



The young philanthropists of the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Senior handed over a large amount to Mr. Sathesh, who is a 38-year-old Indian national suffering from kidney failure.

He has been under medical treatment at Adan Hospital for the last few months, and requires further treatment in India for which ICSK has

supplied the funds. In response to a news report that appeared in a local daily, the students and staff of ICSK Senior made this generous contribution from the 'Birthday Charity Fund'. ICSK has been facilitating philanthropic support to cancer patients since 2014 and have already provided Rs.20 lakhs for the needy patients going through medical treatments in Kuwait.

Indian embassy's 'Made in India' exhibition sees large crowds

Indian Embassy organized a 'Made in India Exhibition' at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Salmiya on Saturday, 18 February. Ambassador of India to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain inaugurated the exhibition that aimed to promote Made in India products, especially Indian automobiles and home appliances in Kuwait.

The 'Made in India' exhibition provided Kuwaitis, Indians and other foreign nationals a chance to see the display of a diverse assortment of Indian products. Companies



dealing in 30 Indian reputed brands, viz. Ceat Tyres, TVS Tyres, Index Batteries, and others participated in the exhibition. A

major attraction at the exhibition was the display of Indian automobiles that drew throngs of visitors throughout the day.

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Municipality to take on expats who work two jobs without authorization

Kuwait Municipality has started preparing a list of its expatriate employees who are working in other jobs without the municipality's authorization. A reliable source has said that about

133 expatriate employees from the financial and administrative sectors were discovered to hold other jobs besides their official work in Kuwait Municipality.

The source also revealed that

the suspected expats are under observation and the list once prepared, will be submitted to the Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmed Al-Manfouhi for taking necessary action in this regard.

SIF Kuwait announces results of Sastra Prathibhas

Science International Forum (SIF) Kuwait announced the results of its third edition Sastra Prathibha Contest in Kuwait.

witnessed a massive participation, making it the biggest of its kind in Kuwait. The winners of the Sastra Prathibha title are:



Top scoring 21 students were declared 'Sastra Prathibha' from the students who appeared the exam in two categories. The competition was conducted for the students of Indian schools in Kuwait and it

Class 5: Sahaya Noel (DPS-FAIPS), Caleb Kurian George (ICSK-Juniors)

Class 6: Gokul Sreenivasan (ICSK-Juniors), Joshua Shajan (ICSK-Juniors), Arjun Plampampil Sujith (ICSK-Juniors)

Class 7: Elma Rose Saji (India International School), Siyan Biju Thomas (DPS-FAIPS), Sarang T Sudhir (ICSK- Amman), Milan Abraham Mathew (ICSK-Khaitan)

Class 8: Clarin Menezes (Indian Central School), Jeremias Lino Ferrao (IEAS Donbosco), Karthik Sudheer (IES Bhavans), Malavika Krishna (IES Bhavans), Siddarth Sunil (ICSK-Amman), Srilakshmi Prathapan (United Indian School), Ishita Nitin Aglave (Indian Public School)

Class 9: Nikita Rajesh (Indian Learners Own Academy), Timothy Thomas George (ICSK-Amman)

Class 10: Saurav Prakeerth (DPS-FAIPS), Sudarshan Sundarajan (IES Bhavans), K.S.Abhinaya (IES Bhavans).

The 91 students from various schools were declared outstanding performers securing the grade A+. The prestigious 'Acharya J.C.Bose Sastra Puraskar' for the best school is secured by Indian Educational School, (Bhavans).




LuLu Hypermarket launches Hala February promotion

LuLu Hypermarket, the largest retail shopping destination in the country, launched their Hala February promotion with an inaugural ceremony held on 19 February at their Al-Qurain outlet.

The Manager co-ordinator of Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate, Mr.Jassim Al Eraj & LuLu International Group CEO Mr. Saifee Rupawala, along with top management of LuLu Hypermarket, cut the ceremonial launch ribbon in front of a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers.

A traditional Kuwaiti cultural program was held to mark the occasion. Besides adding to the month-long Hala February festivities, the promotion will celebrate the upcoming National and Liberation Days by offering a host of products that are produced in Kuwait at very special prices.






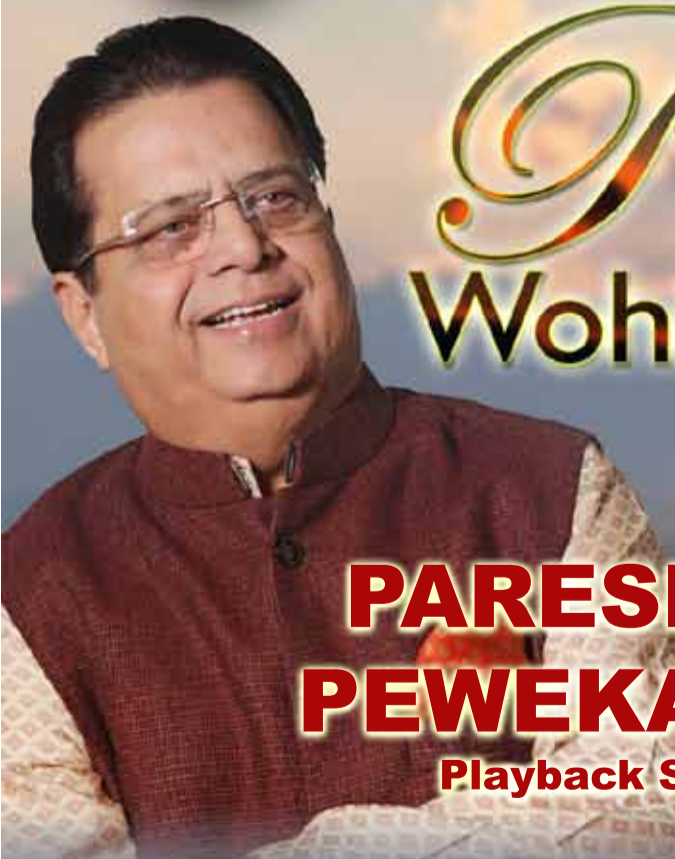
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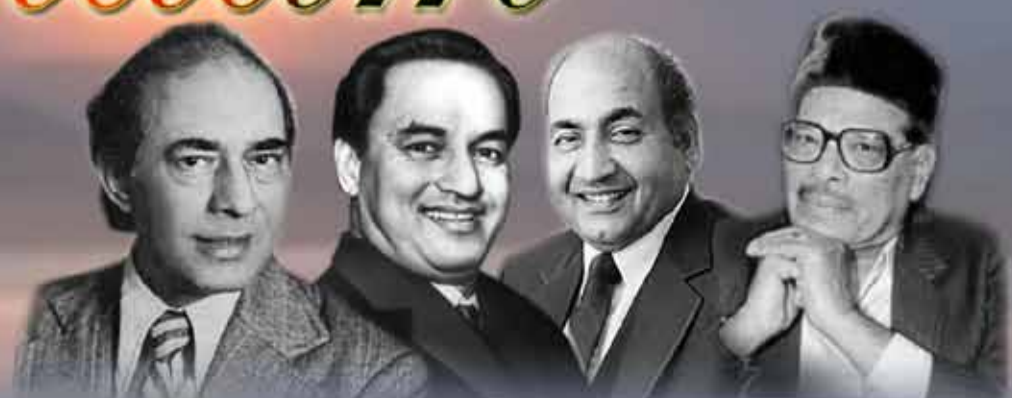
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No bar on transfer of family visa to work visa for expat wives

Officials from the Public Authority for Manpower affirmed that the transfer of family visas from Article No. 22 to Article No. 18 continues based on the prevailing decisions made in the past.

The decision to suspend the transfer of family visas for the spouse of expatriates under Article 22 applies only when there is a dispute between

the husband (sponsor) and his wife. In such situation, the wife who entered the country on family entry visa will not be allowed to transfer to private sector. It was earlier stated that the Public Authority for Manpower was about to suspend the issuance of work permit for the spouses of expatriates who entered the country under the sponsorship of their husbands.

For now, the authority had agreed with the Ministry of Interior to suspend all applications for transfer of visas from Article 22 to Article 18 for wives who received the family entry visa.

The authority held intensive meetings with the Interior Ministry through its General Department for Residency Affairs and deliberated on ways to prevent the category from working in

private sector. Also, various sources added the manpower authority received a letter from the General Residency Affairs Department ordering the suspension of transfer of visas for the wives of expatriates. The decision, it said, was based on prior coordination between the General Department for Residency Affairs and Public Authority for Manpower, the sources indicated.



Arpan Kuwait conducts economic seminar 'Your Money, Your Savings'

Arpan Kuwait, a prominent socio-cultural organization, held an economic seminar on 'Your Money, Your Savings' at Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK), Salmiya on 17 Friday.

President KP Suresh presided over the meeting. Subbaraman Krishnan presented the highlights of Budget 2017 in the first session while the second session was about the investment opportunities.

Sanoop Unni detailed points about making deposits in the bank and in fixed investments.

Devesh Kumar highlighted the possibilities in investing in insurances.

Praveen Kumar gave the audience ideas about investing in the stock market. Rajeev Sakhuja expounded on investment in real estate. The third session was handled by Krishna Nagaraj and stressed the common mistake people make while investing. A question and answer session was allowed for the audience to learn about the latest trends in the fields of taxation as well as other new investment opportunities in India.

'Hala Feb Health' Campaign with Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group, one of the leading medical service providers in Kuwait, is announcing their special offers on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day and Liberation day. On this occasion, the Group Chairman Dr. K.T. Rabeullah gratefully remembers the exceptional support provided by the Kuwait Government.

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group has more than 30 outlets spread across the GCC. Their growing reputation of excellent medical services at affordable cost is the major feature of Shifa Al Jazeera, which gives value for money. Shifa Al Jazeera has completed 8 years in Kuwait and each year has been instrumental in understanding the needs of the population and enhancing the facilities to meet the needs. Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group has always maintained a very close relationship with all strata of the society and regularly provides free services from time to time to increase the awareness and interest towards better health care.

On the special occasion of Kuwait's National Day and Liberation Day, Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Center has announced free consultation for all departments (General Physicians and Specialists) at Farwaniya and Al Nahil Intl Clinic, Abbasiya, (Jleeb Al Shuyoukh) on the 24, 25 and 26 February, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, while KD 1/- only will be charged at Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Center, Fahaheel. Besides this, the visitors will be able to



avail of 25 percent discount on all Lab Tests, 50 percent discount on X-Rays and 8 percent discount on medicines.

Shifa Farwaniya is well equipped to service an additional of 3000 patients than the usually catered count of patients with all facilities especially at the laboratory and pharmacy. Additional staff has been deployed to provide superior care to the patients stepping in to their medical centers in Kuwait. Creating a stress free atmosphere by enhancing the quality of the services that will be provided is emphasized.

Various cost effective Health packages starting from KD 3/- to KD 48/- has been designed to suit the individual health requirements so as to give complete all round physical evaluation. Shifa Al Jazeera stands for the 'Prevention is Better than cure' slogan and would like to request all in the local community to take better care of themselves.

Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group would like to wish the Kuwait community a very Happy National and Liberation day 2017!

Indian embassy auditorium now fully renovated

The Indian embassy announced that its auditorium has now been fully repaired all seats in the auditorium have been newly upholstered, toilets have been modernized and other minor repairs undertaken. The auditorium is now available for community socio-cultural activities, as per the guidelines below:

- (i) Use of auditorium is available to only Indian Associations registered with Embassy;
- (ii) An interested Indian Association may approach the Embassy for booking the auditorium. Contact persons for this purpose are Shri B.S. Bisht, Attache (Commercial / PIC) (Mobile: 97229917), E-mail: sscm@indembkwt.org / sspic@indembkwt.org and Shri K.S.S. Naidu (Mobile: 65668644) indcommunity@indembkwt.org;
- (iii) User fee is: KD 350/- for maximum 4-hour event (with food served) or KD 300/- for maximum 4-hour event (without food being served);
- (iv) Two weeks advance intimation is required for booking auditorium. Once the payment has been made, the booking will be confirmed by Embassy; and
- (v) In the event of cancellation of booking by Embassy of the auditorium due to official exigency, the amount deposited with the Embassy will be refunded in full.

ICSK Amman organizes 'Whizkid Award' ceremony



A prize distribution ceremony was conducted for the winners of 'Whizkid Competition' on 14 February at the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Amman. On this occasion, Elizabeth Joseph, Principal of Salmiya Indian Model School (SIMS) was

the Chief Guest. The 'Whizkid Competition' was a blend of different events held for LKG and UKG together for a week. The winners of Whizkid, who were very successful from LKG and UKG, were awarded with trophies and certificates.

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Preparing Gluten-free Stuffing

Stuffing is one way to transform your average roast dinner into a dish that is really special. It is a mixture of textures, flavors and colors.



And although many consider stuffing as exclusively for Thanksgiving or Christmas to better a Turkey, it can be prepared during any time of the year.

The three basic ingredients: Use these key flavors to form the base of your stuffing, and then play around to create your own special version.

Onion: Diced onion is the starting point for many stuffing. You can experiment by using red or white onions, shallots, or even adding leek and spring onions.

Bread: The main 'bulker' in stuffing, your choice of bread can make a big difference to the dish. Try wholemeal, sourdough, brown, white, seeded or rye bread for something more unusual.

Herbs: It is up to you to decide which herbs suit your taste buds. For a hardier, earthy flavor, opt for rosemary, thyme, bay and sage. But for something lighter, use parsley or marjoram.

The meat: If you are using meat in your stuffing, then make sure you opt for something fatty. Fatty cuts in meat stay juicy when cooked and keep the stuffing from drying out. Finely chop or mince the meat before using it.

Non-meat stuffing: Vegetable stuffing's are just as delicious as the meat ones. Try adding dried fruit such as apricots or cranberries for a bit of added bite, or tumble in some chestnuts with a few spices such as nutmeg or even chilli flakes. Mix up your flavors with added herbs, and give it extra texture with chunks of bread instead of breadcrumbs.

Preparing stuffing separately:

Loaf tin: Stuffing loaf is easy to carve and also retains a great amount of its moisture as it cooks.

Shallow round dish: If you want your guests to help themselves, then prepare your stuffing in an ovenproof



dish that can be taken straight to the table.

Muffin tray: A fun way to prepare stuffing for a friendly get-together is to bake in a muffin tray. Decorate each with a bay leaf and cranberries to give the perfect look.

Stuffing balls: Make little festive balls of stuffing to pile up in an impressive pyramid in the middle of your table.

Sausages: Another fun way of preparing stuffing is shaping it into a long sausage. This helps retain the juices, thus giving out a tasty end result.



GLUTEN-FREE STUFFING RECIPE

Here is a simple recipe to a delicious gluten-free stuffing.

Ingredients

450 grams gluten-free bread
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 diced onions
3 stalks celery, diced
1 teaspoon chopped fresh sage
1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
¾ teaspoon salt
Ground black pepper to taste
2 cups gluten-free chicken broth
2 large eggs

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 165 degrees Celsius. Grease a 3-quart baking dish.
- Cut bread into cubes about 3/4-inch square and spread onto the baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven until crisp (12 to 17 minutes).
- Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir onions and celery in the hot oil until soft (8 to 10 minutes). Stir in sage, thyme, salt, and black pepper into the vegetables. Then mix toasted bread crumbs, chicken broth, and eggs. Spoon the dressing into the prepared baking dish and cover.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, uncover, and bake until top of dressing is crisp and lightly browned (10 minutes). Serve immediately.
- Storing, freezing and defrosting stuffing: If you want to get ahead on your stuffing, make it in advance then bag it up and freeze it. Defrost the stuffing fully before using. If you are making stuffing balls, you can roll them and then freeze on spaced tray before bagging up. Then you can defrost and bake, making sure they are piping hot inside before serving.

New conditions imposed on driving licenses for expats

Rumors published on social media regarding the General Traffic Department stopping the issuing and renewal of driving licenses of expatriates have been denied by a security source.

The source said that the Directorate-General of Traffic is committed to implementing the ministerial decision concerning the issue of driving licenses. "The GTD," the source said, "continues to renew the licenses of expatriates, but withdraws of those which were



issued in 2014 if the holder fails to use it for the purpose it was issued for."

For instance, if the license was issued for a driver's designation and

the holder has changed his profession to the one that does not entitle him to hold the license, then it will be withdrawn.

KFAED loans to West Africa at over KD610 million

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) said it had provided 172 loans to West African countries from 1962 to late 2016, with a total of KD 610.1 million (about US\$2 billion).

The transportation sector had received the biggest share of loans, with 90 loans worth KD331 million (54 percent), KFAED's regional manager for West African countries Thamer Al-Failakawi said to local media on Tuesday.

He added that water project loans were 23 worth KD62 million and agriculture was 20 loans for KD 65 million. These projects are vital to



achieve sustainable development in this region, he said. The transportation sector is vital to connect rural areas

with cities and allow the delivery of food and medical items in these countries, said Al-Failakawi.

Meanwhile, the manager noted that KFAED also launched several programs to fight and prevent diseases from spreading among people in these countries.

The fund is also in charge of executing the initiative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to provide easy loans worth US\$1 billion for West African countries within five years. The initiative was launched during the African-Arab Summit held in Kuwait in 2013, he said.



Grand Hyper opens 42nd Store in Dubai

Grand Hyper, a Division of Regency Group Dubai, opened their 42nd retail store in Muhaisnah, Dubai on 2 February. The outlet was inaugurated by Saeed Bin Subeih Al Falasi in the presence of Group Chairman Shamsudheen Bin Mohideen, Director N.V Mohammed, Director A.P Abdussamed, Director A.P Abdul Rahman, Musthafa Usman, CEO Mahamood T.P and General Manager Abbas Khan.



ICSK Junior students participate in Annual Athletic Meet



The annual Nursery Sports Day was held on Wednesday, 8 February on Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Junior campus. The Principal in Charge Shery Dennis and Vice Principal Mrs. Sheeja graced the event as Chief Guest.

The tiny tots in colourful sports attire performed an aerobics and jumbo dance with music. The track events included a running race followed by an obstacle race for boys and girls. Two friendly games were arranged for kindergarten teachers.

8,000 Kuwaitis to perform Haj

Around 8,000 Kuwaitis will be allowed to perform Haj (pilgrimage) this year, a senior official has said.

"We will have 8,000 pilgrims and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs is concerned with providing them instructions and regulations related to the pilgrimage, in addition to the awareness programs that are disseminated via different media," Fareed Ammadi, the ministry undersecretary, said.

"The instructions are clear and the ministry stresses the need to comply with all rules and regulations governing Haj and pilgrims," the official said on Tuesday following a meeting in Saudi Arabia to discuss the arrangements and services for pilgrims coming from Kuwait.

All countries are invited by Saudi Arabia to discuss the details of the pilgrimage to ensure the highest standards for pilgrims who congregate in Makkah for the annual ritual. Haj is the fifth pillar of Islam and requires all physically fit and financially able adult Muslims to perform the pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime.

Kerala nurse stabbed in Abbasiya

An Indian nurse from Kottayam, in Kerala, was stabbed in Abbasiya and is undergoing treatment at Farwaniya Hospital. She had to go through surgery and her condition is presently stable.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, tweeting about the incident. "Our India's embassy has taken up the matter at the highest level in Kuwait to ensure safety and security of Indian nationals there," she said.

"I was informed about the stabbing of Mrs. Gopika Shajikumar, an Indian national from Kottayam. I asked for an immediate report and we have complete details of the unfortunate incident," Swaraj tweeted. Mrs. Shajikumar works at Al Jahra Hospital and was injured in an attempted robbery on her return home after her shift ended.

Last week, an Indian nurse from Kerala was found murdered in Oman. Shebin Jeeva, 31, from Nedumkandam in Idukki district, was found dead in her flat near Dohar Club in Salalah. She was working in a dental clinic there.

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Wishing you all a very Happy National & Liberation Day

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate to issue Municipality licenses online

ILOA gives grand farewell to Class 12 students

Indian Learners Own Academy (ILOA) accorded a grand farewell to the outgoing students of Class 12 batch, on Wednesday, 8 February. Dr. V. Binumon, Principal of ICSK (Senior) was the Chief Guest and D.K. Sharma, the Chairman of ILOA was also present on the occasion.

Principal of ILOA, Asha Sharma gave words of encouragement to the students, and bid them to do their best in life.

A series of entertaining events followed: 'Swagatam', a semi-classical dance performance, a live band, an ILOA choir group and a presentation by student representatives on their fond memories of school life. The much-awaited grand event of the day was the presentation of mementoes to the students. With hopes, expectations and a sense of pride, each graduate walked on to the



stage to accept the honour of their first graduation from the dignitaries present.

A beautiful rendition of the song 'You Raise Me Up' by Sarah Elsa and

Runa Akhter captivated the audience. A stupendous choir performance by the teachers showered their abundant blessings on all the students of Class 12.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate will be issuing Municipality licenses online, beginning next week. The remaining five governorates will follow suit later this year.

The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as Minister of State for the Municipality Mohammad Al- Jabri said he has filled many vacant supervisory posts in the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, as well as the State Ministry for Municipality Affairs, affirming he will never accept injustice against any member of society.

He encouraged employees to submit petitions whenever they are mistreated or cheated on. He further added that the ministry will sort out problems associated with mosques, which are supposed to be purely for worshipping.



He hinted two different investigative committees have been set up in the two ministries, while a joint committee will investigate the demolition of electricity room at a mosque in Sulaibiya. He assured all clerics are playing their roles in various mosques as expected. He also said new entitlements for Imams and preachers will begin from April.

CRIME

Hackers steal KD5 million from three local banks

Clients of three local banks are said to have lost approximately KD 5 million when hackers succeeded in breaking into their accounts. Sources revealed when scores of clients filed complaints with the banks, they were reportedly told that the complaints should be filed with the police stations.

Bogus domestic labor bureau raided

Domestic Labor Department of the General Department of Residency Affairs raided a bogus domestic labor bureau which was operated by a Kuwaiti citizen with the help of an Arab expatriate. During the time of arrest, an inspection team from the Domestic Labor Department was on a field patrol when they spotted the bureau where the Arab expatriate was distributing shifts to housemaids. The Arab expatriate, four Philippine maids and seven others who were already sent to their workplaces were caught. The man confessed to his crime, revealing that he provides the maids accommodation in Hawally area.

27 arrested in Ahmadi

In a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media of the ministry explained that of the 27 arrested, 15 are involved in debt-related cases, four were sentenced to various jail terms, an individual was reported as absconding, two were wanted by the law for criminal offences and five were violators of residency law. They were all referred to the relevant authorities where necessary measures have been taken.

Sri Lankan arrested for forgery

A Sri Lankan expatriate was arrested for forging salary certificates and bank statements for a number of individuals in return for cash. In a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media at Ministry of Interior explained that officers from Capital Department for Criminal Investigations, after receiving information about the activities of the suspect, launched investigations. They discovered that the suspect provided some expatriates with fake bank statements which were presented in companies and banks to enable those individuals to buy items on installments and resell at lower prices.

Locally manufactured liquor seized

Ahmadi securitymen confiscated 147 bottles of locally manufactured liquor in Mahboula area. In a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media explained that Ahmadi securitymen were patrolling Mahboula area when they noticed a number of people gathered in an open yard. When approached, the suspects fled the scene, leaving behind paper bags containing the liquor bottles.

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GCC food consumption expands

A new report on the food industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries finds that food consumption is expected to increase at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.2 percent, from 48.1 million metric tonnes (MT) in 2016 to 59.2 million MT in 2021.

Reasons cited for this expansion in GCC

grow at a sustainable pace. "This growth is primarily attributable to factors such as growing population, higher per capita income, and a vibrant tourism market, changing dietary habits and preferences, and increasing penetration of organized retail. Government as well as private sector investments are being channeled

to remain the major food consumption centers in the region during the forecast period. The country-wise share in total GCC food consumption is anticipated to remain largely unchanged until 2021. During the forecast period, food consumption in Saudi Arabia is expected to grow at an annualized average rate of 4.2 percent to 37.7 million MT and that in the UAE is projected to grow by 4.4 per cent to 10.1 million MT. The expected growth rates largely mirror the population and GDP projections for the countries.

Despite the recent fall in oil prices that led to a drop in infrastructure projects, job losses and attendant retail spend in the region, the GCC Food Industry is forecast to grow in the coming years. Food security remains a key priority for the GCC countries as the reliance on heavy imports continue owing to limited arable land, hot and arid climate, and fresh water shortage.

"We see several government initiatives aimed not only at enhancing domestic productivity, but also at investing in farmlands overseas to mitigate the risk. Despite several challenges, the sector remains on the radar of investors who are looking at opportunities to enter the region or a specific country in the GCC, to take advantage of what the sector has to offer. This has not only attracted new players to the market but also led to significant consolidation in the segment and we expect this trend to continue", said the report.



food consumption include an increase in consumer base, as populations increase and higher per capita income as economies recover from the recent downturn in the six-nation bloc. The report prepared by leading financial advisory firm, Alpen Capital, notes that GCC Food industry is expected to

towards augmenting the domestic food production capacity and supply, even as securing food sources in other resource-rich countries remains a key priority," said Sameena Ahmad, Managing Director, Alpen Capital (ME) Limited. The report found that Saudi Arabia and the UAE are likely

Saudi could bring \$25bn investment to Indonesia



Saudi Arabia's King Salman will visit Jakarta and Bali on the Indonesian leg of his Asian tour next month, bringing 1,500 people in his entourage including 10 ministers, Indonesian officials said.

"This is a very historic visit for us," Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung told reporters on Tuesday, adding that the king would be in Indonesia from 1 to 9 March. He would spend the last six days of his trip "relaxing" in Bali.

Anung said Indonesian President Joko Widodo hoped the visit would bring Saudi investments of up to \$25 billion.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia.

The last visit by a Saudi king to Indonesia was 46 years ago, when King Faisal came to the archipelago.

Indonesia hopes the visit will help further cement relations between its state-owned energy company Pertamina and Saudi Aramco, which are working together to upgrade the Cilacap refinery, Indonesia's largest refinery complex, while eyeing other developments.

"We are targeting investments," Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board chief Thomas Lembong told reporters.

Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, hopes Saudi Arabia will help to promote moderate Islam through religious teaching and exchange programs for scholars, Anung added.

Indonesia expects to sign agreements with Saudi Arabia on increasing the frequency of flights from the Middle East to Indonesia and increasing visitor numbers.

The longest leg of King Salman's trip to Asia this year will be in Indonesia, said Deputy Foreign Minister Abdurrahman M. Fachir.

"This also is a promotion in itself, and hopefully this will increase the numbers of tourist arrivals from the Middle East."

Indonesia wants to use the visit to increase its annual quota of haj pilgrims, and win commitments to improve the health and safety of pilgrims and other Indonesians in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is a major destination for Indonesian domestic workers, but Indonesia imposed a ban on new workers travelling to the Middle East in 2015 after two domestic workers were executed in Saudi Arabia.

Expatriate bashing not the solution to Kuwait's problems

Continued from Page 1

The new Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, the country's first public hospital to open in more than three decades, is slated to open shortly. But, when the nearly one billion dollar health facility eventually opens its doors, it will only be open to citizens. That move had manifested a lot of criticism in local and international media. So it is no surprise that the government's latest move to restrict access to its newest hospital only to citizens has evoked widespread criticism. "They were granted their workers' visa. They deserve to be treated with dignity," Dr. Yousuf Al Muhanna, a 34-year-old general surgeon, said of the migrant workers. The discrimination goes against the Hippocratic Oath, he says. "We are not supposed to look at their passports — we are supposed to deal with their medical conditions."

Kuwait, like other Gulf states, has for decades offered a free cradle-to-grave health care for its citizens, along with

plenty of generous perks such as subsidized utility prices and housing grants. But the low oil price scenario in recent years, which led to shortfall in revenues and budget deficits across the GCC has meant that many governments have introduced a spate of economic reforms, including trimming the wide-ranging subsidies offered to citizens. This has aggravated feelings against foreigners among many citizens who believe that expatriates are somehow

responsible for all their miseries and that they are expropriating available resources and opportunities.

We have heard this argument before; of blaming specific communities or groups for the assumed hardships of citizens. Most recently we heard it when migrants began flooding across European mainland, but there was an even more catastrophic precedent in Europe, that happened in the 1930s and we all know how that ended.



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Managing Big Data's Big Risks



Ernest Davis

Professor of Computer Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University

In the last 15 years, we have witnessed an explosion in the amount of digital data available — from the internet, social media, scientific equipment, smart phones, surveillance cameras, and many other sources — and in the computer technologies used to process it. 'Big Data', as it is known, will undoubtedly deliver important scientific, technological, and medical advances. But Big Data also poses serious risks if it is misused or abused.

Already, major innovations such as internet search engines, machine translation, and image labeling have relied on applying machine-learning techniques to vast data sets. And, in the near-future, Big Data could significantly improve government policymaking, social-welfare programs, and scholarship.

But having more data is no substitute for having high-quality data. For example, a recent article in Nature reports that election pollsters in the United States are struggling to obtain representative samples of the population, because they are legally permitted to call only landline telephones, whereas Americans increasingly rely on cellphones. And while one can find countless political opinions on social media, these are not reliably representative



of voters, either. In fact, a substantial share of tweets and Facebook posts about politics are computer-generated.

In recent years, automated programs based on biased data sets have caused numerous scandals. For example, last June, when a college student searched Google images for 'unprofessional hairstyles for work', the results showed mostly pictures of black people; when the student changed the first search term to 'professional', Google returned mostly pictures of white people. But this was not the result of bias on the part of Google's programmers; rather, it reflected how people had labeled pictures on the internet.

A Big Data program that used this search result to evaluate hiring and promotion decisions

might penalize black candidates who resembled the pictures in the results for 'unprofessional hairstyles', thereby perpetuating traditional social biases. And this is not just a hypothetical possibility. Last year, a ProPublica investigation of 'recidivism risk models' demonstrated that a widely used methodology to determine sentences for convicted criminals systematically overestimates the likelihood that black defendants will commit crimes in the future, and underestimates the risk that white defendants will do so.

Another hazard of Big Data is that it can be gamed. When people know that a data set is being used to make important decisions that will affect them, they have an incentive to tip the scales in their favor. For example, teachers who are judged according to their students' test scores may be more likely to 'teach to the test', or even to cheat.

Similarly, college administrators who want to move their institutions up in the US News and World Reports rankings have made unwise decisions, such as investing in extravagant gyms at the expense of academics. Worse, they have made grotesquely

unethical decisions, such as the effort by Mount Saint Mary's University to boost its 'retention rate' by identifying and expelling weaker students in the first few weeks of school.

Even Google's search engine is not immune. Despite being driven by an enormous amount of data overseen by some of the world's top data scientists, its results are susceptible to 'search-engine optimization' and manipulation, such as 'Google bombing', 'spamdexing', and other methods serving parochial interests.

A third hazard is privacy violations, because so much of the data now available contains personal information. In recent years, enormous collections of confidential data have been stolen from commercial and government sites; and researchers have shown how people's political opinions or even sexual preferences can be accurately gleaned from seemingly innocuous online postings, such as movie reviews — even when they are published pseudonymously.

Finally, Big Data poses a challenge for accountability. Someone who feels that he or she has been treated unfairly by an algorithm's decision often has no way to appeal it, either because specific results cannot be interpreted, or because the people who have written the algorithm refuse to provide details about how it works. And while governments or corporations might intimidate anyone who objects by describing their algorithms as 'mathematical' or 'scientific', they, too, are often awed by their creations' behavior. The European Union recently adopted a measure guaranteeing people affected by algorithms a 'right to an explanation'; but only time will tell how this will work in practice.

When people who are harmed by Big Data have no avenues for recourse, the results can be toxic and far-reaching, as data scientist Cathy O'Neil demonstrates in her recent book Weapons of Math Destruction.

The good news is that the hazards of Big Data can be largely avoided. But they will not be unless we zealously protect people's privacy, detect and correct unfairness, use algorithmic recommendations prudently, and maintain a rigorous understanding of algorithms' inner workings and the data that informs their decisions.

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Private sector in region crippled by chronic challenges

Continued from Page 1

The annual World Government Summit in Dubai, which this year took place from 12 to 14 February, saw global business leaders, decision makers, policy-formulators and strategists, as well thinkers and influencers from around the world, come together to present their views and help chalk out ways of shaping future governments worldwide.

Every year, at its annual confab, the summit sets the agenda for the next generation of governments with a focus on harnessing innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity. As a knowledge-exchange platform the summit is on par with other such gatherings worldwide and covers a wide variety of topics ranging from governments, futurism, technology and innovation.

The summit this year, saw experts and leaders in human development analyze trends, issues and opportunities that humanity is likely to face in the coming decades. Speaking at the summit, Reid Hoffman, Founder and Executive Chairman of social network LinkedIn said that governments must help create the right networks for entrepreneurs to thrive. The most important ingredients for building an entrepreneurial culture include allowing people to connect with others, take intelligent risks and not be afraid of failure, said Hoffman. Helping businesses in scaling up is just as important as helping them off the ground, he said.

To a question about how governments can assist entrepreneurs in setting up businesses, Mr. Hoffman pointed to the success of Silicon Valley in the US. "Many smart engineers gather in a lot of places around the world, but what they need to succeed and to ultimately build businesses of scale are the right networks and connections, as well as access to venture capitalists who recognize and

understand intelligent risk taking."

"My personal mission is helping humanity to scale. How can we help individuals transform their economic lives? By connecting them with the right people, opportunities and resources to advance, I believe we can empower all individuals to forge better paths for themselves," added Mr. Hoffman.

Adding to this sentiment, and elaborating on how technology is reshaping the world and the incredible, astounding level of connectivity we have today, Parag Khanna, Managing Partner, Hybrid Reality and Senior Fellow at Lee Kuan Yew School said: "What we're finding more and more is that the voice of the people in cities, their professional businesses and social interests are setting the national agenda. The psychology of cities around the world is showing us that they favor and intrinsically depend on connectivity between them."

Stating that there are more expatriates and more people living outside of their country of origin than ever before, he said the majority of migration in the world is across emerging and developing markets. "In the last one year alone, two billion people, represented by their governments have said they want to bring down walls, have more ease of mobility for workers, for students and for travelers, not to put up walls and barriers and restrictions. So, while it is happening in some places and walls are being built, policies around immigration are changing and in many parts of the world things are opening-up more," he observed.

"We're standing here in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, what country in the world, and what city has benefitted more from this mobility of labor? This is in fact one of the fastest growing cities ever and its infrastructural connectivity and openness to the mobility of people has been a crucial factor in the success of why we are standing here today," said Mr. Khanna.



Romania

Located on the balkan Peninsula, Romania is a country of contrasts. The former Soviet Bloc country has, over the centuries, belonged to the Romans who gave the country its name, the Hungarians and the Ottomans. It is filled with quaint old towns, mountain resorts that offer great skiing, and a burgeoning art community. Its most famous citizen, however, may be the vampire Dracula, the fictional character from Transylvania.



Bucharest: Capital of Romania, this city combines the old with the new. Visitors might come across a centuries-old building, a modern high rise, and a Communist-style building all in the same block. This modernizing European capital boasts the largest Parliament building in the world with 3,100 rooms and 12 stories high. Tours of this impressive building, constructed in 1984, are given frequently throughout the day. Also not to be missed in Bucharest is the old town center with its narrow cobblestone streets and old buildings, including medieval churches.



Timisoara: Located in western Romania, Timisoara is one of the country's largest cities, dating back to the early 13th century. Once part of the Ottoman Empire, it was the first European city to have electric street lamps. The city has bounced back after sustaining heavy bombing damage from both sides during World War II. Unlike many European cathedrals, the Timisoara Orthodox Cathedral was only built in the 20th century, but the central, notable for its 11 towers, houses many historic religious objects as well as vintage icon paintings.

Danube Delta: The majority of the Danube

Delta, Europe's second largest river delta, lies in Romania. Originally part of the Black Sea, the Danube Delta is a good place to observe nature. It is home to many unique species of plants and animals in Europe, as well as contains 23 different ecosystems, including some of the world's largest wetlands. Previous visitors rave about the spectacular sunsets and highly recommend taking a slow boat ride on the river.

Alba Carolina Citadel: This is the crowning attraction of Alba Iulia. Within this star-shaped citadel are museums, churches and the Unification Hall that sealed the union of Transylvania with Romania in 1918. Originally



constructed in the 13th century, the present fortification dates mostly to the 18th century. If you are short on time, focus on the dazzling Coronation Cathedral and National Union Museum. Ideally, spend a full day strolling museums, posing at grand gateways, and idling in cafes. The citadel is free, but the museums carry entry charges.

Făgăraș Citadel: Encircled by a moat fringed with willow trees, Făgăraș Citadel is an impressively intact fortification from medieval Transylvania. The oldest part of this mighty fortress is the 14th-century Red Tower, with impenetrable 3m-thick walls. Built over a 12th-century wooden fortress razed to the ground by Tartars, the citadel began to take shape in 1310. It soon gained a reputation as Transylvania's strongest fortress; in parts of the complex, two walls run parallel creating a barrier 8m thick.



Palace of Culture: Iași's premier attraction and symbol of the city is the grandiose Gothic-revival Palace of Culture that dominates the horizon at the southern end of B-dul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt. Though it looks as if it stepped out of a medieval fairy tale, the building is only around 100 years old. The palace stands over Prince Alexandru cel Bun's ruined 15th-century princely court. Visitors can tour the palace, climb the tower and explore four major museums.

Bran Castle: Rising above the town on a rocky promontory, Bran Castle holds visitors in thrall. An entire industry has sprouted around describing it as 'Dracula's Castle', though connections to either the historical Vlad Țepeș or Bram Stoker's fictional vampire are thin. The liberties taken with Bran's reputation are quickly forgotten on a visit: you will climb up its conical towers, admiring views over thick forest, and stroll through creaky-floored rooms furnished with bearskin rugs and 19th-century antiques.

Corvin Castle: Some castles perch on mountains, others skulk in mist-shrouded hills, but Hunedoara's juts out from an industrial jungle. Despite being surrounded by steel mills, Corvin Castle is Transylvania's most spellbinding fortress. You will be thunderstruck the moment you walk over the drawbridge, with pointed turrets rising above, into the stone courtyard.

Gulfair.com named winner at 2016 Magellan Awards



Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, along with travel partner Anixe, a state-of-the-art internet booking engine supplier, have been recognised by the Travel Weekly 2016 Magellan Awards winning the 2016 Silver Award for Online Travel Services - in the category of Overall - Booking Interface. Gulf

Air Chief Commercial Officer Ahmed Janahi said: "It is an honour to be recognised for such a key achievement. Our focus has always been on the continual development of innovative technology. This recognition is a testament to our skilled ecommerce development team and their capabilities, alongside our partners."



Mistakes you make when brushing your hair



Sometimes, the things that seem like they should be simple tasks are the toughest to figure out. Same goes for brushing your hair. Although it seems easy—pick up brush, comb it through hair, repeat—there is a legit science to it. Do it wrong and you could suffer serious hair issues, from breakage to a mass of tangles. But with the right brush and expert tips, you can keep your hair so soft, strong, and shiny that you will make it a staple among your hair products. Here is how to brush your hair the right way; plus, the biggest mistakes to avoid.

Using the wrong brush: Many women think all they have to do is to take a round or metal brush and try to work through their hair with it. But these brushes are built for drying hair only—and if you use them to work out tangles, they can actually snap your hair. And those brushes with little balls at the end of each bristle? Stay away, since your hair may wrap around the balls and get ripped out. Your best bet is a gentler option, like a boar bristle brush or a comb with staggered teeth, which takes down knots without tearing them out.

Teasing it with your round brush: Voluminous hair might be your goal, but getting there can also do serious damage to your hair—especially if you are not using the right tool and technique. Teasing requires a specific tool. Invest in a tail comb or a teasing boar brush. The right way to use it: First, apply dry shampoo to your roots. Then, starting from halfway down the length of your hair, use your teasing-specific brush to apply firm brush strokes toward your scalp. Do this until there is a cushion of hair at the base of your scalp, hit it with hairspray, and you are good to go.

Choosing the wrong comb: Combs were designed for one thing and one thing only: to detangle hair. But they are not all made equal. A wide-tooth comb breaks the hair and, instead of detangling, locks in knots, leaving your hair rough and difficult to manage. A fine-tooth comb is gentler on hair, while one with boar bristles also does the trick.

Going in the wrong direction: Most women make the mistake of brushing from roots to ends on dry hair, which creates more knots and ultimately adds unnecessary damage. Really, you should start a few inches from your ends and brush it downward, moving upwards and closer to your scalp only when you have taken care of all the tangles in the section you are working with at the moment.

DENIM JEANS

mistakes



If you are a t-shirt and jeans type of girl, you undoubtedly have a favorite pair of denim jeans in your closet. Though jeans can often be worn with anything, there might be times when you cross the line into terrible territory. So, keep on reading for the denim jeans mistakes that can ruin your outfit.

Sloppy cuffs: The laid-back look of cuffed denim can add instant style to any ensemble. You, however, have to take care to get it right with these

simple tips. For loose-fitting, wide-leg jeans: Try a thick cuff. Fold up to create a one-inch cuff, then fold again to make a two inch cuff. For skinny jeans: Try a mini cuff. Fold up to a half-inch cuff, then fold again to add an extra half inch. The bottom of the cuff should hit at or just above the ankle. For slouchy boyfriend jeans: Create a no-fuss half cuff. This



one is less of a science; simply fold up to make a four-inch cuff, scrunch the bottom of the cuff to create texture, and roll the top of the hem downward.

The wrong size pockets: The size and shape of your pockets can seriously change the way your jeans look from behind. In general, pockets

that sit high and tilt slightly outward will make your bottom appear fit and lifted. Avoid pockets that sit lower than the bottom curve of your butt (the spot where your butt cheeks meet your legs). Jeans with no pockets are also a no-no. You don't want to ignore this nice little fashion trick that can make you look thinner.

Wrong size when you're in-between sizes: The feeling of being smack in the middle two sizes is no fun. Now most denim fabric stretches out naturally over time, so you don't have to worry. But if you are between two sizes and you are going for a fitted look, select the small pair, as it will stretch to your natural curves with wear. The lighter and thinner the weight of the denim, the more it will stretch.

The wrong hemline: Nothing pulls a look together better than a crisp hem or a fitted fold. Decide how you will be wearing a certain pair of jeans the most, and take them to your tailor to have them hemmed. Skinny jeans should be cropped to the top of the ankle, straight-leg jeans to the mid-point of the ankle, and boot-cut jeans to a half-inch off the ground.

Wear baggy fits with boots: Skinny jeans are by far the easiest fit to tuck into a boot. But while other fits might take a few extra steps, nothing is impossible. For boot cut jeans, fold the hem up to make a two-inch cuff and tuck the cuff into a high sock. The boot should slip right on with minimal bagging at the top. For ankle boots, try a skinny jean with a cuff. You will want a sliver of skin to show between the hem of your pants and the top of the boot for effect.

Winter has a funny way of sucking all of the color out of your skin, leaving you with a dull pasty complexion. But the way to put a little color back in our faces is a lot simpler than you think. You can get glowy, radiant skin that looks lit from

within, such as the kind of warmth that implies you just sat next to a warm fire. Here are some quick tips for all skin tones that will yield healthy warmed-up looking skin in just mere moments.

Illuminator: Meant to impart a radiant glow, illuminators tend to be loaded with light-reflecting particles that disperse over your skin so light reflects off of it from various angles. They can be worn alone; or they can give your blush a boost when layered overtop.

Highlighting drops: A product like this really puts you in control of how subtle or intense you go with warming up your skin. You can wear them alone for a more subtle sheen, mix a few drops into your foundation to customize your color, or blend them over top of your foundation for a highlight effect. Though be

careful of your skin tone; if you are fair, look for one with pink undertones. For medium skin, try something with gold or bronze pigments; and dark skin tones need a bit of coral or red tones to add warmth.

Tinted moisturizer: When it comes to brightening up, tinted moisturizer is the real winner. Look for a product that has extra light and comes in a few different shades so you can make sure it blends in with your skin tone. Smoothing on just a small amount will not only add a touch of color, but also protect from the sun with an SPF 30 and provide 24-hours of moisture.

Cream blush: Cream formula blushes sink into skin so the color looks natural and healthy while powder blushes on top of dry winter skin can just make skin look duller. For more of a flushed look, blend onto the apples of cheeks and sweep back to the hairline.

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Grocery list for a healthy body

Doctors recommend reducing the amount of fat, sugar and salt (sodium) in your diet so as to help reduce your risk of obesity, heart attack, type 2 diabetes and other diseases. Since what you eat has an important bearing on your health, it is critical that you start with making the right choices when you go out grocery shopping.

While out shopping for groceries, start in the produce section where fresh fruits and vegetables, high in vitamins and fiber, and low in fat, are found.

She added that consumers should check the labels on processed foods found in the produce department, such as guacamole or prepared salads with dressing. These products may contain high amounts of fat, sodium and sugar.

In the dairy section, stick with low-fat where possible. Beware of flavored yogurts, which can contain as much as half of the recommended daily allowance of sugar. If picking an ice-cream, choose the low-fat variety. Recent research indicates that eggs are fine in moderation, but check with your doctor first.

At the meat counter, choose lean products such as chicken and fish. Limit or avoid processed meats such as hot dogs and lunch meat,

which contain high amounts of salt. While breads and other baked goods can have a place at your dinner table, there are large amounts of hidden sugars and sodium in them. For example, just two slices of packaged white sandwich bread may account for as much as a quarter of your recommended daily sodium intake.

A better choice would be to select breads made from whole grains (not whole wheat) that are more health-friendly.

Remember that almost everything in a plastic wrapper is usually highly processed and loaded with fat, salt, sugar or all three. Do a lot of label-reading and look for healthier substitutes, before picking anything from this section.

Plain canned beans in water are a healthy choice, as are some nuts and dried fruit. Also, be aware of serving sizes per package. For example, canned soups are sometimes advertised as low sodium but if the serving size is half a can and you are accustomed to eating a full can of soup, you will be getting double the dose of sodium.

In the freezer section, frozen veggies without added sauces and fruits without added sugar can substitute for fresh. Be very careful of frozen pizzas, dinners and snacks, which can be loaded with sodium.

Right-handed or left-handed: The spine decides



Until recently it had been assumed that differences in gene activity of the right and left hemisphere of the brain might be responsible for a person's handedness. A preference for moving the left or right hand develops in the womb from the eighth week of pregnancy, according to ultrasound scans. From the 13th week of pregnancy, unborn children prefer to suck either their right or their left thumb.

The motor cortex in the brain is responsible for initiating arm and hand movements. It sends a corresponding signal to the spinal cord, which in turn translates the command into a motion. New research now shows that the motor cortex is not connected to the spinal cord at an early stage in the womb. However, even before the connection forms, precursors of handedness become apparent. This new finding has given strength to the argument that left or right preference must be rooted in the spinal cord, rather than in the brain.

The researchers analyzed the gene expression in the spinal cord during the eighth to twelfth week of pregnancy and detected marked right-left differences in the eighth week — in precisely those spinal cord segments that control the movements of arms and legs.

The researchers traced the cause of asymmetric gene activity to epigenetic factors reflecting environmental influences. Epigenetic factors are compounds that attach to, or 'mark' DNA and interact with genetic material without changing the underlying DNA sequence. They act as chemical tags, indicating and influencing what, where, and when genes should be 'turned on' or expressed. Those influences might, for example, lead to enzymes bonding methyl groups to the DNA, which in turn would affect and minimize the reading of genes. As this occurs to a different extent in the left and the right spinal cord, there is a difference to the activity of genes on both sides.



Cholesterol is a soft, white waxy substance found in every human cell and is essential for the proper functioning of the body. Nearly 75 percent of the cholesterol found in the body is made by the liver; only less than 25 percent comes from the food we eat. Cholesterol is important for the body in order to undertake its various functions; in fact the brain accounts for around 25 percent of the cholesterol found in the body.

Cholesterol is measured in different categories: Total cholesterol, Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL), High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) and Triglycerides. Also making up your total cholesterol count are Very Low Density Lipoprotein (VDL).

When you get your blood test done, your total cholesterol is your LDL, HDL, VDL, and 1/5th of your Triglyceride totals. However, the only two numbers that matter and are most predictive of potential heart attack risk are your HDL and Triglyceride numbers and their ratios to your total cholesterol. Triglycerides are a measurement of fat in your blood not cholesterol. Ironically, LDL and HDL are not cholesterol. They are lipoproteins used to transport cholesterol in the body, as cholesterol is not soluble in blood plasma. LDL brings cholesterol to your body tissues and HDL brings any unused or excess cholesterol back to your liver for processing. Labeling different lipoproteins as 'good' or 'bad' cholesterol is not only technically wrong, they also give people the wrong message. Both lipoproteins are good because without them our body would not survive.

LDL has two different types of particles — a big fluffy non-oxidized version called LipoB and a smaller oxidized and dangerous version called LipoA. Oxidation of your LDL comes from two things

— too much sugar in your diet and having levels of triglycerides which are too high.

The struggle for most people is balancing the different cholesterol levels. While total and LDL cholesterol levels should be kept low, having more HDL cholesterol can offer some protection against a person developing heart-related illnesses including heart attacks and strokes. Cholesterol levels tend to vary by age, weight, and gender. Typically, men tend to have higher levels of cholesterol throughout life than women. A woman's cholesterol often increases when she goes through menopause.

Children are less likely to have high cholesterol and need to undertake cholesterol checks only once or twice before the age of 18, but not during puberty. However, if the child comes from a family that has a history of heart disease or is overweight or has other health conditions, they need to follow their doctor's recommendations.

For adults over the age of 20 and who are without any health issues, seeing a doctor every 4 to 6 years should suffice. However, people who are overweight, have a family history of heart disease, or if their cholesterol tests come back with high or borderline high levels of total and LDL cholesterol, should seek their doctor's advice and take steps to bring levels of cholesterol down.

The best recommendation for children and adolescents to keep cholesterol levels in check is living a healthful, active lifestyle. This includes eating a healthful diet and getting plenty of exercise. Sedentary, overweight children who eat a diet high in processed foods are most likely to have high cholesterol. Children who have a family history of high cholesterol may also be at risk.

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