



**LOCAL** **8**  
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# THE TIMES

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**VIEWPOINT** **5**  
**The not-so-dire future of Work**

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## Inward investments to Kuwait gather steam

**D**irect inward investments to Kuwait during the period April 2016 to March 2017 increased by 5.75 percent from a year earlier to touch KD363.8 million, reveals a new report from the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

In its second annual report that was presented on 15 October, the KDIPA provided an overview highlighting its achievements for the year under review. The Authority noted that since early 2015, the total amount of approved and licensed direct investments reached KD707.8 million. The KDIPA pointed out that licenses were given to 22 legal entities from 14 different nations, mainly in the services sector, including in the fields of Information and Communication Technology, healthcare, renewable energy and maintenance services.

The authority clarified that the new investment licenses would help create more than 1,000 direct jobs for Kuwaiti nationals, as well as thousands of indirect jobs across the economy. In addition, these investments would also provide specialized training programs to qualify the national talents and raise their capabilities, and support local research and development (R&D) in different fields.

KDIPA added that attracting such value added direct investments not only contributes



to economic diversification and encouraging private sector participation in the economy, it also favorably impacts enhancing of local productive capacity, and fostering sustainable growth, while supporting the developmental pillars of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Furthermore, such direct investments boost cooperation and communication between local companies and the licensed international companies. For instance, Huawei and GE, two large foreign entities that recently entered into

direct investments in Kuwait, have established the Huawei Center for Innovation & Training, and the GE Kuwait Technology Center, respectively. These centers support innovation in product development, raise efficiency and enhance productivity among local manpower.

The authority clarified that it would be following up on activities of the licensed companies to assess their actual impact on the economy, and ascertain the accrued benefits to the country's economic diversification plan by

measuring the scope and size of economic and social outcomes from these investments.

The KDIPA, which was established by Law 116 of the year 2013, is mandated with attracting value added direct investment into Kuwait; promoting Kuwait as a lucrative investment destination; receiving applications for investment licensing and granting incentives; servicing investors; in addition to streamlining business environment and enhancing Kuwait's competitiveness.

In line with its mandate of promoting Kuwait as a lucrative investment destination and attracting value added direct investments to the country, KDIPA partnered with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the US Chamber of Commerce to organize the 'U.S.-Kuwait Economic Forum', which was held on 6 September in Washington DC.

The forum, which is the first of its kind, aimed at highlighting the strength of bilateral economic and commercial relations, and the pivotal role of the private sector in both countries. The gathering also looked to furthering collaboration and promoting Kuwait as a dynamic growth market with a host of lucrative investment opportunities.

*Continued on Page 10*

### US reaffirms strategic partnership with Kuwait

**K**uwait "is an important strategic partner for the US in the Middle East and our relationship is growing", said US Foreign Secretary Rex Tillerson while lauding the "flourishing and always strong US-Kuwaiti partnership".



Recalling His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's meeting with US President Donald Trump in September, Mr. Tillerson re-emphasized that they had "an extraordinary, important and valuable meeting right here in Washington". He also shed light on the "productive" strategic dialogue held between

the US and Kuwait during the visit of His Highness the Amir that addressed defense, trade and a range of other issues.

Welcoming Kuwait's recent commitments to several of President Trump's regional priorities, the Foreign Secretary said, "Kuwait responded to Trump's historic call for action during the Riyadh Summit to defeat the so-called Islamic-state (IS) and prevent terrorism and violent extremism." He also praised the role Kuwait is playing to "diplomatically seek a resolution" for the ongoing crisis in the Gulf.

*Continued on Page 6*

### Shifting school timing eases traffic, improves health, raises revenue

**E**ven with no kids in school, you know the school season has started in Kuwait from the snarling traffic jams and bottlenecks that confront us each day. Major road arteries in the country get besieged by traffic each morning and afternoon, as moms, dads and drivers go to drop off or pick up children from schools.



Traffic chaos has become so inseparably entwined with the school year in Kuwait that most people have come to accept it as an inevitable part of living in this country. For their part, the authorities, rather than find effective solutions to this recurring traffic problem, come out with stock responses and seem more interested in apportioning blame for this recurring snafu on our streets.

Congestion on our roads have been attributed by various authorities to poor road infrastructure, ongoing constructions, too many vehicles, lack of efficient public transport, and, of course, too many expatriates. The so-called experts have also each year come up with the same set of suggestions to remedy the situation: Build more roads, conclude ongoing infrastructure projects faster, reduce vehicles

*Continued on Page 8*

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Intellectual Property for the Twenty-First-Century Economy



Joseph E. Stiglitz, Dean Baker, and Arjun Jayadev

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is University Professor at Columbia University and Chief Economist at the Roosevelt Institute. Dean Baker is Co-Founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Arjun Jayadev, Director of the Research Centre at Azim Premji University, is a professor of economics at Azim Premji University and the University of Massachusetts.

When the South African government attempted to amend its laws in 1997 to avail itself of affordable generic medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, the full legal might of the global pharmaceutical industry bore down on the country, delaying implementation and extracting a high human cost. South Africa eventually won its case, but the government learned its lesson: it did not try again to put its citizens' health and wellbeing into its own hands by challenging the conventional global intellectual property (IP) regime.

Until now. The South African cabinet is preparing to finalize an IP policy that promises to expand access to medicines substantially. South Africa will now undoubtedly face all manner of bilateral and multilateral pressure from wealthy countries. But the government is right, and other developing and emerging economies should follow in its footsteps.

Over the last two decades, there has been serious pushback from the developing world against the current IP regime. In large part, this is because wealthy countries have sought to impose a one-size-fits-all model on the world, by influencing the rulemaking process at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and forcing their will via trade agreements.

The IP standards advanced countries favor typically are designed not to maximize innovation and scientific progress, but to maximize the profits of big pharmaceutical companies and others able to sway trade negotiations. No surprise, then, that large developing countries with substantial industrial bases, such as South Africa, India, and Brazil, are leading the counterattack.

These countries are mainly taking aim at the most visible manifestation of IP injustice: the accessibility of essential medicines. In India, a 2005 amendment created a unique mechanism to restore balance and fairness to patenting standards, thereby safeguarding access. Overcoming several challenges in domestic and international proceedings, the law has been found to comply with WTO standards. In Brazil, early action by the government to treat people with HIV/AIDS resulted in several successful negotiations, lowering drug prices considerably.

These countries are fully justified in opposing an IP regime that is neither equitable nor efficient. In a new paper, we review the arguments about the role of intellectual property in the process of development. We show that the preponderance of theoretical and empirical evidence indicates that the economic institutions and laws protecting knowledge in today's advanced economies are increasingly inadequate to govern global economic activity, and are poorly suited to meet the needs of developing countries and emerging markets. Indeed, they are inimical to providing for basic



human needs such as adequate health care. The central problem is that knowledge is a (global) public good, both in the technical sense that the marginal cost of someone using it is zero, and in the more general sense that an increase in knowledge can improve wellbeing globally. Given this, the worry has been that the market will undersupply knowledge, and research will not be adequately incentivized.

Throughout the late twentieth century, the conventional wisdom was that this market failure could best be rectified by introducing another one: private monopolies, created through stringent patents strictly enforced. But private IP protection is just one route to solving the problem of encouraging and financing research, and it has been more problematic than had been anticipated, even for advanced

The results are unambiguous: innovation has been accelerated, leading to better diagnostic tests (for the presence of, say, the BRCA genes related to breast cancer) at much lower costs.

There are at least three alternatives for financing and incentivizing research. One is to rely on centralized mechanisms of direct support for research, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation in the United States. Another is to decentralize direct funding through, say, tax credits. Or a governmental body, private foundation, or research institution can award prizes for successful innovations (or other creative activity). The patent system can be thought of as awarding a prize. But the prize impedes the flow of knowledge, reduces the benefits derived from it, and distorts the economy. By contrast, the final alternative to

policymakers should strongly encourage the diffusion of knowledge from developed to developing countries. But while the theoretical case for a more open system is robust, the world has been moving in the opposite direction. Over the last 30 years, the prevailing IP regime has erected more barriers to the use of knowledge, often causing the gap between the social returns to innovation and the private returns to widen. The powerful advanced-economy lobbies that have shaped that regime clearly put the latter first, reflected in their opposition to provisions recognizing intellectual property rights associated with traditional knowledge or biodiversity.

The widespread adoption of today's stringent IP protection is also historically unprecedented. Even among the early industrializers, IP protection came very late and often was deliberately eschewed to enable for quicker industrialization and growth.

The current IP regime is not sustainable. The twenty-first-century global economy will differ from that of the twentieth in at least two critical ways. First, the economic weight of the economies such as South Africa, India, and Brazil will be substantially higher. Second, the 'weightless economy' — the economy of ideas, knowledge, and information — will account for a growing share of output, in developed and developing economies alike.

The rules relating to the 'governance' of global knowledge must change to reflect these new realities. An IP regime dictated by the advanced countries more than a quarter-century ago, in response to political pressure by a few of their sectors, makes little sense in today's world. Maximizing profits for a few, rather than global development and welfare for the many, did not make much sense then, either — except in terms of the power dynamics at the time.

Those dynamics are changing, and emerging economies should take the lead in creating a balanced IP system that recognizes the importance of knowledge for development, growth, and wellbeing. What matters is not only the production of knowledge, but also that it is used in ways that put people's health and welfare ahead of corporate profits. South Africa's potential decision to enable access to medicine may be an important milestone on the road toward that goal.



“ The IP standards advanced countries favor typically are designed not to maximize innovation and scientific progress, but to maximize the profits of big pharmaceutical companies. ”

countries. An increasingly dense 'patent thicket' in a world of products requiring thousands of patents has sometimes stifled innovation, with more spent on lawyers than on researchers in some cases. And research often is directed not at producing new products but at extending, broadening, and leveraging the monopoly power granted through the patent.

The US Supreme Court's 2013 decision that naturally occurring genes cannot be patented has provided a test of whether patents stimulate research and innovation, as advocates claim, or impede it, by restricting access to knowledge.

this system maximizes the flow of knowledge, by maintaining a creative commons, exemplified by open-source software.

Developing economies should use all of these approaches to promote learning and innovation. After all, economists have recognized for decades that the most important determinant of growth, and thus of gains in human development and welfare, is technological change and the knowledge it embodies. What separates developing countries from developed countries is as much a gap in knowledge as a gap in resources. To maximize global social welfare,



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Educating for Myanmar's Future



**Caroline Kende-Robb**

Chief adviser to the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity

The violence that has ravaged Myanmar's Rakhine State underscores the challenges the country faces on its bumpy road from military rule to democracy. The country is confronting a deep crisis, and urgent action is desperately needed to prevent further violence and assist the huge numbers of refugees and internally displaced people. To address the political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian challenges fueled by the crisis, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Kofi Annan, recommends urgent and sustained action on a number of fronts to prevent violence, maintain peace, and foster reconciliation.

While global attention has rightly focused on how to end the attacks on Muslim Rohingya, many other, more systemic fixes are critical to Myanmar's long-term stability. Education reform is one of the most important.

In late August, I was in Naypyidaw, Myanmar's new capital, with the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. The Education Commission, as we are known, was there to present findings from our latest report, The Learning Generation, and to share ideas with the country's leadership on paying for education and improving outcomes. We met with Aung San Suu Kyi, the government's de facto leader, and Myo Thein Gyi, the education minister.

Our conversations were cordial and productive. By the end, we agreed on this much: sustaining Myanmar's political transition hinges on improving its education sector.

To many of Myanmar's leaders, their country is an economic-power-in-waiting. Home to some 53 million people, it is rich in minerals, natural gas, and fertile farmland, and it occupies a strategic location between India and China. Most important, Myanmar is rich in human potential, with a diverse and youthful workforce — the median age is just 28 — ready to take their country forward. What Myanmar lacks are the schools needed to train them. Before military rule was imposed in 1962, Myanmar's education system was among the best in Asia. For the next half-century, schools were neglected and underfunded. Starved of resources and teachers, the system atrophied. Rote learning replaced critical thinking, undermining creativity. Today, while some children have returned to the classroom, attendance in many parts of the country remains low, and teaching standards poor, contributing to high dropout rates.

In addition to these shortcomings, Myanmar faces severe human challenges, including endemic poverty, poor health indicators, and a lack of basic infrastructure. Among ASEAN countries, Myanmar has the lowest life expectancy and the second-highest rate of infant and child mortality.

Improving Myanmar's education system,



while tackling its other problems, will not be easy. But it can be done. Vietnam and South Korea offer inspiring examples of countries that transformed their education systems within a generation. As former South Korean education minister and commission member Lee Ju-ho noted during our visit, teaching young people to think critically takes time, but the results can have powerful knock-on effects for a country's knowledge economy.

Aware of these benefits, Myanmar has put education at the heart of its reform agenda. One priority — to improve inclusivity — is already underway. For example, the government is currently working to encourage instruction in more local languages — more than 100 are spoken in Myanmar — in rural areas. Moreover, the government has increased its education budget, from just 0.7 percent of GDP in 2011 to 2.1 percent of GDP in 2014. While spending remains far below the regional average of 3.6 percent of GDP, funding is moving in the right direction.

To be sure, much work remains to be done. The government's recently completed National Education Strategic Plan sets out an ambitious five-year timeline to improve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of all its students. The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State recommends that all communities should

have equal access to education. The Education Commission supports these recommendations. As Suu Kyi noted during our conversation, education will play an increasingly important role in reducing poverty and promoting peace. If members of the current generation are to become productive members of society, she noted, they must be trained in cultural and ethical understanding.


During this fraught period of political transition, inclusive education can help promote a peaceful consolidation of democracy. As the crisis in Rakhine State powerfully illustrates, ethnic and ideological rifts run deep in Myanmar,

and accessible, quality education may be the only means by which a common sense of shared identity can be cultivated. And, of course, better training in basic skills can also ultimately boost economic growth and increase social welfare.


The list of challenges facing Myanmar's leaders is long, and overcoming most of them will be neither quick nor easy. But ensuring that no child loses the opportunity to learn must rank near the top of the country's agenda.





“Teaching young people to think critically takes time, but the results can have powerful knock-on effects for a country's knowledge economy.”



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# Africa's growth to lag rest of the world

In its latest biannual assessment of global economic health, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) notes that economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa is on average lagging behind growth in other parts of the world.

The IMF publishes its analysis and projections of economic developments on the global level through the World Economic Outlook in April and September/October of each year. The October 2017 report points out that, while global growth forecast for 2017 and 2018 is 3.6 percent and 3.7 percent respectively, in sub-Saharan Africa it is 2.6 percent in 2017 and 3.4 percent in 2018.

The report notes that though there is a global upswing in economic activity supported by "notable pickups in investments, trade and industrial production, coupled with strengthening business and consumer confidence", the prospects for many emerging market and developing economies in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America remain "lackluster".

The IMF outlook for sub-Saharan region clarifies that there are significant differences between different nations in this region, with the bigger economies being held back by "idiosyncratic factors", many other countries are



being hobbled "by delays in implementing policy adjustments".

The report cautioned that beyond the short term, "growth is expected to rise gradually, but barely above population growth, as large consolidation needs weigh on public spending".

Nigeria and South Africa, the two largest economies in sub-Saharan Africa and which contribute more than half of the region's GDP,

are expected to lift regional growth next year, once their central banks cut rates to boost economies.

Nigeria's economy, currently Africa's biggest, will grow 2.4 percent in 2018, up from 0.8 percent this year, while South Africa, the continent's most industrialized economy, is expected to grow 1.2 percent in 2018 compared to 0.7 percent this year.

Economists expect the two economies, which emerged from recession in the second-quarter of this year, to cut interest rates sometime in the first-quarter of next year – South Africa by 25 basis points to 6.5 percent and Nigeria by the same margin to 13.75 percent.

However, analysts warn, return of consumer confidence will be key to buoyancy in both economies. Nigeria has suffered from dollar shortages and fall in commodity prices, while South Africa has been dogged by political uncertainty.

While market recovery in the developed economies is likely to benefit growth in sub-Saharan Africa, weak investment and productivity in the region will need to be addressed through stronger foreign direct investment, higher government revenues and more inclusive growth said the IMF report.

Two bright spots in the region are Ethiopia and Ghana, where growth next year could be better than the continent's biggest economies. Ghana is expected to grow 6.6 percent next year from the 6.3 percent in 2017, while Ethiopia, already one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, could grow by 9 percent, the IMF reported.

## TEF Forum witnesses largest gathering of African entrepreneurs



Africa's leading philanthropy dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship, the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), concluded its 3rd annual TEF Entrepreneurship Forum on 14 October in Lagos, Nigeria.

With more than 1,300 participants from 54 African countries, the Forum was not only the largest gathering, but also the most diverse and inclusive of its kind on the continent. Innovations across sectors, including agriculture, technology, healthcare, fashion and energy generation were featured at the forum.

The Forum, which was launched in 2015 out of the Foundation's US\$100 million commitment to identify, train, mentor and fund 10,000 African entrepreneurs over a decade, has over the years grown in popularity across the continent.

Addressing this year's gathering, philanthropist and founder of TEF, Tony O. Elumelu, who is also Chairman of the United Bank for Africa, spoke of his belief, that a vibrant African-led private sector is the key to unlocking Africa's economic and social potential.

"Africa's development, which must be private-sector led and entrepreneurially driven, will have at

its heart, young African innovators and their transformative ideas. Only they will create the millions of jobs Africa needs. The Forum has brought together Africa's most important developmental force, her young entrepreneurs who will become catalysts for Africa's economic liberation.

We have united the African entrepreneurship ecosystem, putting the entrepreneurs at center stage. I want to thank those heads of government and other key policymakers, who have supported our firm belief that the private sector is the engine for growth and the private sector players, who are models of our philosophy of Africapitalism – the idea that business will drive change and that change must deliver economic and social wealth" he explained.

The two-day event provided African entrepreneurs with a platform to network and connect with business leaders, policymakers and investors. Focusing on the Forum's theme of training and mentoring, speakers discussed topics that educated, empowered and inspired the entrepreneurs, addressing the key stages needed to successfully launch a business.



## Morocco king calls for rethink on poverty projects

Opening a new session of Parliament on 6 October, King Mohammed VI of Morocco delivered an uncompromising speech, where he termed the current model of development of the kingdom "unfit" to respond to the demands of Moroccans.

He ordered the government to rethink its development model, telling legislators the country's anti-poverty programs are no longer working. The king was especially critical of the management of social programs and said that, "greater firmness is needed to break with the laissez-faire and fraudulent practices that harm the interests of citizens".

Ordering an auditors inquiry into development projects around Morocco, the king said that tougher monitoring of such programs was needed. He urged the government to revise the development model to address existing imbalances.

The speech comes amid simmering discontent in Morocco's northern Rif region over economic problems



and corruption. The region recently witnessed a protest by citizens under the banner of 'Thirst', against the lack of clean drinking water in the region following a prolonged period of hot weather and drought.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Morocco, the country staged test runs on the continent's first high-speed railway, which is slated to come into operation during the summer of 2018. The national railway network, ONCF, announced last week that following successful completion of a 275kmph test run held earlier this year, the railway was going ahead with the final

speed test of 350kmph.

The earlier test of the high-speed rail project was witnessed by French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who was in the country to monitor progress on the project, which is partly funded by France.

"At 270-275 kilometers per hour, this is already the fastest train on the African continent," Le Drian commented during a ceremony to mark the signing of a loan to the ONCF by the French Development Agency. France is providing 50 percent of the two-billion-euro cost and the rolling stock will be provided by France's Alstom engineering company.

The 350-kilometre link between Casablanca and Tangiers via the capital Rabat will cut journey times between the north African country's economic hubs by almost two-thirds, to just over two hours. Difficult terrain and high winds on parts of the route have entailed some major engineering works, including the construction of 12km of viaducts.

## Online lending program for small businesses in Africa

Jumia, the dominant e-commerce company in sub-Saharan Africa, is expanding the small business loan program it launched earlier this year into every country where the company operates.

Working with the San Francisco-based lender Branch, Jumia began offering start-up loan for small businesses in May. The loans were pegged to vendors' sales history with Jumia and projections for the future performance of the businesses.

In Kenya, sellers received loans of up to 30,000 Kenyan shillings (roughly \$290), with a six-month term on the loan to finance their businesses. Interest rates on the loans are 1.2 percent per month. The loans are made available in seconds on the Branch app

and are disbursed through M-Pesa.

So far, 200 vendors have applied for, and received, loans from a beta version of the new program. Jumia's co-chief



executive, Sacha Poignonnec, the expansion of the program is a matter of simplifying the lending processes for small and medium sized businesses in Africa.

"The Jumia lending program was launched with the aim of making



it easier for SMEs to grow their businesses," said Sacha Poignonnec, co-chief executive of Jumia. "We know that many SMEs on our platform struggle to secure affordable credit from financial institutions, thereby limiting their potential to invest in their businesses and themselves."

All it takes to apply for the program is for sellers to fill out an online application form. Credit decisions will be made within two days.





EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# The not-so-dire future of Work



Zia Qureshi

Former director of development economics at the World Bank, is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The future of work is a hot topic nowadays. It has inspired a seemingly endless train of analyses, commentaries, and conferences, and it featured prominently in last week's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. For good reason: new technologies – namely, digitization, robotics, and artificial intelligence – have far-reaching implications for employment. But, contrary to how the story is often framed, a happy ending is possible.

The current debate often skews toward the melodramatic, foretelling a future in which machines drive humans out of work. According to some bleak estimates, 47 percent of jobs are at risk in the United States; 57 percent in the OECD countries; two thirds in developing economies; and half of all jobs globally (around two billion).

But similarly dire predictions of large-scale job destruction and high technology-driven structural unemployment accompanied previous major episodes of automation, including by renowned economists. John Maynard Keynes offered one; Wassily Leontief provided another, neither materialized. Instead, technological change acted as a powerful driver of productivity and employment growth.

“

*Social contracts based on formal long-term employer-employee relationships will need to be overhauled, with benefits such as retirement and health care made more portable.*

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One key reason is that the technological innovations that destroy some existing jobs also create new ones. While new technologies reduce demand for low- to middle-skill workers in routine jobs, such as clerical work and repetitive production, they also raise demand for higher-skill workers in technical, creative, and managerial fields. A recent analysis estimates that new tasks and job titles explain about half of the recent employment growth in the US. Given this, the evolution of work should be viewed as a process of dynamic



adjustment, not as a fundamentally destructive process that we should seek to slow. To erect barriers to innovation, such as taxes on robots, which some have proposed as a way to ease the pressure on workers, would be counterproductive. Instead, measures should focus on equipping workers with the higher-level skills that a changing labor market demands, and supporting workers during the adjustment process.

So far, education and training have been losing the race with technology. Shortages of the technical and higher-level skills demanded by new technologies are partly responsible for the paradox of booming technology and slowing productivity growth in advanced economies: skills shortages have constrained the diffusion of innovations. Imbalances between supply and demand have also fueled income inequality, by increasing the wage premium that those with the right skills can command.

To address these shortcomings, education and training programs must be revamped and expanded. As the old career path of 'learn, work, retire' gives way to one of continuous learning – a process reinforced by the aging of many economies' workforces – options for reskilling and lifelong education must be scaled up.

This will demand innovations in the content, delivery, and financing of training, as well as new models for public-private partnerships. The potential of technology-enabled solutions must be harnessed, supported by a stronger foundation of digital literacy. At a time of rising inequality – in the US, for example, gaps in higher education attainment by family income level have widened – a strong commitment to improving access for the economically disadvantaged is also vital.

At the same time, countries must facilitate workers' ability to change jobs through reforms to their labor markets and social safety nets. This means shifting the focus from backward-looking labor-market

policies, which seek to protect workers in existing jobs, to future-oriented measures, such as innovative insurance mechanisms and active labor-market policies.

Moreover, social contracts based on formal long-term employer-employee relationships will need to be overhauled, with benefits such as retirement and health care made more portable and adapted to evolving work arrangements, including the expanding 'gig' economy. Here, several proposals have already been put forward, including a universal

basic income, currently being piloted in Finland and some sub-national jurisdictions such as Ontario, Canada; a negative income tax; and various types of portable social security accounts that pool workers' benefits.

On both of these fronts, France is setting a positive example. Early this year, the country launched a portable "personal activity account," which enables workers to accrue rights to training across multiple jobs, rather than accumulating such rights only within a specific position or company. President Emmanuel Macron's

administration is now undertaking reforms to France's stringent job protections, in order to boost labor-market flexibility. Pursuing such initiatives simultaneously will enable France to capture reform synergies and ease the adjustment for workers.

Technological change will continue to pose momentous challenges to labor markets across economies, just as it has in the past. But, with smart, forward-looking policies, we can meet those challenges head on, and ensure that the future of work is a better job.

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# Renminbi rise unlikely to oust Dollar



Paola Subacchi

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In the dystopian fantasy *Blade Runner 2049*, Los Angeles 32 years from now looks a lot like China's megacities today: grey, polluted, and dominated by tall towers emblazoned with flashing neon advertisements. The viewer never learns much about the outside world, much less in what currency the advertised goods are traded. Is the US dollar still dominant, has the Chinese renminbi taken over, or has some other currency surged to global preeminence?

US President Donald Trump seems intent on ensuring that America retreats, at least partly, from its global leadership role. But, as was the case with the British pound in the interwar period, a currency can remain globally dominant even after its issuing country loses its economic, financial, and geopolitical hegemony. Today, too, the world should expect the US dollar to remain the key reserve currency, used to invoice and settle international trade, for a long time to come.

But, in terms of international financial diplomacy, the dollar's position may not be as secure. The question is whether the end of 'dollar diplomacy', which the economist Barry Eichengreen predicts, will necessarily mean the rise of renminbi diplomacy.

Chinese policymakers have been hoping to develop the renminbi's role in international finance, in order to strengthen China's geopolitical standing, since the 1990s. And, in recent years, the Chinese leadership has led a concerted effort to fulfill that ambition, especially by internationalizing China's currency. Yet renminbi-denominated finance is nowhere near ready to compete with, let alone rival, dollar finance. In fact, the renminbi still trails other reserve currencies (the US dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen, and the British pound) in international finance by so much that a renminbi-led international monetary system by mid-century seems about as likely as a *Blade Runner 2049*-style dystopia.

One reason for the renminbi's continued



weakness in international finance is that, despite considerable progress since 2010, it remains a half-baked international currency. The renminbi is illiquid and unconvertible outside designated offshore markets. As a result, its weight in international investors' portfolios is miniscule.

Even China itself uses the renminbi in only about a quarter of its international trade, and its international finance remains dollar-denominated. China's blue-chip firms – Alibaba, Baidu, and Tencent – are listed in New York or Hong Kong, where they are priced either in US or Hong Kong dollars. And most of China's fast-expanding loans and overseas investments are in dollars.

But the most compelling reason why one should not expect a renminbi-dominated international finance system to arise anytime soon is that China's leaders have never shown any sustained commitment to developing the renminbi as a true alternative to the dollar. Instead, they have pursued a cooperative approach to reform of the international monetary system, which they argue should not be dependent on any one currency.

For the Chinese, the future of the international monetary system should be one in which multiple national currencies provide

choice, in terms of invoicing, payments, and asset allocation, thereby reducing the system's exposure to national politics. Moreover, with more central banks creating liquidity, and international financial centers offering pools of it, such a system would entail a lower risk

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*The renminbi is illiquid and unconvertible outside designated offshore markets. As a result, its weight in international investors' portfolios is miniscule.*

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of cash crunches. Already, China has been experimenting with the development of offshore renminbi markets in key financial centers, as a way to overcome its currency's limited liquidity.

In order to build such a multi-currency system, however, the world would need to undertake far-reaching reforms of the international institutions. This was precisely the point that Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the People's Bank of China, made in a 2009 speech challenging the view that only the US, through the dollar, could guarantee the functioning of the international monetary system.

As Zhou pointed out, the US dollar's monetary dominance is underpinned by the Bretton Woods institutions, created after World War II. Reforming the international monetary system, therefore, means reforming the governance of the multilateral financial institutions – an argument that China emphasized during its G20 presidency last year.

As the US retreats from the world stage and a multipolar global order emerges, the international monetary system may well be transformed – but probably not into a renminbi-led system. Whether because of the intrinsic weakness of China's international finance or an understanding that a truly international currency must be more market-driven than the government-controlled renminbi could be, not even China expects the age of renminbi diplomacy to arrive anytime soon.

## US reaffirms strategic partnership with Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

The Foreign Secretary was speaking at a gala dinner hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah at the country's embassy in Washington, to honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The dazzling event was attended by US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres and high-ranking members of the US cabinet. The event witnessed the honoring of First Lady Melania Trump as the recipient of the Kuwait-America Foundation 2017 Humanitarian Award.

Continuing his address to the gathering, Mr. Tillerson also highlighted Kuwait's generosity and humanitarian efforts, saying, "Kuwait has also generously provided important support to humanitarian initiatives in the wake of the IS related violence in Iraq and Syria."

"Kuwait remains the UNHCR's largest donor from the Middle East and North Africa, and



Kuwait has also contributed large amounts of money in bilateral assistance to Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Iraq to support their

efforts, as those countries host refugees from Syria and other parts of the region," he added. "The US is proud to have a partner so

deeply committed to address and provide for displaced persons," he remarked.

In his speech at the event Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah referred to the deep commitment he shares with his wife Sheikha Rima for philanthropy, which is "who we are as Kuwaitis. It is woven into the fabric of the nation we represent". He added "as has been the case for decades, Kuwait and the United States are working hard together, as friends and allies, to resolve disputes throughout the Middle East and to plan for a more secure and prosperous future for our peoples."

For his part, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, who was in attendance, stressed the importance of such-high level attendance at the Kuwait Embassy represented by President Donald Trump, the First Lady and high level members of the cabinet, underlines the "strong relationship Kuwait enjoys with the US." He added that this also reconfirms the success of the "foreign policies and humanitarian efforts of Kuwait led by His Highness the Amir."



# New makeover revises glory of iconic Islam Gymkhana in Mumbai



SAH RIZVI

Special to The Times

Described as one of the heritage building, the Islam Gymkhana in Mumbai is witnessing a modern makeover in a bid to revive the glory of this iconic building, which was established as a social and sporting club. The makeover has not only restored its past glory but has enabled this historic institution to move ahead with the times.

of Indian cricket and till today various cricketing events are held here.

In 1942, during the Second World War, the Islam Gymkhana and Parsi Gymkhana were taken over by the British Government as an emergency measure and its members were allowed to use the facilities of the Hindu Gymkhana which was situated nearby.

But with cricket catching the national imagination and new stadium like Wankhede coming up,

some of whom barely visited the gymkhana, and get them involved in the sporting body's activities. I worked on various fronts to make this happen," recalled Zakaullah.

Among the first task that he identified was to set new meeting points where members could meet and interact. The conference hall was fully renovated with ACs, new sofa set, tables and chairs. "We also worked to renovate the meeting room on the ground floor that could hold a small conference."

Along with Honorary Joint secretary Rizwana Panjani, who was also an event management expert, Zakaullah decided to set up two new restaurants which had Mughal aura associated with it. The two restaurants, Diwan-i-Aam and Diwani-i-Khaas, boasted not only Mughlai, but also of Chinese, Continental and vegetarian delights.

Ornately designed Diwan-i-Khas, which provided cuisines at a very reasonable rate, was inaugurated by thespian Dilip Kumar in 2003. In the evening with bracing fresh air blowing from the sea, Zakaullah made a wide seating arrangement on the spacious lawns for members to sit and enjoy their tea. In addition, he set up a modern gym for physical fitness, renovated billiard rooms, created a new indoor game center, besides renovating the card room.

The members returned in drove, many new members joined the old

list and today Islam Gymkhana boast a membership of 1,500 prominent citizens. "When we took over in 2000, we had a small corpus of fund just at Rs80 lakhs today we have a reserve capital of Rs15 crores."

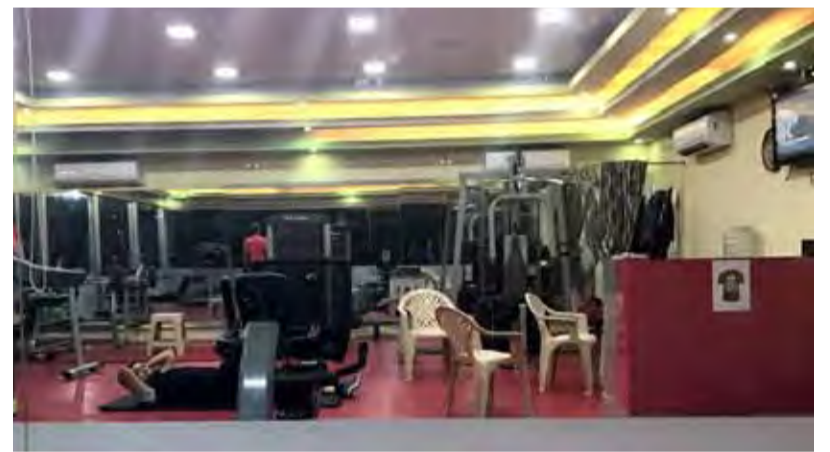
With the demand for membership increasing the Islam Gymkhana hiked its admission fee and yet the demand continues to soar. "We have decided to maintain a healthy balance and keep membership controlled to a level that we can handle".

Zakaullah said his main aim was to revive the glory of this historic institution which its founding members had dreamt and aimed for. "Our focal area remains to give the best facilities to our members, to make it modern and blend the past with modern outlook."

Islam Gymkhana till today is the headquarters of Indian Billiard

Association. "Our committee will continue to put focus on the institution as a social and sporting club. I am happy that large number of our members now use our facility for their family function like marriages, birthdays and even their social meets."

Zakaullah has many other plans up his sleeve for this institution which already has become a talk of the town.



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Facing the vast expanse of the Arabian Sea on the Marine Drive, land to the Islam Gymkhana was allotted in 1890 by the then Bombay Governor Lord Harris. Sir Khan Bahadur Kazi Shahabuddin was elected as the first President of the Gymkhana in 1892.

Islam Gymkhana soon donned the mantle as a leading sporting body of Mumbai and played a pivotal role, along with the Parsi Gymkhana, in the promotion of cricket as a key national game. In fact, Islam Gymkhana housed the Bombay Cricket Association in its premises till 1942. It is also considered as the alma mater

the focus shifted to the new venues, although Islam Gymkhana continued to host some local sporting events. Over the years, the institution had not much role in its coffers

In 2000, a towering businessman of Mumbai, Zakaullah Siddiqui, a key name in the travel sector besides other business interests, was elected as President of Islam Gymkhana. Known among friends as a go getter and a visionary, Zakaullah soon got down to script a new chapter in the history of the gymkhana.

" My major task was to attract existing members of the institution,

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# Abolish 153 campaign seeks to rid Kuwait of archaic law

A campaign is gaining steam in Kuwait to abolish an outdated 'honour-killing law' which allows men who kill their female family members alleged to have engaged in sex outside of marriage to get off with only a misdemeanor crime punishable by a three-year prison sentence (or less) and/or a maximum fine of KD225.

The contentious Article 153 was instituted 57 years ago and actually predates Kuwait's independence from Great Britain. Dr. Alanoud Al Sharekh, a prominent rights activist from Kuwait and consultant at Ibtakar Strategic Consultancy, states that the law has nothing to do with Kuwaiti culture.

One of the founders of the Abolish 153 campaign which started in 2014, Al Sharekh says the law actually derives from Napoleonic Code. "It's actually colonial baggage," she says, laughingly.

Indeed, Article 153 is a remnant of European influence in Kuwait, and was established at a time when the country was seeking to transform its legal system. After signing the Anglo-Kuwaiti Treaty with Great Britain in 1899, Kuwait remained a British protectorate until its independence in 1961.

Today, Kuwait's legal system is an amalgamation of European, Egyptian, and Sharia; incidentally, it's also described as increasingly inefficient and wrought with delays due to complex and lengthy codes that govern the entire legislative framework.

While the actual number of so-called 'honor killings' is very low — only one incident was reported between 2005-2010 when a girl was murdered by her brothers — Abolish 153 wants to get rid of archaic and backwards laws 'once and for all'.



Abolish 153 is as much a response to Kuwait's muddled legal history as it is a campaign to end violence. Since its establishment, Al Sharekh and her co-founders managed to gain significant political traction.

After three years of diligent lobbying, Abolish 153 witnessed its biggest milestone in May 2017, when five MPs signed a bill to end the honor killing law, giving it urgent status within Kuwait's parliament. Prominent legal scholar and rights activist, Dr. Fatima Al Hewail, agrees that an honor killing law is inconsistent with the country's constitution and Sharia. "A civil country, a humanitarian country, should not have this type of law," comments Al Hewail,

who is an assistant professor of international law at Kuwait University and a board member of the Kuwait Women's Cultural & Social Society. Al Hewail is also the first Kuwaiti female PhD holder in international private law and a vocal advocate for amending a variety of legislations that negatively impact Kuwaiti women and families, especially as they pertain to civil status and citizenship. She doesn't shy away from criticizing the country's legislative process either, which she describes as haphazard and subject to the whims of parliamentarians as opposed to the needs of the country. "Laws need to be updated regularly according to a society's needs — they exist to help us better manage our lives, and not just for punishment."

And while some religious clerics have condemned Article 153, including Hamdan Al Azmi, an imam from Kuwait's Ministry of Islamic Affairs, and Dr Bassam Al Shatti, Assistant Professor of Faith and Advocacy in the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, former Kuwaiti MP and Salafist, Abdul Rahman Al Jeeran, has publicly expressed his support for the legislation.

But despite challenges, Al Sharekh remains optimistic. Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia recently repealed a law that allowed rapists to avoid prison if they marry their victims. "There is a movement in the Gulf and wider Arab world to remove violent legislations against women," she says.

"The region is starting to focus on empowering women, and more people are beginning to understand that violent legislations are mechanisms of disempowerment."

## Shifting school timing eases traffic, improves health, raises revenue

Continued from Page 1

on roads, improve public transport services and, again, throw out the expatriates, or at least deny them driving licenses or charge them fees for using the roads.

Someone somewhere needs to wake up and realize that dumping expatriates is not the solution to our traffic woes.

We need to seriously rethink our car culture shaped by that 'American ideal' which equates owning cars with personal freedom, stature and success in life. Using individual cars as the preferred mode of mobility probably makes sense in sparsely populated large country such as the US. In a small country the size of Kuwait, where most people live and work along a short linear route stretching parallel to the country's coastline, an efficient public transport system would have been the perfect choice.

Traffic congestions are not just an irritating inconvenience, they are a health hazard to vehicle occupants, a major cause of pollution to the public, and they account for a significant loss in productivity and revenue to the state.

One scenario that the authorities could consider is shifting school timings. Students in most schools now go to classes at 7 or 7.30am and leave around 2pm. Most children and their parents have to wake up way before 7am to reach school on time, depriving children of their much-needed sleep which impairs their health and scholastic performance. Shifting school timing by even an hour could make a huge impact on road traffic during rush hours, and it could also have the added benefit of giving more sleep time to our children.

A recent study in the US, of students who start school early, showed that the vast majority of them arrived at school in a sleep-deprived state. This lack of sleep not only affected their academic performance but also left the children less motivated, more depressed and likely to be tardy and truant at school. The study also found that most of these undesirable traits were not manifested in children studying in schools that opened later in the day. On a separate note, another study conducted by the RAND Corporation and RAND Europe on the economic implications of a shift in school start times in the United States, found that a nationwide switch to start schools at 8.30am could contribute as much as \$83 billion to the US economy within a decade and more than \$140 billion in 15 years. To digress, just imagine the number of the walls that President Trump could build with that kind of money.

The economic gains projected through the study model would be realized through higher academic and professional performance of students, which would impact the jobs that adolescents are able to obtain in future, and, in turn, the contributions they make to the national economy. Add to this, the reduced car crash rates among sleep-deprived college students rushing to their morning classes, the productivity gains to be realized from not having to spend idle time in traffic jams, and the gains of nearly \$10 billion a year seem very conservative.

In a perfect world we would all whizzing around to wherever we wanted to whizz around in elegant public transport systems and children would be peacefully dozing in the beds at unearthy hours. But then, we do not live in a perfect world, and so year after year we sit in our cars twiddling our thumbs while stuck in traffic, alongside thousands of other vehicles all belching corroding polluting fumes around us.



## ILOA felicitates achievers

Indian Learners Own Academy (ILOA) celebrated their Annual Day function and held its 7th Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony on the school premises on 1 October, 2017. The Chief Guest Dr. Shobha Vaddadhi, Principal of Global English Indian School, a very versatile and seasoned administrator, presided over the event. The other esteemed guests of honors was Kapil Kumra and Alka Kumra, who were beside the Chairman D.K. Sharma and the School Principal Asha Sharma.

The Principal Mrs. Sharma highlighted the achievements of the school and the students. Dr. Shobha Vaddadhi, in her presidential address, emphasized on the importance of student-teacher interaction in a classroom. This was followed by the Prize Distribution



Ceremony where the esteemed guests handed over prizes to the academically meritorious students of the school. The toppers of classes 10 and 12 were also felicitated on this occasion by the Chairman D.K. Sharma.

Aqeel Abdul Rahiman was conferred with 22 carat gold medal for being the overall topper of Class 12 in the

Commerce Stream of the academic year 2016-17. He was even awarded with trophies for being the subject topper in three subjects; English, Business Studies and Informatics.

Merin Benny Maliyeckel topped the Science Stream and was awarded with a trophy and a certificate. The toppers of Class 10 who scored a full 10 point CGPA score were felicitated with awards and certificates.

The students who made the school proud were Meerja Ameena Begum, Zarah Theresa, Gohar Iftekhar, Usama Faiz, Subasree Subramani, Rashi Rahul Kulkarni, Ummal Kainath and Adorna Maria Johnny.

All students presented a colorful cultural program which received a huge round of applause from the audience.

## BSK students enjoy a fruity day of learning



At the British School of Kuwait (BSK) Year 3 students immersed themselves into their learning by coming to school dressed as their favorite fruit or vegetable, as part of their Science topic 'Plants and Animals, including Humans'.

During the day, the students participated in some practical learning activities. The teachers and students brought in different types of healthy food and held tasting sessions. The students were also given an opportunity to make fresh smoothies and juices.

Throughout the week, students were also able to join in with a variety of exercise sessions, such as Vibe, Crossfit and yoga.







# Charlotte Tilbury brings her magic to Kuwait

By Nita Bhatkar Chogle  
Special to The Times

**'Give a woman the right make up and she can conquer the world'** is the motto of world renowned make-up artist, founder and creative director of the eponymous beauty and skincare brand, Charlotte Tilbury Beauty.

Charlotte Tilbury was in Kuwait recently to launch her first store in the Middle East, and her first standalone Beauty Wonderland outside the UK, in partnership with international retail franchise operator M.H. Alshaya Co.

At the opening of the stunning, two level store, in Grand Avenue at The Avenues Mall, Charlotte Tilbury was joined by Alshaya's Executive Chairman, Mohammed Alshaya and British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, His Excellency Michael Davenport for the inaugural ribbon cutting. Following the launch,

Charlotte Tilbury said: "I am so thrilled to be back in Kuwait - it is a dream come true to officially open my first ever Beauty Wonderland in the Middle East at The Avenues Mall tonight. I cannot wait for all of the mesmerizing and beautiful Arab women to discover my revolutionary, record-breaking brand!!! You will LOVE my Magic Mirror that morphs my famous '10 Looks Wardrobe' in seconds, as well as the incredible Beauty Boudoir where you can have the red carpet makeup transformation of a lifetime for every special event - from weddings to family celebrations - we have it all!! I call it a beauty playground for every woman from 18-80."

The 240 square meter flagship store is also the brand's largest in the world combining digital innovation with luxurious interiors. The store can make any lady in love with make-up, which is quite the majority, feel like a kid in a



candy store. All of the interior design is befitting of the brand with rich hues and deep colors.

Night crimson velvet sofas, ornate rose gold art-deco fittings and vintage Hollywood style vanity tables all add to the beauty ambience. A unique and first-of-its-kind Magic Mirror helps customers try out 10 iconic looks

virtually without actually applying any make-up.

Charlotte, who has a huge fan following around the world is just as warm in person as she is in her writing and tutorials. She makes all women feel confident and beautiful not just with her make-up but also with her welcoming approach. In a quick tete-

tete, when quizzed about the first product she produced, she quickly shares "Magic cream" Charlotte's Magic Cream which is popular with models and celebrities as well. Her mantra is simple - red carpet skincare and makeup that is easy to choose, easy to use and easy to gift.

The highlight of the launch party was, Charlotte's new, record-breaking, Instant Eye Palette that was available for purchase exclusively in store for one night only. With 30k fans already on the waitlist for the palette, Charlotte surprised and delighted fans in Kuwait by bringing forward a limited quantity for a 24-hour pre-sale.

Following a successful debut of the brand, in Kuwait, Charlotte looks forward to the opening of another store in the Middle East, in Doha at the end of October 2017 and her highly-anticipated Dubai store in early 2018.



## SIMS organizes fancy dress competition



The toddlers and young students of Salmiya Indian Model School (SIMS) put on a great show at the fancy dress competition on the topics 'Community helpers' for grade 1 and 'Indian traditional dress' for grade 2, which was conducted from 9 to 12 October. Students of grade 1 displayed their talent on the theme Community Helpers whereas the students of grade 2 came forward displaying the vibrant and colourful costumes on the theme Indian Traditional dress. Two winners from each class were rewarded with certificates. This competition proved to be a learning experience for the students and gave them a platform to explore their hidden talents.

## Gastronomic delights at Al Manshar Rotana during Diwali promotion

Al Manshar Rotana Hotel launched its Diwali theme buffet from 15 to 21 October to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights.

During the special week, friends and family dined on some of the best Indian delicacies in a traditional Indian setting reminiscent of olden times in the country. Guests savored a varied and plentiful selection on offer, with charming decorative stalls presenting flavorsome Dosa, fresh drinks Jal Jeera and Nimbu Pani and tasty Paratha. There was also the delectable Tandoori Chicken, Seekh Kebab and the popular Papadi Chaat, masala chai and Gulab Jamun that looked very enticing. The highlight of the experience was the



appetizing Kashmiri Chicken, Paneer Makhani and Masala Fried Fish. Guests ended their meal at the scrumptious

sweet corner filled with Laddus, Rava Kesari, Mysore Pak, Rasgulla, Carrot Halwa and Fried Bananas.

## ICSK Amman emerges winners in 'exQUIZit' interschool quiz



The 'quizkids' of the Indian Community School Kuwait (ICSK) Amman Branch bagged the winner's trophy in the second exQUIZit Interschool Quiz competition organized by Salmiya Indian Model School (SIMS), Kuwait on Thursday, 5 October, 2017. The team comprised of Siddharth Sunil of Class IX, Timothy Thomas George of Class X and Ethan Shibu of Class VIII. The Champions trophy rolled into their hands in a breathtaking round that broke the tie between three teams. Principal Rajesh Nair congratulated the team members for their remarkable victory.



# Dental services to expats to suffer price hike

Dental services offered to expatriates are not exempted from the decision to increase fees for health services, said MP Safa'a Al-Hashem on her Twitter account. She added that Minister of Health Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi had earlier met dentists to determine the new fees.

She added, "Enough of the attacks against the minister, who has succeeded so far in protecting public from medicine traders. These people are sharks in the market as they do not care about the lives and comfort of citizens."

Also, MP Faisal Al-Kandari disclosed that Al-Harbi told him about the ministry's plan



to establish a clinic on Failaka Island to serve those visiting the island.

He went on say the minister issued instructions in response to his demand to carry out maintenance works in Al- Qurain Clinic (Block Four) and for Sabah Al-Ahmad Clinic to operate 24 hours a day.



## Exhibition highlights modernized urban development



Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, in association with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA) in Stuttgart, Germany, the German embassy in Kuwait and the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters (NCAAL), launched the exhibition 'Post-Oil City: The History of the City's Future', from 15 October at the Amricani Cultural Centre. Held under the patronage of Ali Al Youha, - NCCAL General Secretary, the launch event included presentations and a roundtable discussion that featured participation of noteworthy names in the field.

The exhibition, ongoing till 15 December, is showcasing innovative projects in Asia, Africa, and America that underline the process of transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and outline how it will affect the process of urban planning and the city, particularly with regards to the challenges posed by climate change.

In his speech, German Ambassador to Kuwait H.E.

Karlfried Bergner noted that this was first large exhibition in the past ten years sponsored by the Embassy and the first held in collaboration with IFA. He lauded the exhibition as a good example of public diplomacy. He pointed out that it will persuade viewers to think about the future of our cities and how can we influence their development in the right direction. The IFA General Director Ronald Gratz also made a welcome address to the audience which was followed by a presentation by the Exhibition Curator Anh- Linh Ngo. Then, a roundtable discussion took place with speakers Exhibition Curator Anh-Linh Ngo and Raphael Lafargue from Transsolar, an international climate engineering firm, with Professor of Architecture at Kuwait University Dr. Mohammed al-Jassar acting as moderator. The speakers tackled topics such as the benefit t of a mid-century utopia for the future, rethinking our ideas of comfort and a Kuwait Master Plan and sustainability, among other topics.

## Marina Hotel Kuwait brings back the enticing Barbeque Nights



Marina Hotel opened its poolside Barbeque Nights in the presence of media representatives and senior management, who enjoyed a range of delicacies prepared by first-rate chefs. The Hotel's spectacular settings, beautiful landscape combined with the warm weather had a very positive impact on all attendees.

Guests were offered a delicious selection from the sumptuous barbecue station filled with marinated and seasoned varieties of succulent meats and chicken, fresh seafood with a rich variety of seaside dishes and a delicious salad bar with an assortment of breads. For the finale, delectable desserts were served. On the occasion, General

Manager, Nabil Hammoud said: "As we do every year, we are pleased to bring back the Barbeque nights this season. The lovely weather proves to be the perfect setting for guests to enjoy our unique dining experience with our specialties cooked with the freshest possible ingredients. With the launch of our Barbeque Nights, we would like to offer you all a scrumptious dining experience at the pool."

The 5-star Hotel seizes every opportunity to dazzle guests with ultimate experiences that gratify their needs. The unique poolside location was designed with a capacity to accommodate up to 150 visitors at a time and has a special area for groups and gatherings.

## Inward investments to Kuwait gather steam

Continued from Page 1

The US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, and Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Khalid Al-Saleh, addressed the distinguished guests, highlighting that both sides were eager to further develop ties on numerous levels and especially within the economic, financial, and commercial domains.

The economic forum presented two panels that focused on showcasing the importance of investments and its developmental role in fostering Kuwait-US economic relations. The first panel discussed strategic insights from the Kuwaiti government while the second panel addressed 'Doing Business in Kuwait'. The forum concluded with practical steps to strengthen business collaboration between the two countries and was marked by the signing of an agreement between Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and The Dow Chemical Company. Another signing of Principles of Cooperation took place between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water and General Electric International Inc.

KDIPA also recently participated in the third Kuwait-India Joint Ministerial Commission held in Kuwait from 18 to 20 September. The Kuwaiti side was headed by Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Khalid Al Saleh, while the Indian side was headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mubasher Akbar. KDIPA was represented at the meetings by Yousef Alobaidan, from the International Agreement Section. The meeting furthered the bilateral relations between the two countries in the agreement for cooperation in



KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

the field of investment, education, health, employment and civil aviation between the two countries.

Since its inception, KDIPA has been contributing to enhancing its developmental, regulatory, promotional and advocacy roles, in support of the country's economic policy that aims to enhance the role of the private sector and diversify the economy away from its over-reliance on oil, while supporting the New Kuwait 2035 vision of the government.

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# Work-associated pressures effecting 30-40 percent of Kuwait's population

Acting Director General of Social Development Office (SDO) Dr. Wafa Al-Arabi affirmed that 30-40 percent of the population in Kuwait suffers from work-related pressures. She indicated that marital problems, at a range of 60-70 percent, top the list of the most common cases of the people who visit the office.

Dr. Al-Arabi said this at a gathering on the sidelines of a ceremony titled 'Mental Health in Workplaces' organized by SDO at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel under the patronage of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting

Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on Monday, 16 October. She explained that childhood problems take the second spot particularly violence and abuse towards children.

Problems faced by adolescents such as anxiety and sexual identity disorders come in the third place. About 80 percent of the mental health problems in workplaces are related to personal patterns and lifestyles as well as lack of social communication skills. In the presence of the Assistant Undersecretary supervising



the departments affiliated to State Ministry for Cabinet Affairs Abdullah Al-Hajri, Dr. Al-Arabi

said mental health in workplaces is considered as an important matter for various state institutions and ministries.

She stressed that most institutions acknowledge the effect of mental health on work, indicating that 50 percent of diseases that continue for a long time are connected to mental health.

Dr. Al-Arabi indicated that a study conducted at Warwick University in Britain revealed that happy people who enjoy good mental health are more productive than those with low mental health.

## Q8EduEx to host International Student Fair

Q8EduEx, with the support of the Embassies of Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and The Netherlands at Kuwait, will organize an International Student Fair at Coral Ballroom, Sheraton Kuwait from 10 am to 1pm and 5 pm to 9pm on 22 and 23 October.

For the first time in Kuwait, five European embassies, have gathered to support and represent the best European universities. From Political Sciences to Engineering, from Arts to Business, these universities are keen to welcome Kuwaiti and international students in any field, especially at Master and PhD levels, with English-taught programs. Meet knowledgeable representatives on the 22 October at the Sheraton Kuwait.

## Home Centre's latest catalogue imbues joy into homemaking



Home Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, has launched its much-awaited catalogue. Featuring a broad range of new trends and ideas, this 104-page catalogue fulfills Home Centre's promise of inspiring beautiful homes, enabling customers to find the joy of homemaking.

Designed to appeal to Home Centre's diverse client base and offer a mélange of vibrant furniture and home accessory solutions, the catalogue caters to every style and budget, helping customers create spaces they can call their own. Introducing over 1,100 new products, the catalogue depicts 3 key themes - Inspired by Nature, Indian Sojourn and Geomatrix, to weave harmony into homes. Home Centre's expanded offering includes 6 modular

solutions this year such as Stellar day bed, Spazio storage units, Infinity wardrobe, Bradley bedroom and the in-house designed Eterno sofas & cabinetry and Kidit to perfectly suit customers' space and personalities. In addition to exquisite classic accents for those seeking a glamorous feel, the catalogue presents a wide variety of value options for those looking for affordable home solutions and maximum functionality. The newly introduced Ready Rooms concept allows shoppers to purchase the complete set of furniture and home accessories from the catalogue at a packaged price.

The catalogue will be available across all Home Centre stores, located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaeel and Sama Mall (Fintas).

## Drop in number of visit visas

Kuwait has registered a notable drop in the number of expatriates who arrive on commercial, business and tourist visas since health services' fees were hiked.

A high-level source mentioned that the number of visitors is expected to drop further following the application of a proposal submitted by Ministry of Interior to increase the charges of visit visas.

## The Study in Canada exhibition

The Embassy of Canada is organizing a 'Study in Canada' exhibition to be held on Sunday, 29 October at 6:00 pm at the Symphony Style Hotel, Symphony Style Mall, Arabian Gulf road, Salmiya. All interested students and their parents are invited to attend. The exhibition will feature representatives from the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour, who will be visiting Kuwait from 29-30 October, 2017.

Representatives of around 10 leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors to present the advantages of studying in Canada. For more information: www.kuwait.gc.ca; call: 22563025





# Korea naval ships on goodwill visit to Kuwait



Naval vessels from the Republic of Korea, the Destroyer ROKS Kang Gam Chan and the combat support ship ROKS Hwacheon, paid a four-day goodwill visit to Kuwait that began on 15 October. The ships were welcomed on arrival at Shuwaikh Port by the South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Yoo Yeonchul, officers from Kuwait Navy and South Korean citizens in Kuwait.

The visit, which commemorated the 38th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait, was the first of its kind since the start of bilateral relations between the two countries in June 1979.

The Korean naval contingent of 630 crew members onboard the two ships, was headed by Rear-Admiral Yang Yong-mo and included 138 midshipmen who were participating in a Cruise Training Task Group (CTTG) exercise.

The mission of the trip is to provide on the job training and leadership skills to the midshipmen, while sending a message of peace and harmony to the port of call countries, said Rear-Admiral Yong-mo. He added that the visit to Kuwait provides a wonderful opportunity



to further strengthen the friendship and promote mutual understanding between the two countries.

The commander further noted that, "Since the friendship treaty in 1979 between South Korea and Kuwait, our focus has been on improving our economic ties; militarily wise, we were not very close, geographically speaking. But with this visit, we are hoping to strengthen our military ties. We hope the visit will open a new chapter, or perhaps become a stepping stone towards building a relationship on a new level so as to serve our common interests."

Following the welcome ceremony the two ships were opened to visits by the general public later in the afternoon. A defense exhibition

promoting South Korea's cutting-edge defense technology also took place on the ROKS Hwacheon on 15 October, where various booths introduced the diversity of Korean culture with elements of Hallyu or the Korean Wave of films, dramas, K-pop music, as well as highlighted the various events to be held in Korea in the upcoming year, including the 2018 ROK Navy International Fleet Review and the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.

Speaking about the defense exhibition, Ambassador Yeonchul said, "Taking this opportunity, it is my wish that the most advanced military technology of South Korea will be well introduced to Kuwait, which will lead to further military cooperation

between our two countries. In relation to this, International Tri-Service Defense Exhibition in Kuwait will be held from the 12 to 14 December this year. The Korean side will participate in this event, promoting further ways for more military cooperation between our two countries."

During their visit, the Korean naval crew members were taken to visit various tourist destinations in Kuwait such as the Grand Mosque, Kuwait Towers and the Tareq Rajab Museum.

On Monday, 16 October, the CTG contingent visited Kuwait Naval Headquarters, and later that evening, the Korean navy hosted an onboard reception on the flight deck of ROKS Kang Gam Chan.

Cultural events planned for the

third day of the visit, started off with a soccer match between the ROK midshipmen and Kuwaiti servicemen. Later in the day, the concert hall at the Jaber Al Ahmad Culture Center was witness to joint cultural performances that were open to all citizens.

The Korean cultural extravaganza featured performances by the Korean Orchestra, the first participation of the B-boys music troupe, a Naval band, honor guards, Navy entertainment Group that included a Korean traditional quartet, magic show, singing performances, midshipmen choir, as well as a taekwondo performance.

On 18 October, the ROK Navy CTG bid farewell to Kuwait and set sail for its next destination.

The ROKS Kang Gam Chan, a modern destroyer warship built by Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Company, and its sister ship Hwacheon are on a 98-day goodwill voyage that began on 11 September. During the course of this trip the two ships have already called at ports in Vietnam, India and the UAE, and will set sail from Kuwait to ports in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Guam and Japan before returning home.





## Sticking rather than stitching in surgery

In spite of medical advances, wound-related complications arising after operations can still be life-threatening. Particularly with internal wounds, there is a risk of hemorrhage, which is difficult to treat because it is not easy to stitch or apply a plaster to internal wounds.

Now, a new nanoparticle-based tissue glue developed by researchers at Empa, the interdisciplinary research institute in Switzerland, promises to avoid such complications in the future. The innovative tissue glue helps to close wounds optimally in areas where they are difficult to locate or access,

and to avoid diffuse and often life-threatening hemorrhages. The idea of a tissue glue is not new: conventional glues consist primarily of fibrin, a protein produced by the body which plays a key role in clotting the blood. Fibrin is not only very expensive, but can also trigger immune responses, which frequently result in serious complications. It has now been discovered that nanoparticles have an adhesive property, known as 'nano-bridging' that allow certain nanoparticles such as silica (silicon dioxide) and iron oxide nanoparticles to stick pieces of tissue together. Researchers at Empa used this



innovative principle to develop a tissue glue to be used in the future for various operations and complaints. They created nanoparticles from various material combinations, with a view to

making the glue bioactive. A combination of glue and bioglass makes the blood clot more quickly at the location of the wound.

Depending on the combination of the elements silicon, calcium, sodium and phosphorus, bioglass has various different properties. If the ideal combination is achieved, this will open up completely new treatment possibilities. Depending on the formula, for example, bioglass may form effective bonds with bones or soft tissue. The researchers also ensured that none of the materials used were harmful to health.

## Worms reveal secrets of aging

Investigators at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, in the US, have identified a molecular pathway that controls lifespan and health-span in worms and mice. Researchers there have showed that worms with excess levels of certain proteins



lived longer and healthier than normal worms. In addition, mice with excess levels of these proteins demonstrated a delay in blood vessel dysfunction associated with aging. The study has major implications in understanding aging and age-associated disorders.

By artificially increasing or decreasing the levels of a family of proteins called Kruppel-like transcription factors (KLF), the scientists were able to get certain small worms to live for longer or shorter time periods. This finding is especially exciting since the same family of proteins also exist in mammals, including humans, and could have similar effects on aging.

The observation that KLF levels decrease with age and that sustained levels of KLFs can prevent the age-associated loss of blood vessel function is intriguing given that vascular dysfunction contributes significantly to diverse age-associated conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, and dementia.

KLF proteins work by controlling autophagy – a recycling process cells use to clear debris, including normal molecular byproducts that build up in old age. Loss of this quality control mechanism is a hallmark of aging. Worms without KLF proteins cannot maintain autophagy and die early.

According to the researchers, the next step will be to study the precise mechanisms underlying how autophagy in cells lining blood vessels contributes to improved blood vessel function. They will also seek strategies to target KLF proteins in humans.

## Climate change accelerates infectious disease outbreaks



In addition to its role in driving devastating natural disasters, global climate change can also spur outbreaks of infectious diseases such as Zika, malaria and dengue, says a new study by researchers at the University of Colorado in the US.

Climate change presents complex and wide-reaching threats to human health as it amplifies and unmasks ecological and socio-political weaknesses that increase the risk of adverse health outcomes in socially vulnerable regions, said the researchers.

The researchers said these vulnerabilities can happen anywhere. After Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, cases of West Nile disease doubled the next year. Climate change in Africa appears to be increasing cases of malaria. And the recent destruction in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico due to hurricanes may usher in more infectious diseases in the years ahead.

The study focused specifically on a magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck coastal Ecuador in April 2016, coinciding with an exceptionally strong El Niño weather event, which is associated with heavy rainfall and warmer air temperatures. They are also linked to outbreaks of dengue fever.

The researchers noticed a 12-fold increase in Zika cases in the earthquake zone. Prior to this, there were only a handful of Zika cases in the whole country. Zika virus is transmitted by mosquitos. Warmer temperatures and increased rainfall from the El Niño, along with a devastated infrastructure and an influx of people into larger cities from the earthquake, likely increased mosquitos and

caused the spike in Zika cases.

The researchers suggest El Niño created ideal conditions for Zika-carrying mosquitos to breed and make more copies of the Zika virus. The warmer temperatures and increased rainfall from El Niño have previously been associated with a higher likelihood of dengue outbreaks. Warmer temperatures can also accelerate viral replication in mosquitos and influence mosquitos' development and breeding habits.

At the same time, the El Niño event brought warmer sea-surface temperatures, which have been shown to correlate with outbreaks of mosquito-transmitted diseases. Estimates from remote sensing data in coastal Ecuador show that sea-surface temperatures were higher than average from 2014-2016.

The team also believes an increase in water scarcity after the earthquake indirectly benefited mosquito development. The quake damaged municipal water systems, forcing people to store water in open containers outside their homes. These served as additional habitats for mosquito larvae.

The new findings could be used by governments to identify and protect vulnerable communities before natural disasters happen. One idea is to develop disease models that can use existing climate models to predict where these vectors will show up due to climate variability. Applying these new models to areas that have pre-existing social vulnerabilities could identify susceptible regions, allowing us to direct healthcare resources there ahead of time."

## Childhood obesity rises worldwide



A new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that childhood obesity has increased more than 10-fold worldwide since 1975.

Researchers found that by 2016 overall obesity rates had jumped from less than 1 percent to almost 6 percent for girls and nearly 8 percent for boys – with rates at 20 percent or higher in the United States, Egypt and some Polynesian islands. Rates of child and adolescent obesity have increased significantly over the past four decades in most countries in the world. A two-pronged strategy is needed to improve nutrition and reduce excessive weight gain, said the researchers.

The study showed that more than 1 in 5 young people in the US and 1 in 10 in the UK are obese, and that the rate of child and adolescent obesity is accelerating in East, South and Southeast Asia, as well as in other low- and middle-income regions. Overall, 50 million girls and 74 million boys are now obese, which sets them up for serious health problems, the researchers said. Obesity rates were highest (above 30 percent) in some islands in Polynesia, including Nauru and the Cook Islands. Besides the United States and some countries in the Middle East and North Africa, obesity rates of about 20 percent or more were seen in the Caribbean (Bermuda and Puerto Rico).

The United States, however, had moved from sixth place to 15th over the four-decade study. Puerto Rico, meanwhile, had climbed up the scale, from 29th to 17th.

In addition to the 124 million children considered obese, 213 million youths ages 5 to 19 were overweight around the world in 2016, the researchers said.

"The trends show that without serious, concerted action to address obesity ... the health of millions of people will be needlessly placed in great jeopardy, leading to immense human and economic costs to communities," said the World Health Organization.

But despite the burgeoning obese population, being underweight remains a huge concern in many areas. The study found that 75 million girls and 117 million boys were moderately or severely underweight. Nearly two-thirds of these youngsters were in South Asia.

The findings highlight the 'disconnect' between the global dialogue on overweight and obesity and initiatives focusing on under-nutrition. The report warns that the transition from underweight to overweight and obesity can happen quickly with the influx of nutrient-poor, high-calorie foods in many developing nations.

### Worldwide obesity in 2016

#### Older than 18-years of age:

Overweight - More than 1.9 billion adults (39% of adult population)

Obese - Over 650 million (13% of adult population).

#### Below 18-years of age:

Over 380 million children were overweight or obese

More than 40 million overweight or obese children were under the age of 5

**Overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight in most countries**

**Obesity is preventable.**





## Thumbprint eyeliner

**Meet thumbprint eyeliner:** 2017's edgy spin on the classic cat eye. The updated shape does away with the stress of creating that perfect, precise flick since it's rounded at the end, mimicking the shape of your thumb. There have been versions spotted on Selena Gomez and Lady Gaga.

Instead of stressing about achieving perfectly even liner wings like you would for a traditional style, embrace the fact that the thumbprint trend is more user-friendly. The thicker, curved vibe of this new look can effortlessly be created with your finger. It's graphic, cool, slightly edgy, and imperfect — here's how to get the thumbprint eyeliner look.

**Ditch your liquid eyeliner and go with shadows, gels, and brushes:** The look requires a slightly messy touch, so ditch precision eyeliner pens in favor of tools like a rounded eye brush and gel eyeliner or seriously pigmented eye shadow. Be ready to wet your brush before applying the shadow in order to make it inky and be able to manipulate it just right.

**Apply primer and eye shadow:** The first step to ensuring your thumbprint eyeliner will stay safely in place is to apply a layer of shadow primer, which prevents colors from fading, slipping, and melting by lunchtime. Next, brush on a light, neutral shade below your brow bone and the inner corner of your eye to make your eye color pop. When it comes to your crease shadow shade, the sky is the limit. Feel free to experiment and work in any shade you desire — thumbprint eyeliner will be the real star here, so you can choose whether you want it to stand out against a neutral background or look even more dramatic paired with jewel or copper-shaded lids. There's no wrong move here.

**Eye stencils are your friend:** Dip your round brush in water until it's damp, work the bristles into a gorgeous, deep shadow, and sweep the color along your top lashes as if you were making a cat eye. If your hand isn't particularly steady with a brush, no worries: there are a number of eye stencils on the market that adhere to your lids and provide a fool-proof guide for you to follow. When creating this eyeliner trend, try to find a stencil with a rounded curve at the edge — we aren't going for a perfectly straight line this time around.

**Smudge and keep smudging:** Using your finger or a brush, drag the color up and outward past the corner of your eye, smudge it until it's imperfectly gorgeous, and don't be afraid to flatten it slightly with your pinky to create an enviable thumbprint. You can even apply a bit of gloss to your liner, which will help you nail this slick, sleek look.



## Socks with heels

*Some street-style fads are seemingly tricky and when you want to give them a chance, you find yourself at a loss at what to do. Whether you feel that your plain shoes are a bit too prim and proper, want to add a fashion edge or just need to find a way to wear your favorite heels, wearing socks with heels is your style solution.*

It's just a matter of fashion math, really. If your shoe is plain, go for a bright colored, contrasting sock to make a statement (lurex or glitter is extra fun), if you only see a peek of sock above a boot, go for a more detailed design, and don't forget to plan in with the colors of the rest of your outfit. Here are a few more key tips you can easily master the look.

**When in doubt, go fancy:** A thinner, dressier sock is the easiest way to make this look work. Glittery or embellished options feel party worthy — hence, why they play well with heels. The opposite is also true, embroidered shoes can really shine against a backdrop of plain socks in a similar or contrasting color. It's all in the little details—namely ornate embellishment offset by a soft texture—is key to getting it right. Also, when working this style tip, be careful



of textures. Graphic shoes only show best with the thin stretchy fabric of socks. This is because a tighter fit means less bunching.

**Play off your accessories:** The socks with heels thing should look quirky and eclectic, but not totally random. Match socks to the bright color of your bag, then step into neutral colored shoe to pull the whole thing together.

**Keep it sexy:** A set of fishnet ankle socks adds a fun, vampy feeling to an outfit.

Match them to your shoes: Coupling your shoes with socks in the same hue is an easy way to test drives the trend. With all one color for the eye to focus on, the combo has the aesthetic effect of an ankle boot. Genius!

**Create contrast:** While the colors don't need to exactly match, you must pick a few that harmonize. Quiet clashing, like for example a soft gray against warmer tones adds subtle edge.

For socks in a heavier weight material, like suede or satin, a barely-there stiletto is substantial enough to anchor

another layer. Now choose one that is extra thick and cozy—the bolder the contrast, the cooler the look.

**Go bold:** Allow your neon colored knee socks to shine while wearing heels in a subtle color. Alternatively, stand proud by pairing printed socks with printed heels.

**Try just a peak:** If you still harbor doubts whether this style is for your, lean into the style by working it with an ankle boot first. A sliver of sock that plays off the rest of your outfit will add that little extra something that takes your look to the next level.

## Makeup mistakes that minimize your eyes

**You try to make your eyes look bigger and brighter with makeup — yet, you have somehow managed to make them look tired and teeny tiny. Not on purpose, of course. You just went a little crazy with the eyeliner or dark, smoldering shadow and stepped back too late to look at the final result. You thought eyeliner was supposed to make your eyes pop and look beautifully doe-eyed, but it ended up making your eyes look smaller. These are makeup mistakes you should avoid to get the most out of your makeup.**



**Lining your waterline with black eyeliner:** Black makes your eyes look piercing, but on the other hand, it's going to make them look squinty — especially if your



eyes are already on the smaller side. Instead, make your eyes look wide-awake with a white or nude-colored liner. A light color opens them up, making them look rounder and larger. If you do want to use black, don't line the inner rims of your eyes. Draw a light line right above the lashes, working the product into the lash line.

**Skipping mascara if your lashes are sparse:** Many are not blessed with naturally lush lashes. If yours are a little on the short or sparse side or both, your makeup mistake is not coating your lashes in lengthening mascara. A couple coats of mascara and your peepers will instantly look much, much bigger.

**Not curling your eyelashes:** If you forget to curl your lashes first, you're missing out

on statement eyes. You need to prep your eyelashes with a good curl before every mascara application. This really opens up the eyes.

**Applying the wrong smoky eye for your eye shape:** It takes practice to perfect a smoky eye that is specific to your eye shape. For some eye shapes (like hooded or deep set), applying dark shadow all over can actually accentuate your top lid and make it look sunken or heavy. Not the best look. The right smoky eye should make your eyes look big, bold and dramatic.

**Applying the wrong eyeliner look for your eye shape:** The way you apply your eyeliner is just as important for your eye shape as a smoky eye. Too thick, and your eyes can look smaller. Wing out too long, and they can look smaller. Line all around your eye, and they can look smaller. You get the gist. You want your eyeliner to lift and open up the eyes.

**Not wearing concealer when you have dark circles:** Darkness around your eyes detracts from the size of your eyes. Luckily, the solution is a simple one. A concealer will instantly brighten up your eye area and fade dark circles for a bright-eyed look. Good eye coverage has been known to lift your whole face up and open up the eye area.



# Windows 10 Fall Creators Update launched

Microsoft's Windows 10 Fall Creators Update is here and ready to download. Just like previous updates, Microsoft is rolling it out in stages, and you can check whether it is available for your own PC from Windows Update. If your device is eligible then it will start downloading in the background, and a prompt will appear to schedule a time to install.

You can also manually update to the Fall Creators Update over at Microsoft's Windows 10 site. Simply click the 'update now' button and proceed with the upgrade assistant.

Microsoft's Windows 10 Fall Creators Update includes a number

of new features. The top addition is Windows Mixed Reality, making the operating system compatible with new headsets from Microsoft and other PC makers that are now available in stores.

Mixed Reality is Microsoft's answer to virtual reality and takes on the likes of HTC and Oculus. The main selling point of Mixed Reality headsets is that they have built-in cameras and sensors to track motion controllers and as such do not require separate sensors placed throughout a room. Microsoft has picked the Windows Mixed Reality name because it believes the experiences of



virtual reality and augmented reality (HoloLens) will eventually blend together. Microsoft is also adding contact integration into the task bar,

and tweaking the design of Windows 10 to include subtle animation effects. This new Fluent Design will include updates to apps, too.

My People is another new feature that makes the static Windows 10 task bar a little more personal. You can now pin friends, co-workers, or family members to the task bar, for quick access to contact details.

Microsoft's Edge browser is also getting a lot of improvements in the Fall Creators Update, including allowing you to pin your favorite site to the task bar for quick access. The new update also allows you to annotate PDFs and EPUB ebooks

## ZTE launches dual screen phone

When thinking of flip phones the first thing that comes to mind is the simple phone from a decade ago that allowed you to make phone calls and probably send a text or two. Chinese mobile phone manufacturer ZTE is determined to change that notion with the launch of their latest fully featured smartphone the Axon M.

The Axon M has two 5.2-inch displays linked by a hinge that allows you to bring both screens together for a tablet size display, or fold them back to form a front and back screen.

The dual displays on Axon M have 1080p panel, Qualcomm Snapdragon 821 processor, 4GB of RAM, and a 20-megapixel camera. When the rear screen is flipped forward and slotted right next to the front display, you can stretch the home screen and apps across the two displays for a larger working area, or run two different apps at the same time, one on each screen. You can also 'tent' the phone, and mirror the displays so two people can see the



same content at the same time.

ZTE says that it is utilizing Android's default split-screen features to enable many of the dual-screen functions, and it has made sure the 'top 100' Android apps work on the phone. In the 'extended' mode, which stretches a single app across both screens, the tablet version of the app is presented, provided there is one. It is even possible to stream video on both screens

at the same time and switch the audio between them on the fly, which might be useful if you want to watch a sports game and YouTube at the same time.

Previous attempts at dual screens have not been very successful, but ZTE contends the idea is better now because phone processors are a lot more powerful and software features, such as Android's split-screen multitasking, are better suited to take advantage of this unique form factor.

Should you keep the second screen folded back against the phone, you can use the Axon M like any other smartphone. Though it has Gorilla Glass 5 on each display, you might want to be careful how you handle the device, especially when you put it down, so as to prevent scratches to the back screen. ZTE says that the 3,180mAh battery is designed to provide a full day's use between charges, even with the second screen using more juice than a standard phone might.

## All Wi-Fi devices vulnerable to new threat



Researchers at Belgian university KU Leuven warned last week that a flaw they unearthed in the WPA2 security protocol, which is used by most modern Wi-Fi systems, could allow an attacker to steal sensitive data including emails, credit card numbers and passwords.

Depending on the network configuration, the flaw also could allow an attacker to inject or manipulate information in the system; for example, they could inject ransom-ware or other malware into websites being used.

Since the weakness is in the Wi-Fi standard itself, and not in any particular product or implementation, it impacts nearly all devices that correctly implement the WPA2 protocol. In order to fix the problem, users need to update affected products as soon as patches become available.

Microsoft released security updates a week ago, and customers who have Windows Update enabled or otherwise have applied the updates are protected. Google says the company is "aware of the issue, and we will be patching any affected devices in the coming weeks."

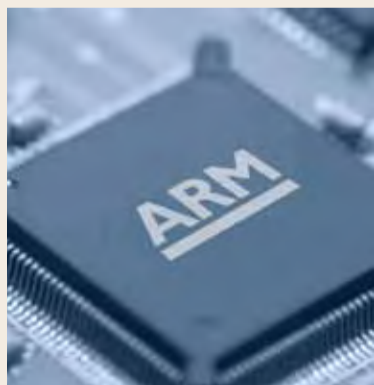
As a proof of concept, the researchers executed a key reinstallation attack (KRACK) against an Android smartphone, noting that Linux and Android 6.0 or higher were particularly vulnerable. Both operating systems can be tricked into reinstalling an all-zero encryption key.

The main attack is against the four-way handshake of the WPA2 protocol, the researchers said. The handshake takes place when a user wants to join a protected Wi-Fi network and the protocol is used to confirm that the client and access point have the correct credentials. The only silver lining to this is that an attack exploiting the WPA2 flaw would require the hacker to be close to the target. But then, many public Wi-Fi networks are at airports, malls, restaurants and hotels, where proximity between attacker and target is not very difficult.

## Battery life on ARM based Windows 10 laptops 'amazing'

Microsoft first unveiled its plans for ARM-powered Windows laptops last year. The new devices will be powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 835 processor, and will support traditional desktop. Meanwhile, Asus, HP, and Lenovo are all preparing devices, and it seems like battery life will be a key selling point.

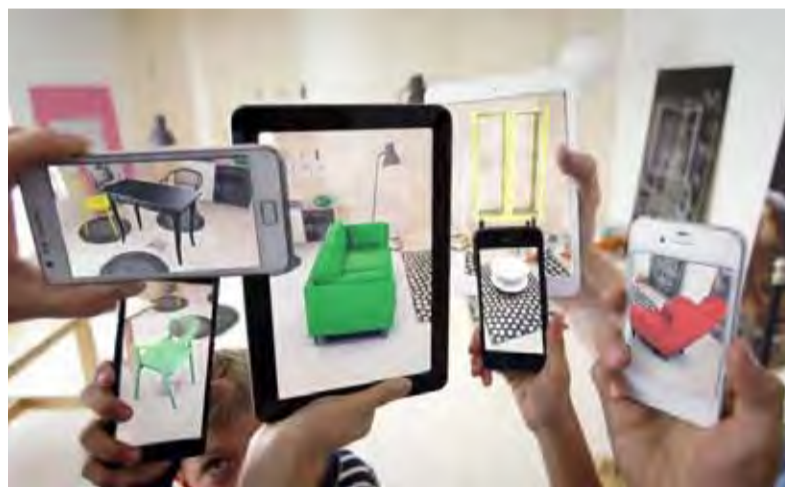
During a Qualcomm summit in Hong Kong last week, Microsoft and Qualcomm dropped



some hints at what to expect from new ARM-powered laptops, including multi-day battery life. "To be frank, it's actually beyond our expectations," says Pete Bernard, a program manager at Microsoft. "We set a high bar for our developers, and we're now beyond that. It's the kind of battery life where I use it on a daily

basis. I don't take my charger with me. I may charge it every couple of days or so. It's that kind of battery life."

Bernard describes the ARM-powered devices as a "game-changer" for laptops, but there is still no news about when Microsoft plans to unveil these new ARM-powered laptops, and what kind of performance they will provide for desktop apps. Microsoft demonstrated Photoshop running on an ARM chip last year, alongside full video playback and Office support. The software giant has spent the past year testing and tweaking its ARM implementation, and we should be able to get a closer look at it later this year.



## Samsung, Google announce ARCore partnership

Samsung and Google announced a partnership to bring Google's new ARCore framework to Samsung's line of Galaxy smartphones. This move unites the augmented reality (AR) efforts of the two IT giants and is a big boon for Google's ARCore in its competition with Apple's ARKit. The ARCore is effectively a software platform for building out AR apps that make use of both advances in cloud software and on-device hardware to place digital objects into the real world.

Now, developers will be able to design ARCore apps that work on both Google Pixel devices and Samsung Galaxy devices, including the Galaxy S8 and Note 8. Samsung was an initial launch partner for ARCore with the S8, but this is a more formal adoption of Google's framework for any and all future devices, the company said today at the Samsung Developer Conference in San Francisco.

Samsung, which sells more phones than any other device manufacturer on the planet, has been a longtime ally of Google's in pushing the ubiquity of Android, and this partnership should extend the strength of Android into the AR market. The partnership is also good news for the AR market, as Samsung has historically chosen to push its own, more fledgling software over more obviously superior or better-positioned alternatives. With a manufacturer as popular as Samsung on board, ARCore could take off.



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
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