

LOCAL
 Divorce rates in Kuwait witness decline in 2023 **4**

LOCAL
 MoI to begin crack-down on illegal residents after deadline **6**

7 TRAVEL
 Special Supplement

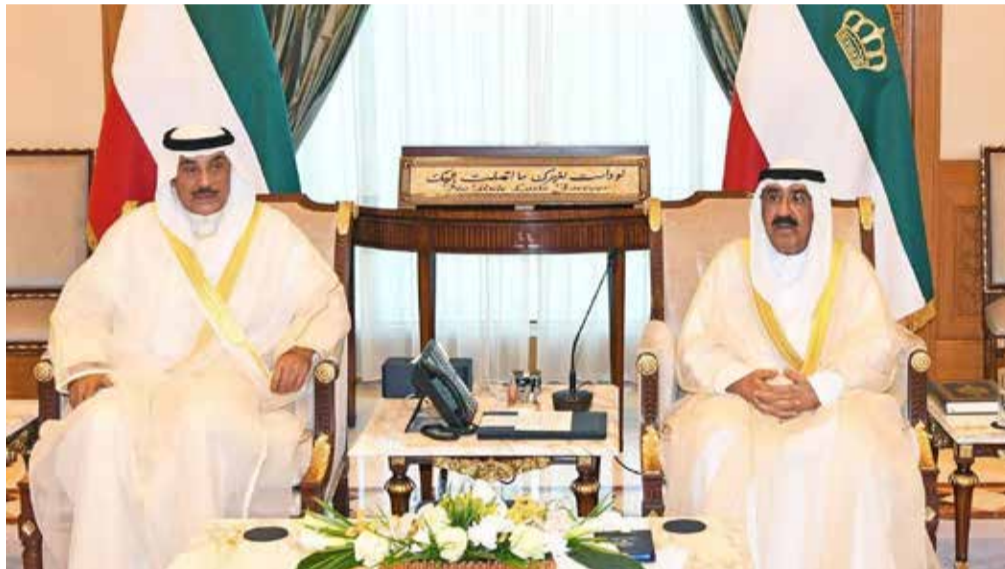
New Crown Prince appointment brings joy to Kuwaitis

By Tareq Yousef AlShumaimry

His Highness the Amir Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed an Amiri Order on Saturday, 1 June nominating His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Crown Prince of Kuwait. The Order directed His Highness the Prime Minister to brief the cabinet on the nomination and to take the appropriate constitutional measures, and added the nomination will take effect on its publication in the official Gazette.

The decision by His Highness the Amir to nominate His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah as the Crown Prince, is both a continued commitment to Article 4 of the country's Constitution, and an unprecedented departure from the traditional lineage pattern for heir apparents, since the institution of the constitution in 1962.

Article 4 of the constitution mandates that the Amirate be held in succession by descendants of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (1837-1915), the seventh ruler of Kuwait. The



heir-apparent post has traditionally gone to descendants of either the Al-Jaber or Al-Salim lineage of the Sabah family. The nomination of Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al-Hamad as Crown

Prince marks the first time that a member of the Al-Hamad branch of the Al-Sabah ruling family has held this position.

Sheikh Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1898

- 1938), was one of the many sons of Mubarak Al-Sabah, along with Jaber Al-Mubarak and Salem Al-Mubarak. Hamad Al-Mubarak married Sheikh Hessa Sabah Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah in 1908. Among the couple's offspring was Sheikh Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the father of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

Kuwaiti citizens from all walks of life received news of the appointment on Saturday with immense happiness, and overwhelmingly welcomed His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al-Sabah as the country's new Crown Prince. They noted that the nomination was a strong endorsement of the abilities and capabilities of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and reflected the trust and confidence bestowed on him by His Highness the Amir.

They described the new Crown Prince as a righteous and conscientious leader whose steadfastness and sincere advice will prove to be a pillar of support to His Highness the Amir.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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UN Office lauds Kuwait's environmental sustainability efforts

UN Secretary-General's Representative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher commended Wednesday the State of Kuwait's role in environmental sustainability as well as contributions to many regional initiatives against desertification, water scarcity and lack of biodiversity.

"The New Kuwait Vision 2035 is a testimony of our future approach, because it aims at transforming Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub while equally prioritizing environmental sustainability through which the Vision would diversify the economy, lessen dependence on oil

and explore renewable energy," said Al-Taher.

She was speaking to the media on the occasion of the World Environment Day, which this year is based on the theme 'Our Land, Our Future, We are Generation Restoration'. She further noted that Kuwait ratified international environmental agreements like the Paris treaty which reflected its commitment to addressing climate change at global level.

Kuwait's national policies, she added, were not only economically flexible but would "promote a more green and

sustainable future for all." Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA), the national environment strategy and the application of an environmental law are testament of Kuwait's environmental approach, she said.

The UN supports the Kuwait young ambassadors' initiative, which enables the young ambassadors to become supporters of sustainable development and environment, said Al-Taher. She added that the World Environment Day "is only the beginning of a collective journey towards a sustainable future.



UN Secretary-General's Representative in Kuwait Ghada Al-Taher

This occasion not only reminds us of the pressing environmental challenges we are facing but the accomplishments and commitment that formed our path."

PAM discovers rampant violations of outdoor working rules

An inspection tour of various sites in the Capital governorate by authorities at the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) revealed widespread violations with regard to Administrative Resolution No. 535/2015, which prohibits employing workers in open areas from 11am to 4pm from the start of June to the end of August.

The purpose of the tour was to assess the compliance among business owners, private sector companies, and those linked to government contracts in adhering to Resolution 535/2015. In particular, the inspection team discovered several violations by private housing plot owners whose buildings were under construction.



The team found workers engaged in pouring concrete and bringing materials to grilling sites, as well as other violations occurring under blazing sun during the curfew hours.

The Authority urged owners of housing plots to prevent outside work in the sun during the restricted hours, and warned that they would be liable for fines ranging from KD100 to KD200 for each worker found working during the restricted hours.

The inspection teams said they would issue a warning for the first violation, followed by re-inspection. If the violation persists, a notice will be issued, and the case will be referred to the General Department of Investigations at the Ministry of Interior, which will then refer it to the judiciary. The tour also revealed that a significant percentage of workers violating the decision were domestic workers under Article 20. This raised concerns about the increasing trend among domestic workers to enter the private sector job market, taking advantage of the current acute shortage of skilled and professional labor. The authority said it will not tolerate any violations of the decision, particularly those related to employing workers in violation of residency and labor

laws. Necessary measures will be taken against such violators to ensure the safety of workers, especially during the hot season.

PAM noted that working in open areas during this period of the year is challenging, and there is no objection to compensating for the lost time by working in the early hours of the morning or after four in the afternoon.

The Authority emphasized its commitment to implementing the decision, as it reflected Kuwait's dedication to upholding international labor standards. This commitment has been well-received by several companies in recent years, as it aligns with public interest and Kuwait's international obligations to protect the rights of expatriate workers.

It is worth noting that the decision complies with Article No. 64 of the 'Private Work' Law, which authorizes the Minister to issue decisions to reduce working hours in strenuous or hazardous work conditions without compromising project deadlines or incurring delay damages.

LuLu Hypermarket goes green for World Environment Day



In a commendable display of environmental responsibility, LuLu Hypermarket, the region's leading retailer, actively participated in World Environment Day on 5 June. Recognizing the day as a global platform to raise awareness and encourage positive environmental practices in the community, LuLu Hypermarket held a variety of engaging 'green' activities across all their outlets in the country.

In an extension of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the hypermarket's activities on World Environment Day were focused on fostering environment-friendliness among customers. Informative sessions were conducted to raise awareness among the public on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution and the need to reduce plastic usage. The sessions also offered simple yet effective strategies for minimizing the use of plastics in daily life.

In addition to dedicated green checkouts, LuLu Hypermarket underlined the environment sustainability message further by showcasing an array of eco-friendly products across all their outlets. This extensive display aimed to highlight available alternatives to traditional, plastic-based items. The display included bamboo cups, plates, and even plastic-free plates.

Special kiosks were also set up throughout the outlets, specifically promoting the use of reusable bags. Jute and paper bags were prominently displayed, encouraging customers to adopt more sustainable shopping practices.

Through their World Environment Day initiative, LuLu Hypermarket aimed to empower customers to make informed choices and contribute to a more sustainable future. Their dedication to environmental responsibility is a positive step forward for our planet.

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Sheikha Suhaila Fahad Al-Sabah
Managing Editor

Extends her heartfelt congratulations to
His Highness
Sheikh Sabah Khaled
Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah
On the occasion of his appointment as Crown Prince.

We implore God Almighty to grant His Highness prosperity and success in all domains for our country and our honorable people.

Italian ambassador lauds expanding relations with Kuwait

His Excellency Lorenzo Morini emphasized the growing interest of Kuwaiti people, particularly the younger generation, in discovering Italy, considering this enthusiasm as a crucial element for the future of Kuwaiti-Italian relations.

Italian Embassy celebrated the country's National Day on 2 June with a grand reception attended by Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber, the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Europe, Sadiq Marafi, and several heads of foreign missions and diplomats.

Speaking on the occasion, Italian Ambassador H.E. Lorenzo Morini highlighted the growing ties between Italy and Kuwait, especially in the security and economic domains. He highlighted Italy's significant contributions to United Nations peace and security activities, emphasizing its notable presence in Kuwait as part of 'Operation Inherent Resolve' against ISIS.

The ambassador stated that he would focus primarily on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the coming months, particularly in scientific, academic, and cultural relations. This includes facilitating the exchange of students,



researchers, and professors, promoting language learning, and boosting tourism. He emphasized that these aspects are pivotal in fostering stronger friendship and improved cooperation with the State of Kuwait.

Pointing out the "increasing interest



of Kuwaiti people, particularly younger generations, in discovering Italy," the ambassador said, "this interest is seen as a crucial element for the future of Kuwaiti-Italian relations." Affirming the Kuwaiti people's strong affinity for Italian products, he highlighted

the widespread presence of the 'Made in Italy' brand across Kuwait.

He also highlighted Italy's remarkable economic and social progress since 1946, noting that it has now become "one of the world's top ten most advanced economies." He noted that 78 years ago, on 2 June 1946, the Italian people boldly embarked on a new path by adopting a new form of government.

This decision marked a turning point from fascism, which was a dark chapter in our history that resulted in a devastating war and immense suffering. Thanks to this choice, Italy has emerged as an active participant in the global community, dedicated to peace, dialogue, and pluralism.

The celebration hall featured a variety of Italian cars, motorcycles, jewelry, food, cosmetics, fashion and design products, electronic systems, and high technology items.

Joint committee starts work on Souk Mubarakiya project

Governor of Kuwait City, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, said that the joint committee formed between the Capital Governorate and Kuwait Voluntary Work Center will soon start field work in the historical Mubarakiya Souk.

In a committee meeting held last week, the Governor and Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chairperson of the Voluntary Work Center, discussed drawing a framework and initiating systems regarding issues in Al-Mubarakiya Souk.

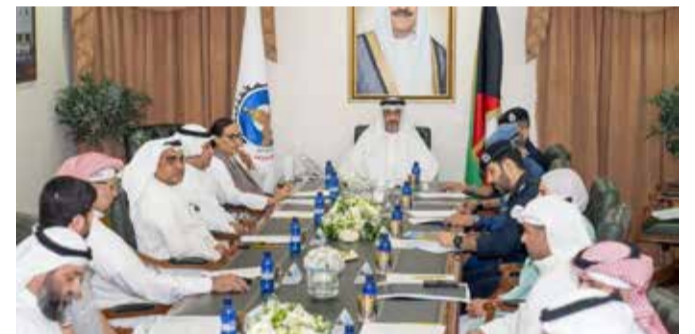
Following a trip to the historical Souk, the committee was able to pinpoint issues regarding cleanliness, amenities, public facilities and start coming up with a plan to restore them and maintain the invaluable beauty of its heritage.

One of the oldest souks in Kuwait that dates back more than 200 years, Mubarakiya Souk has played a storied role in Kuwait's

history, and served as the center of trade and commerce prior to the discovery of oil in the late 1930s. Located in the heart of the business district in Kuwait City, this traditional market spans the area between Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Abdullah Al-Salem, and Palestine Streets. Although the market was extensively damaged during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, it was renovated along modern lines and returned to its original ambiance of traditional cafes brewing aromatic coffee and tea over coal fires, and small restaurants serving authentic Arabic and Persian foods.

Lining the narrow, vehicle free alleys of the souk are small shops and kiosks selling everything from herbal medicines, carpets, antiques, perfumes, traditional dresses, gold and silver jewelry, to dates, sweets, spices, fresh produce, meat and fish, fruits,

In March 2022, the market was gutted by a massive fire that



destroyed and damaged many of the shops. The area is once again undergoing a restoration and rebuilding process.

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Divorce rates in Kuwait witness decline in 2023

In a reflection of the state's efforts to address the rising rate of marriages in Kuwait that end up in divorce over the years, new statistics show that there was a significant decline in the divorce rate in 2023 relative to previous years. The data also showed a drop in the number of marriages during the same period. There was no explanation on whether the two phenomena observed were correlated.

The state's endeavors to stem the tide of divorces were led by the Ministry of Justice along with other government entities and civil society organizations. The statistics were compiled by the Ministry of Justice's Department of Statistics and Research, and published in its yearly volume, the 'Annual Statistical Book'.

Decrease in divorce cases: Data from the publication reveals that the total number of divorce cases in Kuwait decreased by 5.3 percent, from 8,307 cases in 2022 to 7,865 cases in 2023. There was also a decrease in divorces occurring in the first year of marriage. The total number of divorces in the same year of marriage decreased by 4.1 percent, from 740 cases in 2022 to 710 cases in 2023.

Breakdown rate of nationalities in divorce cases in 2023, involving both spouses being of Kuwaiti nationality (62.8%); involving both spouses being of non-Kuwaiti nationality (17.5%); cases involving a Kuwaiti husband and a non-Kuwaiti wife (12.6%); and those involving a non-Kuwaiti husband and a Kuwaiti wife (7.1%).

The statistics also revealed that the highest percentage of divorce cases occurred among couples whose duration of married life was from one year to less than five years, accounting for

Those with a university degree were found to have the highest rate of marriages that ended up in divorce — 30.7 percent among male graduates and 42.3 percent among female graduates.

35.8 percent of the total cases. This was followed by cases with a duration of married life from ten years to less than 20 years, at 18.5 percent.

Additionally, cases with a duration of less than a year made up 18.4 percent of total cases, followed by cases with a duration of married life from five years to less than ten years at 17.7 percent, and those with a duration of marital life of 20 years and over at 9.6 percent.

Male university graduates were found to have the highest rate of divorce at 30.7 percent, followed by those with intermediate qualifications (21.9%); secondary education (21.6%), and by diploma holders (19.9%) of total divorce cases.

A similar higher percentage of divorce was observed among female university graduates (42.3%), followed by those with 'diploma' qualifications (21.4%); high school qualifications (20.3%); and those with intermediate qualifications (11.6%).

The results also showed that the highest percentage of divorce cases was among males in the age group of 45 years and older, accounting for 28.1 percent of the total divorce cases. This was followed by the age group of 30-34 years (20.1%); age group of 25-29 years (18.0%); and the age group of 35-39 (17.6%).

For wives specifically, the highest percentage

of divorce cases was in the age group of 25-29 years (22.2%). This was followed by the age group of 30-34 years (19.8%); the age group of 45 years and older (18.0%); and the age group of 35-39 years (15.7%) of the total divorce cases.

The figures also showed that the number of divorce cases for couples with one or more spouses remaining in their marriage decreased by 8.3 percent, from 1,365 cases in 2022 to 1,252 cases in 2023.

Decrease in marriages: The figures show that the number of marriages in 2023 dropped by 2.6 percent to 13,303 cases from the 13,656 cases registered a year earlier. Overall the marriage rate in Kuwait per 100,000 population decreased by 9.8 percent, from 306 cases per 100,000 population in 2022, to 276 cases per 100,000 population in 2023.

Details on the nationality of spouses were as



follows: Both spouses being Kuwaiti nationals (69.7%); both spouses being non-Kuwaiti (16.1%); marriages involving a Kuwaiti husband and a non-Kuwaiti wife (10.3%); and marriages involving a non-Kuwaiti husband and a Kuwaiti wife (3.9%).

Based on observed results, the editors of the Annual Statistical Book expect the annual average number of marriages to be 13,628 cases, with a minimum of 10,597 cases and a maximum of 16,659 cases during the period from 2024 - 2028. The projections have a reliability rate of 95 percent.

Mongolia keen to boost tourism to the country

Ambassador of the Republic of Mongolia H.E. Sergelen Purev issued a statement last week, following a visit by a Mongolian delegation specialized in the tourism sector to the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in which he emphasized his country's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Kuwait across various sectors, particularly in tourism.



cooperation with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and highlighted the great interest that the Mongolian side attaches to joint investment with the Kuwaiti business sector in various fields.

Members of the visiting delegation reviewed the tourism services they provide, such as recreational trips and high-level hotel services, in addition to the enormous tourism potential that

The statement noted that the main goal of the visit was to highlight the investment opportunities available in Mongolia's tourism sector. The ambassador added that another goal of the visit was to establish joint projects that would enhance investment cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He expressed his gratitude for the existing

Mongolia enjoys, which has greatly increased the number of tourists over the past years. For its part, the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry emphasized, according to the statement, the importance of bilateral visits and direct meetings in enhancing cooperation with Mongolia in all fields, including the tourism sector.

Fifth Musical Dhamaka a Nepali musical extravaganza



By Raj Malla
Special to The Times Kuwait

The 'Fifth Musical Dhamaka' organized by Nepal Kuwait Sarokar Society concluded with grandeur at the Aspire Indian School auditorium in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on 31 May. The event, graced by renowned Nepali singers Shiv Pariyar and Rachana Rimal, drew a large gathering of Nepali expatriates in Kuwait.

Led by society's President Surya Lama, the event welcomed esteemed guests including, Ambassador of Nepal H.E. Ghanshyam Lamsal,

and Randhwaj Lama, president of NRCN Kuwait. The event featured captivating performances by Kuwaiti artists Mubarak Al Rasheed belting out a Nepali song, followed by soulful renditions by Shiva Pariyar and Rachana Rimal, captivating the audience till the end.

The evening concluded with heartfelt appreciation by President Lama for the guest artists and gratitude extended to sponsors, volunteers and media for their invaluable support. The event not only celebrated Nepali culture but also fostered a sense of unity among the Nepali community in Kuwait.

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Ambassador Le Flécher pioneers 'Women's Diwaniya' in Kuwait

H.E. Claire Le Flécher, Ambassador of France to Kuwait, launched the inaugural "Women's Diwaniya" at her residence. The event united women from various segments of Kuwaiti society and diverse nationalities.



Additionally, she discussed platforms and strategies supporting women in economic activities and how to leverage them effectively.

In her welcoming speech, she said, "I am very honored to host today the guests of the 'Women's Diwaniya,' from various fields such as business, politics, arts, culture, and fashion. This initiative aims to provide an inspiring and empowering platform for talented and influential women to communicate, share their stories, and build strong networks of solidarity."

She explained that this event is being held today and next Wednesday, paying tribute to the vibrant traditions of Kuwaiti diwanis.

The ambassador continued, "I am always impressed by the high level of generosity and hospitality that distinguishes Diwanis. The

women meeting today are not only pioneers in their fields but also exemplify excellence in hospitality and lifestyle, organizing beautiful events that reflect the rich cultural tastes shared in both Kuwait and France."

She stated that this gathering is not only limited to communication. Rather, it aims to create a space where women can speak freely, share their challenges, and celebrate their successes. It also seeks to develop a culture of empowerment and resilience, promote professional and personal growth, and drive positive change in society.

The ambassador emphasized the importance of such regular meetings, which contribute to enabling distinguished women to exchange ideas, create innovative projects, and enhance mutual support and guidance. She added, "Through open

dialogue, participants will have the opportunity to be inspired and draw strength and motivation from each other's experiences and achievements."

She continued, "We believe that by nurturing these ties and enhancing the spirit of cooperation, we can increase the influence of Kuwaiti women in all sectors, paving the way for future generations to follow in their footsteps." She concluded, "I am very happy because during my three years of work in Kuwait, I met many successful and inspiring Kuwaiti women. We hope to support each other."

Sheikha Suhaila Fahd Al Sabah, the Managing Editor of The Times Kuwait, praised the concept of Ladies Diwanis and thanked the French ambassador for taking such an initiative. She looked forward to attending more such gatherings in the spirit of sharing experiences and achievements.

With dates, Arabic coffee, and traditional Gulf clothing, the Ambassador welcomed her guests, including Kuwaiti women and individuals from various nationalities. They engaged in conversations across different topics.

Commenting on the initiative, Ambassador Le Flécher mentioned that it was designed to encompass all segments of women in society.

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MoI to begin crack-down on illegal residents after deadline

Ministry of Interior (MoI) has announced that with only ten days remaining until its deadline for residency violators expires, those wanting to do so should immediately rectify their illegal status or leave the country.

The ministry also emphasized its commitment to making the rectification or exit process easier for those who want to avail of the grace-period conditions. It noted that over the past two months, residence departments across Kuwait have been

He added that violators wishing to leave will have their residency violation fines waived but must settle any debts to government entities, companies, or individuals before departure. Those opting to adjust their status must pay their residency violation fines. He added that if a violator does not have a passport, they can get travel documents from their embassy, and noted that several embassies are working with Kuwait to speed up this process for their citizens.

Al Mutairi stressed that there will be no extensions, and a strict security plan will be in place after the deadline to weed out remaining residency violators in the country.

He added that violators and those who help them will be caught quickly and dealt with firmly. Deportation and a lifetime ban on re-entering Kuwait, as well as all other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for life, as per regional security agreements, are also guaranteed for these violators.

He also explained about the efforts being taken to make the process smoother, saying that six departments handle requests to fix residency issues during regular work hours. Additionally, there are two evening centers, one in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, and the other in the Al-Riggae area, that can help those who want to leave immediately. These evening centers are open from 3pm to 8pm and can help with fingerprint registration, data transfer, flight booking, and even getting to the airport for departure.



handling an average of 1,000 visits daily by violators seeking to address their residency issues.

Highlighting the features of the three-month grace period offered by the government, Assistant Director General at the Residency Affairs Department, Brigadier Mazid Al Mutairi said that the amnesty window started on 17 March and ends on 17 June. Al Mutairi called it a "golden opportunity for violators to regularize their status or leave and potentially return without hindrance".

MFI signs KD12.8 million Kuwait aviation deal for meteorology upgrade



The project involves creating a complete information system, from data collection to public dissemination of warnings and meteorological information.

A contract for the comprehensive enhancement of Kuwait's Meteorological Department, a crucial component of the broader modernization effort for Kuwait City's international airport complex was signed by Her Excellency Claire Le Flécher, the French Ambassador to Kuwait, and Mr. Patrick Benichou, President of Meteo France International (MFI).

The contract value worth KD 12.8 million was signed in the presence of Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, President of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The DGCA has engaged the services of the Dutch engineering firm DEERNS for this ambitious project. Representing MFI locally is SEEDIS, a division of MASPCO (Musaed Abdullah AlSayer & Partners Company) with over 30 years of experience in engineering and integration.

The project proposed by MFI in response to DGCA's requirements includes implementing a comprehensive and integrated information system, from collecting and managing large volumes of data to disseminating warnings and meteorological information to the general public.

It also involves creating value-added products for Kuwait's weather-sensitive economic sectors, including aviation and the oil & gas industry. Special emphasis will be placed on implementing advanced technological solutions in the areas

of early warning and modeling, particularly sandstorms, a major local problem.

In addition to these cutting-edge technical solutions, and in line with its global and turnkey approach, MFI will also provide an ambitious capacity-building program for DGCA teams. The project includes over 130 weeks of training to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. With the same concern for durability, DGCA has made the smart choice to plan a four-year technical support and maintenance period at the end of the two and a half years of completing the contract.

Thanks to this global strengthening project, DGCA is poised to significantly enhance its warning and service capacity, providing better protection for the Kuwaiti people and supporting the country's major economic activities more effectively. This technological leap also positions DGCA as a leading player in the Middle East meteorological scene, further bolstering Kuwait's influence in the region.

For MFI, this new project reinforces its status as a leader in modernization projects for National Hydrometeorological Services. It underscores the relevance of the company's positioning and offerings in a world increasingly aware of the importance of efficient weather services amid global climate change and rising instances of extreme weather phenomena.



Lebanese embassy's Chargé d'Affaires urges concrete action against environmental perils

The Lebanese Women's Council, sponsored by the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait, organized an awareness symposium for World Environment Day. During the event, they also launched cooperation and joint coordination with the 'Umniah' plastic collection company.

Farah Shaaban, Executive Director of Umniah Operations, inaugurated the symposium by announcing, "We are commencing collaboration with the embassy sector to promote awareness and change individual behavior regarding plastic waste disposal, with the goal of recycling to preserve the environment."

Chargé d'Affaires of the Lebanese Embassy, Ahmed Arafa, stated, "Discussing environmental issues and the perils of pollution in our modern world is no longer abstract; it's a reality people face daily. We encounter these problems and dangers through piles of waste that mar the beauty of our environment. The expanding ozone hole leads to more cancers, along with global warming emissions that increase toxic gases in the air, causing respiratory illnesses and escalating natural disasters like floods and hurricanes."

Arafa emphasized that "the expansion of the ozone hole, causing more cancers, alongside

global warming and emissions, resulting in increased toxic gases in the air, respiratory diseases, and heightened natural disasters like floods and hurricanes."

He added that the proliferation of plastic waste negatively impacts the environment, health, and public safety. We must address this imminent threat to humanity and consider ways to minimize the resulting harm within the context of enhancing human life quality and achieving the sustainable development goals embraced by all United Nations member states.

"Reducing plastic usage or recycling it into valuable materials can significantly support numerous sustainable development goals," he stated.

He concluded his speech by addressing Shaaban, "As an embassy, we feel a societal responsibility towards Kuwait, the country where we reside. We are interested in learning from your experience so we can implement best practices and turn words into actions."

The symposium was attended by Consul Mia Al-Adham, Economic Attaché Shadi Abu Zaher, members of the Lebanese Business Council, various figures from the Lebanese community, and individuals interested in recycling.

Glass exhibition highlights environmental sustainability

Kuwait Scientific Center hosted a glass exhibition last week to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable development. The exhibition was held under the patronage of Spanish Ambassador H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilar on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Participants in the opening ceremony of the exhibition stressed the importance of environmental awareness in achieving sustainable development, and highlighted the need to adopt environmentally friendly practices and technologies to protect the planet.

Dr. Masoud Al-Yassin, Director General of the Scientific Center, affirmed the center's commitment to sustainability and innovation. He emphasized the center's role in engaging the public and inspiring children to pursue their interests in science through interactive exhibitions, practical workshops, and educational programs.

Al-Yassin added that the center strives to make science accessible to all ages. He explained that the center provides a dynamic environment that stimulates passion and reveals the mysteries of complex scientific concepts through practical demonstrations and engaging activities.

He also mentioned the center's efforts to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. This was achieved



by fostering a lifelong love of science and encouraging a deeper understanding of the world around us.

For his part, Ambassador Aguilar emphasized the importance of culture and science in strengthening ties between nations and advancing human civilization. He pointed out that cultural exchanges provide a platform for mutual understanding and appreciation, break down barriers, and promote peace. For this reason, Spanish science diplomacy has developed significantly in recent years.

The ambassador expressed his pleasure to collaborate with the Scientific Center on this joint exhibition. He stated that the exhibition narrates the story of human ingenuity and scientific and cultural progress, and it is a testament to the power of cooperation between peoples.



Travel - An elixir to rejuvenating life

The daily grind of life often leaves us incapable of noticing and appreciating everyday things that happen around us; we fall into a rut that makes it increasingly difficult for us to challenge ourselves to greater heights or to venture into experiencing something new.

We become so comfortable in these routine things that the very thought of breaking out of them and having a fresh experience becomes daunting. But life is defined by experiences and it is only through more experiences that one is able to better define and appreciate life.

Traveling is seen as one of the best providers of experience and is the perfect antidote to routine regimens. It gives you time to observe, to think and learn new things, or to do old things in new ways. It revives, exhilarates and inspires you; it makes you feel more alive and receptive to everything around you, allowing you to introspect and form new benchmarks on life. In short, traveling changes you; it forces you to see things from a new perspective.

Confined by daily routines to people and places in our immediate surroundings, we generally do not get the opportunity to meet and interact with those who hold different views and values, and go about life in a different manner. This limited exposure to our little corner of the world tends to manifest itself in the form of insular views that lack empathy and are culturally insensitive.

In a world ridden with prejudice, ignorance and bigotry, travel provides an opportunity to make us more appreciative of different cultures. It expands our awareness of others and by introducing us to people of diverse



cultures and customs it helps generate understanding and compassion, while removing the biases and prejudices that accumulate in our daily lives.

Traveling allows us to meet different people and it exposes us to the history, culture,

religions of others, which in turn permits us to examine the underlying values that often explain certain behaviors. Ultimately, travel gives you a better knowledge and appreciation for the world around you. As the American author Mark Twain observed, Travel is fatal to

prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness.

Perhaps the greatest reward of travel is being able to experience everyday things in a new light. Waking up to sunlight streaming in through half-drawn blinds in a hotel bed in a strange town; sipping on a cup of coffee while watching the world go by; walking the streets taking in the colors, tastes, smells and noises of a new place, can all be quite exhilarating and a real awakening for your senses though you may have done these things mundanely all your life.

Traveling is a great way to find yourself; it allows you to confront and overcome your fears and realize your hidden potential. It helps us reevaluate our priorities in life and teaches us to appreciate each moment and to live in the present. We are always told that to seek happiness, you need to try and live in the moment.

But it feels almost impossible to do this in the process of your nine-to-five job and in the midst of routine.

However, when you travel, your mind is there, you experience so much for the first time that without any effort, you are living in the moment. It is no wonder that so many people become addicted to traveling, as it is the easiest way to reinvigorate yourself and deliver a shake-up to your life. Life, they say, is like a book, and those who do not travel get to see only the cover page. So, pack your bags and go rattle through the pages of life.



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Saiyarti

Rajasthan: A Timeless Journey



The Times Kuwait Report

Nestled in the northwestern part of India, Rajasthan is a realm of maharajas and their majestic forts and palaces. Known as the Land of Kings, it is a place where the tales of valor and chivalry come alive against the backdrop of the sun-kissed Thar Desert.

Rajasthan is more than a destination; it is an experience that stays with you long after you have left its borders. It is a land where every corner tells a story, every fort sings of battles, and every palace dreams of romance. For the traveler seeking

the essence of India, Rajasthan is an unmissable chapter in the story of this ancient land.

Our journey begins in the Pink City of Jaipur, the state's capital, affectionately known as the Pink City. Here, the City Palace stands as a testament to the grandeur of the Rajput rulers, while the nearby Jantar Mantar observatory showcases the scientific acumen of the past. The iconic Hawa Mahal, with its honeycombed façade, whispers stories of royal ladies observing street festivals while remaining unseen.

From the Pink City to the Blue City and moving to the heart of Rajasthan, Jodhpur's blue houses create a striking contrast against the rustic desert. The Mehrangarh Fort looms over the city, its imposing structure housing a rich collection of artifacts in its museum. The Umaid Bhawan Palace, part royal residence, part hotel, and part museum, offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the erstwhile royal family.

We then move to the City of Lakes also known as Udaipur, often referred to as the Venice

of the East, it is famous for its beautiful lakes and palaces. The City Palace Complex, with its series of palaces, gardens, and courtyards, is a significant landmark. The serene Lake Pichola hosts the splendid Lake Palace, seemingly afloat and accessible only by boat.

Our next stop is further west to Jaisalmer, the Golden City. Jaisalmer stands like a mirage, its golden sandstone fort rising from the desert sands. This World Heritage Site is a living



fort, with shops, hotels, and ancient havelis (mansions) within its walls, offering a unique experience of medieval charm.

Rajasthan's soul lies in its folk music and dance, colorful turbans, and the warm hospitality of its people. The state's cuisine is a feast for the senses, with dishes like dal bati churma and gatte ki sabzi that reflect the region's culinary heritage.

A state of festivals and fairs, Rajasthan boasts of the famous Pushkar Camel Fair and the Jaipur Literature Festival, both events that showcase the state's vibrant culture. The camel fair is a spectacle of color, with thousands of camels converging on the tiny desert town, while the literature festival brings together a global community of thinkers and writers.

For those looking to delve deeper, each city and town in this majestic state has its own unique story waiting to be discovered. Whether it is the bustling bazaars, the silent sands of the Thar, or the hidden stepwells, Rajasthan awaits with a treasure trove of experiences.





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Asia | Middle East | Europe



No place like Istanbul A City of Wonders!

The Times Kuwait Report

A captivating destination that offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, Turkiye can never fail to impress or amaze you no matter how many times you visit.

From the rich history and architecture to the stunning landscapes and delicious cuisine and beautiful beaches Turkiye has something special to offer for everyone and every age group making it the fifth most visited country in the world.

Turkiye is a tourist paradise, a charming place full of treasures waiting to be explored, and a year round destination so there is never a bad time to visit this modern nation, which has a blend of ancient history and vibrant culture that everyone must experience once in a lifetime.

Among the many places to visit in Turkiye, Istanbul should be on top of the list. As one of the world's greatest cities, Istanbul is a tourist paradise with its grand Byzantine basilica, Aya Sofya, and the Ottoman Sultans' lavish Topkapi Palace attesting to the city's centuries-long history as the capital of powerful empires. But Istanbul is not just about its past. The city is vibrant and dynamic, offering a blend of modern neighborhoods and ancient sites.

Straddling two continents, Istanbul is a city where the past and the present, the East and the West, blend seamlessly. This vibrant city, once the capital of three successive empires: Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman, is a treasure trove of historical and cultural wonders.

On a recent trip to Turkiye, our first stop, the Hagia Sophia, is a Marvel of Byzantine Architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is a must-visit landmark in Istanbul. Built in 537 AD as a cathedral, it was converted into a mosque in 1453 and then into a museum in 1935. Today, it is a mosque again, showcasing the city's rich religious history.

Just a stone's throw away from the Hagia Sophia is the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, popularly known as the Blue Mosque. Its six minarets and cascading domes make it one of the most iconic symbols of Istanbul.

We then moved on to get a glimpse into the grandeur of the Ottoman Empire. The Topkapi Palace, once the main residence of the Ottoman sultans, offers a fascinating glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the Ottoman Empire.

For a panoramic view of Istanbul we then headed to the Galata Tower. This medieval stone tower offers a 360-degree viewing gallery of the city. There can be nothing more relaxing after a steep walk through history, than with a cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, the waterway that separates Europe and Asia. The cruise offers stunning views of Istanbul's skyline, dotted with palaces, mosques, and fortresses.

Istanbul is filled with an allure that has inspired

travelers for centuries. From traditional treasure hunters to fashionistas, the city is a paradise for every shopper. Istanbul offers a wide variety of shopping opportunities to the travelers — covered bazaars, beautiful markets, workshops that continue ancient craft traditions, shopping malls with all major local and international brands, departmental stores, and much more. Here, you can find something for every taste and budget.

Often considered as one of the world's biggest tourist attractions, the graceful Grand Bazaar offers a unique shopping experience. Founded in the 15th century, the world's largest and oldest covered market, expands over a total area of 30.700 m². With 55 streets, 20 entrances and more than 4,000 shops, the bazaar offers almost limitless choices for every budget from souvenirs to hand crafted jewelry.

The shops in the bazaar present a collection of different tastes, smells, voices and textures — hammam supplies, ceramics and glassware, carpets and rugs, lamps and lights, copper work, leather goods and silk garments and all kinds of wearables.

The vibrant and colorful Egyptian Bazaar is the perfect address for those who want to spoil themselves with a pleasure break. Follow the smell of the freshly ground coffee in the streets to find the entrance. Shop stalls are full of traditional indulgences such as Turkish delights and confectioneries for the sweet tooth, and a huge selection of multi-coloured herb and fruit teas and infusions.

Other than historical and street markets, Istanbul is also home to numerous modern shopping malls, regularly visited by locals. With around 120 shopping malls around the city, Istanbul has more shopping malls than many European countries do in total. All equipped with air conditioning, parking spaces and disabled facilities, these shopping malls offer countless products including luxury brands in many sectors varying from clothing to jewelry, entertainment and electronics, and besides being a place to shop, these centers are also considered recreational areas.

From world known fast-food chains to artisanal restaurants, the food courts within the malls have a wide range of choices and alternatives, whilst the cafés, often with outdoor terraces, are just perfect for a quick break of

refreshment. No visit to Istanbul is complete without enjoying the city's great shopping experience. The newest addition to Istanbul's shopping landscape is the Galata Port Mall. As the largest mall in the historic port on the Bosphorus that has been rebuilt and renovated with a huge cost of \$1.7 billion, the mall redefines luxury with high end restaurants and designer boutiques.

However, not to be missed is the world famous Taksim square. It is the most cosmopolitan part of the city and hosts a wide range of shops with several big brands concentrated in and around the famous, 2-kilometer-long İstiklal Street.



With historical bazaars, world class designer boutiques and modern upmarket malls, every year Istanbul attracts millions of shoppers. Amazing colors, divine scents, stunning designs and impressive curiosities await you in one of the most beautiful cities of the world.

Our brief but enchanting trip made it clear to us that Istanbul is indeed a city of wonders, where every corner holds a piece of history, a slice of culture, or a stunning view. Whether you are a history buff, a culture vulture, or a foodie, Istanbul has something to offer everyone. A metropolis with layers and contrast where old and modern co-exist, a city that never stands still, there is no place like Istanbul for a holiday.



Exploring the Wonders of

MOROCCO

By Nourah Khan
Travel Writer
The Times Kuwait

Morocco, a North African gem, is a land where ancient traditions blend seamlessly with modern influences. From the bustling souks of Marrakech to the serene Sahara Desert, Morocco offers an array of experiences for travelers seeking adventure, culture, and history.

Tourism in Morocco for families is considered an ideal option, as there are many activities and tourist attractions suitable for all family members. Families can visit ancient cities and learn about Moroccan history and culture, or enjoy beaches and seaside excursions on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coast. They can also spend quality time in mountain resorts and desert oases.

My trip started in Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco. The city stands as a testament to the country's dynamic blend of tradition and modernity. Often seen as Morocco's economic hub, Casablanca offers a unique blend of historical sites, modern attractions, and cultural experiences that make it a compelling destination for travelers.



One of the most important landmarks to visit in the city is the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world and a defining landmark of Casablanca. Built partly over the Atlantic Ocean, the mosque boasts a towering minaret, intricate mosaics, and a stunning prayer hall. Non-Muslim visitors can tour the mosque, providing a rare glimpse into Islamic architectural grandeur.

Casablanca's coastal location provides ample opportunities for relaxation and recreation. You



can find many restaurants, and nightclubs, and is a popular spot for both locals and visitors to stroll, enjoy ocean views, and experience Casablanca's nightlife. The beaches around Casablanca offer opportunities for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports. The warm Atlantic waters and sandy shores make for a perfect day out.

My next visit was to the city of Beni Mellal, considered one of the tourist destinations that combines culture and natural beauty due to



its strategic location between the Middle Atlas Mountains. A trip to visit Ouzoud Waterfalls, which is about 150 kilometers from Beni Mellal will not be wasted, as it is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Morocco. These waterfalls provide a stunning sight with water cascading down from a height of more than 100 meters.

I also visited Ain Asserdoun, which is located in the heart of Beni Mellal, and is considered one of the most beautiful natural areas in the city. Ain Asserdoun is a natural water source surrounded by a beautiful garden and recreational facilities. The area provides an ideal environment for family outings. I then continued on to Kasbah, which was built in the 17th century as a defensive fortress and offers fantastic views of the city and surrounding areas.

Beni Mellal, with its natural beauty and cultural heritage, is considered one of the distinctive tourist destinations in Morocco. Whether you are looking for outdoor adventures, want to discover historical and cultural heritage, or enjoy delicious local cuisine, Beni Mellal offers an unforgettable travel experience.

From there, I set out to visit a wonderful



village called Bine Al wedan, which is one of the forgotten gems of the country despite its stunning beauty. There are many activities that can be done in Bine El wedan, from enjoying sports activities such as boating and canoeing, as well as mountain biking. You can also enjoy the stunning landscape of the lake and the surrounding mountains, which make Bine el Ouidane a great place to spend holidays.

The next stopover was at Marrakech, also known as the Red City for its sandstone buildings. Marrakech's highlights include the Koutoubia Mosque, and the vibrant Jemaa el-Fnaa square. The square comes alive in the evening with food stalls, musicians, and performers, offering an immersive cultural experience.

An unforgettable experience in Marrakech was the hot air balloon ride in the desert, a unique tourist experience that attracts visitors from all over the world. The balloon lifted off in the early hours of the morning, after the process of inflating the balloon and preparations for takeoff were completed. The early start gave us the opportunity to watch the first rays of the sun creep across the desert horizon, covering the earth in golden and magical colors. During the trip, stunning views can be seen including the Atlas Mountains, vast sand dunes, and scattered green oases, making it an unforgettable visual experience.

Your trip to Morocco will not be complete without tasting delicious Moroccan dishes. Moroccan cuisine is renowned for its bold flavors and aromatic spices. Traditional dishes such as tagine, couscous, and pastilla showcase the country's rich culinary heritage.

The trip to Morocco concluded by visiting the city of Agadir. Considered the pearl of the Atlantic, it is one of the most important tourist destinations in Morocco, combining golden sandy beaches, stunning landscapes, and rich cultural heritage. Thanks to its mild climate all year round and a variety of tourist activities, Agadir attracts visitors from all over the world.

A distinctive experience in Agadir is a visit to the famous Agadir Oufella Kasbah, as this historic Kasbah is located on a hill overlooking the city and the ocean, and dates back to the sixteenth century. The Kasbah offers stunning panoramic views and is an ideal place to take photos and enjoy the sunset. Visitors can also explore ancient ruins and learn about the city's history via interpretive panels. Agadir has an international airport that connects the city to many international destinations.

Noura Khan, a travel influencer and content creator, is a Kuwaiti national, holds a degree in law from Kuwait University and has worked as a journalist prior to taking up a position in the government. In 2018 she started blogging on travel and visited more than 57 countries since. She has more than 97k followers on her blog post @nourajtraveller is well appreciated for content and travel information. Noura writes exclusively for The Times Kuwait on her travel visits.

Thought for the week

“ I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

- Nelson Mandela

Ministry to launch 19 new electronic services, 10 'Sahel' notifications in a year

Dr. Muhammad Al-Wasmi, Minister of Justice and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, declared that the Ministry of Justice will introduce 19 new electronic services within a year. Additionally, ten new notifications will be activated through the government's unified electronic services application, 'Sahel,' the Al Rai newspaper reported.

Al-Wasmi stated that the number of electronic transactions requested



and executed through the 'Sahel' application in 2023 surpassed 1,220,000. Moreover, the number of notifications

delivered to users exceeded four million during the same period.

He emphasized that the Ministry of Justice is continuing to intensify its efforts towards digital transformation and enhance its participation in launching services through the 'Sahel' application for government electronic services. The primary goal in doing so is to serve the customer audience by focusing on the ease and quality of electronic services.

New Crown Prince appointment brings joy to Kuwaitis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They added that working in concert, the Amir and Crown Prince would bring about "a renaissance in Kuwait, enhancing the well-being of people and meeting their aspirations, as well as guiding Kuwait to attain its rightful place among nations in the region and globally".

They prayed to God Almighty to continue guiding the steps of His Highness the Crown Prince along the righteous path he has followed, and to ensure his success "as he undertakes his paramount mission and engages in tasks and responsibilities to serve the people and the homeland with the aim of elevating Kuwait to new heights of sophistication, progress, and leadership across various fields".

Many citizens highlighted the distinguished career and political leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled over more than four decades of sincere public service to the nation and its people. They praised the positions and views he has adopted throughout his career, which were based on the principles of openness and profound consideration for all opinions, and eventually choosing a path that was in the best interests of citizens and in the development of Kuwait.

In November 2019, the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appointed His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as the eighth prime minister of Kuwait and assigned him to form Kuwait's 36th government. He was reappointed as premier in December 2020 by the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and tasked to form his second government, and in March 2021 his third government.

In December 2021, the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah once again assigned His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled to form the fourth government, the country's 39th government since independence. Persistent hindrances by some legislators and incompatibility in working with opposition members in the National Assembly, forced the premier to tender his resignation on several instances, including most recently in April 2022.

The achievements of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled during his career as premier were distinguished and numerous, including his efforts to improve governance, diversify the economy, enhance private sector participation, increase youth employment, and reform the business environment to make Kuwait more business- and investor-friendly.

Throughout his premiership the Crown Prince had insisted on more transparency and openness in government, and steadfastly pursued the fight against corruption, misappropriation, and embezzlement of public funds. Those found involved in such illegal activities, as well as people alleged to have taken bribes, engaged in influence-peddling, and residency-trading were referred to the prosecution for further legal action.

As prime minister, His Highness the Crown Prince emphasized that youth and women are the pillars of the

country's future and drivers of the New Kuwait Vision 2035 development plan. He has also remained committed to supporting youth and women's development and safeguarding their interests, as well as providing them with the resources and assistance to hone their leadership skills and experiences.

Reflecting the significance he attaches to youth and women in the social, economic and political fabric of the nation, His Highness supported ventures aimed at their development in all fields, and asserted on several occasions that "Kuwait's narrative and its capabilities and assets are based on youth and women, without them no sustainable goal of the country can be achieved successfully".

Born in 1953, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received his bachelor degree in Political Science from Kuwait University in 1977. He began his career as a diplomatic attaché at the ministry of foreign affairs in 1978, and spent the next two decades in the ministry serving in various posts and sections, including in the Arab Affairs Department (1978-1983), and as a delegate at Kuwait's Permanent Mission at the United Nations in New York from 1983 to 1989.

On his return to Kuwait in 1989, he was appointed as Deputy Director of the Arab World Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and continued in various other posts at the ministry until 1995, when he was named as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During his ambassadorship he was also Kuwait's envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and represented Kuwait at ministerial meetings of OIC, and of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

In 1998, he was appointed as Chief of the National Security Apparatus, a post he held until 2006, when he was named to his first ministerial post, as the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor. He served in this position until October 2007 and from October 2007 to April 2009 he served as Minister of Information. In April 2009 he was appointed Minister of Information, Acting Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and served in this post till 2011, when he was named as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A year later he was named Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. In January 2014, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled was named First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; he retained this post from 2016 until 2019, when he was named as premier for the first time. He would continue to head 4 more governments until 2022 when he finally stepped down from the premiership. On 1 June 2024, he was named as Kuwait's new Crown Prince.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will herald a new era of stability, growth and development in the country's history. We wish His Highness the Crown Prince success in all his endeavors to take the country forward towards a glorious future.

RECIPE

Instant Mango Coconut Rolls



Mango fans everywhere would absolutely agree that there is nothing to beat mango as the ultimate refreshing summer dessert. The yummy mango coconut roll recipe below is very easy and quick to make. Mango coconut roll is a popular Indian sweet where white bread slices with rich and flavorful stuffing are dunked in mango milkshake. The bread soaks up all the flavor and becomes super delicious. Remember to avoid using wheat bread, multigrain bread, or sourdough because they will not give you the same taste and texture.

Total time: 20 minutes
Serving: 4 rolls

Ingredients:

For the filling:

- 2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup desiccated coconut
- 2 tbsp milk powder
- 1 tbsp corn starch
- 1/4 cup sugar

For mango milkshake:

- 1.5 cup milk (full cream)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup mango puree
- Other ingredients:
- 4 slice bread
- 1/2 cup chopped mango
- Few sliced pistachios
- Few saffron threads
- Desiccated coconut

Instructions:

Making filling:

- In a saucepan add milk, milk powder, corn starch, sugar, desiccated coconut and stir well to ensure there are no lumps and the mixture is of smooth consistency
- Turn on the flame and cook for 2 to 3 minutes on medium flame
- Keep stirring frequently during cooking to prevent mixture for sticking to bottom When paste thickens and turns creamy, remove from flame and set aside

For Mango Milkshake:

- To a blender jar add chopped mangoes, milk, ice cubes (optional) and sugar
- Blend to a smooth and semi thick consistency.

Assemble the rolls:

- Trim away sides and roll the bread slices with a rolling pin
- Roll the edges thinner than the center
- Spread a tablespoon of filling uniformly over the slice
- Top with a tablespoon of chopped mango pieces.
- Roll tightly to make a cylinder. Prepare remaining three slices in the same manner
- Immerse the prepared rolls into the mango milkshake
- The entire roll should be soaked in mango milk shake for the best result
- Take it out immediately and place onto a serving plate
- Garnish with saffron threads and pistachios slices
- Top with a sprinkle of desiccated coconut
- Refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving



Chef Chhaya Thakker

Indian Chef Chhaya Thakker, who has a huge following online on WhatsApp and YouTube will be sharing her favorite recipes and cooking tips with readers of The Times Kuwait. For feedback, you can write to editortimeskuwait@gmail.com

Korean ambassador cherishes unforgettable Kuwait experience

H. E. Chung Byung-ha, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, stated that Kuwait is the crown jewel among Gulf countries and described Kuwaitis as friendly and hospitable people who accept and coexist with others.

His Excellency Chung Byung-ha, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait, confirmed that his work experience in Kuwait over the past three years will remain engraved in his memory. He mentioned that he would leave Kuwait carrying wonderful memories and friendships that he will be keen to maintain.

He explained that Kuwait is the crown jewel of the Gulf countries, despite the end of his work there. However, he expressed his ongoing support for Kuwait.

In a statement to reporters during a farewell party held at his residence, attended by numerous heads of diplomatic missions and friends of the embassy, the ambassador highlighted the unique privacy enjoyed by Kuwaiti society. He described Kuwaitis as friendly and hospitable people who accept and coexist with others, mentioning that he never felt alienated during his time in Kuwait. Surrounded by warm feelings and kind hearts since his first day, he expressed his intention to share his wonderful experience in Kuwait, including the most important characteristics, customs, and unique traditions of the Kuwaiti people, particularly the Diwaniyah. Additionally, he mentioned his admiration for the Nuer flower.

H.E. Byung-ha revealed that he will leave Kuwait at the end of this month, while the newly appointed ambassador will arrive in the first week of July. He described the incoming



ambassador as a distinguished diplomat who will contribute to supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, expressing pride in the achievements he made during his time in Kuwait. Notably, on the political front, the two countries maintain permanent and direct communication and engage in close consultation on various regional and international issues. They also exchange support in international forums.

Economically, Korean companies have a long-standing presence in Kuwait and directly contribute to the implementation of Kuwait's development projects. In terms of cultural relations, Korean culture, including food, music, arts, and TV series, is highly popular in Kuwait, with a significant demand for learning the

Korean language. The ambassador revealed that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries fluctuates according to oil prices. He pointed out that the total volume of trade exchange between the two countries amounted to \$12 billion last year. He explained that before the COVID-19 pandemic, the total volume of trade exchange between the two countries was much greater, but there is still great potential to increase it, considering the significant potential that the two countries possess.

He pointed out that he had learned many Arabic words and sentences, such as "God willing," "I am the ambassador of South Korea," "peace be upon you," and "good morning." He acquired this knowledge through direct

contact with society during diwaniyas, which he considers platforms for opinions and a civilized manifestation reflecting the values of Kuwaiti society.

During a speech delivered to the audience, he expressed sincere thanks to everyone who cooperated with him during his stay in Kuwait, including media professionals and officials from various ministries, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as his fellow diplomats. He described the diplomatic family in Kuwait as exemplary due to the support provided by the Deanship of the Corps.

He also performed a song by singer Elvis Presley, "Can't Help Falling in Love," which he said expresses his love for Kuwait.

CBK: Standard & Poor's confirms Kuwait's sovereign rating at A+ with stable outlook

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said Friday that the international rating agency of Standard & Poor's confirmed the sovereign rating of Kuwait at A+, with a stable future outlook due to a huge stock of government financial assets support estimated at about 418 percent of the gross domestic product in 2024.

In a statement, the Central Bank noted that the Standard & Poor's report indicated that Kuwait's structural and financial reforms are still lagging behind its peers, and its economy is considered among the most dependent on the oil sector, among GCC countries, which it exposes its economy to fluctuations of the oil market.

The statement added that Standard & Poor's expected that the real gross domestic product would grow by 2.4 percent on average during the years 2025-2027, compared to a contraction of 2.3 percent in 2024, assuming a slight easing in the restrictions of the OPEC+ agreement on oil production.

CBK also pointed out that the rating agency also expected to accelerate the implementation of large government investment projects and focus on partnerships between the public and private sectors and high-impact projects led by the (New Kuwait 2035) vision.

Regarding the rating prospects, the statement noted that the stable future outlook reflects the agency's assumption that the large financial and external balances in Kuwait will continue to be strong during the forecast period, supported



by a huge stock of government financial assets estimated at about 418 percent of the gross domestic product in 2024, which is among the largest sovereign funds of countries.

CBK noted that the agency expected these assets to reach 447 percent of the gross domestic product during the years 2024-2027, pointing out that these huge government assets are expected to mitigate the economic risks associated with the heavy dependence on the oil sector and potential fluctuations in oil prices.

It stated that the agency listed the most important factors that could lead to a downgrade of the country's sovereign credit rating in the event of a significant increase in public financial imbalances driven by a decline in oil prices or the absence of financial reforms.

The rating could also be downgraded if the government remains without comprehensive financing arrangements for the deficits in the general budget, the report noted.

CBK also said that the agency stated that

the country's credit rating could be improved if the government succeeds in implementing a comprehensive structural reform package, such as diversifying the economy away from the oil sector and increasing its production capacity, which leads to stronger prospects for growth.

Regarding the reasons for the classification, the agency noted that Kuwaiti economy is still largely dependent on the oil sector, which represents approximately 90 percent of exports and government revenues and about 50 percent of the gross domestic product, as this sector contributed significantly to achieving surpluses.

The agency pointed out in its report that high government spending, including the very large wage and salary bill, ensures that large surpluses in the financial accounts will not be repeated, as Kuwait has suffered from a deficit throughout the past 10 years, with the exception of two fiscal years (2013-2014) and (2014-2015), expecting such deficits will continue for the fiscal years (2023/2024 - 2027/2028).

Regarding financial reforms, the agency expected that authorities in Kuwait would move to impose new selective taxes on tobacco and sugary drinks and increase fees on a group of government services, noting that it is unlikely to impose a value-added tax (VAT) with the possibility of passing the public debt law in the fiscal year (2025/2026). Other financial reforms aimed at reducing the wage bill remain important but are under discussion, and the government seeks to increase the employment of citizens in the private sector.

As for developments in the general budget of the country, the agency estimated the budget deficit in the fiscal year (2023/2024) at about 4.7 percent of the GDP. It also estimated that the deficit in the fiscal year (2024/2025) would shrink to 3.1 percent of the GDP.

Regarding monetary policy and exchange rate policy, Standard & Poor's expected that the Kuwaiti dinar's exchange rate would continue to be linked to an undeclared weighted basket of currencies. Consumer price inflation (CPI) remained around 3.6 percent in 2023, down from 4 percent in 2022, the agency said, projecting that the CPI will moderate throughout the forecast period averaging 2.3 percent in 2024-2027. It is lower than in many developed and emerging markets, it estimated. It did not envisage significant contingent liabilities for the government from the banking sector in Kuwait, which has demonstrated strong resilience and financial soundness over the past few years. It forecasted subdued credit growth in 2024 and 2025, rising in 2026-2027.

The agency expected that banks' high provision buffers will allow them to limit the increase in nonperforming loans (NPL) ratios by writing off NPLs, which are already at a very low level, and stood at 1.4 percent in December 2023.

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Target 1.5°C for Global Warming Must Prevail



Joeri Rogelj

Professor of Climate Science and Policy and Director of Research at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London, is a lead author of reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme.

unequivocally show that crucial climate goals are not being met. Under current policies, global temperatures are projected to increase by 2.5-3°C by the end of this century.

Even if governments meet all their existing climate pledges, the odds against global warming staying below 1.5°C are seven to one. Combine this with the fossil-fuel industry's delaying tactics, including the greenwashing of their polluting business practices and recent roll-back on self-imposed emissions targets, and it becomes abundantly clear that our chances of staying below 1.5°C are indeed slim. Consequently, climate scientists expect global warming to 'blast past' the 1.5°C limit.

development, and poses an existential threat to vulnerable communities and their cultures. Moreover, the line between 'safe' and 'dangerous' warming is becoming increasingly blurred. As the devastating effects of climate change worldwide show, even 1.5°C is dangerous and our societies are ill-equipped to handle it.

Over the past 20 years, we have experienced what a world that has warmed by about 1°C is like. No region has been spared the impact, with a growing number of countries facing fires, floods, and storms, resulting in devastating human and financial costs that extend well beyond national borders. Between 2000 and 2019, climate-related disasters claimed over

and Kolkata. Vulnerable and marginalized communities' efforts to escape poverty will be undermined, and every country's economic development will be impeded.

Limiting global warming is thus a matter of social justice, human rights, and long-term development, and this imperative remains even if we cross the 1.5°C threshold. Moreover, while exceeding 1.5°C will have unpredictable political consequences as compensation claims for avoidable climate-related damage increase, the political implications of reducing GHG emissions remain consistent with what the Paris agreement already outlines.

To halt global warming, the Paris agreement expects countries to implement emission-reduction plans that represent their 'highest possible ambition'. While governments are failing to meet this goal, exceeding 1.5°C does not change their responsibilities; in fact, fulfilling these commitments will become more important as temperatures continue to rise. The only way to improve our chances of keeping warming close to 1.5°C is by pledging and implementing more ambitious near-term emission cuts every year until 2035.

Even if we cannot avoid overshooting 1.5°C, the 1.5°C target remains relevant. Every fraction of a degree counts, and global climate efforts must therefore focus on limiting exceeding 1.5°C and returning to safe levels as quickly as possible. The Paris agreement's target of achieving global net-zero GHG emissions, in particular, could help reverse some of the excess warming. To maintain a safe, livable, and just planet, we must keep our eyes on the 1.5°C limit and ensure that pursuing it remains our top priority.

The world is burning, and our political leaders are failing us. With temperatures rising at an alarming rate, it seems that anyone who believes it is still possible to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius is in a rapidly shrinking minority.

As governments around the world fail to meet their responsibilities under the Paris climate agreement, the window for keeping global temperatures below the 1.5°C limit has all but closed due to insufficient action. But while some eminent commentators have declared the 1.5°C target 'dead as a doornail', I have come to the opposite conclusion: 1.5°C will never die.

To be sure, the world is in a dire state. Greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions dumped in the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution have already warmed the planet by roughly 1.3°C, according to this year's annual report by the IPCC on Indicators of Global Climate Change. And studies, including mine,

“ Ice melt will cause sea levels to rise, flooding major cities like London, New York, Shanghai, and Kolkata. Vulnerable communities' efforts to escape poverty will be undermined, and every country's economic development will be impeded. ”

But just as risks do not vanish when safety limits are exceeded, the Paris agreement's climate commitments do not disappear once we cross 1.5°C. While 1.5°C is a political target, it was not pulled out of thin air. It is a scientifically informed limit, first championed by small island states and later supported by a broad coalition of ambitious countries.

By now, it is clear to many governments that allowing global warming to exceed 1.5°C involves unacceptable societal risks, undermines

half a million lives, caused over USD 2 trillion in estimated damage, and affected almost four billion people worldwide.

Even at 1.5°C warming, up to one in seven species face extinction, critical ecosystems like tropical coral reefs face destruction, and extreme heat waves that our great-grandparents experienced once in a lifetime will occur on average every six years. Centuries of ice melt will cause sea levels to rise, flooding major cities like London, New York, Shanghai,



Publisher & Editor-In-Chief
Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry
editorial@timeskuwait.com

Managing Editor
Sheikha Suhaila Fahad Al-Sabah
editorial@timeskuwait.com

Executive Managing Editor
Reaven D'Souza
reavendsouza@timeskuwait.com

P O Box 5141, Safat 13052, Kuwait
Tel : 24814404, 24810109
Email : editorial@timeskuwait.com
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Handbag and Shoe Trends 2024

A Fashion Forward Guide



By Hermoine Macura-Noble
Special to The Times Kuwait

As fashion continues its relentless evolution, 2024 unveils a collection of exclusive and innovative trends in handbags and shoes. These trends, a fusion of timeless elegance and contemporary flair, are not just fashion statements but a privilege to be a part of. From the runways of Paris and Milan to the bustling streets of New York, here is an exclusive look at some of the trends that will dominate this year's fashion scene.

Micro Bags: These tiny bags continue to make a big statement. Despite their size, they are more than just a fashion accessory. They are perfect for adding a pop of color or a bit of bling to any outfit, and can hold more than just lipstick and a credit card. Often seen slung across the body or attached to larger totes, these diminutive



accessories are as much about fashion as they are about function.

Oversized Totes: On the opposite end of the spectrum, oversized totes are back in vogue. These spacious bags are perfect for the modern multitasker, offering practicality without sacrificing style. Look for designs with multiple compartments, bold colors, and unique textures.

Statement Hardware: Hardware is making a statement in 2024. Think oversized buckles, chunky chains, and eye-catching clasps. Gold and silver tones dominate, adding a touch of luxury to everyday accessories. This trend is perfect for those who like their bags with some edge and personality.

Platforms and Chunky Soles: Platform shoes and chunky soles are making a significant comeback, reminiscent of the 90s and early 2000s. These styles provide height and add a bold, edgy element to any outfit. These shoes are all about making a statement, from platform sneakers to chunky boots.

Kitten Heels: For those who prefer a more understated look, kitten heels are a chic and comfortable option. These low, slender heels not only add a touch of elegance to both casual and formal wear but also prioritize your



comfort. Look for styles with pointed toes and slingback straps to stay on trend without sacrificing your comfort.

Metallic Finishes: Metallic shoes are shining brightly this year. Whether it is a pair of silver sandals, gold loafers, or iridescent boots, metallic finishes add a glamorous touch to footwear. These shoes are perfect for evening wear but can also be paired with daytime outfits for a bit of unexpected sparkle.

Artisanal Details: Handcrafted elements and artisanal details are key features in 2024's footwear. Think intricate embroidery, beading, and hand-painted designs. These unique touches highlight the craftsmanship behind each pair and ensure that your shoes are true works of art.



The handbag and shoe trends of 2024 offer something for everyone. Whether you want to make a statement with chunky soles and oversized totes or prefer the subtle elegance of structured handbags and kitten heels, this year's trends are all about personal expression and innovative design. Embrace these styles to stay ahead of the fashion curve and make every step stylish.

Hermoine Macura-Noble
The first Australian English speaking News Anchor in the Middle East. She is also the Author of Faces of the Middle East and Founder of US-based 501c3 charity – The House of Rest which helps to ease the suffering of victims of war. For more from our Contributing Editor, you can follow her on Instagram, @hello_hermoine



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Essential Eight of Life

Statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally, taking an estimated 17.9 million lives each year. CVDs refer to a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, heart attacks and strokes. Figures show that more than four out of five CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes.

One of several risk factors for heart disease is age. However, a study published last month in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that regardless of age, heart-healthy behaviors and risk factor management can reduce people's risk for heart disease and death from any cause, including heart disease and stroke.

Researchers behind the study found that heart-healthy behaviors, which the American Heart Association labels as 'Life's Essential 8', were linked with reduced cellular aging resulting in a younger biological age — meaning that their cells were healthier than might be expected for their chronological age.

The study's goal was to learn whether a process called 'DNA methylation', which is known to regulate gene expression, could influence cell aging and people's risk of dying. DNA methylation is a biological process by which the addition of a methyl group to a DNA alters the activity of that DNA segment. DNA methylation is essential for normal development and is associated with a number of key biological processes, including aging.

The research team examined data for 5,682 adults, over half of whom were women (56%), and with an average age of 56. The participants were interviewed in addition to undergoing physical exams and laboratory tests. They were also assessed using the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8 tool.

Life's Essential 8 includes four behaviors: Nightly hours spent sleeping; Whether the person smokes; How much physical activity they engage in; And, how well they eat. The eight behaviors also include four clinical measurements: Body mass index (BMI); Blood sugar; Cholesterol; and Blood pressure.

Based on all of the eight 'Life Essential' factors, the researchers assigned people a score on a scale of 0-100, with 100 being the best possible score. The researchers also used four other tools to estimate biological age based on DNA methylation and a fifth tool to gauge people's genetic tendency toward rapid biological aging. Study participants were followed for the next 11-14 years to see if they developed cardiovascular disease or died.

After the investigators analyzed the data, they found that the higher that people scored on Life's Essential 8, the lower their risk was for developing cardiovascular



disease. Each 13-point increase in their score yielded a reduction in developing CVD by 35 percent, dying from cardiovascular disease by 36 percent, and dying from any cause by 29 percent.

Also, those who were genetically more at risk for faster biological aging were more greatly impacted by their Life's Essential 8 score. The study authors believe this might potentially be due to DNA methylation. They estimated that about 20 percent of the link between Life's Essential 8 and cardiovascular disease outcomes was caused by how these factors affect DNA methylation.

On the other hand, in people with greater genetic risk, this figure was nearly doubled. The study suggested that the eight lifestyle factors may support cellular health by preventing DNA methylation and therefore reversing the aging process.

Several factors were shown to bring about positive changes in DNA methylation. These included exercise, which has been shown to induce positive changes in DNA methylation

patterns, thereby slowing aging. Eating a balanced diet is also crucial. Certain nutrients, such as polyphenols and omega-3 fatty acids, found in balanced diets have been proven to modulate gene expression through epigenetic mechanisms.

Experts recommend that to adopt more of Life's Essential 8 behaviors, people should begin by taking small, manageable steps toward achieving their goal. For example, try to walk, cycle, or swim at moderate intensity for at least 150 minutes a week. To achieve this goal, it is advisable to break the time into 30-minute sessions and do it five times a week. Also try incorporating more physical activity into your daily routine, for example, by taking the stairs instead of the elevator or walking on your lunch break.

When it comes to diet, whole foods — such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats like those found in nuts and avocados — should make up a major part of the diet. Furthermore, cutting down on processed foods, sugary drinks, as well as

avoiding consuming excessive amounts of red meat may support heart health

It is also essential to incorporate stress management into your daily routine. Activities like yoga, meditation, and deep breathing exercises can help relieve anxiety. Stress levels can also be reduced by spending several minutes every day practicing mindfulness, which improves overall well-being.

Another important measure is to quit smoking. Get medication through smoking cessation programs or counseling services with nicotine replacement therapies being used as a means. Healthcare providers and communities may provide substantial help toward quitting smoking successfully.

Finally, it is important to see your doctor regularly to check your total cholesterol, HDL-C (high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, or the 'good cholesterol'), and blood glucose.

By slowly assimilating these habits into their daily life, people can greatly improve their cardiovascular health and perhaps reverse parts of cellular aging or at least age gracefully.

Living bioelectronics can sense and heal skin

A collaborative team of scientists and researchers from the University of Chicago, Rutgers University and Columbia University, have for the first time developed a prototype patch of 'living bioelectronics' — a combination of living bacterial cells, gel and electronics — that can integrate with living tissue.

The patches are made of sensors, bacterial cells, and a gel made from starch and gelatin. Tests in mice found that the devices could continuously monitor and improve psoriasis-like symptoms, without irritating skin. The researchers hope the principles can also be applied to other parts of the body, such as cardiological or neural stimulation.

Pairing electronics with the human body has always been difficult. Although devices like pacemakers have improved countless lives, they tend to be relatively bulky and rigid, and can cause irritation when it interacts with the body. The researchers behind the new study

who specialize in uncovering the fundamental principles behind how living cells and tissue interact with synthetic materials, have previously invented a tiny pacemaker that can be controlled with light, as well as developed materials that are strong and flexible enough to form the basis of bone implants.

Typically, bioelectronics consist of the electronics part along with a soft layer to make them less irritating to the body. For their work, the researchers added new capabilities by integrating a third layer of living cells.

The final device consisted of three components — a framework of thin, flexible electronic circuit with sensors; an overlay of gel created from tapioca starch and gelatin, which is ultrasoft and mimics the makeup of tissue itself; and finally, tucked into the gel were the living component, several microbes from the species *S. epidermidis*, a bacteria that naturally lives on the human skin and has been shown to reduce inflammation.



When the device is placed on skin, the bacteria secrete compounds that reduce inflammation, and the sensor monitors the skin for signals like skin temperature and humidity. In tests with mice prone to psoriasis-like skin conditions, there was a significant reduction in symptoms.

Their initial tests ran for a week, but the researchers hope the system — which they call the ABLE platform, for Active Biointegrated Living Electronics — could be used for a half-

year or more. And, since the healing effects are provided by microbes, it works as a 'living drug' that you do not have to replenish.

In addition to treating psoriasis, the potential application of the system could be extended to patches that speed wound healing on patients with diabetes, effect cardiological or neural stimulation, as well as to treat other tissue and cell types. The researchers said that they were currently evaluating the possibility of commercializing their new technology.

Dushanbe Water Process to help achieve a water-secure future

The Dushanbe Water Process 2024 is a significant event that will continue the dialogue and action on global water sustainability. The Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' is set to take place from June 10 to June 13, 2024, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This conference is part of the Dushanbe Water Process, which supports the implementation of the goals of the International Decade for Action.

The event will focus on various themes, including water for health and people, water for livelihoods and inclusive economic growth, water for environment and climate resilience, and knowledge, communication, and partnerships. It aims to reinforce the Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference and review the progress made on the voluntary commitments registered.

The Dushanbe Declaration, issued from the second conference, highlights the ongoing commitment to the 'Dushanbe Water Process' and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The upcoming conference in 2024 will be a hybrid event, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation, and is expected to bring together policymakers, scientists, and representatives from various sectors to foster discussions on innovative water management solutions.

The Dushanbe Water Process: A Pledge for Sustainable Development

In the heart of Central Asia, the city of Dushanbe in Tajikistan has become synonymous with a global commitment to water sustainability. The Genesis of the Dushanbe Water Process The Dushanbe Water Process was initiated by the Government of Tajikistan to support the goals of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". It is a platform that brings together international stakeholders to promote action, partnership, and policy dialogue.

The Third High-Level International Conference: The upcoming event, scheduled for June 10-13, 2024, marks the third high-level international conference under this initiative. Set against the backdrop of the Kokhi Somon venue in Dushanbe, the conference aims to reinforce the implementation of the Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference.



Objectives and Expectations: The Dushanbe Water Process is more than just a conference; it is a movement towards reinforcing

the interlinkages between water resources and climate action. The event serves as a crucial checkpoint to review the progress made on the voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda and to catalyze further action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

A Platform for Global Voices: The conference is expected to host a diverse group of participants, including policymakers, scientists, and representatives from civil society and the private sector. Notable speakers from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) such as Rachael McDonnell, Mohsin Hafeez, Bunyod Holmatov, and Chiara Colombo will share insights and foster discussions on innovative water management solutions.

The Road Ahead: As the Dushanbe Water Process continues to evolve, it remains a beacon of hope for a future where water security is a reality for all. The outcomes of the 2024 conference will undoubtedly influence global water governance and set the stage for the next phase of the International Decade for Action.

The expected outcomes of the Dushanbe Water Process 2024 conference are centered around enhancing global water sustainability efforts. Here are some key expectations:

The conference will aim to support the implementation of the voluntary commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda. While it seeks to inspire new commitments to accelerate actions and partnerships to achieve water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event will also provide a platform for policy dialogue, partnership, and action to operationalize the Water Action Agenda. There will be a thorough assessment of the implementation of the Water Action Agenda, sharing best practices and innovative solutions.

The conference will be an opportunity to raise awareness and mobilize political will towards water sustainability. It will provide a platform to report on the Water Action Agenda and track progress against voluntary commitments, ensuring accountability and transparency.

The event will hope to strengthen implementation mechanisms to ensure interlinkages with other global processes on climate, biodiversity, and disaster risk mitigation. These outcomes are expected to contribute significantly to the advancement of global water governance and the



sustainable management of water resources. The Dushanbe Water Process 2024 will be a critical step in ensuring that the momentum generated at the UN 2023 Water Conference continues to unite the world around the vital issue of water.

The Dushanbe Water Process will be a reflection of our

global society's resilience and determination to ensure that water, the source of all life, is managed wisely and sustainably. As the world looks towards Dushanbe in 2024, there is a shared optimism that the collective wisdom and commitment of the global community will lead to a more water-secure future for generations to come.



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Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry
Editor-In-Chief

Extends his heartfelt congratulations to
His Highness

**Sheikh Sabah Khaled
Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah**

On the occasion of his appointment as Crown Prince.

We implore God Almighty to grant His Highness prosperity and success