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2

**Nada Faris**  
'An Anglowaiti' Writer and  
Performance Poet

# THE TIMES

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LOCAL

7

Six from Kuwait  
in Most Influential  
Women in ME list

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## Real Estate sector reveals revival sprouts

### Staff Report

**I**ncreased distribution of subsidized residential plots by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and high non-occupancy of apartments

are down 10 percent and 6 percent respectively from 2017. The downwardly revised real-estate rates have led to a spurt in sector's market activity in second-quarter of this year, which appears to be continuing



have led to a more realistic appraisal of land and building prices that are helping to revive the real estate sector.

Analysts say that on average prices of building and apartments

into the third-quarter as well.

According to documentation and registration data from Ministry of Justice in Kuwait, the total of all real estate transactions during the

quarter ending in June was around KD857 million, a jump of 3.1 percent from first-quarter. The average value of real-estate transactions in the second-quarter at KD540,000 was also a significant hike from that of the quarter before.

The brisk activity witnessed in the first two quarters appears to have now overflowed into the third-quarter. Despite summer and holiday season, real estate sales for July registered KD161.6 million, a hike of 11.8 percent year-on-year (y/y), mainly from transactions in the residential sector.

In a report published in August on the performance of the real estate sector in the country, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) highlighted the improved momentum in the residential sector, where sales grew 43.4 percent y/y in July to KD90.3 million. There were 268 transactions in the sector during the month, a third of which were plots and the rest homes.

Continued on Page 10

### Detox for digital addiction among children

#### Staff Report

**A**ddiction might seem too harsh a term to describe the fixation that children have for spending time on their digital devices. Most people would be averse to thinking the time their children spend on smartphones, tablets or gaming devices is similar to major addictions such as gambling, drug abuse, smoking or alcoholism. However, medical experts and sociologists are increasingly concurring that obsession with the digital screen is just as disruptive to normal life as other forms of addiction.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently cautioned that video game addiction is a "mental



health disorder" similar to an addiction to gambling. Reiterating this view, Robert Lustig, a professor of pediatrics focused on endocrinology at the University

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# DANUBE HOME

Nada Faris

# 'An Anglowaiti'

## Writer and Performance Poet

By Nourah Al-Oseimi

Exclusive to The Times, Kuwait

*Profound conversations about humanity, life and identity are not a fixture in my day-to-day life. I often contemplate these topics in isolation but when I scheduled an interview with Nada Faris, 32, all of that was about to change.*



Having been acquainted with Nada for many years, we were casually catching up at Let's Coffee. I learned about her distaste for iced coffee, she pointed out that it would be like having "hot ice cream". I was both amused and repelled by the idea, but I couldn't entirely disagree with her reasoning.

As we sat together, Nada started asking me a series of questions. I was taken aback by this, I was the interviewer! This was unprecedented, but I was engaged. Nada's questions were stimulating, thought-provoking and, most importantly, original. As I reflect on our conversation, I find myself wondering whether her version of our meeting would be far more interesting to read than mine. Nonetheless, I will endeavor to make this an

enjoyable read for one of Kuwait's leading writers and performance poets, along with the remainder of our loyal readers.

Challenge accepted.

"I do poetry, articles and fiction. I speak to older audiences and younger audiences. Part of my brand is mischief, fun, humor but also at the same time I bring the heavy information. That's what I do on a surface level. On a much deeper level, my idea has always been that through literature we can actually bring peace in the world. Peace on a political, global and a personal level." Nada's conviction was genuine, and as much as I agreed with her in principle, I had to dig deeper and understand why and how she thinks this is possible. "Because it is my belief, one thing that separates humans from



animals is our ability to rationalize the world in words which is why language is a very big part of my brand. I talk about Kuwaitis as being "Anglowaitis". But what does that mean?

"An Anglowaiti is a subject that has been born or raised in Kuwait after the 1960s in these modern circumstances but because of our static and exclusive idea of how we think about identity, these people are not seen as part of the nation. Every one of us is being

dehumanized but in different scopes. If we live together in one nation, technically that's our identity."

Nada's ultimate goal is to "create new spaces, where a modern identity can come to place that is not Westernized. It's modern and local, nothing about my brand is imported from the West."

What were the origins of these thoughts? "Up until I was 17 years old, I discovered there was a crisis in our identities as Kuwaitis. What does it mean to be Kuwaiti? When you hear adults talk about what it means to be Kuwaiti, it's completely different from your reality. I didn't have the terms to rationalize what was going



on, I just knew that I was uncomfortable. At 17, I transferred from the College of Engineering to the College of Arts." Nada was searching for an answer, through literature and language.

"I don't think we're Westernized or Traditional, maybe we identify as Anglowaitis. It took me around 10 years to learn about identity, history and language. In 2013, I premiered the concept for the first time at Gulf University for Science and Technology. What we see being produced right now is Anglowaiti literature. A lot of media channels call it Kuwaitis writing in English, it's Anglowaitis writing in the language they think and identify and express themselves."

Throughout our conversation, Nada was advocating passionately for a definition of identity and how it is created.

"If we're being honest with ourselves, identity shouldn't come from trauma or the past, identity is something we live and breathe. Identity shouldn't be something that prevents

### What does it mean to be a Kuwaiti?

us from being our best version of ourselves. It should be a label that the majority agree on that helps us navigate through our daily life."

Nada's extensive body of work is predominantly in English, despite being from an Arab-speaking country.

Did this have something to do with her unique perception of identity in Kuwait? Nada believes that English has a unique history in Kuwait, a subject which she has discussed extensively during a speech that she gave at the Contemporary Art Platform.

"How can I now include all those people I see as Anglowaitis into the conversation about what it means to be Kuwaiti? English is a very important, useful tool for us. For me, I saw it as the first tool to create the foundation where most representatives of a Kuwaiti experience can stand. My mission has been to create a foundation where we can all see each other, both physically and virtually." In fact, Nada is very meticulous on how she presents herself and her brand.

"I never brand myself in terms of genre, age range or interests. I do very heavy stuff and very silly stuff. If I didn't speak English, would I be the same person I am today? The level of language is very important, there's more interest in putting things in the English language. That doesn't mean I'm only focused on English. I started working on translating to Arabic." Nada hopes to learn a few more languages within the next 2-3 years.

My sit-down with Nada was reminiscent of the film "My Dinner with Andre". I shared this sentiment with her later that evening. So much of what we discussed can be debated. In fact, it may have not made much sense to the people around us, but I left Let's Coffee feeling grateful. Grateful for the gift of language, grateful for the ability to communicate, grateful for conversing with someone so articulate and finally, grateful for learning something new about my identity.

To learn more about Nada's upcoming events and work, please visit [www.nadafaris.com](http://www.nadafaris.com)

To follow Nada on social media, please visit [@nadafaris](https://www.instagram.com/nadafaris) on Instagram

Nourah Al-Oseimi is a 25-year-old Kuwaiti who holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. Nourah has worked in different places such as the Central Bank of Kuwait and the United Nations. She serves as a free-lance contributing writer to The Times Kuwait - Newsmagazine. Her column - Essentially Kuwaiti - will feature an in-depth look on exceptional young Kuwaitis and their efforts towards the realization of a New Kuwait.





# ACK holds seminar on 'ASEAN - Community of Opportunities'

## Staff Report

Kuwait gives a lot of importance to its relations with ASEAN members, disclosed Abdulaziz Al Sharekh, director-general of Saud Al Sabah Diplomatic Institute, during an Asian Committee Kuwait (ACK) seminar held in association with Kuwait Diplomatic Institute at the Crowne Plaza Hotel last week.

Al Sharekh lauded ACK's initiative in organising the seminar titled 'ASEAN Community of Opportunities' and expressed his appreciation to co-host the event that would further improve understanding between Kuwait and ASEAN.

ASEAN is a bloc comprising 10 Asian neighbours: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesian, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore. Collectively they form a significant economic powerhouse, only behind USA, China and Japan.

ACK chair and Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Dusit Manapan in his



opening remarks praised the excellent relations that all 10 members of ASEAN had with Kuwait. He hoped the seminar would open new opportunities between them and also increase understanding through such interactions.

A comprehensive overview of ASEAN was made by Deputy Director General of ASEAN Department in Thailand Usaa Berananda outlining the future path and vision. "As an association of culturally and economically diverse nations committed to regional integration,

ASEAN is a community dedicated to peace and stability," he said.

Ambassador of Vietnam H.E. Trinh Minh Manh gave an excellent presentation detailing ASEAN centrality and its implications on regional and international security and stability. Despite all the challenges faced by the grouping, ASEAN has been a success story for many bringing both peace and prosperity to the region.

Since it was formed in 1967, ASEAN members have witnessed economic



success though market integration and has also become a respected and leading player in shaping the Asia-Pacific regional architecture while becoming a global community partner.

Associate Professor Mark Speece of the American University of Kuwait also gave a brief presentation on the economic strengths of ASEAN members and their contribution to the global landscape. While Dr. Ibrahim Al Hadban of Kuwait University spoke on the importance of ASEAN to the

GCC, specially since ASEAN imports 80 percent of their oil exports. Dr. Hadban outlined different areas of cooperation between Kuwait and ASEAN member nations with the objective of achieving long-term development.

The seminar proved to be an enlightening experience to the gathering that comprised of members of the diplomatic corps, young Kuwaiti diplomats and media personnel, by giving an insight into the positive role played by ASEAN.

## My Favorite Book Day at Bhavans Kindergarten



To enhance reading skills in children at an early age, the Kindergarten at IES Bhavans and Jack and Jill celebrated the 'My Favorite Book Day' on the 10 September.

Every parent was asked to read a particular story to their child. The child was then supposed to narrate the same in class. The children also brought their favorite book to

school that day.

Even though they could not read what was written in the book, they tried their best to narrate the story, as they were taught to. Some, who were not abreast with the story, described the characters of the story. The bulletin board of the Kindergarten wing was decorated with pictures pertaining to the topic.

## Registration for the Great Ethiopian Run



Come to join in the Great Ethiopian Run 2018, participants can register online: <https://www.ethiopianrun.org>. Get 12 percent off in business and economy class from all ET online points. The letter of invitation once registered has to be presented to ET office to avail of the discount. The event will happen on 18 November, but registration has to be done as early as possible.

GREAT ETHIOPIAN RUN  
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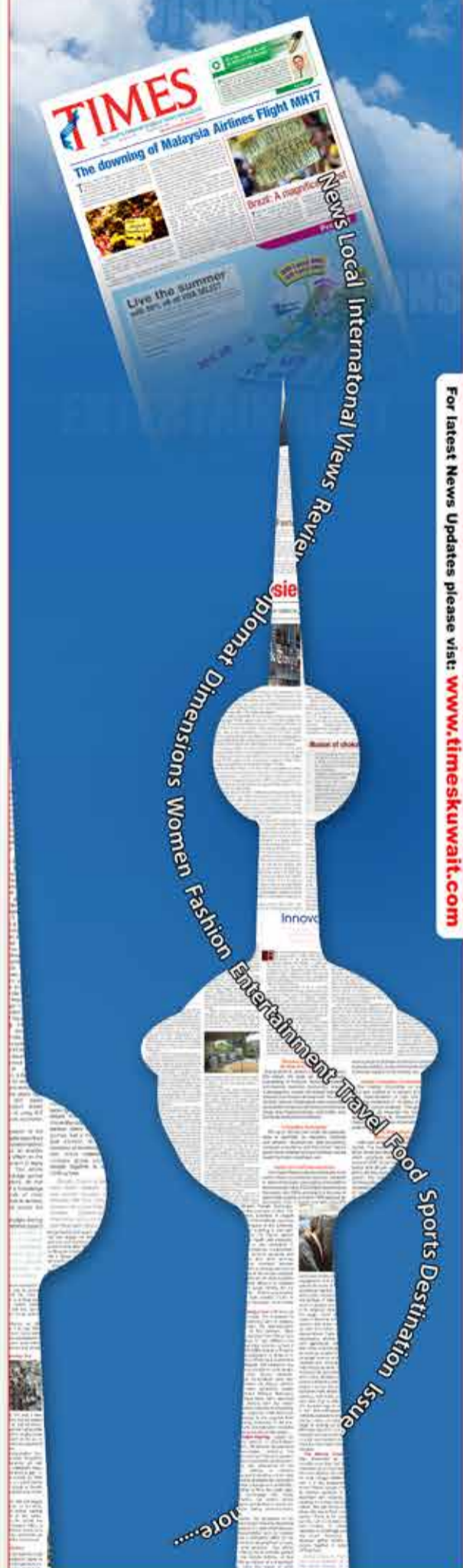
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**Thought** “ I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

for the week

Voltaire



Quick and Easy

# Sloppy Joes

*Sloppy Joes are craved by many: Rich hamburger meat simmered in a tangy, sweet sauce with tender onions and peppers, served on a lightly toasted bun.*

There are different methods of preparing Sloppy Joes. You can take the shortcut route and buy store-bought seasoning or sauce, or you could try ours which is quick, easy and also cost-effective, as it lets you add ingredients from your very own pantry.



#### Four key steps for easy Sloppy Joes

**Brown the beef:** Browning the beef in a splash of hot oil is the key to building meaty flavor into the sauce. Ultimately, we want beef that is tender from the simmered sauce, but crisping the beef first boosts the flavor and ensures that the beef browns instead of steams.

**Sauté the veggies and spices:** After the beef is browned, remove it from the pan so you can use the rendered fat to cook the pepper, onion, and garlic. Adding the chili powder and smoked paprika here activates their flavor so they do not get lost in the sauce.

**Use a potato masher to tenderize the beef in the sauce:** Once all the ingredients are in the pan, use a potato masher to break up the beef. This tenderizes the beef and breaks it into smaller pieces without the need to simmer for hours.

**Simmer the sauce to thicken it:** A quick simmer — just 15 minutes — makes for Sloppy Joes that are rich and saucy, but thick enough to stay on the bun.

#### Serving Sloppy Joes

Buttered buns are the classic serving vehicle for sloppy Joes, but they are by no means the only option. Slices of thick sourdough, pasta, or even scrambled eggs can also be the base for the tasty simmered sauce.

#### RECIPE

##### Ingredients

2 tsp. olive oil  
½ kg lean ground beef  
½ medium yellow onion, finely chopped  
½ medium red bell pepper, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp. chili powder  
1 tsp. smoked paprika  
½ tsp. kosher salt  
1 can (250g) tomato sauce  
2 tbsp. tomato paste  
2 tbsp. packed dark brown sugar  
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard  
Six to eight hamburger buns, split and toasted  
Equipment  
Stiff spatula or wooden spoon  
Cutting board  
Chef's knife  
Measuring cup  
Measuring spoons  
Large cast iron or regular skillet



##### Instructions

- Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the beef and cook, breaking it into large pieces with a stiff spatula, until browned and cooked through (7 to 8 minutes). Transfer the browned beef to a plate; set aside.
- Return the pan to medium-high heat. Add the onion, pepper, and garlic, and cook until softened (6 to 8 minutes). Reduce the heat slightly; add the chili powder, paprika, and salt; and cook until fragrant (about one minute).
- Add the tomato sauce, tomato paste, brown sugar, and mustard and stir to combine. Return the reserved beef to the pan.
- Use a potato masher to mash the beef into small pieces and incorporate it into the sauce.
- Bring the sauce to a simmer and cook, stirring often, until thickened (about 15 minutes).
- Taste and season with salt and pepper as needed. To serve, spoon onto the toasted buns.

## Dr. Hussein Al-Harbi - Kuwait's first surgeon in hip arthroscopy



**D**octor Hussein Al-Harbi has become the first Kuwaiti surgeon to be certified in hip arthroscopy after he was awarded the certificate from the Erasme University Hospital in Brussels, the Belgian capital.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following the

certificate presentation ceremony, Dr. Al-Harbi said that usually Kuwait sends patients requiring medical treatment for their hips abroad, as there are no doctors specialized in hip arthroscopy in the country.

Elaborating on his future plans, Dr. Al-Harbi said that he intended

to pursue further medical studies in France before returning to Kuwait to resume his duties in 2020.

The certificate awarding ceremony was attended by Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Jassem Al-Budaiwi. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Al-Budaiwi stated that he was extremely proud of Al-Harbi's achievement as the first doctor in this highly specialized medical. He pointed out that Erasme University Hospital is one of the top medical facilities in the Belgium and that Kuwait often send patients needing specialized treatment to this hospital.



## Message by H.E. Miguel Ángel Isidro

Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait  
on the occasion of the 208th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Mexico

**O**n 16 September 2018, our country celebrates the 208th Independence Day (Día de la Independencia), under the auspices of a very important historical moment in our national culture: the "cry of independence" on which started a revolt against the Spaniards.

This date in history shows the enduring traits of Mexicans – determined leadership, audacious vision, the drive to innovate, and a celebration of individual and collective achievements. We do not claim these traits as ours alone, but they have shaped our nation, and continue to do so today.

Across the world, we are facing many challenges. And in such moments, we need to call upon our own courage, determination, and leadership to make the future better, more peaceful, and more prosperous for all.

Before anything else, I take this special opportunity to admirably convey the appreciation of the President and People of Mexico to the sublime efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir of the State of



Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for His Highness's humanitarian, philanthropic and development contributions regionally and internationally.

May this Independence Day be a day of joy and let us approach ourselves, in understanding, solidarity and peace!

## Smurfs exhibition inaugurated at Avenues Grand Plaza



**A**n exhibition of Smurfs is being held at the Avenues Grand Plaza as part of the Belgium Week celebrations from 20 to 26 September. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ambassador of Belgium H.E. Piet Heirbaut on Thursday in the presence of Avenues management and visitors to the mall. The Smurfs exhibition gives visitors a one-of-a-kind opportunity to plunge into the magical world of these little blue elves.

In his opening address Ambassador Heirbaut mentioned that the exhibition being held at the

Avenues marks the 60th anniversary of creation of the Smurfs characters and that he hoped the exhibition would provide visitors with a rare insight into the Smurfs world.

He welcomed everybody to visit Belgium to learn more about the Smurfs and the many other famous comic book characters created in the best Belgian tradition and added that there were museums in Belgium dedicated to comic book figures like Tintin, Smurfs and Lucky Luke. Ambassador also thanked their partners and sponsors on the occasion which



includes Avenues Mall, Le Pain Quotidien bakery and Godiva chocolates.

The Smurfs was first created and introduced as a series of comic characters by the Belgian comics artist Peyo (the pen name of Pierre Culliford) in 1958. There are more than 100 Smurf characters, and their names are based on adjectives that emphasise their characteristics, such as 'Jokey Smurf', who likes to play practical jokes on his fellow smurfs. 'Smurfette' was the first female Smurf to be introduced in the series. The Smurfs wear Phrygian caps, which came to represent freedom during the modern era.



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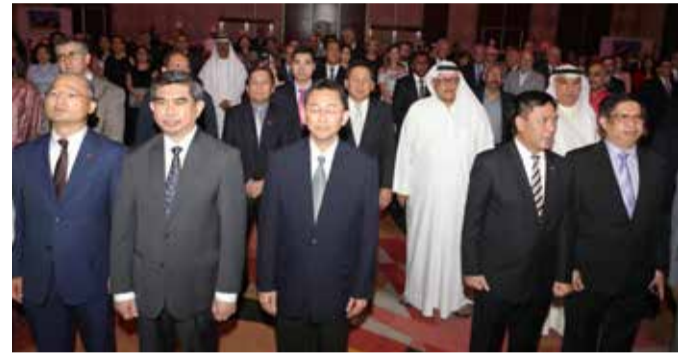
## Nepal Embassy celebrates National Day



The ambassador of Nepal H.E. Yagya Bahadur Hamal hosted a grand reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to celebrate the National Day of his country. A large attendance of guests, including diplomats, businessmen, media personnel and Nepali nationals were present on the occasion.

Ambassador Bahadur, in his address welcomed the gathering and expressed his deep appreciation on the strong relations between the two countries. He further expressed his profound gratitude to the Kuwaiti leadership and their support to his country.

The reception was marked by colorful dances by Nepalis in traditional outfits, and the delightful Nepali cuisine that was served on the occasion.



## Lulu Hypermarket launches Pinoy Fiesta 2018



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched their annual Pinoy Fiesta promotion on 19 September at their Salmiya outlet. The 11-day promotion was inaugurated by the Vice council at the Embassy of Philippines in Kuwait, Mr Charlson C. Hermosura, accompanied by the Embassy's Labor Attache in the presence of top management of Lulu Hypermarket in Kuwait, a large gathering of customers, well-wishers and media personnel.

Pinoy Fiesta 2018, which is slated to end on 29 September, is being held across all Lulu Hypermarkets in the country and provides great discounts and value offerings on exclusive



products. A wide range of products of popular brands from the Philippines, such as C2, Century, Datu Puti, Delmonte, Dole, Golden



Mie, Hermano, Jufuran, Ladies Choice, Mama Sita's, Newton, STAR, Super and UFC are on offer at special discounts. An attractive aspect

of the 'Pinoy Fiesta 2018' promotion is the large cutouts of traditional attractions from around the Philippines that are prominently displayed in all branches of Lulu Hypermarket.

Close interaction with customers through promotions and active participation in local festivities has always been a priority for Lulu Hypermarket. The 'Pinoy Fiesta 2018' promotion once again reinforces this customer-centric approach, and the Hypermarket's continued commitment to creating an engaging and fun experience for shoppers, while simultaneously providing them with the widest range of high quality products at the most competitive prices.

## ICSK Junior holds Grandparents Day



Grandparents Day commemorates two of the most cherished roles in families – GrandPa and GrandMa.

ICSK Junior celebrated Grandparents Day on 13 September with Principal Sherly Dennis welcoming the gathering and stressing the role of grandparents in helping to grow securely in an unfamiliar world. She also requested grandparents to give freedom to their sons and daughters to do the duty as parents and thanked all for their presence.

Branch Supervisor of Kindergarten section Shafika Yunus passionately conveyed the significance of the day and the tiny tots paid tribute to their grandparents with their beautiful performance.

Grandparents taking part in various games with full energy, was a pleasure to watch. The day served as an opportunity for many grandparents to express their feelings for the day.

Vice-Principal Sheeja acknowledged and thanked the grandparents for their presence.

## Pakistan embassy hosts fundraising drive

In view of the scarcity of water in the country, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan (PM-CJP) launched a fundraising drive for the building of dams in the country.

In line with this initiative, the Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait arranged and hosted a consultative/awareness meeting in the embassy's Quad-e-Azam auditorium on Saturday, 15 September, with regards to the PM-CJP fund for construction of Diamer Bhasha dam. The meeting was attended by a large number of community representatives and heads of various organizations. A video message from the Prime



Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan was played during the meeting.

The meeting decided to engage the heads of organizations in Kuwait in order to spread awareness in community about the fundraising campaign. A call to raise funds was also held

during the meeting and soft commitments were made by various organizations. His Excellency Ghulam Dastgir, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, offered all the support and the use of embassy premises for fundraising and awareness campaigns.

# Six from Kuwait in Most Influential Women in ME list



Eaman Al Roudhan,



Shaikha Al Bahar



Henadi Al-Saleh



Ghada Y. Al-Amer



May Al Mudhaf



Ghosson Al Khaled

Forbes Middle-East recently unveiled its 'Most Influential Women in the Middle-East' list for the year 2018. Lubna Al Olayan, CEO, Olayan Financing topped the list followed by Raja Easa Al Gurg, Managing Director, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, and Renuka Jagtiani, CEO Landmark Group.

Speaking during a gala night held in Dubai to recognize the women who are at the fore

of business and government organizations in the Middle-East, Khuloud Al Omian, Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Middle East said, "The region is undergoing a paradigm shift with women-led businesses dominating major sectors. Countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia have showcased most gender diverse cabinets and the landscape is ever evolving."

The list featured 100 female executives

and businesswomen and 10 women heading government departments. For the very first time, the annual list has included successful expat female leaders who have scaled heights in their careers.

Six women from Kuwait made it into the top 100 list for 2018. Eaman Al Roudhan, the CEO of Zain Kuwait topped the list from the country and was ranked sixth in the overall list, just ahead of Shaikha Al Bahar, the Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait in seventh position. Others in the list from Kuwait included (with rank in bracket): Henadi Al-Saleh, Chairperson of Agility Logistics and Transportation (12); Ghada Y. Al-Amer, VP Finance and Administration of KUFPEC (49); May Al Mudhaf, CEO of Kuwait First Abu Dhabi Bank (55); and, Ghosson Al Khaled, Deputy CEO of ACICO (72)

Amongst the women in the list heading government departments are: Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister; Chair Ministry

of Culture and Knowledge Development; Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi and twofour54 leads the list. Noura is followed by Sarah Al Suhaimi Chair; CEO, Tadawul; NCBC and Lobna Helal, Deputy Governor, Central bank of Egypt.

Today, women are influencing policies and are emerging as powerful figures in business across the GCC. They have advanced across industries breaking the proverbial glass ceiling and making their own mark on the future of the Arab world.

To formulate this ranking of the most influential businesswomen, the evaluation team considered revenues of the companies these women lead, their title, scope and impact of the role that they perform, work experience that they possess and the growth of their firm, and other initiatives that they have led in the last three years. The most influential women heading government departments were evaluated based on the GDP of their respective countries and scope of their departments.

## Jazeera Airways offers low fares in September

Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, Jazeera Airways which operates flights both regionally and internationally, has launched its limited-time low fares campaign for the month of September.

The airline has released over 300,000 seats at fares starting from KD21 only and valid for all destinations served by the airline in the Middle East, India and Europe.



Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer, Rohit Ramachandran, said: "Jazeera Airways returns this month with its biggest offer yet to enable passengers to enjoy a weekend getaway or a longer stay at their favorite destination, served by our expanding network. With this new campaign, we reaffirm our commitment to making travel really affordable for all travelers

in Kuwait." Available on jazeeraairways.com, the Jazeera mobile apps or through a travel agent, the fares are valid for travel until December 10.

Passengers can enjoy fares at KD21 on a one-way flight to Sohag, KD22 to Alexandria, KD26 to Bahrain and KD30 to Dubai, in addition to great value return fares of KD61 from Beirut, KD63 from Mumbai and KD65 from Hyderabad. With the inauguration of its new dedicated terminal T5 in May 2018, Jazeera Airways passengers enjoy an easy and fast gateway to travel from and to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the airline noted that departure immigration process time has averaged at 2.1 minutes during the peak travel month of August, while security checks averaged at 4.4 minutes. When arriving to Kuwait, arrival Immigration queue waiting time in August averaged at 7 minutes while the first bag was delivered at an average of 13 minutes.

August was a record month for passengers with 215,943 travelers passing through T5, and with lighter traffic projected for September and October, performance times are expected to be faster for passengers. The airline noted that terminal operations also continue to improve passenger flows and gate congestion has been eased considerably.

## Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals lend support to rebuild Kerala



The Board of Directors of Badr Al Samaa Medical Center, Kuwait, P.A. Mohammed, Dr. V.T. Vinodan and Abdul Lateef, handed over a cheque for Rs1.38 crore as donation to the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund.

The cheque was received by the Minister of Industries and Sports, E.P. Jayarajan on 14 September. The cheque was a joint contribution from the employees, doctors and management of Badr Al Samaa Medical Center as a noble initiative to support the rebuilding of Kerala.

## IndiGo to Chennai

Introducing daily non-stop flights to Chennai.

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Chennai-Kuwait	01:05	04:10	KWD 45.150

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Sector <sup>^</sup>	Departure <sup>1</sup>	Arrival <sup>1</sup>	Fare <sup>2</sup>
Kuwait-Ahmedabad	10:40	16:50	KWD 46.400
Ahmedabad-Kuwait	08:30	09:40	KWD 36.150

\*W.E.F. 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. <sup>1</sup>W.E.F. 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018. <sup>2</sup>Local time. <sup>^</sup>Lowest all-inclusive one-way fare on limited seats. Schedule/timings are subject to regulatory approvals.

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## Farewell luncheon held for diplomats

Madam Nargis Al-Shatti held a luncheon reception at the Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre to bid farewell jointly to the spouses of ambassadors who will be leaving shortly

after completing their tenure in Kuwait. The reception was also an opportunity to welcome some new members into the country. Nargis Al Shatti has been actively involved with the International Women's

Group (IWG) that has over the years helped to build bridges of friendship between Kuwait and various countries through interaction and exchanges culturally and socially. — VOOP MEDIA



## Belgium musical concert held at Crowne Plaza Hotel

The ambassador of Belgium H.E. Piet Heirbaut hosted a delightful evening of music by Belgian artists on the Trombone at the Crowne Plaza Hotel over the weekend. Guest were entertained by the musical mastery of the young and energetic group of boys who enthralled the audiences with their musical prowess.

The Trombone concert was refreshingly unique, and the band played some new and some old instrumental songs that had the audience clapping along to the music.

The concert was held to mark the Belgian Week celebrations and the invited guests included diplomats and businessmen. The concert was followed by a specially prepared dinner by Belgian chef Eddy Govaert.



## Unimoni survey reveals cricket's popularity in Kuwait

Growing popularity of cricket in Kuwait is striking given that people in the country have historically been inclined towards football. A recent pan-GCC survey commissioned by Unimoni Group and conducted by YouGov found that 45 percent of the respondents in Kuwait are cricket fans. To understand where cricket stands in terms of popularity, the sport was compared with other popular sports such as Football, Tennis, Formula 1 and Basketball.



"As the title-sponsor of Asia Cup, Unimoni aims to engage with customers through a widely followed sport like cricket. Engagement is a two-way dialogue for us, which is why we commissioned a YouGov survey to understand how our audiences feel about cricket, and what they expect from the tournament," said Rahul Pai, Chief Operating Officer of Unimoni Group. "The survey reflects the growing popularity of cricket in the region, with 51 percent of the respondents turning out to be fans of the game in

GCC. It's really interesting to see 22 percent of cricket fans in Kuwait chose it as their preferred sport. Kuwait has a significant expat population, and this is an indicator of the country embracing the influx of different cultures, values and even sports," Rahul continued.

According to the survey, 18 percent of respondents across the GCC voted for India's batsman Rohit Sharma to emerge as the top player in the Unimoni Asia Cup, closely followed by Pakistan's bowler Hasan Ali (15%).

"As a brand that facilitates seamless money movement across geographies, we are proud to be part of Asia Cup, sharing the excitement of cricket with fans in Kuwait and around the world," Rahul concluded.

## IDF contributes One Million Rupees to Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund

Indian Doctors Forum (IDF) Kuwait contributed Rs1,004,500 to Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund as its contribution the rebuilding efforts following the devastations caused in flood-ravaged Kerala.

H.E. Shri Jeevasagar, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait conveyed his appreciation to IDF Kuwait for the Forum's contribution towards relief operations in Kerala.

Dr. Surendra Nayak President IDF gratefully thanked all IDF members for their active

participation and lending a helping hand to those affected by the recent floods in Kerala. This was possible due to the generous contribution from our members for this noble cause, said Dr. Nayak.

IDF Kuwait also offered the Government and people of Kerala profound condolences on the loss of more than 300 lives in the floods and landslides.

IDF Kuwait has once again risen to lend its support and share in the grief of those affected by natural disasters.

## Maurya Kala Parisar to celebrate Hindi Divas and confer 5th Dinkar Awards

Maurya Kala Parisar with support of Indian Embassy, Kuwait is set to hold 5th edition of its annual Hindi Divas and Dinkar Awards ceremony on Friday, 28 September at Indian Embassy Auditorium. The event jointly commemorates Hindi Divas (14th September) and birth day of Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' (23rd September).

The event is intended to promote awareness of Hindi literature and oratory among students of Indian schools in Kuwait. It includes competitions for students of class 6 to 12 and also felicitates students for their achievements in Hindi secondary examinations. Hindi teachers at Indian schools in Kuwait are also honored at the event for their valuable contribution.

Competitions will be held in three different segments at the event: Hindi Debate Competition for students of Class IX to XII; Self-written Hindi



माय्य कला परिसर, कुवैत

Poetry Competition for students of Class IX to XII; and Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition for students of Class VI to VIII. Each school is also requested to nominate one student as Hindi Achiever based on performance in Class X (considering internal and external examinations in Hindi).

The competitions will be held from 1pm to 5.30pm at the Indian Embassy auditorium on 28 September. All the Indian schools in Kuwait are requested to submit their entries for each segment. Schools are also encouraged to nominate their teachers to assist in organizing the event.

For more details on the competition email to: mauryakala@gmail.com or contact: Manoj Mishra (65032221), Sabir Ansari (60007401), Divya Ritwik (55011127), Nitin Prabhakar (96661632), Syed Shabih (55246406) Nivedita Sinha (50103983) or Uday Prakash (65705480)

## IMA launches campaign to commemorate 25 years of service



Indian Muslim Association (IMA) recently organized a spectacular launch of its campaign to commemorate 25 years of service in Kuwait at the Grand Mosque in Kuwait.

As part of the campaign, IMA will be holding various social, cultural, educational and religious events until the end of November and will culminate with a Grand Convention on 30 November at Grand Mosque of Kuwait in the presence of many dignitaries.

Dr. Abdullah Sulaiman Al Ateequi of Jamiyatul Islah Kuwait and Mohammad Ali from Grand Mosque graced the campaign launch and commended the efforts of Indian Community in Kuwait to promote goodness.

Following recitation from the Holy Quran, IMA President Masood Shahab welcomed the audience with his inaugural speech. Addressing the campaign launch program, which was also coincided with the Islamic New

Year, Abdul Aziz, a visiting scholar from India, said that migration of Prophet Mohammad pbuh, which is considered as the base event to establish an Islamic Calendar, has many relevant lessons in it. Adaptability to change, strategies for the betterment, social stability are some of the prime lessons to be learned from the migration he said. Another visiting scholar Moulana Mohammad Ilyas Falahi speaking at the event said that Islamic Calendar highlights the importance of time management, planning

and organized work. A website designed specifically to promote the '25 years commemoration campaign of IMA', which can be visited at <http://www.ima25years.org>, was inaugurated by well-known businessman in Kuwait Muzammil Malik.

Sharafuddin Soofi, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the services of IMA during the last 25 years and also briefed the audience about the various activities planned as part of the campaign, as well as about the mega conference slated for 30 November.





EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Europe's Refugee Scandal



Gordon Brown

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

It has long been known that the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos is plagued by overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and rampant violence, including riots that have left many injured. But when aid workers reported in April that children as young as ten were attempting suicide, another tragic facet of the refugee crisis was highlighted: 30 million children around the world are currently displaced, many in appalling conditions. The crisis is not just putting them in danger today; it is threatening to destroy their futures.

In the Moria camp, children live in fear. Recent riots have displaced hundreds of camp residents and badly injured several. This is traumatizing for children who are with their families, but even more so for



the many who are unaccompanied. Making matters worse, many children lack even basic shelter, with thousands of families crammed into cheap donated tents that often are not even waterproof. Last winter, three people died of carbon monoxide poisoning while trying to stay warm.

But the challenges these children face extend far beyond the short term. Even if refugee children eventually manage to get somewhere safe, their prospects are bleak, because most will never have a chance to go to school — a reality that will severely

undermine their ability to find gainful employment.

At last count, there were 1,729 children in Moria, more than 1,000 of whom are of school age. The number recently increased as a huge surge in boat landings brought 834 new arrivals to the camp last week alone. None attends public school, and the Greek government has yet to allow them access to any of the formal education programs that were established for asylum seekers.

The best option available to Moria's refugee children are cramped informal education centers, where high teacher turnover is a serious problem. Yet not even this option is available to all, as the existing centers can provide education to only 500 children per day — less than half the school-age population. And that number may be set to fall: the largest informal education center, run by UNICEF, is set to close in December, because the \$34,900 per month needed to operate it cannot be found.

But there may be hope for refugees stuck in Moria. Greek officials have given the Ministry of Migration 30 days to improve conditions in the camp or close it down. The move is long overdue.

This is not to diminish the momentous challenge Greece faces. Already struggling under the weight of austerity, the country has had to cope with 1.1 million refugee arrivals since 2014, and hundreds more refugees continue to arrive on the shores of Lesbos every day. This has been devastating for the small island, whose tourist industry has been decimated. With the rest of the European Union effectively closed to refugees in Greece, camps on the mainland have filled up. But Moria is still operating at 3-4 times its official capacity.

The European Commission has allocated more than \$1.8 billion to Greece since 2015 to manage the refugee crisis and says that additional emergency support is on offer. Where exactly past funds have gone is now the subject of searching questions by Sebastian Leape, a volunteer who spent recent weeks in the camp. Inadequate support for refugees is not just a problem in Greece, with refugee camps in many countries having come under scrutiny for poor conditions. As United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has acknowledged, this includes a dearth of educational opportunities. Fewer than half of school-age refugee children worldwide attend school; not even one in four make it to secondary school; and under 1 percent go on to pursue a higher education.

Countries where there are large populations of refugees need enough funding to enable them to give refugee children access to local schools. The 'Education Cannot Wait' fund was established to close the education-financing gap for such children. Led by Yasmine Sherif, the fund coordinates with the UN and its humanitarian agencies, both financially and organizationally, to ensure that every refugee boy and girl has the opportunity to get an education.

Long-term educational and employment needs have historically been undervalued in humanitarian planning. But, as much as refugees need proper food, shelter, and health care today, they also need the knowledge and tools to build new lives and contribute to society tomorrow, whether in their home country or in a new one. It is in the best interest of all of us to ensure that they gain the skills they need.

## Detox for digital addiction among children

Continued from Page 1

of Southern California, speaking at a conference earlier this year on the consequences of children's obsession with their digital devices, said: "It's not a drug, but it might as well be. It works the same way... it has the same results."

Elaborating on the mechanisms behind the addition, Professor Lusting said: "The brain responds to technology much in the same way it responds to other addictive substances by releasing brain chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin that are responsible for a sense of 'reward-motivation' and a general feeling of well-being and happiness. Excessive of technology results in disproportionate release of these chemicals that then overexcite and destroy neurons in the brain.

"Too much use of technology also stresses the brain and leads to the release of cortisol a hormone which in excess can kill neurons in the hippocampus, the 'memory' center of the brain. Excess stress also inactivates the brain's prefrontal cortex, or the 'executive' part of the brain, which normally limits dopamine and our sense of pleasure or reward. When the brain gets used to a higher level of dopamine, it wants us to keep seeking out the substance or habit that produces dopamine in the first place, whether it is gambling, substance abuse or digital media."

Spending too much onscreen time transfixed on games or social media keeps children, especially adolescents, away from developing interpersonal social skills. It prevents them from spending time with family, enjoying outdoor physical activities, and forming friendships and real face-to-face relationships with peers.

In its report on the influence of technology on children and its "disturbing tradeoffs", the United Nations' educational organization, UNESCO, emphasized the need to rebuild in children what it called 'transversal competencies' — critical and innovative thinking, interpersonal skills, intrapersonal skills, global citizenship and physical and psychological health.

Signs of developing addiction among teens and toddlers include tantrums, agitation and aggression, as well as despair and depression when deprived of access to digital devices. Some of the consequences of spending too much digital time are, lack of concentration, falling

grades in school, sleep deprivation, irritable temperament and social withdrawal. Parents who spend an inordinate amount of time on their digital devices, whether engaged in talking, or in chat groups and social media postings, are as much to blame for the digital addiction of their children. It is particularly disturbing to watch toddlers who are kept engaged by their parents on digital gadgets, or left unattended as they sit transfixed to screens watching cartoons. Parents need to take responsibility for the behavior of their children and set an example by fixing digital time limits for themselves before expecting their kids to do so.

All this talk of digital addiction and hand-wringing about social media obsession among the young is creating a backlash from the very people under scrutiny. A recent survey of school-aged children in the United Kingdom found an overwhelming two-thirds of them saying they would not mind if social media had never been invented. It is also interesting that more and more young children are beginning to forego the lure of social media of their parents' generation, such as Facebook and Twitter. However, it is disconcerting that they are finding new digital venues to fill their social media gap.

Restricting or depriving children, especially teens, from digital media will most likely be a futile exercise. But it is quite possible to change their online behavior by leveraging their innate interest in digital technology and focusing it on fun-filled productivity projects that they can relate to. Today, most teens spend their time online passively consuming content in the form of games or social media interactions. It would only be small step from here, to inspire and get them engaged in active content creation through learning coding.

Beginning with simple coding projects children could be encouraged to gain expertise in coding in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Teachers, parents, schools and web companies all have a role to play in helping children make this transition. From being dumb consumers of digital content, children could use their digital devices to gain the STEM skills critical for success in the market and economy of the 21st-century. Of course, this less of Facebook and more of coding should not come at the expense of spending more face-time with their peers.



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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Education for Fragile States



**Homi Kharas and Rebecca Winthrop**

Homi Kharas is Interim Vice President and Director of the Global Economy and Development program at The Brookings Institution. Rebecca Winthrop is a senior fellow and Director of the Center for Universal Education at The Brookings Institution.



This week, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will release its annual Goalkeepers report card assessing progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Among the expected findings is a prediction that by 2050, nearly 90 percent of global poverty will be concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, and two-thirds of the world's poorest people will live in just ten countries.

The ability to identify human-development hotspots — what we call “severely off-track countries” (SOTCs) — should, in theory, make it easier to apply solutions. Unfortunately, some aid agencies tend to avoid fragile states out of fear that their resources will be wasted. Currently, less than a quarter of OECD countries' programmable aid is allocated to SOTCs.

But the perception that fragility presages failure is misplaced. With adequate planning, it is possible to implement projects that improve lives in even the riskiest places. Best of all, we know where to start: by investing more in human capital, and especially in education.

According to the Goalkeepers report, the number of children enrolled in primary school in Africa increased from 60 million in 2000 to some 250 million today, and the rate of growth was equal for boys and girls. But while more children are attending classes, school quality remains uneven. The challenge now is to ensure that all children, including those who are in school — at all grade levels — are learning the full breadth of skills they need to thrive.

To give young people the best chance of success, the two ‘bookends’ to primary school — early childhood education and secondary education — must also be sturdy. Early childhood education prepares children for primary school by teaching cooperation, perseverance, self-control, and other essential skills. These formative years are critical for a child's education, because, according to UNESCO, more than half

of all children and adolescents worldwide never develop foundational competencies crucial to becoming life-long learners.

At the other end of the spectrum, secondary education helps adolescents prepare for the job market. To succeed at this level, students must achieve minimum proficiency in reading, math, and numerous non-cognitive skills. But even here, educational outcomes are disappointing. In low-income countries, nine out of ten young people lack basic secondary-education level proficiency across a suite of essential skills, ranging from literacy and critical thinking to mathematics, and problem solving. In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, an estimated 200 million young people (about 90% of the primary and lower secondary-school population) are not able to read basic texts.

Development specialists know that a good education is transformative for students as well as families, communities, and countries. One study from 2008 found that the quality of a country's education system, and the cognitive abilities of its graduates, positively influences economic growth. That fact alone should be enough to convince fragile states and their donors to invest in expanding access to quality education.

But there are other, more indirect benefits,

especially for women and girls. For starters, better-educated women delay pregnancy and typically have smaller families. Development experts, demographers, and education advocates recognize that in many parts of the world, female empowerment is proportionate to family size. For example, our research has

“*To give young people the best chance of success, the two ‘bookends’ to primary school — early childhood education and secondary education — must also be sturdy.*”

found that a woman with zero years of schooling will have, on average, 4-5 more children than a woman with at least 12 years of schooling.

Increasing educational opportunities for girls would also benefit the planet. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis has projected that if every girl in the world completed

secondary education, fertility rates would drop and the global population growth would slow by as many as two billion people by 2045, and more than five billion by 2100. The deceleration would be even greater if the 214 million women worldwide who want to avoid pregnancy but cannot acquire contraception could access family-planning services. It is no coincidence that many of these women live in countries where fewer girls than boys attend school.

Taken together, schooling and family planning could translate into a 120-gigaton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over the next three decades, as fewer people consumed fewer resources. It is no surprise that environmentalists like Paul Hawken believe that education, and educating girls in particular, is among the most effective steps the world can take to combat climate change.

The annual Goalkeepers report is a reminder issues like gender inequality, malnutrition, violence, and political instability will plague the world's poorest people for decades to come. Among solutions, few are as effective as quality education. If fragile states and international donors directed more resources to strengthening education's three pillars — early, primary, and secondary — the world's SOTCs would finally have a chance to get back on track.

## Real Estate sector reveals revival sprouts

Continued from Page 1

The improved momentum in the residential sector was also reflected in the NBK residential price index, which at 163 points was down 11 percent y/y and at a price level last seen in first-half of 2013. The bank noted that the downward pressure on land prices could be the result of increased supply of residential land from a greater distribution of subsidized plots by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

However, sales in the investment sector remained lackluster, and at a total of KD57.5 million was down 6 percent y/y. Though the number of transactions picked up in July to 100 from the 74 a month earlier, it still remained below the month's registered average over the years of 108. More than 70 percent of the transactions were confined to three areas: Bnied Al-Gar, Sabah Al-Salem and Mahboula. Reflecting the anemic activity in the sector, the NBK investment building price index slipped to

181.5, a 6.8-point slide from the figure in June, but an improvement from the double-digit decline rates witnessed a year earlier.

The NBK report also showed that on the commercial sector front, sales recovered slightly from the lows of 2017 to register KD13.8 million in July. Of the four transactions recorded in July, the largest was the KD6 million for a commercial building in Farwaniya.

Despite relatively robust sales and market activity in the real-estate sector since start of the year, and prices that have eased from a year earlier to become more in line with demand, the NBK report warned the sector could still face headwinds. Rising interest rates that could dampen demand for housing and oversupply in the apartment rental market that could keep prices subdued are just two of the challenges the sector will need to overcome in the near- to mid-term, said the bank.

With nearly 13 percent of apartments lying vacant and generally lower building evaluations,

“sellers and buyers may be in the process of converging to a new lower equilibrium price. We expect prices in this sector to stabilize once the gap between demand and supply narrows, although this may take some time,” the report noted.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the Legal Affairs Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is reviewing laws that would compel Gulf investors who are preparing to set up real estate companies in Kuwait to mortgage properties they own in their home countries. This would enable relevant authorities to liquidate those holdings and refund money to citizens, if realtors engage in fraudulent procedures or cannot complete projects as promised.

The Real Estate Department is also believed to be putting in place a specific mechanism that would oblige real estate developers to provide detailed plans for international projects floated by their companies and to

provide documents proving ownership of the floated real estate. The documents would need to be authenticated by the embassies of the concerned countries where the property will be floated, in addition to having local and overseas banks act as guarantors.

The ministry is also studying the possibility of suspending licenses for engaging in time-sharing — a real estate venture where several people jointly own a property and have the right to occupy the unit, usually a vacation-home or condominium, for a specific period every year. The time-sharing real estate investment is a venture that the ministry is keen on discouraging as it has been found to have several negative aspects.

In addition, reports indicate that in future any international real estate exhibitions will be held only under the auspices and supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry so as to reinstate trust among the public in properties being displayed and sold at such exhibitions.

# Predator versus predator in antibiotic battle

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria causes thousands of deaths around the world, with millions more infected each year by bacteria that have built up defenses against currently available antibiotics.

Researchers across the globe are investigating new ways to combat drug-resistant bacteria, including viruses and other bacteria that can destroy them. A team of researchers funded by the US army is exploring ways to use good bacteria against bad bacteria in what could be labeled as a predator versus predator fight.

The program known as the Pathogen Predators program is of interest to the US Defense Department because soldiers returning from serving overseas sometimes come home with bacterial infections that cannot be treated with available antibiotics.

In animal studies, researchers testing the

good bacteria against strains of bacteria that cause infections such as pneumonia and the plague, found that some of the good bacteria could kill as many as 145 out of 170 different kinds of bacteria. The most promising one so far is the Bdellovibrio genus of Gram-negative bacteria, which feeds on other Gram-negative bacteria. The genus is interesting as Gram-negative bacteria represent a challenge in the medical and infectious disease field because their membranes protect them from typical antibiotics.

More importantly, the researchers found that Bdellovibrio does not take over or grow out of control, and, because they do function like antibiotics, the harmful bacteria cannot develop anti-bacterial defenses around them.

On a related note, scientists at McGill University in Canada have identified new means of fighting drug-tolerant bacteria, a growing



global threat as menacing as drug-resistant bacteria.

Scientists do not know much about the mechanisms leading to tolerance, a strategy that makes bacteria 'indifferent' to antibiotics and almost 'un-killable', which results in chronic infections extremely difficult to treat and cure. The research team discovered a new cellular target that can weaken the bacterium

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a dangerous microbe that can become highly tolerant to many antibiotics, and thus averse to antibiotic therapy. It is a common cause of healthcare-associated infections such as pneumonia, bloodstream or urinary tract infections, and surgical site infections. The new study discovered that when *P. aeruginosa* is under stress or lacking nutrients, it uses a stress signaling system and defense enzyme (superoxide dismutase) to modify its cell membrane, making it less permeable to molecules and preventing antibiotics from penetrating the cell.

Researchers found that inhibition of the enzyme activity or the stress signaling system could render the pathogen more susceptible to antibiotics. In the long run, the discovery of this promising cellular target could expand the utility of antibiotics and make new ones more effective.



Replacements for BPA in plastics equally harmful

More than two decades after researchers discovered the dangers of bisphenol A (BPA), the harmful ingredient used in plastic production, they have found that BPA replacements being used now are equally harmful.

Over twenty years ago, researchers discovered the harmful effects of BPA by accident when they found that BPA, which had inadvertently leached out of plastic cages used to house female mice in the lab, caused a sudden increase in chromosomally abnormal eggs in the animals. The same team that discovered the dangers of BPA are now warning that the array of alternative bisphenols currently used in BPA-free bottles, cups, cages, and other items appear to come with similar problems for their mice. The new findings were again uncovered fortuitously when researchers noticed a change in the data coming out of studies on control animals. The researchers once again traced the problem to contamination from damaged cages that caused problems in the production of both eggs and sperm in mice. Additional controlled studies to test the effects of several replacement bisphenols, including a common replacement known as BPS, confirmed what the research team initially suspected. The

replacement bisphenols were producing remarkably similar chromosomal abnormalities to those seen so many years earlier in studies of BPA.

The researchers warned that if these problems hold true in people, as shown in the case of BPA, it will have repercussions on future generations as they affect the germline. They also pointed out that even if it were possible to eliminate bisphenol contaminants completely, the effects would still persist for about three generations.

Researchers also suspect that other widely used and endocrine-disrupting chemicals, including parabens, phthalates, and flame retardants, may be having similarly adverse effects on fertility that require more in-depth study.

Regulatory agencies charged with assessing chemical safety cannot keep pace with the introduction of new chemicals in products. Manufacturers, for their part, find it easier and more cost effective to replace a chemical of concern, such as BPA, with structural analogs rather than determine the attributes that make them hazardous.

The research team's recommendation to consumers is simple: BPA-free or not, plastic products that show physical signs of damage or aging should not be considered safe for use.

## Most germ-ridden spots in airports

Which place in an airport is the most germ-ridden? If you guessed that airport waiting areas or washrooms were the most likely places where you could come in contact with disease causing germs, then guess again.

Researchers at the University of Nottingham in England and the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare recently swabbed a variety of surfaces often used by passengers at Helsinki-Vantaa airport in Finland to find at least one respiratory virus present on 10 percent of everything swabbed.

Microbes were also found in significant amounts on card readers in shops, passport checking counters, staircase rails, and children's play areas. The researchers even detected illness-causing bugs in 25 percent of the air samples analyzed.

However, the highest levels of infectious organisms were found most abundant on the plastic security bins that passengers use to have their shoes, along with other personal stuff, such as jackets, wallets, mobile phones and laptops, scanned.

The virus that was most often detected in this study was rhinovirus, the cause of the common cold. It was found on



40 percent of surfaces that were contaminated by at least one virus. Researchers also found 30 percent of the surfaces to be contaminated by coronavirus, as well as significant amounts of influenza A virus.

Surprisingly, the scientists did not detect very high virus content in samples collected from the airport restrooms. They believe this may be due to frequent cleaning by maintenance staff and also because people tend to pay particular attention to hand-washing when using a public toilet, reducing the odds of getting sick.

The researchers called on authorities to improve indoor air quality management and practice more frequent disinfection of the surfaces

identified in the study.

Additionally, if you are going through Kuwait International Airport, another definite source of contamination are the hand-gloves used by the recently appointed private security services personnel. They are often seen wearing soiled gloves to frisk passengers and search their carry-on baggage, potentially causing the transfer of germs from one bag to another, or from person to person. Many of the security personnel often pull out used gloves from their pockets when they come on duty and then, at the end of their duty, return the gloves to the safety of their pockets to reuse again. Please, there is good reason why these gloves are called disposable.

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# KYRGYZSTAN

*Kyrgyzstan is a nation defined by its topography: joyously unspoilt mountain-scapes, stark craggy ridges, and rolling summer pastures (jailoos) are brought to life by semi-nomadic, yurt-dwelling shepherd cultures.*

Add to this natural beauty a well-developed network of home-stays and visa-free travel, and it is easy to see why Kyrgyzstan is rapidly becoming the gateway of choice for Western travelers to Central Asia.



**Karakol:** A shady grid of tree-lined streets, Karakol has limited sights but lots of activities, and is a good base from which to access some of Central Asia's best skiing and most gloriously accessible alpine trekking. The town offers clear-day backdrops of snowy peaks contrasted against the old blue shutters and whitewashed walls of some remnant antique colonial-period houses.



**Son-Köl:** Distantly ringed by a saw-toothed horizon of peaks, the wide open landscapes of Son-Köl create a giant stage for constant performances of symphonic cloudscapes. Almost 18km across and 29km wide, and fronted by lush summer pastures, the lake's water color changes magically from tropical turquoise to brooding indigo in seconds as the sun flashes or the storms scud by in a vast meteorological theatre.



**Ala-Köl:** The two-day trek to stunning Ala-Köl is for many visitors a highlight of the entire

## Pearl of Central Asia

Kyrgyzstan experience. Though less than 1.5 square km, the range of massive peaks that backs the long curve of the lake makes the view from the pass down to Alтын Arashan one of the finest and most accessible anywhere in the north of the country.



**Köl-Suu:** This is a spectacular glacial lake set in a rocky canyon whose sheer sides drop almost straight down into the lake. It is difficult to get to, but is one of the most beautiful spots in all of Kyrgyzstan. It is located in the southeast of Naryn Oblast, near the Chinese border.

The lake lies behind a natural dam and is about 17 km long. There are several springs at the base of the dam that are the source of the river that runs through the valley leading up to the lake. Because the walls of the canyon that holds the lake are so sheer - at least at the northern end - it is not possible to explore very much of the lake on foot.



**Sary-Chelek Biosphere Reserve:** Though the full UNESCO Biosphere Reserve includes seven mountain lakes and numerous rare flora and fauna, the star attraction for most visitors is the massive Sary-Chelek lake itself. Over 2km at its widest and over 7.5km long, the lush shoreline vegetation and dramatic crags facing the lake's accessible south shore make it a favorite local travel destination and it is not hard to understand why.

**Ak Örgö Yurt Workshop:** This workshop became famous after one of its products won the 'most beautiful yurt' competition at the 1997 'Manas 1000' festival and had its work exhibited six times in the US at several museums and cultural centers across the country. However, it was almost bankrupted when it had to pay for a luxurious \$50,000



yurt ordered for President Bakiev who was ousted in the 2010 revolution before he could delivery for the yurt. The workshop also offers carpet-making and yurt-construction classes for visitors who want hands-on experiences, as well as demonstrations of felt-cutting and wood-bending.



**Köl-Tör Lake:** This turquoise-hued glacial lake is one of the most beautiful in Chuy oblast, and the surrounding peaks and verdant pastures certainly do not do anything to dispel that notion. It is two to three hours of often-steep hiking beyond the Kegeti Tour Guesthouse, depending on your fitness level, but the return trip should only take about half that. In summer, stop on the way to sample fresh kymys in one of the yurt-camps that set up along the way.



**Jayma Bazaar:** Osh Bazaar is one of Central Asia's biggest markets dealing in everything from traditional hats and knives to seasonal fruit to horseshoes forged at the smithies in the bazaar. Many stalls are crafted from old container boxes and banal warehouse architecture, but there is a fascinating bustle nonetheless, stretching for about 1km astride the river.

**State Museum of Fine Arts:** Collections of Kyrgyz embroidery and felt rugs, a splendid

### DISHES TO TRY

The people of Kyrgyzstan certainly are the jewels of the country but the cuisine is a close second. Rich with interesting meats, dairy products, and warm goodness, this food will stick to your ribs and get you ready for a trek into the hills.



**Beshbarmak:** This is one of the most favorite and traditional Kyrgyz dishes, having Turkic roots. Beshbarmak is a chopped meat with noodles, onions and meat broth. It is noteworthy that traditionally beshbarmak is eaten by hands. This is the reason for the name of the dish: in translation from Kyrgyz, 'beshbarmak' means 'five fingers'.



**Plov:** This is a traditional Central Asian dish that comes from the Ferghana Valley and is widespread in southern Kyrgyzstan. The basis of the dish is rice, carrots and meat, first fried and then cooked. There is no canonical recipe for cooking plov and practically every region has its own recipe.



**Lagman:** This dish mainly consists of boiled noodles, seasoned with fried vegetables and meat. Lagman has Dungan origins and since ancient times is one of the favorite dishes in the national cuisine. Like plov, the lagman has many varieties and ingredients vary with the types.



**Ashlyan-fu:** A cold soup of Dungan origin, Ashlyan-fu is prepared from sour-spicy vegetable broth, noodles and starch. The dish is common in the Chui and Issyk-Kul regions of the country, but the most delicious is Ashlyan-fu, which is prepared in the city of Karakol, where Ashlyan-fu is served with a small fried patty with potatoes.

variety of paintings, and rotating exhibitions of local and international touring works all make a visit here worthwhile.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# Makings of a 2020 Recession and Financial Crisis



**Nouriel Roubini and Brunello Rosa**

Nouriel Roubini is Professor of Economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University and co-founder of Rosa & Roubini Associates. Brunello Rosa is co-founder and CEO of Rosa & Roubini Associates and a research associate at the Systemic Risk Center at the London School of Economics.

As we mark the decennial of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, there are still ongoing debates about the causes and consequences of the financial crisis, and whether the lessons needed to prepare for the next one have been absorbed. But looking ahead, the more relevant question is what actually will trigger the next global recession and crisis, and when.

The current global expansion will likely continue into next year, given that the US is running large fiscal deficits, China is pursuing loose fiscal and credit policies, and Europe remains on a recovery path. But by 2020, the conditions will be ripe for a financial crisis, followed by a global recession.

There are 10 reasons for this. First, the fiscal-stimulus policies that are currently pushing the annual US growth rate above its 2 percent potential are unsustainable. By 2020, the stimulus will run out, and a modest fiscal drag will pull growth from 3 percent to slightly below 2 percent.

Second, because the stimulus was poorly timed, the US economy is now overheating, and inflation is rising above target. The US Federal Reserve will thus continue to raise the federal funds rate from its current 2 percent to at least 3.5 percent by 2020, and that will likely push up short- and long-term interest rates as well as the US dollar.

Meanwhile, inflation is also increasing in other key economies, and rising oil prices are contributing additional inflationary pressures. That means the other major central banks will follow the Fed toward monetary-policy normalization, which will reduce global liquidity and put upward pressure on interest rates.

*“The still-unresolved ‘doom loop’ between governments and banks holding public debt will amplify the existential problems of an incomplete monetary union with inadequate risk-sharing.”*

Third, the Trump administration’s trade disputes with China, Europe, Mexico, Canada, and others will almost certainly escalate, leading to slower growth and higher inflation.

Fourth, other US policies will continue to add stagflationary pressure, prompting the Fed to raise interest rates higher still. The administration is restricting inward/outward investment and technology transfers, which will disrupt supply chains. It is restricting the immigrants who are needed to maintain growth as the US population ages. It is discouraging investments in the green economy. And it has no infrastructure policy to address supply-side bottlenecks.

Fifth, growth in the rest of the world will likely slow down – more so as other countries



will see fit to retaliate against US protectionism. China must slow its growth to deal with overcapacity and excessive leverage; otherwise a hard landing will be triggered. And already-fragile emerging markets will continue to feel the pinch from protectionism and tightening monetary conditions in the US.

Sixth, Europe, too, will experience slower growth, owing to monetary-policy tightening and trade frictions. Moreover, populist policies in countries such as Italy may lead to an unsustainable debt dynamic within the eurozone. The still-unresolved ‘doom loop’ between governments and banks holding public debt will amplify the existential problems of an incomplete monetary union with inadequate risk-sharing. Under these conditions, another global downturn could prompt Italy and other countries to exit the eurozone altogether.

Seventh, US and global equity markets are frothy. Price-to-earnings ratios in the US are 50 percent above the historic average, private-equity valuations have become excessive, and government bonds are too expensive, given their low yields and negative term premia. And high-yield credit is also becoming increasingly expensive now that the US corporate-leverage rate has reached historic highs.

Moreover, the leverage in many emerging markets and some advanced economies is clearly excessive. Commercial and residential real estate is far too expensive in many parts of the world. The emerging-market correction in equities, commodities, and fixed-income holdings will continue as global storm clouds gather. And as forward-looking investors start anticipating a growth slowdown in 2020, markets will reprice risky assets by 2019.

Eighth, once a correction occurs, the risk of illiquidity and fire sales/undershooting will become more severe. There are reduced market-making and warehousing activities by broker-dealers. Excessive high-frequency/algorithmic trading will raise the likelihood of ‘flash crashes’. And fixed-income instruments have become more concentrated in open-ended exchange-traded and dedicated credit funds.

In the case of a risk-off, emerging markets and advanced-economy financial sectors with massive dollar-denominated liabilities will no longer have access to the Fed as a lender of last resort. With inflation rising and policy normalization underway, the backstop that central banks provided during the post-crisis years can no longer be counted on.

Ninth, Trump was already attacking the Fed when the growth rate was recently 4 percent. Just think about how he will behave in the 2020


election year, when growth likely will have fallen below 1 percent and job losses emerge. The temptation for Trump to ‘wag the dog’ by manufacturing a foreign-policy crisis will be high, especially if the Democrats retake the House of Representatives this year.

Since Trump has already started a trade war with China and would not dare attack nuclear-armed North Korea, his last best target would be Iran. By provoking a military confrontation with that country, he would trigger a stagflationary geopolitical shock not unlike the oil-price spikes of 1973, 1979, and 1990. Needless to say, that would make the oncoming global recession even more severe.


Finally, once the perfect storm outlined above occurs, the policy tools for addressing it will be sorely lacking. The space for fiscal stimulus is already limited by massive public debt. The possibility for more unconventional monetary policies will be limited by bloated balance sheets and the lack of headroom to cut policy rates. And financial-sector bailouts will be intolerable in countries with resurgent populist movements and near-insolvent governments.

In the US specifically, lawmakers have constrained the ability of the Fed to provide liquidity to non-bank and foreign financial institutions with dollar-denominated liabilities. And in Europe, the rise of populist parties is making it harder to pursue EU-level reforms and create the institutions necessary to combat the next financial crisis and downturn.

Unlike in 2008, when governments had the policy tools needed to prevent a free fall, the policymakers who must confront the next downturn will have their hands tied while overall debt levels are higher than during the previous crisis. When it comes, the next crisis and recession could be even more severe and prolonged than the last.




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**Fahaheel - Mecca Street-Near Roundabout - Life Tower - Tel:239 19 020**  
info@fh.shifaaljazeera.com.kw - www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

**Farwaniya - Opp. Police station & Co operative Society - Tel:24 76 88 64**  
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**Jleeb Al Shuyoukh, (Abbassiya) - Khalid hiqab Al ashhab st. Tel:24 34 70 90**  
info@alnahilclinic.com - www.alnahilclinic.com - info@shifaaljazeera.com.kw

**MILK  
FACE PACKS  
FOR  
FLAWLESS  
SKIN**



Milk has been used since ancient times for beauty treatments. It is said that Egyptian ruler and beauty queen, Cleopatra used to take bath in milk to stay young and beautiful. There are several beauty benefits of milk. Rich in vitamins and other nutrients, milk protects skin against sun damage, prevents wrinkles and sagging, improves hydration and improves the health of the skin. Milk also promotes the production of collagen and thus skin elasticity. Including milk in your daily beauty routine will give you soft, wrinkle-free and glowing skin. Here are some milk face packs to add to your list of beauty items.



**Milk + Avocado = Youthful Skin**

Here is the best natural face pack that you would need to fight the signs of premature ageing effectively, as both avocado and milk have anti-ageing properties. Also, this face pack, enriched with vitamin E and natural oils of avocado, helps to cleanse pores deeply and nourish the skin. It also preserves the natural moisture of the skin.

Mix one-fourth ripe avocado with one tablespoon milk and mix it well until it forms a smooth paste. Apply this mixture to the face generously. Keep it on for 20 minutes before washing it off.



**Milk + Oatmeal = Cleansed Skin**

Oatmeal is a natural scrub. When it is mixed with milk, you get scrubbing as well as nourishing effects. The fats present in whole milk keep the skin supple.

To prepare, take a tablespoon of oatmeal and add sufficient milk to make a thick paste. For extra goodness, add a mashed banana into this mix to form a thick paste to use it as a regular face scrub. Apply this mix on your face, and after 15 minutes scrub your face in circular motion for four to five minutes, and

then rinse it off with normal water.

P.S.: If you have dry skin, you might want to add a bit of honey into this mixture.



**Milk + Turmeric = Blemish-free Skin**

Turmeric is a wonder herb with lots of medicinal properties. It has antiseptic, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory benefits. It also makes an excellent natural agent to fight acne, blemishes, as well as lightens the skin tone.

Take a teaspoon of pure turmeric and add raw milk to make a smooth paste. Apply this pack on your face, keep it on for 20 minutes and wash it off.

**Milk + Papaya = Bright and Refreshed Skin**

Papaya is known for its amazing benefits for the skin. It tones, lightens and rejuvenates the skin.

To enhance the benefits of papaya, peel the fruit and grind it into a smooth paste. Mix a tablespoon of milk to a small cup of papaya paste. Apply the mixture on the skin



and wash off after 15-20 minutes. If you have dry skin, then add a tablespoon of honey into the paste.

**Milk + Orange peel powder = Even skin tone**

If you want a face pack that gives your skin an immediate glow, then a mixture of milk and orange peel powder is your best bet. Mix adequate milk to make a paste with orange rind powder. Apply it on the face. After 20 minutes, wet your face and remove the pack using gentle circular motion of your fingers. After removing the pack, rub an ice cube on your skin for four to five minutes.



*A guide  
to cleaning every  
makeup tool  
in your kit*



You take extra care with your makeup every day. You watch makeup tutorials, meticulously apply every part of your makeup, and take pride in looking incredible. But no matter how particular you are with your makeup routine, you cannot achieve a truly perfect look with shabby tools. The brushes and other tools in your makeup kit require very specific care, and failing to provide that care can lead to a number of problems: makeup clumping in the bristles, dingy color for your eyeshadow, spotty application, difficulty blending, brushes wearing out too soon and so on.

Here is a detailed guide to help you clean up your makeup tools.



begin to fall out. Work a small amount of gentle shampoo or soap into the bristles. Lather, rinse, and repeat until the water runs clear.

Now that your brushes are clean, it is time to disinfect. Mix a solution of two parts water and one part vinegar in a shallow bowl. Swoosh the brush around in the bowl for a minute or two. Rinse with fresh water.

Press a dry towel into the bristles to sop up excess water. Reshape the bristles and lay clean brushes flat on a towel overnight to dry. Clean your brushes every other week to keep the germs away from your makeup and off your skin.

**Hairbrush:** Remove as much hair from the bristles as you can. Using a comb or toothpick can help you grab what your fingers may miss.

Fill a bowl with water and add a few drops of clarifying shampoo. If your brush is plastic, soak it for three to five minutes. If your brush has a fabric head, do not soak it, but dip the bristles in the water a few times.



To get those bristles good as new, take an unused toothbrush, wet it with the soapy water and give it a good scrub.

Lay the brush bristle-side down on a towel to allow water to drain out of the base. Leave it to dry overnight.

Give your brush a bath once a month to prevent product buildup from comprising the quality of your lovely locks.

**Metal tools:** For metal tools like tweezers, eyelash curlers, eyebrow trimmers, cuticle nippers, and nail clippers, wash them down using water and antibacterial soap. Pat dry with a clean towel.

Thoroughly wipe down the tool with an alcohol-soaked cotton ball. Allow it to dry for a few moments. If the tool comes in contact with your face, rinse it with water. Pat dry with a clean towel.



**Makeup sponge:** Run the sponge under warm water. Make sure it gets fully soaked. Using a few drops of mild soap or gentle shampoo, work any product out of the sponge with your fingers. You may need to repeat this a few times if you have not cleaned your sponge in a while.

Rinse the sponge until the water runs clear. Make sure you squeeze throughout to get all the sud out.

Wring it out and pat dry with a clean towel. Allow the sponge to air dry, or if you prefer to use it damp, go ahead and put it to work.

Make sure you are cleaning your makeup sponges every few uses or once there is no longer a clean, unused section.

If your sponge is never left to dry, it may have begun to grow mold. If you suspect this may be the case, cut open the sponge to see if any has grown. If you find mold inside, discard the sponge immediately.



**Makeup brushes:** Rinse the bristles, always with water streaming down — you want to avoid running water directly into the base of the brush, which can weaken the glue and shorten the lifespan of your brush. This is why bristles

# Google to map air pollution with Street View

## Adoption of e-SIM to gather pace with new iPhone launch

The new iPhone XS and XS Max will support eSIM even though the nascent technology is yet to be widely adopted. So far there are only ten countries that offer eSIM support: Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, India, Spain, the UK, and the US. In China, which does not support eSIM, the new Apple phones will have dual SIM capabilities, with a SIM tray that holds two physical cards.

Between the third-quarter of 2017 and the second-quarter of 2018, India topped the list of countries with the highest percentage of smartphones that support dual-SIM at 98 percent, followed by the Philippines at 92 percent and China at 90 percent, in contrast the US had only 4 percent of phones with dual sims.

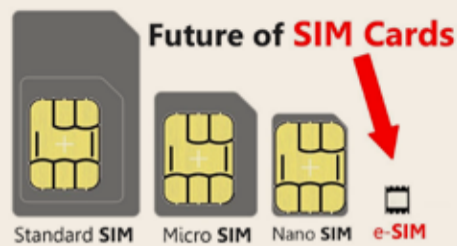
Dual SIM card support makes traveling internationally more convenient since you can keep two numbers active at once. Developing markets have used dual SIMs to avoid roaming fees, easily swap carriers, and enjoy other benefits of having two lines active at once.

Smartphones with eSIM, which stands for Embedded SIM, eliminate the need to have a physical SIM card and to swap cards as it only need a compatible network or carrier to offer support.

The use of eSIM brings a number of advantages to device manufacturers and networks, but there are also advantages to the user. You could use one number for business and another number for personal calls or have a data roaming SIM for use in another country. You could even have totally separate voice and data plans.

An eSIM is basically a small chip inside your phone and works in a similar way to the NFC chip inside your phone. The information on an eSIM is rewritable, meaning you can decide to change operator with a simple phone call. They are really easy to add to a data plan - connecting devices with eSIMs to a mobile account can be done in minutes. eSIM is backed by the GSMA, the association of mobile networks, which defined the standard for eSIM worldwide.

Theoretically, eSIM should mean that you could go to another country and simply add a



roaming eSIM to your handset while retaining access to your main 'home' number. That is one of the disadvantages currently because, if you change SIMs abroad, for example, you cannot access your own number.

It also enables people to switch operators quickly to get connected if they are in an area with no signal, frees up space for new features or additional battery life and could lower the risk of device theft.

One of the advantages it offers from a design point of view is that you make a smaller device because there is no need to accommodate a SIM card or the tray that holds it. There is also no need for networks to manufacture or distribute lots of SIM cards. The eSIM will also be great for other devices like laptops and tablets, where seamless connectivity will become the norm.

While global support for eSIM may be small now, a surge in eSIM devices could force carriers to accelerate adoption. Also, eSIM support will make it easier for customers to switch companies directly on their phones - maybe too easily, from the perspective of carriers that fear being turned into dumb data pipes.

Earlier this year, the US Department of Justice began investigating AT&T, Verizon, and the GSMA mobile industry group for possibly colluding to keep users from switching to eSIM devices. Now, with millions of new iPhones and Apple Watches with eSIM support about to enter the mainstream, we might see a price war as carriers battle over who can slash prices more in a bid for market share, much like when Verizon reintroduced an unlimited data plan. It's the least we can hope for.

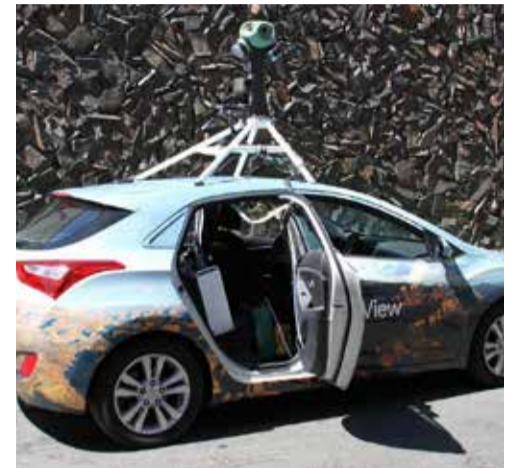
Search giant Google recently announced last week that it would launch its Street View cars to map air pollution globally, in partnership with Aclima, the US-based company that measures and maps local level air quality and emissions.

The global pollution mapping expansion will start simultaneously with 50 cars in Houston in the US, Mexico City in Mexico and Sydney in Australia. The cars will be equipped with Aclima's sensor node which will generate snapshots of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, among others, which can be used by scientists to combine with other data to develop air quality models.

Aclima delivers hyperlocal air quality data and insights. They have worked previously with Google on other pollution-related projects in California. Since 2015, they have driven over 100,000 miles collecting over one billion data points to map air quality in Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, and Central Valley communities, while producing one of the largest data set of urban air pollution of its kind ever assembled.

Karin Tuxen-Bettman, Program Manager for Google Earth Outreach, said: "We've been working with Aclima to test the technology for years, and we're excited that we are ready

to take the next steps to begin this new phase: expanding to more places around the world with the Street View fleet. These measurements can provide cities with new neighborhood-level insights to help cities accelerate efforts in their transition to smarter, healthier cities."



According to a recent report by the European Union, air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk in Europe. Countries across the world are trying to implement measures to ensure this pollution is kept under strict limits set by the Paris Agreement.

## Saudi Sovereign Wealth Fund invests in electric vehicles



Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, Public Investment Fund (PIF) is to invest \$1 billion in US-based Lucid Motors to finance the commercial launch of electric vehicles.

The agreement comes barely a month after it was alleged that PIF, which already owns five percent of electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla, had offered the capital backing that encouraged Tesla CEO Elon Musk to consider taking the public company to private ownership. However, Tesla's board is reported to have quashed those plans.

The \$1 billion investment by PIF comes at a crucial moment for Lucid Motors, which has

struggled recently to raise the funds needed to produce its luxury electric vehicle (EV), the Lucid Air. The company said the funding will be used to complete engineering development and testing of the Lucid Air, construct its factory in Casa Grande, Arizona, begin the global rollout of its retail strategy starting in North America and enter production. Lucid Motors was founded 10 years ago under the name of Atieva and was focused on developing electric car battery technology. It then shifted to producing electric cars and changed its name in 2016. The company seemed to have momentum at the time. Lucid Motors had successfully raised money, unveiled the Air, announced plans to build a \$700 million factory in Arizona, signed a deal with Samsung SDI to supply it with lithium-ion batteries and moved into spacious new digs. But building a factory is expensive, and the company fell silent for nearly a year as it sought funding to produce the Air.

The PIF investment is in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan that seeks to diversify the economy away from its overreliance on fossil fuels. In the past year, PIF has invested in renewable energy, established and developed recycling companies and energy efficiency services.

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# West's Race Problem



**Ian Buruma**

Editor of *The New York Review of Books*, is the author, most recently, of *A Tokyo Romance: A Memoir*.

For obvious reasons, the sight of a German mob chasing foreigners through the streets and throwing up their arms in Hitler salutes is particularly disturbing. This is what happened recently in Chemnitz, a bleak industrial city in Saxony that was touted in the former German Democratic Republic as a model socialist city (it was named Karl-Marx-Stadt between 1953 and 1990). The police appeared to be powerless to stop the rampage, which was sparked by the death of a Cuban German in a knife fight with two men from the Middle East.

But this is not a specifically German problem. Tens of thousands of Germans later gathered for a rock concert in Chemnitz to protest against the anti-immigrant violence. And the mobs in Chemnitz had a lot in common with the neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan followers, and other extremists, who caused mayhem a year ago in Charlottesville, Virginia. Both cities are tainted by history: Nazi and Communist dictatorships in Chemnitz, slavery in Charlottesville. And though the reasons for violent extremism in both places were manifold, racism was certainly one of them.

Many white Americans, especially in the rural south, have hard lives — poor schools, bad jobs, relative poverty. But the one anchor they could cling to was their sense of racial superiority over blacks. That is why the presidency of Barack Obama was a blow to their self-esteem. They felt their status slipping. Donald Trump exploited their feelings of anxiety and resentment.

Many eastern Germans, weaned on authoritarianism and unable or unwilling to benefit from the educational and occupational opportunities in a united Germany, are turning to far-right demagogues who blame all their troubles on immigrants and refugees, especially those from Muslim countries.

The status anxiety gripping white people throughout the West is probably exacerbated by the rise of Chinese power and the sense that Europe and the United States are losing their global preeminence. This is presumably what Trump meant when he declared in Warsaw last year: "The fundamental question of our time is whether the West has the will to survive."

That question raises another: what he meant by "the West," and whether a defense of the West is necessarily racist. There was a time in the early twentieth century when the West was defined by its enemies (many of them in Germany) as Anglo-French-American liberalism. Right-wing nationalists, again many of them German, liked



to describe London and New York as "Jewified."

Liberal societies, in this view, were ruled by money, instead of the claims of blood and soil. The Hungarian-British philosopher Aurel Kolnai wrote a well-known book in the 1930s, entitled *War Against the West*, by which he meant the Nazi war against Western democracies.

But just as Dutch and Scandinavian populists now use gay rights and feminism as symbolic cudgels with which to attack Islam, right-wing leaders have taken up 'the West' as something that must be protected from the Muslim hordes. Such leaders often refer to the 'Judeo-Christian West'. This, along with their enthusiasm for right-wing governments in Israel, protects them against accusations of anti-Semitism, traditionally associated with the far right.

It is not always easy to disentangle racism from cultural or religious arguments in xenophobia. Politicians rarely express racism as openly as an up-and-coming young Dutch politician named Thierry Baudet, who before last year's election warned against the "homeopathic dilution of the Dutch people" by foreigners. Or the Republican official in Pennsylvania who recently called black football players "baboons".

Until the late nineteenth century, anti-Semitism was couched in religious terms. Jews had killed the Savior, Jesus Christ. Jews used the blood of Christian children to bake matzos for their Passover feasts, and so on.

This changed when pseudo-scientific racial theories took hold. Once biological distinctions were made between Jews and 'Aryans', there

was no way out of the racist trap.

A common theme among people who believe that Muslims are a threat to Western civilization is the refusal to recognize Islam as a religious

“*Many white Americans, especially in the rural south, have hard lives — poor schools, bad jobs, relative poverty. But the one anchor they could cling to was their sense of racial superiority over blacks.*”



faith. It is a culture, they say, which they claim is incompatible with 'Western values'. Precisely the same thing has often been said about Jewish 'culture' in the past.

Even though people with a Muslim background come in many hues, and from many countries (as do Jews), hostility to Islam can still be a form of racism. People associated with it, by practice or by birth, are aliens who must be cast out.

And this type of bigotry rarely stops with Muslims. I doubt that the crowds in Chemnitz hunting down anyone who looked vaguely non-European were especially concerned with matters of faith or culture. The slogan of the screaming rabble was: "Germany for the Germans, foreigners raus!"

The neo-Nazis in Charlottesville were celebrating southern culture by sporting symbols of the old Confederacy and attacking black people; the whole point of the Confederacy was to protect white supremacy. That is what the demonstrations were about. But the participants were also shouting: "Jews will not replace us!"

Such sentiments have always lurked in the margins of Western societies, especially in the US, where white supremacy has a long and twisted history. Right-wing politicians, hoping to gain more votes, have often hinted that they might share these prejudices. But when Trump declared that the mobs in Charlottesville included "some very fine people" and called Mexican immigrants "rapists," he dragged racism into the political mainstream. Once the most powerful person in the Western world incites mob violence, it is clear that the West, however one defines it, is in serious trouble.

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