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THE TIMES

KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



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Rules for the Rest of Us

By Claudia Sanhueza
Special to The Times Kuwait

For decades, global power emanated from Europe and the United States. That was certainly my view when I first set foot in the Northern Hemisphere as a graduate student at the University of Cambridge. But managing Chile's international economic relations under former President Gabriel Boric revealed just how much power the Global South can wield, if it chooses to do so.

This is apparent not only in the data but also at the negotiating table. In 2025, I traveled with Boric, other cabinet members, and



Chilean business leaders, academics, cultural figures, and entrepreneurs to India to negotiate a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Both sides were following development economists' long-standing policy prescriptions: diversify trade partners, open new markets, and deepen South-South integration.

But during the trip, US President Donald Trump announced his "reciprocal" tariffs against most of America's trading partners, ripping up global trade rules. For the Global South, this was a slap in the face. We never expected development to be free of struggle and contradictions.

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متوفر في: الضيعة، الفيحجيل، الأصمدي، القرين، العقيلة
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Kuwait real estate market hits 1.01 billion dinars in 112 days of trading activity

Kuwait's real estate sector has recorded strong momentum since the beginning of the year through April 22, with total transactions reaching approximately KD 1.01 billion across 1,331 deals within a period of just 112 days, according to official statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice.

The data reflects sustained activity across all major segments of the property market, with the private residential sector leading in terms of transaction volume.

This sector recorded 898 deals with a total value of KD 360.9 million, making it the most active segment during the reporting period.

The investment sector came in second, achieving transactions worth KD 342.7 million through 340 deals, while the commercial sector registered KD 179.7 million across 43 transactions, reports Al-Rai daily.

The industrial sector contributed approximately KD 40.3 million through 22 deals, while the coastal strip recorded around KD 35.1 million distributed over five transactions.

Market activity during April highlighted continued diversity in residential property prices across different regions of the country.

In West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, a 400-square-meter house was sold for KD 300,000, while a 500-square-meter plot in Al-Daiya was traded at KD 630,000.

In Jaber Al-Ahmad City, a similar-sized property was sold for KD 325,000, whereas in Sabah Al-Salem a house of the same area was sold for KD 190,000. In Al-Oyoun, a 297.6-square-meter property was sold for KD 150,000.

In Al-Mutlaa residential city, transactions for 400-square-meter homes ranged between KD 250,000 and KD 410,000, reflecting ongoing demand in the new residential districts.

Additional deals included a house in Al-Wafra residential area for KD 151,000, a property in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh for KD 244,000, and a house in Ishbiliya that reached KD 718,000.

The Yarmouk area witnessed notable high-value transactions, including a deal worth KD 1.8 million for a 842.5-square-meter property,



alongside another transaction valued at KD 950,000 for a similar-sized plot. In Salwa, residential prices ranged between KD 570,000 and KD 800,000, while an apartment in Northwest Sulaibikhat was sold for KD 212,000.

Additional transactions included a house in Sulaibikhat with an area of 300 square meters sold for KD 191,500, and another in Ardhiya of the same size sold for KD 220,000.

The industrial sector also showed active movement, particularly in Al-Ardhiya Industrial and Al-Fahaheel. In Al-Ardhiya Industrial,

ten transactions were recorded, including a warehouse of 2,000 square meters sold for KD 4.4 million and an industrial building of 1,137 square meters sold for KD 4.1 million, while other warehouses of 1,000 square meters ranged between KD 2.8 million and KD 3.5 million.

In Al-Fahaheel, 12 transactions were recorded, with industrial land prices ranging between KD 731,000 and KD 1.3 million.

High-value transactions further highlighted the strength of the market, with a coastal strip property in Al-Bida'a area of 7,369 square meters sold for KD 13.6 million.

In the commercial sector, a building in Al-Dajeej was sold for KD 10 million, while a commercial complex in Farwaniya recorded KD 7.6 million. A commercial building in Salmiya was sold for KD 6.5 million, alongside warehouse and industrial deals in Al-Ardhiya valued at KD 4.4 million and KD 4.1 million respectively.

In addition, commercial land deals in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City ranged between KD 4 million and KD 6 million.

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Kuwait says 'My Identity' authentication now mandatory for online money transfers

As part of its push to expand financial digitalization, the Central Bank of Kuwait has directed exchange companies to adopt the My Identity application as a mandatory tool for verifying customer identities when conducting international money transfers online. Under the new regulatory measure, exchange companies are required not only to authenticate customers through the app but also to document all verification procedures.

The move aims to enhance security and transparency across the financial transfer system, particularly for transactions executed via digital platforms, reports Al-Rai daily.

Sources said the requirement aligns with the government's broader strategy to promote financial digitization while strengthening safeguards against fraud.

The use of "My Identity" is expected to provide an additional layer of protection against unauthorized transactions, including cases where electronic applications may be exploited to transfer funds without the account holder's knowledge.

The sources explained that activating authentication through the app ensures that all parties involved, the customer, the transferring entity, and regulatory authorities, can verify that the individual executing the transaction is the legitimate account holder, rather than a fraudster impersonating user data.

They noted that digital financial applications have significantly transformed how customers manage their money, offering fast and convenient access to services anytime and from anywhere.



However, this shift also requires stronger precautionary measures, particularly for online transfers, making identity verification through "My Identity" essential.

The application enables citizens and residents to securely access both government and private sector services without the need to carry a physical civil ID. It offers features such as identity verification, digital signatures,

electronic authentication, a digital document wallet, and a digital version of the civil ID card.

The new requirement is also expected to support the expansion of Kuwait's digital infrastructure and enhance the reliability of financial transactions, reducing risks associated with cybersecurity breaches amid the rapid growth of digital services.

To implement the measure, all financial transfer service providers must establish electronic integration with the Public Authority for Civil Information to enable "My Identity" authentication.

While major exchange companies are already linked to the authority, others will need to upgrade their technical systems and complete integration within the timeframe set by the Central Bank, which will oversee compliance across the sector.

LuLu launches GCC-wide 'World Food Festival' signalling strong return to normalcy across regional retail



Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of LuLu Group, inaugurates the GCC-wide World Food Festival at LuLu Hypermarket, Al Rai, Kuwait City, in the presence of dignitaries and senior management.

Reinforcing the strong return to normalcy across the Middle East's retail landscape, LuLu Group has officially launched its GCC-wide 'World Food Festival', marking a renewed phase of consumer engagement, business confidence, and regional economic momentum.

The festival was inaugurated today at LuLu Hypermarket, Al Rai, Kuwait City, by Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of LuLu Group, in the presence of prominent dignitaries including Muntaser Jasim Al Wazzan, Chairman of Mezzan Holding; Abdul Latheef Al Bahar, General Manager of Al Bahar; and Bader N. Al Hajery, Managing Director of Al Hajery, along with senior management of LuLu Group and key stakeholders.

The launch comes at a time when the region is witnessing a steady and confident return to normal business conditions, with retail activity regaining momentum and consumer sentiment strengthening across markets. Industry players are resuming planned activations and large-

scale initiatives, reflecting the resilience of the region's economy and the effectiveness of coordinated efforts between governments and the private sector.

Speaking at the inauguration, Yusuffali M.A. said:

"We are happy to see business and consumer confidence returning strongly across the region. The past period has demonstrated the resilience of the UAE and the wider GCC, where the leadership, government authorities, and private sector worked hand-in-hand to overcome challenges and ensure stability. We sincerely thank all authorities for their continued support, which enabled us to maintain uninterrupted supply chains and serve our customers without disruption."

He further added:

"As we move forward, initiatives like the 'World Food Festival' reflect our commitment to bringing communities back to vibrant retail experiences. With our global sourcing network



and strong logistics capabilities, we continue to ensure consistent availability, quality, and price stability for customers across all markets."

The World Food Festival, being rolled out across LuLu stores in the GCC, celebrates the region's multicultural fabric by bringing together a diverse range of food products and cuisines from around the world. From fresh produce and premium meats to global pantry

essentials, specialty ingredients, and ready-to-eat delicacies, the festival offers customers an authentic taste of home—no matter where they are from.

Leveraging its extensive sourcing network spanning over 26 countries, LuLu has curated a comprehensive assortment of country-specific products, ensuring that customers can access their favourite foods and ingredients from their home countries. This initiative underscores LuLu's position as a truly global retailer catering to the diverse tastes of millions of residents across the GCC.

Designed as both a celebration and a catalyst for renewed retail energy, the festival will run across all GCC markets, featuring themed food activations, live cooking experiences, and special promotions across categories. It is expected to further boost footfall, enhance customer engagement, and contribute to the continued revival of retail activity across the region.

Kuwait forms high-level committee to document damage from Iranian aggression

As part of the government's efforts to assess and accurately document the damage resulting from the Iranian aggression against Kuwait, the Cabinet has formed a committee chaired by Finance Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, with representatives from several government entities as members.

The committee is tasked with documenting the damage and estimating the losses incurred by those affected. All concerned authorities are required to take the necessary steps by preparing a comprehensive and



detailed inventory of the damages sustained by them and by entities under their supervision as a result of the attack, reports Al-Rai daily.

These reports will then be submitted to the committee and must clearly outline the nature of the damage, whether material, operational, or technical, along with photo evidence and supporting documents.

This process aims to ensure accuracy and completeness in assessing the losses, paving the way for appropriate action to be taken.

Silent heroes, MEW engineers and technicians shield Kuwait's lifelines amid crisis

Under fire, unshaken electricity and water teams defy enemy attacks provide round-the-clock stability



Working quietly yet courageously, teams from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy stood on the frontlines of a critical national test, confronting the risks posed by recent Iranian attacks on key infrastructure sites while ensuring uninterrupted delivery of essential services.

Amid the hum of power generation and water production units, these professionals, engineers, technicians, and operators, demonstrated exceptional resolve and technical expertise, swiftly responding to damage at targeted power stations and high-voltage transmission lines.

From the earliest moments of the crisis, the Ministry moved to maximum readiness, activating pre-established emergency plans. Field teams were reinforced, coordination across operational sectors intensified, and staff across all locations maintained continuous operations under a round-the-clock shift system to safeguard the stability of the national grid.

While repair crews worked rapidly on-site to restore affected facilities, monitoring and control center teams maintained constant vigilance, overseeing network performance through advanced systems and directing real-time responses to ensure uninterrupted

service. Undersecretary Dr. Adel Al-Zamel described the Ministry's workforce as a model of dedication and national service, noting that employees carried out their duties with unwavering commitment despite the challenges, driven by a singular mission to serve the country and preserve its stability.

He emphasized that recent developments have underscored the critical responsibility borne by the Ministry in maintaining essential services.

Echoing this sentiment, Chairman of the Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Workers Union, Duaij Al-Azmi, praised the workforce for rising to the occasion.

He highlighted their readiness and efficiency in addressing damage, ensuring the continued stability of electricity and water networks even as risks escalated.

He stressed that their efforts go beyond routine duty, representing a profound national commitment that reflects sacrifice and dedication to Kuwait under all circumstances.

On the ground, technical teams maintained a constant presence, with rapid deployment to affected sites ensuring immediate intervention and minimizing potential service disruptions. This quick response played a key role in preserving

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India's first woman envoy in Kuwait presents credentials to Amir

... reaffirms strategic partnership

The Times Kuwait Report

In a significant diplomatic milestone, Ambassador Paramita Tripathi presented her credentials today to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, during a formal ceremony held at Bayan Palace.

The ceremony, marked by full protocol honors officially recognizes Ambassador Tripathi as the 20th Ambassador of India to Kuwait, and notably, the first woman to hold the position. His Highness the Amir extended a warm welcome to the new envoy and wished her success in her diplomatic mission.

He underscored the longstanding historic ties between Kuwait and India, highlighting deep-rooted civilizational links and strong people-to-people relations. He also reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening cooperation with India across diverse fields of mutual interest.

During the audience, Ambassador Tripathi conveyed greetings and best wishes from the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and 1.4 billion people of India. She described Kuwait as a trusted friend of India, a respected regional



voice in the Gulf, and an important partner within the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Ambassador also expressed India's solidarity with Kuwait amid regional developments, reiterating New Delhi's strong commitment to peace, stability, and constructive engagement in the region.

She emphasized the vital contribution of the Indian community in Kuwait, describing it as a living bridge that strengthens bilateral relations.

Ambassador Tripathi further highlighted India's determination to deepen the India-Kuwait Strategic Partnership across key sectors including trade and investment, defense and security, energy, healthcare, science and technology, innovation, skills development, and cultural exchange.

Both sides also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation on regional and global issues, particularly in upholding international law,



the rule of law, and the principles of the United Nations.

India and Kuwait share historically close and friendly relations, built on strong economic ties, geographic proximity, cultural affinity, and enduring people-to-people connections.

This year also marks the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, underscoring the depth and continuity of their partnership.

Rules for the Rest of Us

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But the direction was clear: greater global economic integration would enhance growth. And the rules and institutions were shared—until the country that designed them decided to exempt itself. Perhaps most strikingly, the rules-based multilateral system worked for the developing world. In 1952, the United States, with just 6% of the world's population, produced around 40% of global GDP. By contrast, the US now produces 15% of global GDP (in purchasing power terms), while China has risen from near zero to 20%.

The redistribution extends beyond the US-China axis. In the 1970s, Germany's economy was twice the size of India's; today, India's is nearly three times larger than Germany's. The City University of New York economist Branko Milanović has called this "the greatest reshuffle of individual incomes since the Industrial Revolution."

As Milanović and Christoph Lakner of the World Bank showed in a landmark study, the largest relative income gains between 1988 and 2008 went to hundreds of millions of people around the global median, mostly in Asian countries, lifting them into the middle class. The same process led to stagnant incomes

for working- and middle-class people in rich countries. The system reduced global poverty and shifted the international power balance.

Integration into the global economy was a necessary but insufficient condition for development. The countries that gained the most from globalization had a plan. China is the most obvious example, but South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and others followed a similar path: they devised long-term development strategies; invested in education, industrial policy, and technology; and integrated selectively into global markets.

The countries that lacked a plan, particularly in the developed world, opened their economies without building domestic capacity to redistribute the gains. That failure to manage the risks of globalization has become everyone's problem, because it has generated the political discontent now engulfing the West and fracturing the international order.

Some of the greatest challenges the world faces today, including climate change and managing AI, can be addressed only through common rules, shared institutions, and cross-border collaboration. We know that technological change is one of the main drivers of rising inequality within countries, and that the world's poorest and most vulnerable are bearing

the brunt of the climate crisis. Both problems demand dialogue, and neither can be solved by the strongest acting alone.

Many of the critical resources required to fight climate change and power the technological transition, from copper and lithium to rare earths and rainforests, are concentrated in Latin America, providing the region with new leverage. But leverage without coordination creates risk. And right now, Latin America lacks a regional strategy.

Devising one is not a utopian aspiration. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was built on the recognition that smaller economies need collective positions, shared frameworks, and coordinated strategies to negotiate with major powers from a position of strength. As the rules that once constrained these powers weaken, regional solidarity has become only more important.

Forging closer ties between Latin American governments, private sectors, and civil societies is no longer an option. It is an imperative that calls for strong national agendas.

The last wave of globalization illustrated the importance of policies that distribute gains equitably and strengthen education systems, as well as fiscal frameworks that convert resource rents into public investment. State institutions

must be strong enough to resist capture. Long-term industrial and technology policies must be put in place. Such planning is the difference between development and dependency.

When this period of Trumpian disorder eventually gives way to reconstruction, the Global South must come to the table with proposals, not just complaints. The order that is now fracturing was built largely without us, but that need not be true of the next one. Countries that cannot impose their preferences by force must continue to do the unglamorous work of coordination and collaboration—much like we did in India last year. Only by coming together now can we create a global system where the rules apply to all.



Claudia Sanhueza is a former deputy finance minister and former undersecretary of international economic relations of Chile.

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Kuwait airspace opens with gradual flight resumption to 13 countries

These include Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Turkey, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Jordan, China, and Pakistan.

The Times Kuwait Report

After a period of uncertainty that left thousands of travelers anxiously awaiting updates, Kuwait has reopened its airspace, marking a significant step toward restoring normal travel operations. The Kuwait International Airport began commercial flights starting Sunday, April 26, with initial operations covering 13 key in-



ternational destinations. These include Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Turkey, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Jordan, China, and Pakistan.

Acting Deputy Director General for Aviation Safety, Air Transport and Civil Aviation Security, Abdullah Al-Rajhi,

confirmed that the reopening will be carried out in phases to ensure operational efficiency and safety. In the first phase, around 40 daily flights are expected to operate, split between approximately 20 departures and 20 arrivals. Flights will initially depart from Terminals T4 and T5, focusing on essential and high-demand routes.

The Kuwaiti authorities described this phase as a "trial period," during which operations will be closely monitored. Any logistical or technical challenges identified will be addressed before expanding services in subsequent stages. Al-Rajhi emphasized that a comprehensive plan has been put in place to ensure the highest standards of safety and security, alongside smooth coordination with airports in destination countries.

Officials indicated that future phases will see increased flight frequency and the addition of new destinations, as part of a broader strategy to restore Kuwait's global connectivity.

Close coordination is underway between the Public Authority for Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Interior to manage airport traffic, enhance ground services, and streamline passenger movement during the transition period. Travelers have been urged to follow

official guidelines and cooperate with authorities to ensure a seamless travel experience.

Relief for travelers

The announcement comes as a welcome relief for residents and citizens who have been eagerly waiting for the reopening of Kuwait's airspace.

The gradual return of flights signals not only a recovery in aviation operations but also a step toward normalcy in regional mobility and economic activity. With demand expected to rise quickly, authorities are moving cautiously balancing safety with the urgent need to reconnect Kuwait to the world.

PAM introduces new digital work permit services via As'hal portal

The Public Authority for Manpower has announced the launch of a package of new electronic services through the "As'hal" portal for company services, in a move aimed at accelerating digital transformation and simplifying procedures for employers in the private sector.

The authority said the new services include "work permit issuance - transfer from outside the sector," "cancellation of work permit - expatriate workers," and "reversal of work permit cancellation," covering workers under residency articles (26, 27, 28, 29, and 30), as well as category (30) for those whose legal status has been amended, reports Al-Rai daily.

PAM explained that the "work permit issuance - transfer from outside the sector" service allows eligible workers to transfer under specific conditions, including holding a valid residency and passport throughout the permit period,



absence of any legal suspensions on the worker or employer file, and no pending applications or travel bans. Prior approvals from relevant authorities are also required depending on the residency category. The "cancellation of work permit, expatriate workers' service applies to the same categories and requires the worker to be actively employed under Article (18) with valid residency inside the country, while ensuring there are no suspensions or pending requests related to the worker or employer file.

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Vietnam – Kuwait Business Conference Highlights Strong Trade Ties, New Opportunities

More than 60 companies from Vietnam and Kuwait participated in the conference, representing sectors such as trade, import and export, services, and investment, including several leading enterprises from both countries.

The Times Kuwait Report

The Vietnamese Embassy in Kuwait, in coordination with the Ho Chi Minh City Trade and Investment Promotion Center, organized the “Vietnam–Kuwait Business Conference” on Wednesday, showcasing Vietnam’s business environment, key export products, and Kuwait’s import needs.

The event brought together senior officials and business leaders from both countries. On the Vietnamese side, attendees included Ambassador Nguyen Duc Thang, representatives of the Vietnamese Trade Office in Kuwait, and delegates from the Ho Chi Minh City Trade and Investment Promotion Center. From Kuwait, officials from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and members of the media were present.

More than 60 companies from Vietnam and Kuwait participated in the conference, representing sectors such as trade, import and export, services, and investment, including several leading enterprises from both countries. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Nguyen Duc Thang highlighted the steady development of Vietnam–Kuwait relations across multiple sectors, particularly in trade and economic cooperation. He noted that bilateral trade has consistently ranged between \$7.3 billion and \$7.5 billion annually over the past three years, marking Vietnam’s highest trade volume with any partner in the Middle East and North Africa.

He also pointed to the elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership during the Vietnamese Prime Minister’s visit to Kuwait in November 2025, describing it as a key step that has created new momentum for deeper cooperation.

Kuwait remains Vietnam’s largest trading



partner within the GCC, importing a wide range of Vietnamese goods, including agricultural products, seafood, fruits, food and beverages, construction materials, and household items—products that enjoy strong demand among Kuwaiti consumers.

In return, Kuwait plays a vital role as a supplier of energy and crude oil to Vietnam, supporting its industrial development and energy security.

Ambassador Thang stressed that the conference comes at a critical time amid global economic uncertainty, supply chain disruptions, and regional tensions. He described the event as both economically and diplomatically significant, offering practical opportunities for businesses to connect and expand trade.

The conference also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Kuwait (1976–2026).

Le Anh Hoang, Deputy Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Trade and Investment Promotion Center, presented Vietnam’s investment climate and export capabilities. He highlighted



Ho Chi Minh City as a major economic and financial hub with strong export potential.

Key Vietnamese exports include rice, fresh fruits, coconuts, fresh and frozen seafood, household goods, and processed foods. These products have attracted growing interest from Kuwaiti importers. He also noted that Vietnamese companies are increasingly focusing on Halal-certified products to meet demand in Middle Eastern markets.

Kuwait market offers strong potential

Nguyen Tuan Dung, Head of the Vietnamese Trade Office in Kuwait, emphasized the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti market, citing high income levels, strong purchasing power, and heavy reliance on imports.

He noted that Kuwait offers relatively easy market access with limited trade barriers, and that local consumers show a clear preference for imported goods. He encouraged Vietnamese exporters to actively participate in trade fairs and promotional events in Kuwait to strengthen their market presence.

A key highlight of the conference was the

business networking session, where Kuwaiti companies outlined their import requirements across a wide range of sectors. These included agricultural and seafood products, fruits, spices, as well as industrial and consumer goods such as wood, paint, furniture, food and beverages, construction materials, medical equipment, and healthcare services.

Vietnamese companies responded by presenting their products and capabilities, expressing readiness to meet market demand. Many participants reported establishing direct business contacts, identifying potential partners, and preparing to sign agreements in the near term.

At the conclusion of the event, Ambassador Nguyen Duc Thang thanked participants for their strong engagement and reaffirmed the Vietnamese Embassy’s commitment to supporting businesses from both countries.

He emphasized that the embassy will continue to facilitate trade, investment, and commercial cooperation, creating favorable conditions for companies to expand their activities in both Vietnam and Kuwait.

Kuwait Disallows Extension of Entry Visas Amid Exceptional Circumstances

The Office of the Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs has informed all diplomatic missions and regional and international organizations accredited to Kuwait that entry visas issued to individuals outside the country cannot be extended under any circumstances.

According to a circular obtained by Al-Jarida, the decision applies to all categories of entry visas, including private work, domestic work, and family reunification. The move comes in light of ongoing exceptional conditions that have prevented many visa

holders from entering Kuwait.

The circular noted that a significant number of foreigners who were granted valid entry visas or who hold valid residency permits have been unable to return to Kuwait due to these circumstances. As a result, authorities have introduced a set of measures to address the situation. Under the new directives, employers or sponsors must submit fresh applications to obtain new entry visas for affected individuals. This process will follow the standard procedures and regulations once



the issuance of entry visas resumes.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior has taken steps to support residents stranded abroad. The circular confirmed that the ministry has updated its electronic system to automatically grant a three-month absence allowance to expatriates who have remained outside Kuwait for more than six months and were unable to return. This grace period, effective from February 28, 2026, aims to prevent the cancellation of residency permits for those impacted by the travel disruptions.

114-million-dinar desalination project gets nod to boost Kuwait's water supply

The Central Agency for Public Tenders has approved the recommendation of the Ministry of Electricity and Water to award a tender for the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of the Doha Seawater Desalination Plant, Phase Two to the lowest bidder, at a total value of 114 million dinars.

The ministry is now preparing to submit the project's tender documents, covering a production capacity of 60 million gallons per day, to the Audit Bureau to secure final approval before signing the contract with the successful



contractor. The project represents a continuation of Phase One, which was implemented in previous years, as the ministry advances its development

agenda, particularly in strengthening electricity and water production infrastructure.

Meanwhile, CAPT has approved the

ministry's recommendation to award contracts for maintenance works, including alarm and fire-fighting systems at the Doha West Power Generation Station, as well as annual maintenance of air conditioning, ventilation, and heating systems in the Doha East area.

Separately, the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority announced that its Supreme Committee has approved a one-month extension for the closing date of the Al-Khairan Station – Phase One project, pushing the deadline to the end of May.

City Hypermarket Named #1 Supermarket in Kuwait

By Service Hero for the Second Consecutive Year — Third Win Overall

City Hypermarket has been officially named the #1 Supermarket in Kuwait by Service Hero's Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) for 2025 — for the second consecutive year, and the third time overall since participating in the index. This follows City Hypermarket's strong performance in 2024, when it also topped 10 brands across Kuwait in the same index.

The recognition was announced as part of Service Hero's Kuwait Customer Satisfaction Index results for 2025, which recorded its highest-ever national score of 84.0 points. City Hypermarket ranked first in the Supermarkets category, based entirely on independently collected consumer feedback across more than 900 brands in 21 industries.

As Kuwait's fastest growing local hypermarket chain, City Hypermarket continues to build its position on a clear promise: delivering value, consistency, and a seamless shopping experience — all under one roof.

This recognition reflects sustained trust from customers across Kuwait. As Service Hero's rankings are based entirely on validated consumer assessments, the award highlights City Hypermarket's consistent ability to meet customer expectations across service quality, product offering, and overall shopping experience.



Alongside this achievement, City Hypermarket continues to expand its presence across Kuwait, having recently opened new

stores in key areas — such as Egaila and Qurain with a refined and modernized layout design to elevate the shopping experience while bringing its offerings closer to more communities across the country. The brand has also continued to uplift its fresh food experience in-store, introducing enhanced produce and fresh departments that reflect its commitment to quality and variety. In parallel, City Hypermarket has continuously invested in its people through its Training Academy, equipping its teams with the skills and culture needed to deliver consistently high service — a key driver of customer satisfaction.

Commenting on the achievement, Nasser A. Alghanim, Deputy CEO of City Hypermarket, said: "Being recognized for the second year in a row is a proud moment for all of us. More importantly, it reflects the trust our customers continue to place in City Hypermarket."

He added: "As a Kuwaiti company, our focus remains on growing within Kuwait while continuously enhancing the value and experience we offer. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our teams and the loyalty of our customers."

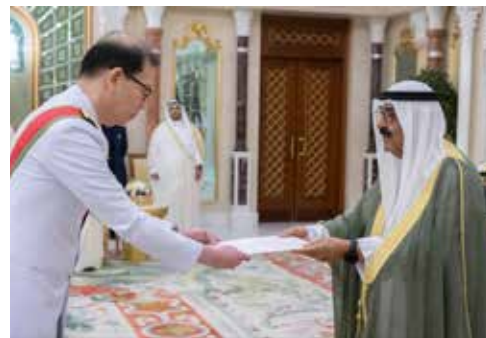
City Hypermarket continues to invest in strengthening its service culture, enhancing the in-store experience, and expanding its footprint — while staying true to its promise: Value, all the time.



HH the Amir receives ambassadors' credentials



H.E. Yang Xin of the People's Republic of China



H.E. Songchai Chaipatiyut of Thailand



H.E. Sullini Said of Brunei Darussalam



H.E. Bob Dorji of the Kingdom of Bhutan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received credentials of several ambassadors to Kuwait. They included H.E. Bob Dorji of the Kingdom of Bhutan, H.E. Sullini Said of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Mrs. Paramita Tripathi of the Republic of India, H.E. Yang Xin of the People's Republic of China, and H.E.

Songchai Chaipatiyut of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's Office Lieutenant General Jamal Al-Theyab, and Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh

Abdulaziz Mishal Al-Sabah.

Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Mazen Al-Issa, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Minister Plenipotentiary Abdulmohsen Al-Zaid, and Commander of the Amiri Guard Major General Bader Al-Sahloul, were also in attendance.

Tears, tribute, and legacy, emotional farewell that reflects Kuwait's human touch

Every country leaves its mark, but Kuwait leaves a different kind of impact. In some places, memories may bring you back, but in Kuwait, it's the people who leave you with no choice but to return - UNHCR Representative Nasreen Rabian



The Times Kuwait Report

In an atmosphere filled with gratitude and heartfelt farewell, a prominent diplomatic gathering marked the conclusion of a significant humanitarian chapter in Kuwait, as UNHCR Representative Nasreen Rabian officially wrapped up her mission in the country after five years of impactful service.

The farewell event was hosted by H.E. Lena Maryana, Ambassador of Indonesia to Kuwait, and attended by a distinguished group of ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, reflecting the wide recognition of Rabian's contributions.

In a speech marked by warmth and sincerity, Rabian reflected on her experience in Kuwait,



emphasizing the country's unique human connection.

"Every country leaves its mark, but Kuwait leaves a different kind of impact," she said.

"In some places, memories may bring you back, but in Kuwait, it's the people who leave you with no choice but to return."

She expressed deep pride in the partnerships built during her tenure, highlighting the strong support received from government institutions and the private sector, which played a crucial role in advancing humanitarian objectives and strengthening UNHCR's presence in Kuwait.

Rabian also praised the active role of the diplomatic community, noting that joint initiatives and continuous cooperation significantly contributed to the success of

humanitarian programs, alongside the moral support that motivated her team.

She further commended the collaborative spirit within the UN system in Kuwait, describing it as a remarkable experience characterized by coordination and integration among various UN agencies.

Acknowledging the role of the media, Rabian stressed that it served as a true partner in conveying the mission of UNHCR and raising awareness about refugee issues, helping translate efforts into tangible achievements on the ground.

On a personal note, she expressed deep appreciation for the relationships and friendships she built during her time in Kuwait, describing them as "the most valuable thing"

she carries forward to her next chapter.

For her part, Ambassador Mariana praised Rabian's dedication, highlighting her ability to build trust-based partnerships and her unwavering commitment to humanitarian values.

Meanwhile, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kuwait, H.E. Zubaydullo Zubidzoda, commended Rabian's efforts, noting her clear impact in advancing humanitarian work and supporting refugee causes, while wishing her continued success.

Amid words of appreciation and farewell, Rabian's journey in Kuwait stands as a powerful example of a humanitarian mission that transcended professional duty, leaving behind a lasting and deeply human legacy.

From Counsel to Catalyst

The Evolving Role of Lawyers in Modern Institutions

By Attorney Abdulrahman Alhouti
Special to the Times Kuwait

A recent analysis by Legal 500 underscores a profound shift taking place within the legal profession—one that is redefining the traditional role of lawyers across industries. No longer confined to offering legal opinions, today's legal professionals are emerging as key contributors to strategic decision-making within organizations.



“
Lawyers today are expected to sit at the decision-making table, offering insights that extend beyond legal interpretation. Their input is shaping corporate strategies, influencing policy directions, and helping organizations navigate uncertainty with confidence.
”

For decades, the lawyer's role was largely reactive: interpreting laws, ensuring compliance, and mitigating risk after the fact. However, as regulatory environments grow more complex and business landscapes become increasingly dynamic, this model is rapidly becoming outdated. Modern institutions now require legal advisors who are not only technically proficient, but also commercially aware and strategically engaged.

Lawyers today are expected to sit at the decision-making table, offering insights that extend beyond legal interpretation. Their input is shaping corporate strategies, influencing policy directions, and helping organizations navigate uncertainty with confidence. In this expanded capacity, legal professionals are playing a pivotal role in aligning business objectives with regulatory frameworks while safeguarding institutional integrity.

At the heart of this transformation lies a shift in value. The modern legal advisor is no longer defined solely by their ability to interpret legal texts, but by their capacity to influence outcomes. This requires a forward-looking mindset—anticipating risks, understanding market forces, and contributing to long-term planning rather than short-term problem-solving.

One of the most pressing challenges in this new landscape is achieving a delicate balance: protecting legal rights while sustaining and growing business relationships. As companies pursue innovation and expansion, legal teams must ensure that progress does not come at the expense of compliance or ethical standards. This balancing act demands not only legal expertise, but also sound judgment and strategic foresight.

Technology and globalization are further accelerating this evolution. Digital transformation, cross-border operations, and rapidly changing regulations are compelling lawyers to adapt continuously. In response, legal professionals are becoming more integrated into core business functions, working closely with executives and stakeholders to guide critical decisions in real time.

Looking ahead, the future of the legal profession will not be defined by the size of legal departments, but by their influence. Organizations are increasingly recognizing that strong legal insight can be a driver of sustainable growth, resilience, and competitive advantage.

In markets like Kuwait and across the region, this shift aligns closely with broader development agendas focused on governance, transparency, and economic diversification. As institutions evolve to meet these ambitions, the role of the lawyer will continue to expand transforming from a traditional advisor into a strategic partner and catalyst for progress.

Ultimately, the legal profession is entering a new era one where its greatest contribution lies not just in interpreting the law, but in shaping the future.

From Punishment to Rescue:

How Kuwait's New Bankruptcy Law Is Redefining Business Continuity

By Attorney Jumana Mullayousef
Dar Almuhamma Law Firm

Kuwait has taken a decisive step toward modernizing its commercial legal framework with the introduction of Bankruptcy Law No. 71 of 2020. This landmark legislation marks a clear departure from the rigid and punitive approach of the past, replacing it with a more progressive system designed to support economic sustainability, protect businesses in distress, and enhance the country's investment climate.

Historically, bankruptcy in Kuwait was treated primarily as a legal sanction. Under the previous Commercial Law, a merchant who ceased to pay debts faced severe consequences, including loss of control over assets, suspension of business activities, and, in most cases, liquidation of the enterprise. The process was often prolonged and burdensome, with adverse effects not only on the debtor but also on creditors and the broader economy.

The new law introduces a fundamentally different philosophy—one that prioritizes rescue over punishment. It aims to preserve viable businesses, maintain economic activity, and strike a fair balance between the rights of creditors and the survival of debtors. This shift reflects Kuwait's broader commitment to fostering a more resilient and investor-friendly economic environment.

At the core of the new framework are two key mechanisms: restructuring and preventive composition.

Restructuring provides financially distressed companies with a structured pathway to recovery. Through this process, a comprehensive plan is developed to reorganize financial and administrative operations. This may include rescheduling debts, reducing liabilities, and improving governance and management practices. Conducted under judicial oversight and with creditor involvement, restructuring enables businesses to regain stability and continue operating rather than facing closure.

Preventive composition, on the other hand, serves as an early intervention tool. It allows debtors experiencing financial strain—but not yet in full bankruptcy—to negotiate agreements with creditors for more manageable repayment terms. By addressing financial challenges at an early stage, this mechanism helps prevent further deterioration and safeguards the continuity of commercial activities.



A comparison between the old and new systems highlights a clear evolution. Where the former framework emphasized liquidation and exclusion from the market, the current law focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration. This transformation is particularly significant for small and medium-sized enterprises, which now have greater opportunities to survive financial setbacks and remain active contributors to the economy.

Ultimately, Bankruptcy Law No. 71 of 2020 represents a qualitative shift in Kuwait's legislative landscape. By moving away from a purely punitive model toward one centered on recovery and sustainability, the law aligns with international best practices and supports long-term economic growth. It not only protects the rights of all stakeholders but also reinforces confidence in Kuwait as a dynamic and forward-looking business environment.

UN-Habitat, Diplomatic Missions Launch Tree-Planting Initiative to Promote Environmental Diplomacy

The Times Kuwait Report

In a strong demonstration of environmental diplomacy and international cooperation, the UN-Habitat office in Kuwait, in collaboration with diplomatic missions, organized a symbolic tree-planting initiative in the Diplomatic Quarter to support Kuwait's sustainability goals.

The event, held in alignment with Earth Day, brought together ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps from several countries, including Türkiye, Malaysia, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and India. Participants planted the Arfaj plant Kuwait's national flower along with other native species, symbolizing solidarity with the country's environmental vision and its efforts to expand green spaces and combat desertification.

The initiative forms part of the "Kuwait Plants" campaign, launched in 2017, which seeks to promote environmental awareness and encourage community participation in preserving Kuwait's natural heritage.

Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan, Head of UN-Habitat Office in Kuwait and the GCC, emphasized that the Arfaj plant represents resilience and



adaptability to harsh desert conditions. She noted that the participation of diplomatic missions highlights a practical model of international collaboration in addressing climate challenges and improving urban quality of life. She added that transforming urban spaces into greener environments is both a symbolic and tangible step toward achieving a "Green Kuwait," reinforcing the principle that environmental protection is a shared global responsibility.

For her part, H.E. Tuba Nur Sönmez,

Ambassador of Türkiye to Kuwait, underscored her country's commitment to environmental sustainability and support for Kuwait's green initiatives. She described the event as a reflection of strong bilateral ties and a shared vision for sustainable development.

Ambassador Sönmez highlighted that planting native vegetation carries a deeper message of resilience and cooperation, noting that such initiatives strengthen international partnerships and promote a balanced relationship between humanity and nature.



The event was supported and coordinated by the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kuwait, with the backing of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, underscoring the importance of global partnerships in advancing Kuwait's climate action and sustainable development agenda.

The initiative ultimately reflects a growing shift in environmental diplomacy from dialogue to direct, field-based action demonstrating the collective commitment of nations to building more sustainable and climate-resilient cities.

India Embassy, Dawoodi Bohra Community organize tree-planting event

450 saplings planted to promote sustainability and community engagement; strengthens India-Kuwait community ties through large-scale tree planting event



The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of India in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Dawoodi Bohra Community of Kuwait, organized a tree planting event under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (One tree in mother's name) campaign at Salmiya this morning.

H.E. Mrs. Paramita Tripathi, accompanied by Abi Tameem Husamuddin, Chief Representative in Kuwait of His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, leader of the Dawoodi Bohra Community, more than 100 members of the Dawoodi Bohra Community, Abdullah Murtaji, Director in the Office of the Governor of Hawally, and Hasan Dashti, Chief of Public Security of Hawally, planted 450 Kaf Maryam saplings and 11

Acacia Galetia trees at Salmiya Garden. The event was also a part of Project Rise, a global initiative by the Dawoodi Bohra community to create a resilient, sustainable and prosperous society.

The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, a unique initiative combining environmental responsibility with a heartfelt tribute to mothers, was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2024 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Since then, the campaign has been undertaken in countries across the world, including Kuwait.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Tripathi appreciated the initiative of the Dawoodi Bohra Community and underscored the importance of community-led efforts in promoting environmental protection and

sustainable urban spaces.

It was noted that such initiatives contribute to the local environment and strengthen the bonds between the Indian community and the wider society in Kuwait. She commended the Dawoodi Bohra Community for its contributions to both India and Kuwait, and for enriching the social fabric of both countries.

Ambassador Tripathi also announced the Embassy's initiative to institutionalize efforts to undertake the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in Kuwait.

On the sidelines of the event, the Ambassador met and was briefed by representatives of Happy Threads, a social initiative focused on empowering women through sustainable livelihoods and handcrafted products. The initiative works

with thousands of women, enabling them to build skills, achieve financial independence, and contribute to environmentally responsible production practices.

Salmiya Garden occupies an important place in the daily life of the large Indian community in Kuwait. As a widely used public space for families and residents, the tree planting drive holds both environmental and social significance, while spreading the message of sustainability and civic responsibility.

The Embassy of India in Kuwait commends the efforts of the Dawoodi Bohra Community in Kuwait and encourages collaboration with Indian community associations and local partners in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness in Kuwait.

Changing eating habits as women age

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy

Menopause is a normal condition that all women experience as they age. It usually starts between the ages of 45 to 55. During menopause, women stop menstruating, which generally marks the end of their reproductive period. It is accompanied by hot flashes, sweating, headache, fatigue, mood swings, changes in libido, and weight gain due to a decrease in body metabolism.

Women can undergo blood or urine tests to determine their hormone levels that could indicate the onset of menopause, including testing for levels of the hormones estradiol, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), and luteinizing hormone (LH).

Once these tests confirm their menopausal status, women need to begin introducing changes to their diet so that it better reflects the health



requirements brought on by menopause. However, many women are not aware about what to eat or about which vitamins and minerals are essential during the menopausal period.

Here we provide a list of some of the foods to eat, and to avoid, as one enters menopause.

Avoid hot flash triggers: Caffeine, spices and other hot foods and drinks make hot flashes worse. Instead women can try decaf coffee, reduce hot pepper while cooking and cut back on other hot foods and beverages to see if their flashes improve.

Eat more fiber: A diet rich in fiber is necessary for the healthy functioning of the digestive system, especially during the menopausal period. It also keeps your heart healthy. Choose 100 percent whole grain breads and cereals and make sure to eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. These are filled with important vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that keep you healthy and young.

Watch your calcium and vitamin D intake: Calcium and Vitamin D are the key minerals during menopause to keep your bones healthy, and prevent

osteoporosis.

Consume 2 to 3 servings of low-fat dairy products daily (zero fat dairy products do not contain Vitamin D). Toss your salads with low-fat cheeses or yogurt. Consume up to 5 full eggs per week, as well as more dark leafy vegetables which are also a good source of calcium.

More Vitamin E: Studies have proved that Vitamin E is excellent for reducing hot flashes in menopausal women. To get plenty of this vitamin through a healthy diet, you need to eat nuts, seeds, olives, avocados, olive oil or canola oil.

Omega-3 Foods: Omega-3 fatty acids regulate our hormones. They are also good for our heart, brain and eye health. During menopause, women should increase their intake of seafood, healthy oils, nuts, seeds, raw almonds and walnuts.

Excess body fat also plays an important role. Being overweight or obese has been shown to increase your hot flashes.

Make sure to decrease your saturated fat intake (bad fat), and replace it with good unsaturated fat, which eventually will be rich in Vitamin E and Omega-3. Go for olive or canola oil, nuts and raw almonds. Choose dairy products low in fat; choose lean grilled protein choices.

Also reduce the simple sugar intake like ice creams, juices or cakes, and go for more fresh fruits, frozen yogurt, low-fat hot chocolate drinks. Regular exercise and keeping the body well hydrated also seem to have a positive effect in reducing hot flashes.

I firmly believe that the first step in treating your reproductive and hormonal system begins with good nutrition. However, some natural vitamins and minerals supplements might help as well. Consult your dietitian or personal doctor. Eat right to be at your best, no matter what the age.

Eat like Mira

Create healthy habits, not restrictions

To subscribe to my diet programs,
don't forget to log in to:
www.eatlikemira.com.



Mira is a go-to source for nutrition and wellness and has joined The Times Kuwait team in a new weekly column discussing nutrition and answering queries. You can send in your questions to infotimeskuwait@gmail.com

RECIPE

Savory Chickpea Rolls



Chickpea rolls are a popular vegetarian snack from Gujarat in western India.

Known locally as Gujarati Khandvi or Paturi, it is a village-style rolled snack that is healthy and gluten-free. If you are a vegan then you can use veganised yogurt to make it a vegan recipe. Serve Khandvi either hot, cold, or at room temperature with your favorite chutney and masala chai.

Total time: 20 minutes

Serving: 500g

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chickpea flour (Besan)
- 1 tbsp all purpose flour
- 1 cup yogurt
- 2 cup water
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 inch grated ginger
- 1-2 finely chopped green chillies
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp oil
- 1/4 tsp turmeric powder

For the tempering:

- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 2 tsp sesame seeds
- 2-3 chilly slices
- 10-12 curry leaves

For garnish:

- 2 tbsp fresh grated coconut
- 2 tbsp chopped coriander leaves

Direction:

- Combine besan, yogurt, ginger-chili mixture, salt and turmeric powder with water
- Take a sieve and strain the besan mixture so that it becomes lumps

free batter and discard the chopped chili and grated ginger

- Place the besan mixture in a microwave safe bowl and microwave uncovered for 3 minutes. Remove from microwave, stir mixture and microwave again for 2 minutes uncovered. Stir the mixture again and microwave for a further minute.
- Meanwhile, lightly grease the clean kitchen counter with oil, or use the back of a plate or aluminum foil
- Remove mixture from microwave and give it a stir
- Take a small round of the batter and spread it out on your greased surface or plate and let it cool for a few minutes
- Check to see if you can roll it like a cylinder. If yes, the mixture is ready
- If not, microwave it for

another minute and repeat the test

- Once your mixture is ready, spread it quickly on the greased surface
- This step needs to be done quickly to avoid the besan mixture getting cold
- After 5 minutes, cut one inch strips and roll it like a cylinder. Keep aside on a platter.

To make tempering:

- Heat the oil and add mustard seeds. Once they crackle, add in the sesame seeds, green chillies and curry leaves and cook for a minute
- Turn off the gas and pour this tempering over the rolled Khandvi
- Garnish with some chopped coriander and grated coconut
- Serve with your favorite chutney or enjoy it as is.



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

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Will AI Solve Rich Countries' Debt Woes?



By **Kenneth Rogoff**

Former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University and the recipient of the 2011 Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics. He is the co-author (with Carmen M. Reinhart) of *This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly* (Princeton University Press, 2011) and the author of *Our Dollar, Your Problem* (Yale University Press, 2025).

Many people seem convinced that the productivity gains from AI will solve the problem of unsustainable budget deficits in advanced economies. By showering governments with higher tax revenues, the thinking goes, AI will leave even the most profligate countries with shrinking deficits.

That could be right. But there are many more reasons to think that such expectations are dangerously optimistic. For starters, AI seems likely to increase the share of capital in output while reducing the share of labor, which tends to reduce the tax intake. Absent a determined effort to increase taxes on capital income—which is becoming ever more difficult as wealth becomes more concentrated, politically powerful, and mobile—it is unlikely that tax revenue will grow as quickly as output.

Moreover, even if revenues do grow, what assurance is there that the political system won't respond by just ramping up spending and deficits even more? After all, the advanced economies are already very rich. In principle, they could have easily managed their finances better if their leaders had found it politically expedient to do so.

But being rich has never been an obstacle to going bankrupt. Voters have hardly begun to adjust to the realities of a higher-interest-rate world, where demographic decline and vastly increased needs for defense spending have introduced major new costs. As the median voter grows older, systems already biased against young people will become only more so.

A more immediate concern is that the



“In principle, AI firms' own safety controls could forestall such problems. But with government regulation virtually non-existent, model developers are focused more on gaining a lead in what they see as a winner-take-all race than they are on safety.”

transition to AI will not be smooth sailing. Many fear a sharp rise in unemployment as firms shed white-collar workers. Some commentators dismiss such warnings as “doomist,” but they might ask themselves why so many top AI researchers subscribe to them. (While some may have a financial interest in hyping the power of their models, plenty of independent experts share the same view.)

The counterpoint is that there will still be many goods and especially services that require a large human component for the foreseeable future. Even if AI can perform some tasks at low cost, humans will be very well compensated to do what AI and robots cannot. This, too, might be right, but the speed at which the AI revolution seems to be unfolding raises doubts about how quickly workers will be able and willing to adapt. Maybe unemployed white-collar workers will prove more flexible than those who lost jobs in manufacturing in recent decades. Even so, the change could come faster than anything we have dealt with before.

Perhaps the most serious and immediate issue is that despite AI's massive potential to make life better, it could also cause profound problems in the absence of proper regulation. The financial industry is only just waking up to the risk that new AI coding tools may help bad actors penetrate systems that were thought to be safe. Likewise, deepfakes are becoming

ubiquitous online, where they could threaten political stability by making it impossible for anyone to trust what they see.

In principle, AI firms' own safety controls could forestall such problems. But with government regulation virtually non-existent, model developers are focused more on gaining a lead in what they see as a winner-take-all race than they are on safety.

Even more sinister are the military uses of AI, which could undo all the technology's benefits in the absence of some kind of international agreement on the issue. Much has been written about the risk of drones and robots that are programmed to kill an enemy independently, without human guidance. Already, not even a world champion stands a chance against a computer in chess. If human generals cannot match AI generals' reaction times and deep-planning capacity, the result could be an uncontrolled escalation of conflicts where human judgment on both sides might have produced a more peaceful outcome.

If AI is not an unalloyed benefit for advanced economies, the calculus is even more fraught for developing countries. Still-poor India has been one of the world's fastest-growing large economies in recent years, far surpassing China's growth rate. But service exports (outsourcing), perhaps the crown jewel of the Indian economy, are now acutely

vulnerable to competition from AI. Even if white-collar Indians fulfilling back-office roles remotely are paid far below the level of white-collar workers in rich countries, AI could cost even less.

Of course, some countries could emerge as big winners despite all these costs. South Korea, for example, has found a niche in manufacturing the memory chips essential to developing AI, and Japan has pursued similar opportunities.

What about the United States? As the country driving AI development (alongside China), it may seem safe to assume that it will be a sure winner, and that is certainly what US stock markets think. But if that is the case, the US will likely find itself at the cutting edge of the job losses and social disruption caused by AI. Given America's profound political divisions, there is no reason to believe the transition will be well-managed. And as Iran's use of drones has shown, the evolution of warfare in an AI-driven world may erode America's military advantage and force a sharp increase in defense expenditures.

Although AI could potentially help solve the problem of unsustainable budget deficits in the US and elsewhere, there is a greater likelihood that it will make things worse before they get better. Faced with society-wide disruptions, policymakers may find that fiscal prudence is the last thing on their minds.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Europe's Economic Emergency



By Carl Bildt
Former prime minister and
foreign minister of Sweden.



Judging by what one sees coming out of all the European Union's various meetings—at the European Council, the European Commission's offices, and elsewhere—the bloc's limited bandwidth is obvious. There are simply too many challenges and too many tasks. The world is a messy place, and so too is the Brussels political scene.

The first challenge, then, is to agree on priorities. This should not be too difficult, because some are patently obvious. Continuing to confront Russia's territorial aggression is a clear strategic imperative, with financial support to Ukraine helping to pave the way to peace and a new round of EU enlargement. This month's election in Hungary, which ousted Prime Minister Viktor Orbán after 16 years, has removed an embarrassing roadblock that was increasingly jeopardizing the EU's security.

But achieving stronger economic growth across Europe is no less urgent, given that a strong industrial and technological base is a prerequisite for security and strategic autonomy in an increasingly dangerous world. Major reports on EU competitiveness and gaps in the single market, by former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi and former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, respectively, have highlighted major challenges and identified the necessary remedies.

Yet beyond generating a wave of headlines when they were released, Draghi and Letta's findings have barely registered on the EU's policy agenda. Almost none of their proposals have been implemented, and this lack of follow-through remains evident in the macroeconomic data. Apparently, there are just too many other things happening for EU policymakers to give the economy's

“ Fortunately, at the European Council's March meeting, European heads of state and government committed themselves to completing the single market by the end of 2027. If they are serious about implementing the reforms that this would require, Europe's fiscal and strategic situation could improve substantially. ”

competitiveness and productivity challenges the attention they require.

But that is hardly a reassuring excuse. Europe's leaders must abandon their illusions and recognize what is at stake. In the face of subdued growth, persistent deficits, and substantial government debt burdens, there is no way for EU member states to increase defense spending while also maintaining their welfare systems in the years ahead. Making matters worse, Europe's working-age population is expected to decline by around

12% in the next decade or so, placing an even greater burden on public finances and further limiting available resources.

Those needs are great, because defense spending for most EU member states remains stuck at around 2% of GDP. Yet if the past 15 months have shown anything, it is that Europe can no longer afford to delay major investments in its own security and its defense-industrial base. It was only a few months ago that US President Donald Trump threatened to seize Greenland, a sovereign

territory of Denmark, a NATO member state. And more recently, Trump's frustration with Europe's refusal to join his war against Iran has cast serious doubts on whether the United States would come to Europe's defense.

Europeans must face reality. We are seeking to secure our physical safety, establish deterrence against potential aggressors (starting with Russia), decarbonize our economy, and maintain consistent support for one of the oldest populations on Earth—all while confronting weak growth, high debt, and demographic decline. Only through substantial reforms can our goals be achieved.

Fortunately, at the European Council's March meeting, European heads of state and government committed themselves to completing the single market by the end of 2027. If they are serious about implementing the reforms that this would require, Europe's fiscal and strategic situation could improve substantially.

Trade within the single market, as it currently exists, supports close to 60 million European jobs and has already unlocked economic benefits equal to 8–9% of EU GDP. By completing the single market—namely, by creating a single market for digital connectivity, energy, and investment capital—the EU could add another sorely needed 1–2% to GDP over the next decade. In fact, that is one of the lower estimates. According to the Draghi report, “remaining trade frictions in the EU mean that Europe is leaving around 10% of potential GDP on the table.”

But for this to be possible, the EU must make growth and economic dynamism a top priority. After all, success on this front is the only way to avoid failure on numerous others.

Europe is not doomed. We have the talent, the universities, and the rule of law that businesses need in order to thrive. Our common currency is strong, and our quality of life is superior to anywhere else in the world. But rather than allowing these strengths to lull us into complacency, we must recognize that they are all at risk. We must start meeting our single greatest challenge with the urgency it demands.

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until Stock Last



Esteve Deer

20in
~~15.900~~
8.900

24in
~~20.900~~
10.900

28in
~~25.900~~
14.900

Esteve Deer
Hard Trolley

hello HOLIDAYS!



VIP Soft Trolley Verona

58cm
~~12.000~~
8.990

69cm
~~15.500~~
11.990

80cm
~~19.900~~
14.990

AMERICAN TOURISTER
SINCE 1932



Skytrack

KD ~~KD37~~
13.9
55cm

KD ~~KD43~~
15.9
68cm

KD ~~KD49~~
19.9
79cm

iPhone 17 Pro Max



taly

~~107.500*~~
Pay in 4 Months

EASYBuy

EMI 12 Months
~~KD. 29.900~~

iPhone 17 Pro Max
256GB

~~444.900~~
KD. 429.900

SAMSUNG
Galaxy S26 Ultra



6.9" Display
256GB Storage
12GB RAM
200+50+50+10MP Rear Camera
12MP Front Camera

Samsung
Galaxy S26 Ultra12/256GB
5G

EASYBuy

EMI 12 Months
~~KD. 26.900~~

taly

~~414.000~~
96.800*
Pay in 4 Months

KD. 387.000

SAMSUNG
Galaxy A56



6.7" Display
256GB Storage
8GB RAM
50+12+5MP Rear Camera
12MP Front Camera

Samsung
Galaxy A56 256GB

EASYBuy

EMI 12 Months
~~KD. 6.900~~

taly

~~139.000~~
24.800*
Pay in 4 Months

KD. 99.000



~~5.250~~
KD. 4.790

Nestle
Quality Street Tin
750gm



~~5.390~~
KD. 3.990

Galaxy
Jewels 400gm 2's



~~3.000~~
KD. 1.890

Snickers 10 Minis 180gm
2's / Twix Minis
200gm 2's / Galaxy Mini
Smooth Milk 137.5gm 2's



~~2.990~~
KD. 2.090

Oscar
Chocolate Assorted/kg



~~1.320~~
KD. 0.890

Take 5
Chocolate Assorted
12's /pc



~~2.595~~
KD. 1.990

Pistachio
500gm
(Plain/Salted/Lemon)



~~2.490~~
KD. 1.595

Almond
USA 20/22 500gm



~~2.595~~
KD. 1.990

Walnut
USA 500gm



~~3.470~~
KD. 1.750

Head & Shoulders
Shampoo 700+400ml



~~1.530~~
KD. 1.140

Lux
Assorted Beauty Bar
6 x 120gm



~~2.440~~
KD. 1.790

Nivea
Soft Moisturising Cream
2 x 200ml



~~3.990~~
KD. 2.890

Sapil
Solid EDT 100ml +
Deospray 150ml Free