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## Privatization of stock-market to revitalize the economy



More than six years after an initial proposal was officially ratified, the planned privatization of the country's stock exchange gained momentum on 3 October with the Boursa Kuwait Securities Company (BKSC) being granted the official license to fully take over and replace the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE).

The privately managed BKSC, or Boursa Kuwait as it is generally known, was set up in 2014 with the purpose of assuming responsibility for the management of KSE's activities. In April of this year, Boursa Kuwait

Continued on Page 11

### On the wrong side of history



Electronic voting board in the UN General Assembly depicts the total isolation of the US, as the international community votes overwhelmingly to condemn the 55-year old immoral, illegal and unilateral economic embargo of Cuba.

On Wednesday, 26 October, of the 193 members in the UN Assembly, 191 voted for a resolution condemning the continued US embargo of Cuba; there were zero votes against the resolution, and the United States along with its lone ally Israel, abstained.

The fact that the US decided to abstain rather than vote against the resolution, as it has done on

previous occasions, was in itself the starkest admission that the nearly six decade long policy of attempting to isolate Cuba had not only failed to work, but that it had backfired too.

Announcing the decision to abstain, the US ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power said, "After 55-plus years of

Continued on Page 11

### Kuwait University opens power sector training center

Kuwait University recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with US-based General Electric (GE) to open a specialized center to provide training, research and development in power generation in the country.

The 6,000-square meter new facility, which will be located in Sulaibiya and is the first GE facility of its kind outside of the United States, received a foreign investment license last year from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

Named the GE Kuwait Technology Centre (GEKTC), the flagship facility includes a training center supporting over 900 students and technical professionals each year, a tooling center to offer repair and maintenance services, and an engineering center for cutting-edge research and

development. The center will also work with Kuwaiti researchers, industry and software developers to co-create

Continued on Page 11



### Never ending surprises from Al-Tijari... Al-Najma Mega draws increase day after day!

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## Indonesian Ambassador honors country's 71st National Day with festivities



**A**mbassador of Indonesia to Kuwait H.E. Tatang Razak and spouse Mrs. Marita Razak held a grand and unique reception on the beachside of the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of

Indonesia. The beachside of the hotel was tastefully decorated to reflect the rich cultural diversity of Indonesia. Colorful traditional dancers enchanted the special invitees with their impressive performances. Stalls served authentic

Indonesian cuisine, offering guests a sample of the hospitality they would receive when visiting Indonesia. Assistant undersecretary for Asian Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed was the chief guest for the evening. He,

along with the Indonesian Ambassador and spouse, cut the cake to mark the celebrations. Ambassador Al-Saeed congratulated all Indonesians on their National Day. Addressing the large gathering, Ambassador Razak thanked the

Kuwaiti leadership for their special friendship and warm relations with Indonesia. He pointed at the growing economic ties between the two nations and added that further growth in the economic sphere were in the offing



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### Kuwait plans to launch online renewal of driving license early 2017

The Interior Ministry plans to launch a new project early 2017 which will allow renewal of drivers licenses as well as Kuwaiti's passports and expatriates' visas online through the ministry's websites, said Director of the General Department of Information Technology Brigadier General Ali Al-Muaili.

### Exhibition features Indian Handicrafts and Handlooms



The Indian Embassy organized an Indian Handicrafts and Handloom Exhibition at Holiday Inn Hotel, Salmiya on Sunday, 23 October. The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain inaugurated the exhibition that aimed to promote Indian handicrafts and handloom products in Kuwait. A large crowd of Kuwaitis and expatriates of various nationalities attended, and showed their appreciation for the beautifully crafted products.



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\*Terms and conditions apply



## Austrian Ambassador hosts reception on National Day

The Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Sigurd Pacher and his wife hosted a reception at his residence on 26 October, to commemorate Austria's National Day. The Assistant Undersecretary for European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador

Waleed Al-Khubeizi, was the chief guest at the reception, which also included a large gathering of members of the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, special invitees and media personnel.

In his speech to the gathering, Ambassador Al-Khubeizi lauded the strong and positive

relations between Kuwait and Austria, and highlighted Kuwait's oil exports to Austria and its support through various investments.

He mentioned that the two countries were endeavoring to strengthen cooperation in health, culture and military fields, including

through training and exchange of expertise. He also expressed his hope that Kuwait and Austria would continue to explore new horizons of cooperation in various fields, and stated that 2017 would be a year for high profile visits between the two countries.

## Landmark Group celebrates 20th Anniversary



Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, unveiled its future plans in Kuwait during a press conference held to commemorate its 20th anniversary celebrations in the country.



To mark the celebrations, Landmark Group launched a special campaign where everyone is a winner. The promotion,

running from 25 October to 13 November, allows customers to win up to KD 20,000 on a raffle draw, gift vouchers, instant cash back and much more. Home Centre will also have a promotion where customers who shop at Home Centre can avail of 20 percent discount on home furniture.

Speaking on the occasion Saibal Basu, CEO, Landmark Group Kuwait stated: "We are very happy to achieve this milestone in Kuwait, The Landmark Group set up its first store in Kuwait in 1996 in Al Rai; today we have close to 60 stores in prime locations across the country".

"We thank all our customers for their loyalty and support. As a brand we are constantly innovating and striving to improve our customer's shopping experience while simultaneously offering products and merchandise of great value. We are present in all the key shopping areas of Kuwait which makes us more accessible and efficient in customer service delivery. Our proximity allows us to provide the customers with the latest update on trends, sales and promotions," concluded Mr. Saibal.



## TRASSK conducts Maholsavam 2016

Thrissur Association of Kuwait (TRASSK) conducted its 10th Anniversary celebration 'Maholsavam 2016', a cultural bonanza on 21 October at American International School Auditorium, in Maidan Hawally.

The audience was mesmerized by the rocking performance of

1st prize winners of TRASSK Kalolsavam 2016, and other entertainment including the welcome dance, cinematic dance and Naadan Paatu, Mimicry and 'Nerampokku' (One man show). A popular music band in Kuwait 'Crimson Rays' was the highlight of the event.

## 'Know India' seminar delves into India tourism



India Tourism Dubai in collaboration with the Indian Embassy discussed India's tourism



sector in a seminar titled 'Know India', at the Holiday Inn Hotel-Salmiya, on Sunday, 23 October.

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait

H.E. Sunil Jain, who was the chief guest, addressed a large gathering of representatives from travel and tour operators and media.

Assistant Director India Tourism Dubai I.R.V. Rao delivered an in-depth presentation that outlined India's tourism industry and explained why people would want to view India as the best tourist destination.

He also spent time introducing the gathering to the cultural, heritage and spiritual facets of the country, which has been the hallmark of its tourism sector and enchanted travelers over the ages.



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# Kuwait says still mulling issuance of KD3 billion international bond

*Kuwait is still considering the issuance of international bonds worth around KD 3 billion, a finance ministry official said recently.*

Like other Gulf Arab states, Kuwait is turning to debt capital markets to raise money as oil prices remain at less than half their levels two years ago. Qatar in May sold \$9

billion of Eurobonds, while Saudi Arabia completed a record-breaking \$17.5 billion debut offering last week.

However, sources said that Kuwait's planned bond had been postponed until 2017 after authorities decided it was in no rush to raise funds overseas.

In a television interview, Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said the country's sovereign wealth fund, the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), would start to look

at the measures that needed to be taken to complete an offering at the end of October.

"We will look at the economic feasibility and the cost on the country for the issuance, as it is very important to take this into consideration," Hamada said.

He added that the country had not yet begun engaging with international banks about the bond because the KIA was still preparing the technical and legal frameworks for the deal.

Kuwait has been granted some financial leeway by a pick-up in oil prices, after they touched a 12-year low in February.

The move has been pronounced since 27 September, when the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries announced plans to curb production for the first time in eight years, to rein in a global crude glut that has halved prices from mid-2014 highs above \$100 a barrel.

"Until the first half of this fiscal

year at the end of September, the deficit reached around KD3.6 billion and (the full-year deficit) is expected to be lower than estimated in the budget due to the slight rise of oil prices," said Hamada.

Kuwait's finance minister, Anas al-Saleh, said in July that the country's projected deficit for this fiscal year was KD 9.5 billion.

'A big chunk' of that figure had already been raised by the Central Bank of Kuwait, Hamada said.

## Drivers of vehicles impeding traffic flow to be penalized

Vehicles found disrupting the flow of traffic will have their registration plates annulled, said the Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al-Shuwayi.

Al-Shuwayi, who is also Director General of the General Directorate of Traffic, said that after the registration plates have been revoked, violators will be required to pay a fine to retrieve them. He also noted that this decision has been made due to increase in traffic violations, adding that the drivers of these vehicles should be held fully accountable for their infractions.

Speaking on this decision,



Al-Shuwayi said that it would prove instrumental to remedying misconduct on the road, while further reinforcing the rule of law and easing

traffic congestion. He added that all areas with impeded traffic flows have been pinpointed to help fix the problem.

## Kuwait fires up its first solar power plant as electricity demand grows

Kuwait has started operating its first-ever solar power plant at the Umm Gudair oil field, a landmark for the country as it seeks to diversify its sources of energy to meet fast-rising local demand.

The 30-million Kuwaiti dinar project, Sidrah 500, will produce 10 megawatts of electricity, half of which will be supplied to the public electricity network. The other half will be used to supply the oilfield itself, which is owned by the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a subsidiary of the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Kuwait announced plans last year to generate 15 percent of its energy needs via renewable sources by 2030. Consumption of electricity is rising rapidly in Kuwait. The country's electricity and water minister estimated last year that



demand would reach 30,000MW per day by 2030.

The opening of the plant follows increased interest in renewables in Kuwait and across the Arabian Gulf region in recent years, as the scale of the consumption challenge has

become clear.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research signed a contract last year with Spain's TSK to establish the country's first solar thermal energy plant, with a planned production capacity of 50MW.

### Crimes

## Citizen killed, brother wounded in Al-Adan murder

A citizen has been shot dead and his brother wounded by a compatriot in a shooting in Al-Adan area. Authorities have apprehended the perpetrator, who was found to be under the influence of drugs, with a pair of unlicensed handguns and a rifle in his possession. A murder probe has been launched to uncover the details surrounding the case.

### Thief returns for 14th vehicle:

A skillful thief was not satisfied with stealing contents of 13 vehicles parked at an open yard in Andalous as he returned for the 14th, which turned out to be his last. When the owners of the vehicles discovered the theft, they informed police who rushed to the scene and combed the area for possible leads to the criminal. While police were collecting evidence, they spotted a Kuwaiti who was holding a bag and acting suspicious. The officers stopped him to inquire about his identification, but the man fled from the scene. A hot chase ensued, leading to his arrest.

### Filipinas among many held in vice raids:

Farwaniya securitymen arrested four absconding Filipina women from a café in the governorate. According to sources, when Farwaniya Director General Brigadier Saleh Matar received information about absconding women being employed in a café and billiard hall, investigations were launched. After confirming the information and taking necessary measures, the four women were arrested.

### Indian duo caught selling abortion pills:

Indian expatriates

were arrested for selling medicines including tablets for abortion without a license from Ministry of Health. The General Department of Public Relations and Media Security said when the General Department of Criminal Investigations received information about two Asian expatriates, a team of officers from Farwaniya Criminal Investigations Department was formed to carry out investigations. After confirming the information and receiving a warrant, securitymen raided the suspected location and discovered the unlicensed medicines.

### Bangladeshi caught selling stolen medicines

The Farwaniya police have arrested a Bangladeshi for selling medicines at a makeshift open air market in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. According to security sources, the Bangladeshi is a cleaning company worker at the Al-Sabah Hospital. It is believed he stole the medicines from the hospital.

### Murder of Asian in flat:

The decomposing body of an Asian, believed to have died three months ago, was found in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh rousing suspicion of foul play. It has been reported that the caretaker ('haris') of the building went to the apartment of the victim who did not pay the rent for three months, he knocked several times but when no one responded, he accompanied by the victim's friend broke in and found the decaying body of the victim. A murder case has been registered and investigations are ongoing.

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## Ambassador Hayat awarded Mexican Medal of Honor

The Mexican Embassy in Kuwait organized a ceremony on 25 October to honor former ambassador of Kuwait to Mexico, Samih Johar Hayat, with the 'Order of the Aztec Eagle' medal, the highest Mexican order awarded to foreigners. A large gathering of members of diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti government officials, well-wishers and media personnel were present on the occasion.

On behalf of the Mexican government, the country's ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Miguel Angel Isidro

presented the medal to the former ambassador for his efforts in enhancing bilateral relations between Kuwait and Mexico. In his speech to the gathering, the Mexican Ambassador praised the diplomatic work of Ambassador Hayat in various fields that led to the development of bilateral relations and improved political dialogue between the two countries.

He emphasized the strong growth in bilateral cooperation by pointing to the high-level exchange visits by dignitaries from the two countries,



as well as the signing of numerous agreements and memorandums of understanding in various fields, including in the economic, commercial and educational sectors.

For his part, Ambassador Hayat said that the two sides were focused on boosting the activities of Kuwaiti investment funds in Mexico, adding that Kuwait has many private investments in Mexico including in hotels and resorts. He also noted that there were many more investment opportunities for Kuwaitis in Mexico.

## New India Assurance CEO wins Personality of the Year award



The 20th Asia Insurance Industry Awards held in conjunction with the 28th East Asia Insurance Congress concluded recently in Macau.

The Personality of the Year award went to G Srinivasan, CEO of The New India Assurance Company, a true trailblazer and pioneer for his dedication and hands-on

passion in being the key visualizer of the strategies and driver of his organization's success.

Founded by the prestigious TATA Group, New India Assurance has been the largest General Insurance Company of India. In its 98th year of operation, New India Assurance operates in 28 countries across the globe.



## Tulu Koota Kuwait organises Tulu Parba 2016



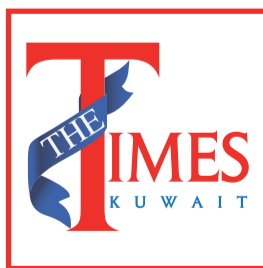
Tulu Koota Kuwait (TKK) held 'Tulu Parba 2016' on Friday, 28 October at American International School, Maidan Hawally.

The highlight of the day was the super hit Tulu drama 'Adimel' by most popular comedy actor Navin D Padil, famed entertainer Bhojraj

Vamanjoor, versatile actor Aravind Bolar, the eminent writer director Shashiraj Kavoor and musician Guru Bayar. Other scintillating performances included a variety of dances by Prathibha School of dance, folk dances and 'Parbada Minadana' by Tulukoota members and kids.

Scholarship and certificates of appreciation for academic excellence were given to meritorious 10th and 12th standard students, who are children of TKK members.

Report & Pics by  
Wilson Saldanha, Shirthyady



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THE WHOLE WEEK  
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# Fuel hike leads to surge in cost of delivery services

As expected, the government's recent decision to hike fuel charges in Kuwait is having a domino effect on the market. The cost of many products and services has gone up appreciably since the implementation of fuel price hike at the start of September.

Delivery businesses, with fleets traveling around the country delivering and picking up goods, were among the first to increase their prices, some by as much as 35 percent. Owners of delivery services say that without hiking their own prices they would soon go out



of business. They pointed out that delivery services would not be the only ones to be affected by the fuel hike, as most small and medium enterprises in the country depended on some form

or other of delivery to market and sell their products.

It is worth noting that last April the Ministry of Commerce had issued a decision forcing restaurants to

maintain their delivery fees at 250 fils for local deliveries and 500 fils for outside areas.

Since September, consumers in Kuwait have been paying increased fuel prices at the rate of 85 fils per liter for Octane 91, up from 60 fils earlier; 105 fils for Octane 95 instead of 65 fils and 165 fils for Ultra-Premium, up from 90 fils.

Meanwhile, the Subsidies Committee, which is tasked by the Cabinet to evaluate fuel prices every three months, is expected to meet in early December. Commenting

on fuel prices, the Deputy CEO of Support Services at Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), which is responsible for delivering petrol to fuel stations in the country, said local consumption of fuel has changed since the recent fuel hike.

The official noted that people are increasingly opting to use Premium in place of Ultra-premium because of the large price difference between the two. He added that the consumption rates of Premium jumped from 20 percent to 80 percent after the fuel hike.

## BSK students meet Swedish royal to acknowledge Kuwait's anti-drug hard work



As part of a competition, organized by Mentor Arabia, aimed at using art as a means to combat the spread of drugs, Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden visited Kuwait to present awards to prize winners and to

applaud the Kuwaiti youth on their outstanding efforts in keeping Kuwait free of drug-use. Senior Prefects from the British School of Kuwait (BSK) had the great honor of meeting Her Majesty and to learn more about her charitable work.



## LuLu Hypermarket concludes Pinoy Fiesta 2016

LuLu Hypermarket, the regional retailing giant, ended its Pinoy Fiesta 2016 on 29 October on a successful note. The festival was inaugurated on 19 October by the Ambassador of Philippines

to Kuwait H.E. Renato Pedeo O. Villa, alongside the Hypermarket's top management, in front of a large crowd of shoppers, well-wishers and media personnel.

## INN & GO Kuwait Plaza Hotel hosts Diwali food festival



In celebration of Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, INN & GO Kuwait Plaza Hotel is hosting a three-day authentic food festival that ends on 30 October. Guests were given the chance to savor authentic Indian cuisine during the food promotion in Al Dallah Restaurant.



## Print houses in full swing during parliament season

Under the motto 'No time to rest', print houses throughout Kuwait are in full swing during this elections' period; a typically lucrative one for this business.

With less than a month to elections' day, print houses are having their own kind of race, to beat the clock, meet deadlines and deliver candidates' ideas for their campaigns.

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Wishing you  
all a very  
Happy Diwali

# 5 & ABOUT

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To publish images kindly send pictures in high resolution.

## 01 NOVEMBER



**Zumba Turkis Delight:** The biggest outdoor Zumba master class event will be held at the New English School, Jabriya, Hawally Governorate, from 6pm to 9pm. The event will be led by two famous instructors Ecem Kuntay and Didem Zeybek from Turkey. It is a female only event and ticket price is set for KD 20. For more information and to book your tickets: Call, 50188889 or visit, [www.zainaz.net](http://www.zainaz.net)

**International Shopping Exhibition:** International Shopping Exhibition, a 10 day event will be held from 1 to 12 November at the Kuwait International Fair Ground, Kuwait City. Exhibitors will showcase a wide range of products and services such as household products, home decorations, jewelry and fashion accessories and more. The event is free and open to all.

## 02 NOVEMBER



**PAWS to hold concert and dinner:** A fundraising concert and dinner for PAWS Kuwait Rescued Animals will be held in New English School, Jabriya, Hawalli,

from 6pm to 9pm. The concert will feature live music by The Twenty First Amendment. The event will also feature raffle and door prizes. The entry fee is KD 10. All proceeds from the event will go towards veterinary care for PAWS Kuwait's many rescued animals. For more information and to book your tickets: Visit, [www.tktti.com/pawskuwait](http://www.tktti.com/pawskuwait).

## 03 NOVEMBER

**University Fair:** Gulf EDU tours will be hosting a university fair at Four Points by Sheraton, Kuwait City, at 6pm for students who wish to study their Bachelor/Master Degree in USA, Italy or Spain. The event is free of charge for all attendees, and free valet parking is available. Pre-registration is required to attend the event. For more information: Visit, [www.gulfuniversitytours.com](http://www.gulfuniversitytours.com)

## 04 NOVEMBER

**Blood donation camp:** Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait blood donation camp will be held at the Central Blood Bank, Jabriya, from 1pm to 6pm. For more information: Call, 97899392 or E-mail, [maqbool.ah@gmail.com](mailto:maqbool.ah@gmail.com).

## 09 NOVEMBER

**Bulgarian Concert:** Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah Cultural Centre will be hosting a Bulgarian concert, featuring Anna Karadimitrova - soprano, Preslav Petkov - clarinet, Harriet Bushman - piano and guest violinist - Mariana Todorova at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre - Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, from 7pm to 8pm. For more information: Visit, [www.darmuseum.org.kw](http://www.darmuseum.org.kw).

**MJS Show & Indian Cultural Divas**  
A tribute to Glorious Indian Art Forms  
Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Marina Hall, Jleeb Time: 8.30 pm (Gate opens at 6 pm)

## MJS show and Indian Cultural Divas

Arpan Kuwait will be hosting MJS show and Indian Cultural Divas at Marina Hall, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. MJS, popularly known as India's own Moonwalkers are a band of five member crew who participated and won the inaugural season of Star Plus's dance reality show, India's Dancing Superstar. Inspired by the Legendary Michael Jackson, their dance style is Animation. Indian Cultural Divas will

include Indian art forms featuring cultural events from East, West, North and South of India. Indian Cultural Divas is a humble attempt by Arpan to bring people together and showcase the rich cultural diversity of independent India on stage. For more information and to reserve your seats: Visit, [www.arpankuwait.com](http://www.arpankuwait.com), or E-mail, [arpamega@gmail.com](mailto:arpamega@gmail.com), or call, 97238035, 66784867

## 11 NOVEMBER



**NIRAM 2016:** Kala (Art) Kuwait, a leading progressive art and socio cultural organization among the Indian community in Kuwait will be conducting 'NIRAM 2016' painting competition, in association with 'AMERICAN TOURISTER', to mark Children's Day at Indian Community School, Khaitan, at 2pm. The program will include painting competition for the Indian school students and a 'Marathon Open Canvas Painting' competition for parents, visitors and guests. The painting competition will be conducted in four different age groups: Group A (LKG to 1 std), Group B (2 to 4 std), Group C (5 to 8 std) and Group D (9 to 12 std). The media for Group 'A' and 'B' will be crayons while Group 'C' and 'D' will be watercolors. Crayons and watercolors should be brought in by the participants. Stamped drawing papers will be supplied by the organizers. Clay modeling competition also will be conducted for students from class 7 to 12. Clay will be provided by the organizers. Besides the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and merit prizes, ten percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. For further details and to register, visit the Around Town page of our Times Kuwait website.

## 12 NOVEMBER

**Runq8:** The largest charity run in Kuwait, Runq8 will be held at Marina Crescent Arabian Gulf Street, all day. The race length is 5 to 10Km. The event is organized by the Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute to support children's rehabilitation in Kuwait. All the money raised from the event goes towards offering subsidized care for children who otherwise would not be able to afford. For more information and to register: Visit, [www.runq8.org](http://www.runq8.org).

## 25 NOVEMBER



**CRYchess 2016:** Friends of CRY Club (FOCC) will be holding a children's chess tournament, 'CRYchess 2016' at the Gulf Indian School, Fahaheel, from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Students of 12th standard or younger are eligible to participate. The last date for registration is 19 November. Grouping of players will be done as per age and depending on the total number of participants, in the Swiss pairing format. The top three winners in each group and the youngest participant will be awarded with a trophy and certificate. All participants will receive a medal and a certificate. For more details, visit the Around Town section of our Times Kuwait website.

# CINEMA THIS WEEK

Some of the movies now showing at Cinescape & Grand Cinemas

**The Accountant:** As a math savant uncooks the books for a new client, the Treasury Department closes in on his activities and the body count starts to rise.  
**Starring:** Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick, J. K. Simmons, Jon Bernthal, Jeffrey Tambor, John Lithgow



Directed by: Gavin O'Connor  
IMDb Rating: 7.8



**Ouija: Origin of Evil:** In 1965 Los Angeles, a widowed mother and her two daughters add a new stunt to bolster their seance scam business and unwittingly invite authentic evil into their home. When the youngest daughter is overtaken by a merciless spirit, the family confronts unthinkable fears to save her and send her possessor back to the other side.

**Starring:** Elizabeth Reaser, Annalise Basso, Lulu Wilson, Henry Thomas, Parker Mack, Doug Jones

Directed by: Mike Flanagan  
IMDb Rating: 6.8

**Broken vows:** A charming yet troubled man spirals into a rage after being rejected by the woman he initially seduced.  
**Starring:** Wes Bentley, Jaimie Alexander, Cam Gigandet



Directed by: Bram Coppens  
IMDb Rating: 4.1



**Shivaay:** Shivaay is a Himalayan mountaineer who is an innocent yet is capable of transforming into a mean destroyer when he needs to protect his family.  
**Starring:** Ajay Devgan, Sayesha Saigal, Erika Kaar, Abigail Eames, Vir Das, Girish Karnad, Saurabh Shukla

Directed by: Ajay Devgn



**Ae Dil Hai Mushkil:** A story about unrequited love. The journey of three characters, Ayan, Alizeh and Saba.  
**Starring:** Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Anushka Sharma

Directed by: Karan Johar





## South African embassy launches cultural exhibition

The National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa launched a five-day South African fine art and crafts exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.

Present for the inauguration was the Head of Kuwait's Fine Arts Society (KFAS) and Arab Arts Federation Abdur Rasul Salman and the South African fine arts delegation presently visiting Kuwait, headed by South African Deputy Minister for Arts and Culture Rejoice Thizwilondi Mabudafhasi in addition to the South African Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Mzolisa Bona.



The exhibition is being held under the umbrella of activities organized by the council in line with Kuwait's celebration as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2016 under the patronage of H.H. the Premier Sheikh

Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. On the sidelines of the function, Dr. Al-Duwais highlighted the importance of cultural exchange between countries, emphasizing it was a simple way to bring societies closer.

He added that the exhibition is within the framework of cooperation between NCCAL and the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, and aims to celebrate the culture of a friendly nation.

He mentioned that the Council is committed to encouraging cultural exchanges with other countries with the hopes of sharing and fostering appreciation in culture in Kuwait and around the world.



## Redtag named the 'Most Admired Retailer of the Year: Affordable Fashion'



Redtag, a highly popular fashion and homeware brand, was the proud recipient of a prestigious retail accolade at the 2016 edition of the Annual Images Retail ME Awards, held in the Conrad Hotel - Dubai, on 11 October. Redtag was recognized as the 'Most Admired Retailer of the Year: Affordable Fashion' under Jury Awards, winning against a very competitive set of respected value fashion retailers. Annual Images Retail ME Awards is one of the prominent annual events in the Middle East retail calendar, which recognizes top performing retailers, and best retail practices in the industry and rewards excellence across a range of retail categories.



## Ghazal music concert entertains audience

Indian Youth Society (IYS), a well-established nonprofit society, presented an evening dedicated to soulful Ghazal songs with a concert titled, 'Shaam - e - Ghazal' on 28 October at the Salmiya Indian Model School Auditorium (SIMS).

Famous Ghazal Singer Shakeel Ahmed rendered a selection of Ghazal songs to a large gathering of enthusiasts. The songs were picked from the albums of renowned Ghazal legends Ghulam Ali, Jagjit Singh and Pankaj Udhas as a tribute to the grand Ghazal Legends.

Shaam - e - Ghazal was organized with the intention to support Sakshi NGO, whose endeavors are focused on development in the fields of education, health and community for Indians.

They have built a remarkable



reputation from their efforts in providing educational and health services to the needy, assisting

marginalized street children, helping low-literate youth to be employed and empowering women.

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## Farewell reception held for Iraqi Ambassador

**A**mbassador of Somali and Dean of Arab Diplomatic Corps H. E. Abdul Kader Sheikh Aboobaker held a reception at his residence to bid farewell to outgoing Iraqi Ambassador H.E. Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom.

Ambassador Aboobaker praised the Iraqi envoy for fostering a warm relationship with the diplomatic fraternity during his tenure. For his part, Ambassador Aluloom spoke highly of his experiences in Kuwait and the friends he made while serving in the country.



## Taiwan announces e-visa service to Kuwait

**T**aipei Commercial Representative Office in Kuwait has released a circular which states that Kuwait Nationals have been granted e-visa (electronic visa) privilege to Taiwan in effect from 7 October, 2016.

The e-visa will allow Kuwaiti passport holders to travel to Taiwan for a visit of up to one month following the approval of the online application.

Applicants can start the process online here: <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>. A fee of KD 16 is charged for the application.

Taiwan has permitted the e-visa service for 27 countries since 12 January.

Kuwaitis are welcome to visit Taiwan using this service. For further information: visit <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw>

## Kuwait ranked 128th out of 144 countries in gender gap



**K**uwait ranked 128th out of 144 countries with a score of 0.624 in the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index released by the World Economic Forum.

The index ranks countries according to how well they are leveraging their female talent pool with the following indicators – economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

Kuwait ranked 125th with a score of

0.520 in economic participation and opportunity, 47th with a score of 0.997 in educational attainment, 136th with a score of 0.957 in health and survival, and 140th with a score of 0.022 in political empowerment.

On the ranking of other GCC countries, Qatar landed on the 119th spot in the Global Index with a score of 0.643, United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranked 124th with a score of 0.639 and Bahrain ranked 131st with a score of 0.615.

## ESF wins again at ISACK Swimming Gala



**T**he English School Fahaheel (ESF) swimming team once again won at the ISACK Inter School Swimming Gala. The team won medals in 1st place Gold, 2nd place silver and 3rd place

Bronze medals in free style, breast stroke, back stroke, medley relay and free style relay. Congratulations are extended from the ESF PE Department, staff and students.

## Fitness First organizes 'Pink Power' Campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness

**F**itness First, one of the world's leading health and fitness companies, and a part of Landmark Group recently hosted 'Pink Power' an informative fun event held to support breast cancer awareness.

Themed as Party in Pink, the event featured an educational session conducted by renowned medical oncologist Dr. Susovana Sujit Nair, from Kuwait Cancer Control Center followed by a fun group exercise marathon which included body pump, Zumba step, body attack, body combat, Zumba and yoga all conducted by professional trainers. The venue



came to life in pink and boomed with everyone's favorite Zumba tracks and choreography. The FitnessFirst Chief Operating Officer,

George Flocks, while making the announcement, reiterated the company's commitment in spearheading health and fitness awareness in the region. He also underscored the importance of exercising as a way of reducing the risk of diseases such as breast cancer and many other health related diseases. All attendees were encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle, which include regular exercise and physical activity.

The Pink Power event was fun filled with vigor and vibrancy and open to everyone including non-Fitness First members.

## Mol to exempt sponsor from paying airfare for a maid reported absconding

**M**inistry of Interior in a decision which is expected to come into force from January 2017 will exempt a sponsor from paying the airfare for a maid reported absconding or if there are any criminal charges against her.

Earlier, the sponsor was responsible for the domestic worker's return ticket to home country if he/she is reported absconding or has been arrested. But now, the Mol will punish those who hire and shelter runaway maids.

Adding to this, General Department for Residence Affairs will interrogate the absconder following the arrest to identify who sheltered him/her and then take legal action and force the 'employer' to pay the value of the ticket.

## Passenger volume outstrips airport capacity in the Middle East

With airport passenger volumes in 2015 outstripping capacity by 11 percent across the region, authorities are planning or implementing projects to cater to an additional capacity of 400 million passengers a year, over the next 10 to 20 years. According to new research by Middle East business intelligence service MEED, more than \$100 billion worth of airport projects are currently underway or being planned across the Middle East region.

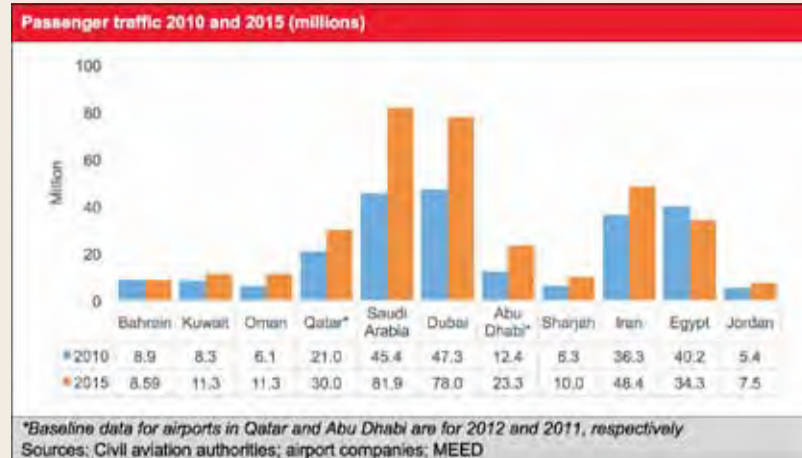
Since 2010 the double-digit average annual growth in passenger volumes in most airports of the region, along with the overall economic expansion programmes that were in place, prior to the oil price decline in mid-2014, have fuelled the rapid expansion in aircraft fleet and airport capacity in the region.

However, despite billions of dollars being invested into airport expansion

projects in recent years, the gap between airport capacity and passenger volumes have been growing with the widest gaps being seen in Kuwait, Muscat and Abu Dhabi, as well as in key airports across Saudi Arabia and Iran.

With the Middle-East's travel and tourism profile expected to get a further boost on the back of upcoming global events such as the 2020 World Expo in Dubai and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the need for airport infrastructure and aircraft numbers have never been greater.

According to the report, some 1,300 aircraft worth an estimated \$345 billion dollars are on order and pending delivery from Middle Eastern airlines. Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways lead the region in terms of the value of on-order planes, but most of the smaller airlines have also put in place



restructuring programmes to enable them to compete for the traffic expected to and from the region.

Some of the new airports and airport

expansion expected to be completed between end of 2016 and 2020 include a new terminal and expansion of Kuwait International Airport, the next

phase of construction at Al-Maktoum International in Dubai, Muscat International, Midfield Terminal Complex (Abu Dhabi), King Abdulaziz International (Jeddah), new passenger terminal at Bahrain International and the upgrade of airports across Iran.

However, despite sterling growth in recent years, there are early signs that the growth in the region's aviation sector could potentially slow down as the global economy slows and drags travel demand along with it. Other threats include the political instability in many parts of the Middle East region, lack of state funding for future projects, as well as limited airspace allocation.

Overcoming these challenges would require policy adjustments, as well as a concerted effort between government and private stakeholders across the region.

## Privatization of stock-market to revitalize the economy

Continued from Page 1

officially assumed responsibility for the management of all KSE operations with its Board of Directors replacing the KSE's committee.

Sustained low oil prices that have resulted in back-to-back budget deficits is compelling Kuwait to diversify the economy away from its over reliance on oil, rationalize expenses and privatize some state assets.

With Kuwait's fiscal balance predicted to turn negative in 2016 and remain so for three years until 2019, privatization of the stock exchange is viewed as a key plank of Kuwait's plans to strengthen its financial sector and diversify its economy away from oil.

Political objections and bureaucratic resistance that had hampered privatization plans in the past appear to have taken a back seat, at least for the moment, as low oil revenues begin to bite and create pain points in every segment of the economy.

The hand-over process from KSE to Boursa Kuwait, which involved the implementation of a detailed operational plan and strategic roadmap designed to ensure the smooth transition of stock market operations, was developed in close collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

By privatizing the stock exchange, the CMA hopes to improve the bourse's competitiveness in the region and globally. Though it is the

oldest stock exchange in the region, established in 1962, a recent rise in de-listings and falling value of traded shares was undermining KSE's competitiveness and threatening to widen a gap with rival bourses in the region. The value of traded shares fell 40 percent in the year to September 30, from \$10.6 billion to \$6.5 billion.

Commenting after Boursa Kuwait ended its first day of trading in April, the Chairman of the CMA Board of Commissioners Dr. Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, said: "Today we have taken the first step on the road to privatizing the Kuwait Stock Exchange and we are looking forward to working closely with Boursa Kuwait's management on making further progress. This will include the development of investment tools, restructuring the market to increase its competitiveness, working to increase liquidity and attract investments with a view to issuing an Initial Public Offering (IPO)."

Speaking during the hand-over function the CEO of Boursa Kuwait, Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al Khaled said, "We will now work on developing stock exchange's market status and creating a transparent capital market platform that serves a variety of asset classes and operates to robust international standards."

Outlining some of the proposals to regulate the stock market, he said that by November the Boursa would introduce a 'stock swing' limit of 20 percent, for the maximum daily rise or fall of all individual stocks. In addition, he

said, "KSE would introduce a 'circuit breaker' mechanism allowing for brief halts in trade with every move of 5 percent. At present, the range of limits for stock movements varies depending on the level of stock prices." He revealed that the final set of regulations for Boursa Kuwait would be published by the end of the year. "In 2017, Boursa Kuwait will look at drafting new rules around short-selling, stock market lending and borrowing, and market segmentation," he added.

Nearly five months after the successful transition period, it now appears that the Boursa Kuwait is on course to make its IPO to Kuwaiti citizens and other government stakeholders, along with selecting an international operator

for the exchange. Share sale details for the IPO have yet to be confirmed but under a draft version of the plan, half of the KSE will be sold to citizens while the rest will be split between various government entities and a private company with experience in operating stock exchanges.

With Kuwait's financial sector expected to be a key driver of economic growth, new regulations such as those enabling privatization of the stock exchange and banking reforms are seen as being critical to strengthening capital markets, increasing liquidity and attracting foreign investments to the country. A privatized bourse in particular is expected to improve liquidity and efficiency in the marketplace.

## On the wrong side of history

Continued from Page 1

pursuing the path of isolation, we are choosing to take the path of engagement."

The US decision to abstain follows President Barack Obama's restoration of full diplomatic relations with Cuba and his support for lifting the embargo. However, this move is opposed by some members of the Republican-led US Congress.

Those geriatric Congressmen need to wake up and realize how their obstinacy is alienating the US among the international community. If they are too old to hear the collective voice of the global community and so short-sighted that they cannot read the large numbers on the UN electronic board, perhaps somebody needs to tell the befuddled Congressmen that, holding on is not always a sign of strength, sometimes it is a sign of sheer stupidity.

## Kuwait University opens power sector training center

Continued from Page 1

digital industrial solutions for the power industry. Commenting on the launch of the center, the Minister of Electricity and Water (MEW) Ahmed Al Jassar, said: "This center reflects the commitment that both the MEW and GE have to promote, develop and sustain future Kuwaiti and international talents to serve the power industry in the Middle East region with future prospects to serve the

world." Speaking at the event, the Director-General of KDIPA Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said that the investment by GE, one of the world's leading companies, highlights the strong competitiveness of the Kuwaiti economy.

He noted that apart from serving as a key pillar in supporting the country's energy sector, it will also support the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035, to nurture talent and create high quality jobs in the technical sector.

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# Global CO2 levels cross historic benchmark

*Levels of CO2 in the atmosphere have surged past an important threshold and may not dip below it for "many generations". The 400 parts per million benchmark, which was broken globally for the first time in recorded history in 2015, is likely to make 2016 the first full year to exceed the mark, says the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in its latest report.*

The high levels can be partly attributed to a strong El Niño event. While human emissions of CO2 remained fairly static between 2014 and 2015, the onset of a strong El Niño weather phenomenon caused a spike in levels of the gas in the atmosphere.

Drought conditions in tropical regions produced by El Niño meant vegetation in those areas was less able to absorb CO2. There were also extra emissions from fires, sparked by the drier conditions. In their annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the WMO says the drier conditions helped push the growth in the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere above the average for the last ten years.

At the atmospheric monitoring station in Mauna Loa, Hawaii, levels of CO2 broke through 400 parts per million (ppm), meaning 400 molecules of CO2 for every one million molecules in the atmosphere. The last time CO2 was regularly above 400ppm was three to five million



years ago, say experts.

Prior to 1800, atmospheric levels were around 280ppm, according

to the US National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The WMO says that the rise through

the 400ppm barrier has persisted and it is likely that 2016 will be the first full year when the measurements

show CO2 above that benchmark, and "hence for many generations".

The report also details the growth in other greenhouse gases, including methane and nitrous oxide. In 2015, levels of methane were 2.5 times greater than in the pre-industrial era, while nitrous oxide was 1.2 times above the historic measure.

While welcoming new initiatives like the global agreement to phase out HFC gases agreed recently in Rwanda, the WMO argues that nations must retain their focus on cutting CO2. The organization notes that without tackling CO2 emissions, the world will not be able to tackle climate change and keep temperature increases to below 2 degrees C above the pre-industrial era, as agreed to in the Paris Agreement.

Around 200 nations who signed the Paris climate agreement are set to meet in Morocco in November for the COP22 conference to decide on the next steps forward.

# Renewable power surpasses coal as biggest installed source of power

For the first time, global renewable electricity capacity has overtaken coal and has become the most important installed source of power.

A total of 153 GW of renewables capacity were installed last year, and worldwide renewable capacity has now reached 1,985 GW, compared to 1,951 GW for coal.

According to the IEA, 500,000 solar panels were installed every day last year.

Asian countries such as China or India have proven to be growing leaders in the sector. Thanks to new policies aiming at enhancing energy security and sustainability, 825 GW are predicted to be installed by 2021, according to the IEA.

The important recent decrease of costs for renewable energy has played a central role in the installation boost. This cost reduction trend, which is expected to continue, will be a key factor in driving renewable deployment. The

world is witnessing a transformation of global power markets led by renewables. Growth in this sector is anticipated to be increasingly concentrated in emerging and developing economies, with Asia taking the center stage.

In the next five years, the People's Republic of China and India alone will account for almost half of global renewable capacity additions. India is currently targeting a total of 100 GW of installed solar power capacity, 60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW small hydro power, and 5 GW biomass-based power projects operational by March 2022.

A new report released in conjunction with the launch of The Asia Investor Group on Climate Change in September concluded that US\$7.7 trillion in renewable energy and energy efficiency investments will be needed to meet the combined electricity demands of China, India, Japan and Southeast Asia.

In January, a global solar power



coalition agreed to raise US\$1 trillion to boost renewable energy capacity around the world. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), with a membership of over 120 countries and was launched by the Indian government, said the fund will be used for capacity building,

developing innovative energy policies, implementing financial mechanisms for projects and for research and development.

Meanwhile, in Europe, solar power has already surpassed all forms of conventional and renewable resources to become the most-installed energy

source on the continent, according to the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA).

Though the recent renewable installations have been focused on solar and wind, the most important renewable energy globally remains hydropower.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Education Innovation in the Middle East



**Gordon Brown**

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

Supporting the millions of newly displaced people of the Middle East demands resources far beyond the capacity of the United Nations, and is a continuous humanitarian-aid challenge for companies, foundations, and public-sector donors. While UN peacekeepers are financed by a system of "assessed contributions," humanitarian aid depends on voluntary donations. Education, which is prioritized below basic survival needs like food and shelter, all too often gets left behind.

This failure is far more dangerous than it might seem at first glance. In fact, we now confront an education crisis that threatens to leave a lost generation of young people without any hope for a better future. The majority of Syria's six million displaced children remain out of school, while around 250,000 young people miss out on a college education. In war-torn Yemen and Iraq, millions more children are also missing out on school. Some may go through all their school-age years without ever entering a classroom.

But thanks to the Platform for Education in Emergencies Response, charities, philanthropists, and foundations can unite to help refugee students find higher-education opportunities, and to provide safe havens for lecturers and professors persecuted by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime. PEER will connect college-ready Syrian refugees with refugee-ready colleges, and it will eventually be a web-based higher-education conduit for displaced students at all grade levels worldwide.

PEER is being supported by the Institute of International Education and the Catalyst Foundation for Universal Education, an education charity founded by former New York



University President John Sexton. Beyond PEER, the Catalyst Foundation is also looking at projects to improve school auditing, spur social-impact investing in the education sector, and introduce curricula to encourage inter-faith coexistence in the Middle East and worldwide.

Schools are the first places where we can promote inclusive citizenship in Middle Eastern countries. With this in mind, the Catalyst Foundation is assessing pilot civic-education projects in the region — as well as in Eastern Europe, Africa, and the United States — to determine how school curricula can best cultivate inter-faith understanding.

A large generation of young people growing up in the Middle East and North Africa — soon to number 200 million — would be well served by an educational model that fosters cultural coexistence, especially during a time when certain politicians in the West deny that coexistence is possible. A model curriculum need not be limited to teaching the Golden Rule or making optimistic appeals to universal religious axioms. It should

also support courses that teach pupils that diversity is a strength and a public good for their societies. That is what the Catalyst Foundation hopes to do.

The proposal is to work with some half-dozen pilot schools, including a secondary school in the United Arab Emirates, high schools in the US and Europe, and a secondary school in Lebanon that is taking in Syrian refugee students. Lebanon is a particularly important participant in this project. Despite its long history of political, social, and religious divisions, all nine-year-old pupils are introduced to a school curriculum that emphasizes to all children — whether Shia, Sunni, or Christian — the worth and dignity of all faiths and the common ground between them.

The Lebanese model is a good starting point for developing a framework that can be used worldwide. The Catalyst Foundation's curriculum is likely to include universal themes to prompt youths from very different national, religious, and cultural backgrounds to interact with one another, online or in person,

“

*The Catalyst Foundation is assessing pilot civic-education projects in the region — as well as in Eastern Europe, Africa, and the United States — to determine how school curricula can best cultivate inter-faith understanding.*

”

by sharing their own insights and experiences. The goal is to foster cultural and religious understanding and dialogue among young people at a critical stage of their education, with the hope that they will grow up to become their countries' and communities' leaders.

Indeed, reformers have many opportunities to create new virtuous

cycles across the Middle East's education sectors, and they should take a lesson from Sir Ronald Cohen's pioneering work in social-impact investing, and social enterprise as a whole. Education-sector social entrepreneurs now have more financing tools at their disposal than ever before — from venture capital to targeted-investment funds and other new asset classes — and they can play an important role in bringing the Middle East's classrooms into the twenty-first century.

Too many past ideas that have emerged from the nonprofit sector have stalled, owing to a lack of finance. The Catalyst Foundation aims to provide seed capital for education start-ups and to help them scale up successful programs.

For anyone who cares about education in the Middle East, our task is clear: to furnish millions of poor and vulnerable young people with the support they need to transform and improve their lives through learning. As the Catalyst Foundation intends to show, a little social enterprise can go a long way.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Demographics and Development



**Mahmoud Mohieldin**  
World Bank Group's Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, and is a former minister of investment of Egypt.



Achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals – which aim to end poverty, boost shared prosperity, and promote sustainability, between now and 2030 – will require overcoming some major obstacles, ranging from securing enough financing to addressing climate change to managing macroeconomic shocks. But there is one potential obstacle that could turn out to be a blessing in disguise: the diverse demographic shifts that will take place in the coming years.

By the time the SDG agenda reaches its end date, there will be an estimated 8.5 billion people worldwide. Twenty years later – just 34 years from now – there will be nearly ten billion, or nearly 2.5 billion more people than there are on Earth today. What will such a world look like? Where will those additional people live? How will they make their living? Will they bolster or weigh down national economies?

For clues, we can look 35 years in the past, to the early 1980s. US President Ronald Reagan, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French President François Mitterrand, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dominated the world's headlines. Personal computer sales were miniscule. And children competed over Rubik's cubes, rather than augmented-reality Pokémon.

At that time, the world's population was about 4.5 billion, 42 percent of whom – almost two billion – lived in extreme poverty. Excessive population growth, it was feared, would outpace agricultural production and create yet more poverty.

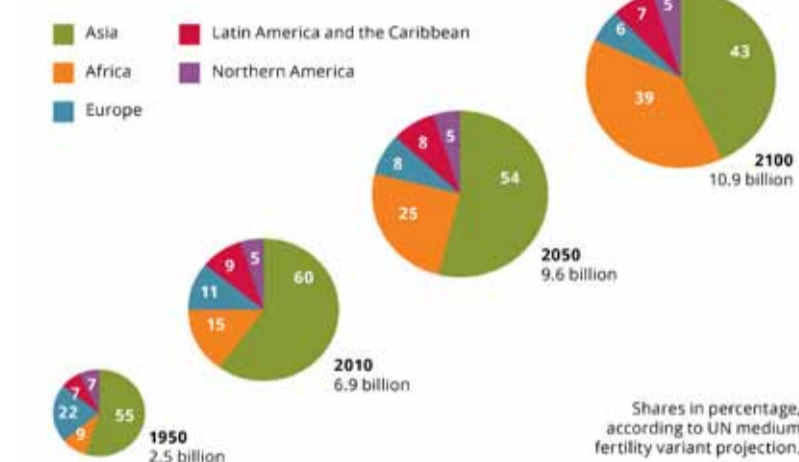
Yet the Malthusian predictions were wrong. Although the world population has surged to 7.5 billion, only about

750 million people – just 10 percent of the total population – live in extreme poverty today. China and India, in particular, lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty in recent decades, increasing their citizens' incomes and improving their health.

China and India achieved this partly by strengthening institutions and pursuing policies that supported strong, relatively inclusive growth. China, for its part, also took advantage of a "demographic dividend": fertility rates fell, and the labor force grew faster than the dependent population, freeing up resources to invest in people and capital. This produced higher growth and living standards.

Such a dividend can run for decades. And, for China, it has, though it is now reaching its conclusion. For India and other developing countries, however, the demographic dividend is just starting to be felt. In fact, fully 90 percent of global poverty is concentrated in countries with growing working-age populations, creating an important opportunity for rapid poverty reduction in the coming decades.

For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is currently plagued with high levels of extreme poverty, children under 15 years of age account for 43 percent of the total population. When these children are old enough to enter the labor force, the proportion



of income-earners in the economy could be increased substantially, boosting average per capita incomes. But not all countries are set to benefit from a "youth bulge." Between now and 2030, several middle-income countries will experience a decline in the share of the working-age population. Among other things, this reflects the tendency, supported by empirical evidence, for higher incomes to impel households to delay having children.

Even here, however, the demographic news is not all bad – and not just because the shift from higher to lower fertility typically correlates with a shift from lower to higher life expectancy. History suggests that there is a second type of demographic dividend – one that actually lasts

longer and is more durable than the first – which emerges when the accumulated savings of an aging population produce a surge in investment. Many wealthier countries have followed this path.

But reaping a demographic dividend takes work. As the World Bank Group's 2015/2016 Global Monitoring Report emphasized, countries' policy responses make all the difference in how demographic trends affect the wellbeing of the population. With the wrong approach, a surging youth population can be destabilizing, and a rapidly aging population can become a burden on economic growth and public budgets. For countries with a growing working-age population, the key challenge is to generate a large number of productive jobs. For

those with an aging population, it is to improve productivity and adapt social-welfare systems. In both cases, investment in human capital and an enabling environment for businesses to boost employment are essential.

Furthermore, countries should take advantage of differences in their demographic situations with appropriate policies on cross-border capital flows, migration, and trade. More capital should flow to countries with younger populations – with their growing manufacturing bases and consumer markets – to support investment and employment growth; and more labor should flow to countries with aging populations, to fill gaps in the workforce. For all of these policies to work, countries need to improve the effectiveness and credibility of their civic and government institutions. Mitigating uncertainty, in order to avoid fueling instability, is also essential.

The last 35 years prove that a larger population does not have to be poorer. While the increasing concentration of the poor in fragile and conflict-affected countries will compound the challenge of poverty reduction over the next few decades, this is no excuse for not ensuring continued progress. We have the resources and knowledge to achieve far greater prosperity, equity, and sustainability. The real challenge will be to use them effectively.

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# Curbing obesity by restoring body's fatty acid balance

The steadily increasing number of obese people in the world, over 600 million in the last count, which has been attributed mainly to an imbalance between their calorie intake and energy expenditure, has come under scrutiny. New research suggests that to prevent and manage obesity in the world's population, omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids need to be rebalanced in the food chain.



Nutrition policies have until recently concentrated on the mismatch between 'calories in and energy out' as the reason for growing obesity, under the mistaken belief that all calories are equal. New research clearly indicates that not all calories are the same and that an imbalance between intake of omega-6 and omega-3 could have a greater role in developing obesity.

The study revealed that humans evolved on a diet that had equal amounts of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. This intrinsic balance is critical to babies' development during pregnancy and breast-feeding, and in preventing and managing chronic diseases.

Now, this 1:1 ratio has been replaced by an omega-6 to omega-3 ratio of 16:1. This substantial ratio difference has emerged as a consequence of significant changes in the food supply over the last 100 years.

Food technology and modern agriculture have led to production of vegetable oils, such as sunflower, safflower, cottonseed, soybean, and corn, which are rich in omega-6 fatty acids. These oils have increasingly found a place in kitchens around the world. Moreover, traditionally animals used to graze on grass containing omega-3, but the swap in animal feeds from grass to grain rich in omega-6, such as corn and soy, have also led to an increase of omega-6 fats in our

Oil	Omega-6 Content	Omega-3 Content
Safflower	75%	0%
Sunflower	65%	0%
Corn	54%	0%
Cottonseed	50%	0%
Sesame	42%	0%
Peanut	32%	0%
Soybean	51%	7%
Canola	20%	9%
Walnut	52%	10%
Flaxseed	14%	57%
Fish*	0%	100%

diet. The change in oils and animal feed has increased levels of linoleic acid and arachidonic acid - two types of omega-6 fatty acids. Linoleic acid levels have soared in the diet from oils and arachidonic acid from meat, eggs, and dairy. The high levels of

omega-6 can lead to increased white fatty tissue and chronic inflammation, which are both hallmarks of obesity and linked to type 2 diabetes, heart disease, metabolic syndrome, and cancer. Omega-6 can also prevent the browning of white fatty tissue to 'good' energy-burning brown fatty tissue and can increase the risk of blood clotting. Substituting meat for fish and changing cooking oils may rebalance the fats in our body.

Fatty acids act directly on the nervous system, influencing food intake and sensitivity of the hormones involved in blood sugar control and appetite suppression. While the body needs both omega-3 and omega-6, the balance between the two is crucial, say

the researchers. In addition to different populations metabolizing fatty acids differently, omega-3 and omega-6 are metabolically and functionally different. Previous studies have linked omega-3 fatty acids to a decrease in the development of fatty tissue and weight loss, while high concentrations of omega-6 have been associated with an increased risk of weight gain.

The researchers say, "The time has come to return the omega-3 fatty acids in the food supply and decrease the omega-6 fatty acids by changing the cooking oils and eating less meat and more fish. The composition of the food supply must also change to be consistent with the evolutionary aspects of diet and the genetics of the population."

## Sweating over a sweat problem



Excessive sweating that result in perpetually damp arm pits and dripping brows is a treatable medical condition, which if left untreated could sometimes lead to other skin problems, warn dermatologists.

Sweating is normal and helps the body stay cool. People sweat more in warm temperatures, when they exercise, or in response to situations that make them nervous, angry, embarrassed, or afraid. Excessive sweating, even when the temperature is cool or when people

are not exercising, could be the result of hyperhidrosis, which is caused by overactive sweat glands.

If you think you might be sweating too much, consult a dermatologist to see if it is normal; they could help diagnose what type of hyperhidrosis you might have and the best way to treat it.

Other tips for people who perspire profusely include, using an antiperspirant instead of a deodorant. Antiperspirants plug sweat glands and stop the outpour of sweat while deodorants are helpful only in reducing body odor. In addition to the armpits, you can apply antiperspirants to any area of the body that sweats, including the palms, back and behind the knees.

Keep a journal to record when you sweat. Then avoid those situations. Common sweating triggers include heat, feeling anxious and certain foods, including caffeine and spicy curries and sauces.

If you have sweaty feet, wear shoes made of natural materials such as leather, which allow air to circulate. Do not wear the same shoes two days in a row, which will allow them to dry completely before you wear them again. Do not wear cotton socks, which trap moisture.

## List of needless medical treatments increase

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in the United Kingdom has recently drawn up a list of over 40 medical treatments that bring little or no benefit for patients and yet are regularly prescribed by many doctors.

The Academy says that patients should ask more questions about procedures prescribed and seek a second or third opinion before opting for the treatment. Among the questions that patients should ask when seeking treatment are: Do I really need this test, treatment or procedure? What are the risks or downsides? What are the possible side-effects? Are there simpler, safer options? What will happen if I do nothing?

As part of an initiative to reduce the number of unnecessary medical treatments, the Academy asked medical experts from 11 different specialties to identify five treatments or procedures commonly used in their field that were not always necessary or valuable.

Tap water is just as good for cleaning cuts and grazes as saline solution

Electronic monitoring of a baby's heart is only needed during labor if the mother has a higher-than-normal risk of complications. Small wrist fractures in children do not normally need a plaster



cast, and will heal just as quickly with a removable splint

Children with bronchiolitis, or breathing problems, usually get better without treatment

For children with chronic constipation changes to diet and lifestyle should be considered first to relieve the symptoms, rather than resorting to medicines.

Women over 45 do not need a blood test to diagnose the menopause.

Aspirin is not recommended as a way of reducing the chances of pregnant women developing blood clots.

X-rays are of no real help to those with lower back pain.

Routine screening for prostate conditions using a test known as a

Prostate Specific Antigen, or PSA test, does not lead to longer life and can bring unnecessary anxiety.

Most patients do not need routine preoperative tests before minor or intermediate surgery.

Chemotherapy may be used to relieve symptoms of terminal cancer but it cannot cure the disease and may well bring further distress in the final months of life.

After treatment for cancer, the use of routine scanning should only be used where this is beneficial to the patient.

When patients are particularly frail or in their last year of life, discuss decreasing the number of medicines to only those used for control of symptoms.



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