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as Competent Authority
to Enforce Anti-Terrorism Law*

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for enforcing Kuwait's new Anti-Terrorism Law,
strengthening the country's national security framework.*

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How Kuwait is Quietly Reinventing its Economy

By Reaven D'Souza
Executive Managing Editor

For decades, Kuwait has been regarded as a country blessed with abundant resources, strategic location and financial strength, yet one whose economic reforms often progressed at a measured pace. While neighbouring Gulf nations captured global attention through mega-projects and rapid policy changes, Kuwait chose a different path one shaped by institutional checks, legislative scrutiny and consensus-building.

Today, however, that cautious approach is beginning to yield tangible results. Less than a year after announcing the most ambitious legislative modernization programme in its



history, Kuwait has transformed more than 140 decrees and new laws from policy proposals into enforceable legislation that is already reshaping the country's legal, economic and social landscape. The reforms extend far beyond economic policy, touching family protection, public safety, justice, housing, digital commerce, financial regulation and investment.

Individually, each law addresses a specific challenge. Collectively, they represent one of the most comprehensive governance reforms undertaken by Kuwait in recent decades and reflect a determined effort to build a modern state capable of supporting sustainable economic growth while improving the quality of life for its citizens and residents.

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Cabinet Designates Interior Minister as Competent Authority to Enforce Anti-Terrorism Law

The Ministry of Interior now assumes primary responsibility for enforcing Kuwait's new Anti-Terrorism Law, strengthening the country's national security framework.

Kuwait's Cabinet has formally designated the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, as the competent authority responsible for implementing and enforcing the country's new Anti-Terrorism Law, reinforcing the government's commitment to strengthening the national framework for combating terrorism and safeguarding public security.

The decision was issued under Cabinet Resolution No. 718 of 2026 and has been published in the Official Gazette Kuwait Alyawm, giving it immediate legal effect upon publication.

Under the resolution, the Minister of Interior will oversee the implementation of Law No. 47 of 2026 on Combating Terrorism Crimes,

ensuring the enforcement of its provisions and coordinating the measures required to address terrorist threats in accordance with the law.

The Cabinet decision also directs the Prime Minister and all ministers, each within their respective areas of responsibility, to implement the provisions of the resolution and cooperate in carrying out the law effectively across all government agencies. The designation further consolidates the Ministry of Interior's central role in Kuwait's national security architecture, reflecting the government's continued efforts to enhance institutional coordination in confronting terrorism, extremism, and related security threats.

Law No. 47 of 2026 represents one of Kuwait's



most comprehensive legislative frameworks aimed at preventing and combating terrorism. The legislation provides authorities with expanded legal mechanisms to investigate, prosecute, and deter terrorism-related offences while strengthening national coordination among security, judicial, and government institutions.

With the resolution now in force, the Ministry of Interior assumes primary responsibility for supervising the law's implementation, marking another significant step in Kuwait's broader strategy to reinforce national security, protect public order, and align its counter-terrorism framework with evolving regional and international security challenges.

Kuwait overhauls bankruptcy courts to accelerate commercial dispute resolution

In a significant step toward strengthening the country's commercial justice system, Kuwait has issued Decree-Law No. 69 of 2026, introducing key amendments to the Bankruptcy Law No. 71 of 2020 aimed at improving judicial efficiency, increasing flexibility in court operations, and expediting the resolution of bankruptcy-related disputes.

Published in the Official Gazette Kuwait



Alyawm, the decree revises Articles 4 and 7 of the Bankruptcy Law, restructuring the specialized bankruptcy courts operating under the Court of First Instance.

Under the new framework, the Bankruptcy Court may comprise one or more judicial circuits, with each circuit consisting of three judges

drawn from the Court of First Instance. The head of each circuit must hold a rank no lower than that of a court agent, while members of the circuits will be appointed by the court's General Assembly.

The amendments also permit the appointment of judicial auditors to support bankruptcy proceedings, with their remuneration and financial entitlements to be determined through the law's executive regulations.

A dedicated Bankruptcy Department will also be established within the Court of First Instance. The department will be headed by a judge of at least court agent rank and supported by a panel of specialized bankruptcy judges to oversee insolvency and restructuring cases more efficiently. According to the explanatory memorandum accompanying the decree-law, the

reforms are designed to provide greater flexibility in forming judicial panels while preserving the quality, consistency, and integrity of court rulings. The changes are also expected to reduce delays in hearing urgent commercial cases, which had arisen under the previous system due to restrictions on judicial appointments.

The revised structure builds upon Kuwait's modern bankruptcy framework introduced in 2020, which shifted the country's insolvency regime toward business restructuring and rehabilitation while enhancing investor confidence and aligning with international best practices. The decree-law came into force immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette, with the relevant ministers instructed to implement its provisions within their respective areas of responsibility.



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Kuwait Urges Stronger International Cooperation to Combat Human Trafficking

Kuwait has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, calling for stronger international cooperation and more coordinated global efforts to eradicate one of the world's most serious transnational crimes.

The call was made during the 16th session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), held in Vienna. Kuwait's delegation highlighted the growing complexity of trafficking networks and stressed that no country can effectively tackle the crime in isolation, underscoring the importance of collective action, intelligence sharing, and international legal cooperation.

Addressing the meeting, the Kuwaiti delegation emphasized that the country remains fully committed to implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, particularly women and children, and continues to strengthen

its legislative, institutional, and operational frameworks in line with international standards.

Kuwait noted that combating human trafficking requires a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond criminal prosecution to include victim protection, prevention, awareness, rehabilitation, and international partnerships. The delegation stressed that protecting victims, safeguarding their rights, and ensuring access to justice must remain at the heart of all anti-trafficking efforts.

Highlighting the country's recent reforms, Kuwait pointed to the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (2025-2028), which seeks to strengthen coordination among government agencies, improve victim support services, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and raise public awareness about trafficking-related crimes. The strategy also aims to reinforce preventive measures through stronger monitoring, capacity building, and institutional cooperation.



The delegation further stressed the importance of exchanging expertise and best practices among nations, particularly in tackling emerging forms of trafficking facilitated by digital technologies and organized criminal networks. It also called for greater technical

assistance and capacity-building initiatives to help countries strengthen their legal and enforcement mechanisms.

Kuwait reaffirmed that combating human trafficking remains a national priority and forms an integral part of its broader commitment to promoting human rights, protecting vulnerable groups, and fulfilling its international obligations under relevant UN conventions and protocols. The country also reiterated its determination to continue working closely with international organizations and partner states to build more effective systems for preventing trafficking, prosecuting perpetrators, protecting victims, and dismantling transnational criminal networks that exploit vulnerable individuals for financial gain.

By advocating stronger multilateral cooperation and comprehensive victim-centered policies, Kuwait reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to global efforts aimed at eliminating human trafficking while promoting justice, human dignity, and the rule of law.



Cabinet Mandates Prior Approval for Government Consultancy Contracts

In a move aimed at strengthening financial oversight, enhancing transparency, and ensuring prudent management of public funds, Kuwait's Cabinet has directed all ministers to obtain prior approval from the Council of Ministers before entering into contracts with consulting firms. The directive was issued during the Cabinet's weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve governance, tighten expenditure controls, and reinforce accountability in the awarding of public contracts.

Under the new directive, ministries and government entities will no longer be permitted to sign consultancy agreements independently. Instead, all proposed contracts involving external consulting firms must first be submitted to the Cabinet for review and approval before any contractual commitments are made.

The measure is intended to ensure that consultancy services are engaged only when genuinely necessary and that such contracts deliver clear value to the government while supporting national development priorities. It also seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication of consultancy work, optimize the use of public resources, and strengthen oversight of government spending.

The Cabinet's decision forms part of a broader reform agenda focused on enhancing efficiency across the public sector, improving institutional governance, and promoting greater fiscal discipline. By centralizing the approval process, the government aims to establish a more consistent framework for evaluating consultancy projects based on their strategic importance, financial implications, and expected outcomes.

Officials believe the new requirement will contribute to better coordination among government agencies, ensure greater transparency in procurement procedures, and reinforce accountability in the use of public funds. The move is also expected to encourage ministries to maximize the expertise and capabilities available within the public sector before seeking external consultancy services. The directive reflects Kuwait's continued commitment to modernizing public administration and implementing reforms that promote sound governance, responsible fiscal management, and more effective delivery of government services in line with the country's long-term development objectives.

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Pakistan Embassy Celebrates Rich Culinary Heritage with Taste of Pakistan



The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait celebrated the country's rich culinary traditions and vibrant cultural heritage by hosting a special 'Taste of Pakistan' event, bringing together diplomats, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, media representatives, and invited guests for an immersive cultural experience.

Held in a warm and festive atmosphere, the event highlighted Pakistan's diverse gastronomic traditions while showcasing the country's rich history, artistic heritage, and renowned hospitality. The initiative formed part of the embassy's continuing efforts to strengthen cultural diplomacy and foster closer people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Kuwait. Welcoming the guests, Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, said food serves as one of the most powerful expressions of culture, capable of bringing people together and promoting mutual understanding across borders. He noted that the event was designed to provide visitors with an authentic taste of Pakistan's regional cuisines while introducing them to the country's rich cultural traditions and warm hospitality. Guests enjoyed an extensive selection of traditional Pakistani delicacies



representing the country's diverse provinces. From aromatic biryani and richly spiced curries to freshly baked traditional breads and popular regional specialties, the menu reflected the depth and diversity of Pakistan's culinary heritage. The event also featured Pakistan's famous Chaunsa mangoes and showcased the country's internationally acclaimed Basmati rice, highlighting Pakistan's agricultural excellence alongside its culinary traditions.

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere, the gathering featured live performances of Urdu songs that captivated the audience and celebrated Pakistan's musical traditions. The cultural programme complemented the culinary experience, offering guests a deeper appreciation of the country's artistic richness and centuries-old heritage. A specially curated exhibition displayed traditional handicrafts, cultural artifacts, photographs, and informational panels showcasing Pakistan's breathtaking landscapes, historic landmarks, architectural treasures, and popular tourist destinations. Visitors explored exhibits highlighting the country's ancient civilizations, cultural diversity, and rich historical legacy, gaining valuable insights into Pakistan beyond its cuisine.

Throughout the event, guests mingled in a convivial setting, sampling authentic dishes while engaging in

conversations that celebrated the enduring friendship between Kuwait and Pakistan. The occasion reflected the important role cultural exchanges play in strengthening bilateral relations and fostering greater understanding between peoples of different nations.

Concluding the event, Ambassador Dr. Zafar Iqbal thanked the embassy staff, partners, and participants for making the celebration a success. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to promoting cultural dialogue and friendship through such initiatives, expressing hope that visitors would leave with lasting memories of Pakistan's hospitality, cuisine, and rich cultural heritage.

ALSAYER Group Awards Kuwaiti Teams for Reaching Global Hydrogen Racing Finals



ALSAYER Group proudly recognized and awarded prizes to the winners of the Horizon Educational Regional Race, hosted at ALSAYER Group's KFTZ 1 Office on June 24, 2026. As a strategic partner of Horizon Educational, the Group has been instrumental in nurturing students' skills in clean energy, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, engineering design, and teamwork.

Chairman of ALSAYER Group, Mr. Faisal Bader Al-Sayer described the event as a leading global initiative in clean energy and hydrogen technologies, offering students practical experiences that strengthen creativity, engineering thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving. He added that the participation of teams from schools, Kuwait University, and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training reflects a unified national effort to support young talent, and the results demonstrate the strong potential of Kuwaiti youth to excel in modern science and technology.

Dr. Noura Aljeri, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Kuwait University noted that hosting the competition along with ALSAYER Group as the strategic sponsor highlights both entities' role in fostering innovation and equipping youth with futureready scientific

and technical skills. The national qualifiers concluded with several teams earning the opportunity to represent Kuwait in the global H2 Grand Prix Pro Finals in Switzerland. The Sonic team from AlSabahiya School secured first place among schools, Kuwait University claimed first place in the university category, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training team came second, and Maria AlQibtiyya School finished third. Special awards were also presented: the Team Spirit Award went to Salman AlFarsi School and AlWaha School, the Innovation Award was given to Maria AlQibtiyya School, the Marketing Award was awarded to Allsraa Secondary School for Girls, and the Outstanding Design Award was presented to AlSharqiyah Secondary School for Girls.

By celebrating and rewarding these achievements, ALSAYER Group reaffirmed its dedication to supporting educational initiatives that prepare young people to lead in sustainability, engineering, and innovation. The Group also pledged continued support for the Kuwaiti teams as they advance to the international stage in Switzerland, carrying the nation's spirit of creativity and excellence to a global audience.



Joyalukkas marks two decades of saving lives with global blood donation camps on World Blood Donor Day



Joyalukkas, the world's favorite jeweller, marked World Blood Donor Day with a series of blood donation camps spanning its global operations — reaffirming a commitment to community health that has remained unbroken for over 20 years.

The initiative drew enthusiastic participation from employees and members of the public across the Kuwait, India, GCC countries, Singapore and the United States, cementing its place as one of the most enduring and far-reaching programs in the retail jewellery industry.

Two Decades, Thousands of Lives

Since 2004, Joyalukkas has championed blood and platelet donation as a cornerstone of its corporate responsibility ethos. To date, the group has conducted more than 190 blood donation camps, collecting over 4,300 units of life-saving blood and platelets — a milestone that speaks to both the organization's perseverance and the extraordinary generosity of its people.

This year's drives spanned every region where Joyalukkas operates. In Kuwait, the campaign was held in partnership with the Al Sabah Hospital, Kuwait — a collaboration that has endured through exceptional circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic — while equally impactful camps were simultaneously organised across other countries, reflecting a unified global effort rooted in shared purpose.

On this year's campaign, John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery, said, "At Joyalukkas, we are proud to see our employees across the world come together for this noble cause."

"True success is measured not only by business achievements but also by the positive impact we create in society. "These drives are a testament to our belief in building a healthier future — and proof that when a community acts with purpose, lives are saved," he added.

LuLu Group Chairman Meets Kuwait Leadership to Discuss Food Security and Investment Expansion

Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of LuLu Group, met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace, where discussions focused on strengthening Kuwait's food security and expanding the Group's long-term investment initiatives in the country.

During the meeting, Yusuffali briefed the Kuwaiti leadership on LuLu Group's ongoing operations and future expansion plans, highlighting the company's continued commitment to supporting Kuwait's food supply chain and ensuring the uninterrupted availability of essential food commodities. He outlined the Group's efforts to diversify sourcing, strengthen logistics networks, and enhance supply chain resilience in line with Kuwait's strategic food security objectives.

His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince commended LuLu Group for its significant contribution to Kuwait's food security and praised the company's role in maintaining stable supplies of essential products, particularly amid evolving regional and global challenges affecting international trade and logistics.



The discussions also explored opportunities to deepen LuLu Group's investment footprint in Kuwait through the expansion of its retail network, logistics infrastructure, and customer-focused services. The meeting reflected the strong partnership between Kuwait and one of the region's leading retail and hypermarket operators, which has established a significant presence in the country over the years.

Accompanying Yusuffali were A.V.



Anand Ram, Chief Operating Officer of LuLu International Holdings, Sreejith K.S., Director of LuLu Kuwait, and Zakir Hussain, Regional Director. The senior executives provided updates on the Group's operations and reaffirmed LuLu's commitment to supporting Kuwait's economic development while continuing to invest in modern retail infrastructure and sustainable supply chain solutions.

LuLu Group remains one of Kuwait's leading retail operators, serving millions of customers through its network of hypermarkets and supermarkets. The company's continued investments in food sourcing, logistics, and retail innovation have played an important role in strengthening Kuwait's food security while creating employment opportunities and supporting the country's broader economic diversification goals.

Traffic Department Warns Motorists Against Unauthorized Vehicle Stickers

Kuwait's General Traffic Department (GTD) has urged motorists to refrain from placing unauthorized stickers, decals, or promotional materials on their vehicles, warning that such modifications constitute a violation of traffic regulations and may result in legal action.

In an official statement, the department emphasized that vehicle owners must obtain prior approval from the competent authorities before affixing any stickers or markings that alter the appearance of a vehicle or obstruct the visibility of its original features. The warning forms part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to enhance road safety, preserve the uniform application of traffic laws, and maintain the aesthetic standards of vehicles operating on public roads.

The GTD explained that unauthorized stickers including large decals, commercial advertisements, reflective materials, slogans, or graphics placed on vehicle bodies or windows without official authorization may compromise road safety by obstructing the driver's vision,



distracting other motorists, or concealing important vehicle information.

Authorities stressed that all vehicle modifications must comply with the provisions of Kuwait's Traffic Law and implementing regulations. Motorists found in violation may

face traffic citations and be required to remove the unauthorized stickers before their vehicles can be cleared. Continued non-compliance could result in additional legal measures in accordance with applicable traffic regulations.

The department called on drivers to ensure that any decorative or promotional additions to their vehicles meet the legal requirements and do not interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle or hinder identification by law enforcement authorities. Vehicle owners were also encouraged to seek clarification from the relevant traffic authorities before making any modifications that could violate existing regulations.

The warning is part of the Ministry of Interior's broader campaign to strengthen traffic compliance, improve road safety, and reduce violations across Kuwait. The ministry continues to urge all motorists to observe traffic laws and cooperate with enforcement authorities to help create a safer and more orderly road environment for all road users.

MoH Announces Expanded Shingles Vaccination Coverage in Kuwait

Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced Thursday an expansion of its voluntary shingles vaccination program, broadening eligibility to include all adults aged 50 and older, as well as adults aged 18 and above with weakened or suppressed immune systems.

In a press statement, the ministry said it has also expanded vaccination sites to improve access across Kuwait.

People wishing to receive the shingles vaccine can visit their nearest preventive health clinic or consult their physician to confirm their eligibility, the statement explained. The vaccine is available at 40 preventive health clinics in primary healthcare centers, as well as preventive health clinics at the country's main hospitals.

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), with the risk increasing with age or a weakened immune system and potentially leading to long-term complications, particularly postherpetic neuralgia, which can last for months or years and significantly affect quality of life.

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Reconnaissance Research launches Window to the World youth dialogue program

The Times Kuwait Report

Reconnaissance Research has announced the launch of Window to the World, a new youth dialogue initiative designed to connect outstanding young people in Kuwait with ambassadors, leaders of international organizations, and globally recognized experts through a series of small-group conversations.

Scheduled to take place from 19 to 23 July 2026, the program aims to provide participants with direct access to experienced international leaders in an informal setting that encourages discussion, curiosity, and meaningful engagement.

Open to young adults aged 18 to 25 of all nationalities residing in Kuwait, the initiative is free of charge for all participants.

Window to the World is built around interactive conversations focusing on the personal journeys of distinguished guests—their career paths, challenges, lessons learned, and

the experiences that shaped their leadership.

The program carries the theme "Young Minds. Global Impact." and is intended to encourage young people to broaden their global outlook while developing confidence, critical thinking, and leadership skills through direct dialogue. The organizers said the initiative was created in response to growing interest among young people in Kuwait for more meaningful interaction with experienced international leaders beyond formal public events.

Guest speakers will be announced after the application process closes.

Applications are currently open until 10 July 2026, with successful applicants to be notified



before the program begins.

More information and the application form are available at: <https://gforms.app/jDgAKg3>

The Times Kuwait is the Official English Media Partner of Window to the World.

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BBF Kuwait Hosts UK Property Investment Networking Evening at British Embassy

The British Business Forum Kuwait (BBF) hosted its July networking meeting at the gardens of the British Embassy in Kuwait, bringing together business leaders, professionals and members of the local corporate community for an evening focused on investment opportuni-

ties in the United Kingdom's property market.

Held under the patronage of the British Embassy, the sold-out event highlighted the growing interest among investors in UK real estate and served as a valuable platform for networking and knowledge sharing.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Alex Payani, Regional Account Director at API Global, a leading international property investment consultancy specializing in the UK residential sector. His presentation, titled "The Case for UK Property in a Changing Global Investment Landscape," examined the resilience of the UK property market, emerging investment trends, and practical considerations for international investors seeking long-term growth and

portfolio diversification. The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, allowing participants to engage directly with the speaker on current market dynamics and investment strategies.

The event attracted a diverse audience, including long-standing BBF members, first-time attendees and representatives from Kuwait's business community. Among those present was businessman Ahmed Behbehani, along with executives representing leading international companies including Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), BP, Shell, and Chevron, reflecting the broad cross-sector interest in overseas investment opportunities.

Welcoming the guests, Patrick Jones, Chair-

man of the British Business Forum Kuwait, expressed his appreciation to His Excellency Qudsi Rasheed, British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and the British Embassy events team for their continued support in hosting the forum's monthly networking meetings.

Jones also thanked the participants and sponsors for contributing to another successful evening, noting that the event not only provided valuable insights into the UK property market but also reinforced the BBF's mission of fostering professional networking and strengthening commercial ties between Kuwait and the United Kingdom. Special recognition was extended to Hyatt Regency Al Kout for its catering and hospitality throughout the event.

ALSAYER Car Rental & Leasing opens new & advanced Al-Rai facility

ALSAYER Car Rental and Leasing, part of ALSAYER Group, has officially opened its new rental and automotive service facility in Al Rai, marking a significant investment to enhance customer service, operational efficiency and support the company's continued growth in Kuwait's mobility sector.

The facility was inaugurated by ALSAYER Group Chairman Faisal Bader Al-Sayer and Chief Executive Officer Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Chief Operating Officer Bengt Schultz, General Manager Scott McNicol, senior management and company employees.

Strategically located in one of Kuwait's key commercial hubs, the purpose-built facility is designed to improve service efficiency, reduce vehicle downtime and provide faster, more responsive support for ALSAYER's expanding rental fleet. Built on a 2,000-square-meter site with a total built-up area of 4,550 square meters, the center features a modern workshop with 14 service bays, advanced diagnostic equipment, dedicated service and storage areas, offices, support facilities and parking for 120 vehicles.

Speaking at the inauguration, Faisal Bader Al-Sayer said the new facility reflects the Group's long-term vision and continued confidence in Kuwait's mobility sector through sustained investment in customer-focused infrastructure. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer said the project strengthens the company's ability



to deliver quality, innovation and service excellence while supporting future business growth. Chief Operating Officer Bengt Schultz said the facility enhances operational capabilities and offers customers a more convenient and comfortable experience through improved service efficiency and modern infrastructure. Designed to optimize fleet availability, the facility integrates rental operations with after-sales services, enabling faster vehicle turnaround, streamlined workflows and improved coordination between technical, sales and customer service teams. Customers will benefit from quicker service, greater vehicle availability,



transparent digital inspection processes and a modern service environment. The facility also incorporates several sustainability features, including rooftop solar photovoltaic panels, energy-efficient LED lighting, high-performance thermal insulation, energy-saving glazing and infrastructure designed to support future electric vehicle servicing.

The Al Rai center forms part of ALSAYER Car Rental and Leasing's broader strategy to invest in innovation, expand its service network and strengthen its position as a leading provider of mobility solutions in Kuwait.



The Drama and Agony of the Penalty Shootout

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 enters its decisive knockout stages, one of football's most dramatic spectacles has once again taken center stage: the penalty shootout.

It is the ultimate test of nerve, composure and mental strength, where months, and sometimes years, of preparation are reduced to a few moments from 12 yards. Every kick carries the weight of a nation's expectations, while every save can transform a goalkeeper into an instant hero.

Already, the 2026 tournament has produced several unforgettable shootouts, highlighting why penalties remain football's most emotional and controversial method of deciding matches. Dramatic victories by Egypt over Australia, Paraguay's stunning upset of Germany and Morocco's success over the Netherlands have once again demonstrated that while tactics and talent shape a match, the outcome of a shootout often hinges on psychology as much as technique.

More Than a Lottery

For decades, penalty shootouts were dismissed as little more than a lottery. Modern sports science disagrees. Researchers who have spent years studying thousands of penalties argue that success depends less on luck and more on emotional control, preparation and decision-making under extreme pressure.

According to sports psychologist Geir Jordet, one of the world's leading authorities on penalty shootouts, anxiety is the one emotion every player experiences regardless of experience or ability. His research shows that subtle body language, hesitation and emotional reactions often reveal whether a player is mentally prepared before the ball is even struck.

Pressure Unlike Any Other

Few situations in sport expose athletes to greater pressure. Unlike a missed chance during open play, a missed penalty in a World Cup shootout is remembered for generations.

Legends such as Roberto Baggio, David Beckham, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have all experienced the emotional extremes

associated with penalties, illustrating that even football's greatest players are not immune to the pressure. In many ways, the penalty taker stands alone. The goalkeeper has little to lose and everything to gain. A save earns glory, while conceding is often considered inevitable. The penalty taker, meanwhile, shoulders the hopes of teammates, coaches and millions of supporters.

The Psychology of Success

Modern national teams now treat penalty shootouts as a specialist discipline rather than



an afterthought. Coaches increasingly employ sports psychologists, performance analysts and goalkeeper specialists to prepare players for every possible scenario. Teams practice not only technique but breathing exercises, visualization, decision-making and routines designed to reduce stress. England, long haunted by penalty failures, has significantly transformed its approach through dedicated psychological preparation, while several other leading nations have adopted similar methods. Spain, meanwhile, views penalties as a skill that requires constant rehearsal rather than relying solely on natural ability.

Goalkeepers Have Changed the Game

Advances in data analytics have also revolutionized goalkeeping. Today's goalkeepers study extensive databases detailing opponents' preferred shooting directions, run-up patterns and body positioning. Many deliberately delay movement, vary their positioning or use subtle distractions to unsettle penalty takers.

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, widely regarded as one of the world's finest penalty specialists, has repeatedly demonstrated how preparation and psychological gamesmanship

racist and abusive online messages after missed penalties, prompting FIFPRO and FIFA to call for stronger action to protect footballers from discrimination and online harassment.

Australia's young defender Lucas Herrington, who missed during his country's shootout defeat to Egypt, received widespread support from teammates and football icons, including Zlatan Ibrahimović, reminding the football world that courage should be celebrated as much as success.

Can Shootouts Be Made Fairer?

The fairness of penalty shootouts has long been debated. Some studies once suggested that the team taking the first penalty enjoyed a significant psychological advantage. However, more recent research involving thousands of shootouts indicates that any advantage is minimal. Instead, success appears to depend more on how players handle the pressure of "must-score" moments than on the order of kicks. Football's lawmakers have even considered modifying the procedure to improve fairness, although the traditional format remains in place for the 2026 World Cup.

Football's Ultimate Theatre

Few moments in sport combine drama, suspense and raw human emotion like a penalty shootout. For supporters, every kick feels like an eternity. For players, those few seconds between placing the ball on the spot and hearing the referee's whistle can define an entire career.

Some will experience unforgettable triumph. Others will carry heartbreak for years. That is why penalty shootouts continue to fascinate football fans across generations. They are not merely contests of skill, but extraordinary examinations of character, resilience and mental strength.

As the FIFA World Cup 2026 moves closer to its conclusion, more matches are likely to be decided from the penalty spot. And if history is any guide, the greatest stories of the tournament may still be waiting to unfold just 12 yards from goal.



Unbeaten in 34 Matches

Morocco Emerge as Genuine World Cup Title Contenders

Morocco's remarkable rise from World Cup underdogs to genuine title contenders is no longer a surprise. It is the result of years of careful planning, tactical evolution and a generation of exceptional talent that has transformed the Atlas Lions into one of world football's most formidable teams.

Now unbeaten in 34 consecutive international matches, Morocco has carried its extraordinary form into the 2026 FIFA World Cup, reinforcing the belief that the first African nation to lift football's biggest prize may finally have arrived. Their impressive run continued with a commanding 3-0 victory over Canada to secure a place in the quarter-finals, where they will face either France or Paraguay.

From History Makers to Genuine Contenders

Morocco captured global attention at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by becoming the first African and Arab nation to reach the semi-finals. Many questioned whether that historic campaign represented a once-in-a-generation achievement.

Instead, it proved to be only the beginning. Over the past four years, the Atlas Lions have continued to grow in confidence, consistency and quality. Their unbeaten streak has become one of the longest in international football, built on victories against elite opponents and impressive performances in World Cup qualifiers, continental competitions and international friendlies.

Tactical Evolution

One of Morocco's greatest strengths has been its ability to evolve. While the team that reached the semi-finals in Qatar was renowned for its disciplined defending and devastating counterattacks, the current side has developed into a far more complete outfit.

Under coach Mohamed Ouahbi, Morocco has embraced a more proactive style of football, pressing higher up the field, maintaining greater possession and creating more attacking opportu-



nities while retaining the defensive discipline that has long been its hallmark. The tactical flexibility allows Morocco to adapt to different opponents, whether by controlling possession or absorbing pressure before striking decisively on the counterattack. That adaptability was on full display against Canada. Despite facing sustained pressure early in the match, Morocco remained composed before taking control in the second half with clinical finishing that underlined their growing maturity as a tournament team.

Depth Across the Pitch

Unlike previous generations that relied heavily on a handful of star players, today's Moroccan squad boasts quality in every department. Captain and goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, affectionately known as Bono, continues to provide leadership and world-class shot-stopping abilities. His

calm presence has repeatedly rescued Morocco during difficult moments, while the defensive unit remains among the most organized in international football. In midfield, Azzedine Ounahi has rediscovered his best form, playing a more advanced role that has added another attacking dimension to Morocco's game. His two-goal performance against Canada highlighted both his creativity and eye for goal. Further forward, Morocco possesses a blend of pace, technical ability and tactical intelligence that enables them to trouble even the strongest defences.

Winning Mentality

Perhaps Morocco's greatest transformation has been psychological. For decades, African teams often entered World Cups hoping to compete with the traditional powers of Europe and South

America. Morocco now arrives expecting to win.

Coach Mohamed Ouahbi has repeatedly emphasized that his players believe they have the quality to become world champions. That confidence is no longer viewed as ambition alone—it is increasingly supported by performances on the pitch. Their unbeaten run reflects not only technical excellence but also resilience, discipline and belief qualities that define championship-winning teams.

African Football's New Standard Bearer

Morocco's success represents more than a national achievement. The Atlas Lions have become standard-bearers for African football, demonstrating that teams from the continent can consistently challenge and defeat the world's traditional football powers. Their continued progress follows years of investment in youth development, coaching, infrastructure and talent identification, creating a sustainable model that many African federations are now seeking to emulate.

The squad also reflects Morocco's unique ability to combine home-grown players with members of its extensive diaspora competing in Europe's top leagues, producing a team rich in experience and technical quality.

The Road Ahead

Every World Cup presents new challenges, and the knockout stages leave little room for error. Yet Morocco possesses many of the characteristics associated with eventual champions: defensive solidity, tactical flexibility, clinical finishing, squad depth, experienced leadership and unwavering self-belief.

Their quarter-final appearance is no longer viewed as an upset but as confirmation of their place among football's elite. Whether the Atlas Lions ultimately lift the World Cup trophy remains to be seen. But one fact is increasingly difficult to dispute. Morocco is no longer football's dark horse. It is one of the favourites.

Spanish envoy, community members celebrate Spain's qualification to WCup Round of 16



The Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait brought together members of the Spanish community and guests in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate Spain's 3-0 victory over Austria, which secured its place in the Round of 16 at the 2026 World Cup. The Ambassador of Spain to Kuwait, H.E. Manuel Hernández, hosted a lively gathering at the Hilton Garden Inn Avenues Hotel to celebrate Spain's qualification to the Round of 16 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The event brought together members of the Spanish community, diplomats and friends of the embassy, who watched Spain's match against Austria in an atmosphere filled with excitement and national pride. The venue was decorated in red, with attendees wearing Spain jerseys and waving national flags as they followed the action on screen. Spain secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Austria in Los Angeles, with goals from Mikel Oyarzabal

(36th and 89th minutes) and Pedro Porro (66th minute), ensuring a place in the knockout stage of the tournament hosted across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

As the match unfolded, the audience reacted passionately to every key moment. Cheers erupted with each Spanish goal, while tense silence fell during Austrian attacks, reflecting the emotional highs and lows of the game.

Following the final whistle, celebrations

filled the hall as guests congratulated one another on Spain's progress to the Round of 16, where the team is set to face Portugal in Dallas on Monday.

The ambassador praised the strong sense of unity within the Spanish community in Kuwait, noting that such gatherings reflect the deep cultural connection and shared pride in the national team's achievements on the global stage.

MATCH SCHEDULE & STANDINGS

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026



Note: Standings updated as of Sunday morning, 05th July.



MESSI BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO REACH 30 FIFA WORLD CUP APPEARANCES

Lionel Messi made FIFA World Cup history on Saturday by becoming the first player to reach 30 World Cup appearances after being named in Argentina's starting lineup for their Round of 32 clash against tournament debutants Cabo Verde.

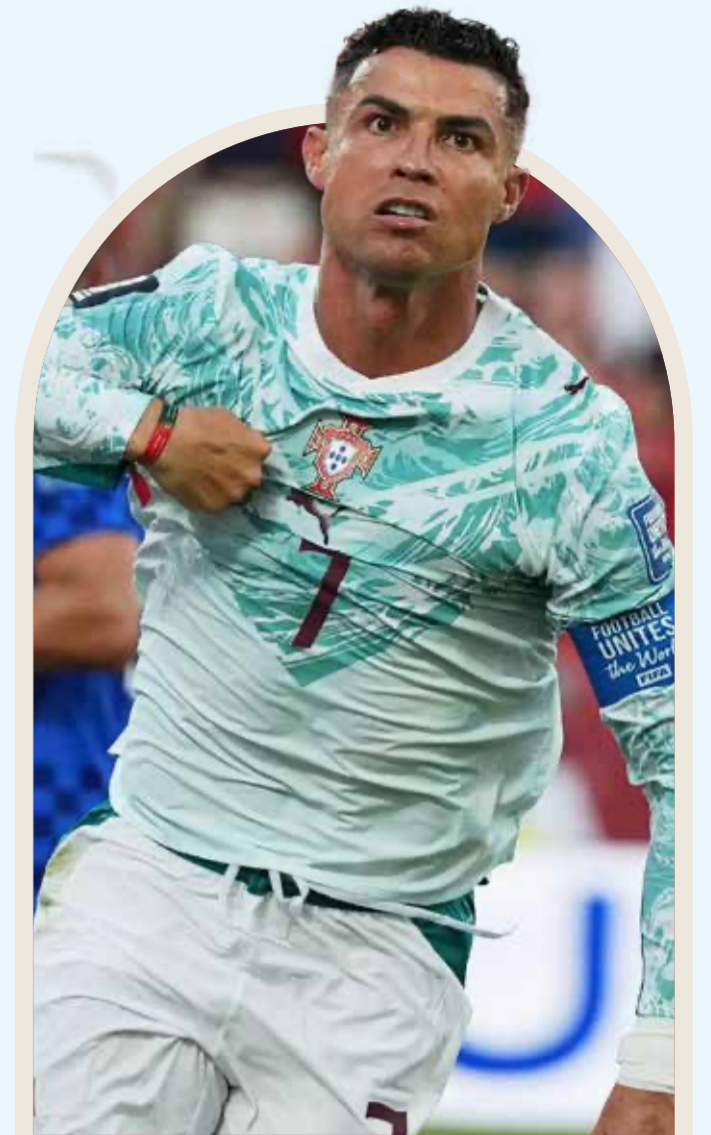
The 39-year-old captain continues to add to his extraordinary legacy as the defending champions begin their knockout campaign in pursuit of a second consecutive world title. Messi has been in outstanding form at the 2026 tournament, sharing the Golden Boot lead with six goals alongside France captain Kylian Mbappe, according to Reuters.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni named a strong starting XI, with Lautaro Martinez and Thiago Almada joining Messi in attack, while Julian Alvarez started on the bench. Rodrigo De Paul, Alexis Mac Allister and Enzo Fernandez anchored the midfield, with Emiliano Martinez in goal behind Nahuel Molina, Cristian Romero, Lisandro Martinez and Facundo Medina.

The match also marked Scaloni's 100th game in charge of Argentina since taking over in 2018.

Cabo Verde welcomed back left-back Sidney Lopes Cabral after suspension, while midfielder Telmo Arcanjo, recovering from a leg injury, was named among the substitutes. Ryan Mendes captained the African side, with veteran goalkeeper Vozinha starting in goal.

The winners will advance to the Round of 16 to face Egypt, who knocked out Australia on penalties in Dallas.



RONALDO BREAKS TWO WORLD CUP KNOCKOUT RECORDS AS PORTUGAL BEAT CROATIA

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo etched his name further into FIFA World Cup history on Friday after setting two knockout-stage records during his side's Round of 32 clash against Croatia.

At 41 years and 147 days, Ronaldo became the oldest player ever to feature in a World Cup knockout match and also the oldest to score in the knockout stage. The Portugal star converted a 68th-minute penalty to level the match, registering his first-ever knockout-stage goal at the tournament.

With his appearance, Ronaldo moved to third on the all-time list for World Cup matches played with 28 appearances, just one behind former Germany captain Lothar Matthäus. Argentina's Lionel Messi leads the chart with 29 appearances.

Portugal went on to secure a dramatic 2-1 comeback victory to book their place in the Round of 16, where they will face Spain on July 7.

The match could also mark the end of the World Cup journey for Croatia legend Luka Modrić, who is 40 years and 296 days old.

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Indian Embassy Temporarily Limits Consular Services to Emergency Cases

The Embassy of India in Kuwait has temporarily restricted passport, visa, and consular services to emergency cases only, citing administrative reasons during the transition to a new outsourced service provider.

In an official announcement, the Embassy said that all routine consular, passport, and visa services have been suspended until further notice, with only applicants requiring urgent assistance being accommodated during the interim period. The temporary measure

According to the Embassy, emergency services include urgent passport-related matters such as Tatkal (emergency) passport applications, issuance of Emergency Certificates, short-validity passports for applicants facing imminent residency or Civil ID expiry, certain NRI certificates, and other cases requiring immediate consular intervention. Routine passport renewals, visa applications, attestation services, and other non-urgent requests remain on hold until normal operations resume.

The Embassy also announced that all Indian Consular Application Centres (ICACs) in Kuwait will temporarily cease accepting applications until further notice. Fresh instructions regarding the resumption of services under the new outsourcing arrangement will be communicated once the administrative transition is completed.

Indian nationals are advised to rely solely on the Embassy's official communication channels for verified updates and avoid acting on unconfirmed information circulating on social media. The Embassy emphasized that the restriction is temporary and that regular passport, visa, and consular services are expected to resume once the transition process has been finalized.

The temporary disruption comes as the Embassy shifts its outsourced passport and consular operations to a new service provider, a move intended to streamline service delivery for the large Indian expatriate community in Kuwait. Further announcements regarding the reopening of routine services and appointment procedures will be issued in due course.



follows the conclusion of the previous service provider's contract and the ongoing transition to the newly appointed operator.

Individuals seeking emergency consular assistance have been advised to visit the Embassy's Consular Wing between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, carrying documentary proof to establish the urgency of their request. Applications without supporting evidence of an emergency will not be processed during the temporary restriction.



Jazeera Airways Expands Syria Network with Four Daily Flights to Damascus

Jazeera Airways has announced a significant expansion of its operations to Syria by increasing its services to four daily flights between Kuwait and Damascus beginning 14 July 2026, marking one year since the airline resumed operations to the Syrian capital.

The enhanced schedule comes in response to sustained passenger demand from both leisure travelers and the large visiting friends and relatives (VFR) market, offering customers greater flexibility and a wider choice of departure times throughout the day.

The increase in services follows the recent launch of three weekly flights to Aleppo, further strengthening Jazeera Airways' presence in Syria and providing passengers with improved connectivity across the airline's expanding regional and international network.

Commenting on the milestone, Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer of Jazeera Airways, said the airline was proud to celebrate the first anniversary of the Damascus route by significantly expanding capacity to meet

growing customer demand.

He noted that welcoming more than 90,000 passengers over the past year reflects the route's importance and the strong bonds between Kuwait and Syria. He added that the additional daily flights, together with the Aleppo service, will offer passengers greater convenience and flexibility whether travelling to visit family and friends, for business or leisure.

The latest expansion forms part of Jazeera Airways' broader strategy to strengthen regional connectivity and provide travelers with more travel options through its modern fleet and growing network spanning the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Africa and Europe.

With demand for regional travel continuing to recover, the airline's expanded Syrian operations are expected to further support business travel, tourism and family connectivity while reinforcing Kuwait's role as an important regional aviation hub. Passengers can book flights through the Jazeera Airways website and mobile application.



Turkish Ambassador Visits The Times Kuwait, Highlights Growing Bilateral Ties

Her Excellency Tuba Nur Sönmez, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Kuwait, paid a courtesy visit to The Times Kuwait, where she met with Editor-in-Chief Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry and Executive Managing Editor Reaven D'Souza for wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest.

The meeting reflected the strong and enduring relationship between Türkiye and Kuwait, with both sides exchanging views on the continued growth of bilateral cooperation across political, economic, cultural and media spheres.

Discussions focused on the excellent state of Türkiye-Kuwait relations, which have continued to strengthen through regular high-level exchanges and expanding cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural engagement. The participants also explored opportunities to further enhance business partnerships, particularly in light of the increasing economic collaboration between the two friendly nations. Türkiye and Kuwait elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership following recent high-level visits, with both countries seeking to significantly expand bilateral trade and investment.

The conversation also covered recent regional developments and the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and international cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity across the Middle East. Ambassador Sönmez shared Türkiye's perspectives on current regional issues and underscored the importance of continued coordination among regional partners to address common challenges. Türkiye and Kuwait have consistently maintained close consultations on regional matters and share

common positions on several key issues affecting regional peace and humanitarian efforts.

Business and defence cooperation also featured prominently during the meeting. Both sides acknowledged the growing momentum in economic relations, including increasing commercial exchanges, investment opportunities and cooperation in strategic sectors. They noted that stronger business partnerships, coupled with expanding defence and security cooperation, continue to reinforce the comprehensive relationship between the two countries.



Al-Shumaimry welcomed Ambassador Sönmez and reaffirmed The Times Kuwait's commitment to promoting constructive dialogue and highlighting initiatives that strengthen bilateral relations and foster greater understanding among nations.

They also expressed appreciation for the Embassy's active engagement with the media noting that accurate and responsible journalism plays an important role in promoting stronger people-to-people ties and showcasing the positive developments in Kuwait's international partnerships.

PACI official, four expats jailed in fake address fraud

Court hands down prison terms for bribery, forgery, and misuse of official records

The Criminal Court has sentenced a Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) employee to five years in prison with hard labor and imposed a KD 340 fine after convicting him of accepting bribes and forging official records to illegally alter the registered residential addresses of expatriates.

The court also sentenced four expatriates to three years and four months in prison with hard labor for their roles in the forgery scheme. They will be deported after serving their prison terms. According to court documents, the defendants used forged tenancy agreements to transfer their official addresses to two

residential properties without the knowledge or consent of the legitimate tenants or property owners. Investigations found that the PACI employee exploited his official position to manipulate the authority's electronic records in exchange for financial payments, enabling false residential registrations that violated public records and residency regulations.

The verdict underscores Kuwait's continued efforts to combat corruption, protect the integrity of official government databases, and hold accountable those who abuse public office or participate in document forgery and bribery schemes.



Kuwait Signs \$400 Air Defense Deal

Kuwait has signed a \$400 million agreement with Norway to acquire the advanced National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), marking a significant step in strengthening the country's air defense capabilities amid evolving regional security challenges.

The agreement was signed by Kuwait's Ministry of Defense and Norwegian defense company Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace in cooperation with its American partner Raytheon, the manufacturer of the missile system.

The NASAMS system is among the world's most advanced medium-range air defense platforms, capable of intercepting aircraft, helicopters, drones, and cruise missiles. Widely deployed by several NATO members and allied nations, the system is designed to provide rapid-response, network-centric air defense with high operational flexibility.

The acquisition forms part of Kuwait's broader defense modernization program aimed at enhancing the readiness and effectiveness of the Armed Forces while reinforcing the country's ability to protect its airspace and critical infrastructure. Defense officials said the agreement also reflects Kuwait's commitment to strengthening strategic defense partnerships with friendly nations and equipping its military with advanced technologies to address emerging security threats.

The NASAMS system has earned international recognition for its reliability and combat effectiveness and is currently used to safeguard key strategic assets and urban centers in several countries around the world.

The deal underscores Kuwait's continued investment in modern defense capabilities as part of its long-term strategy to maintain national security and regional stability.

Indian Embassy Revises Passport and Consular Service Fees from July 1

The Embassy of India in Kuwait has announced a revised schedule of passport and passport-related service fees, effective July 1, 2026, following amendments introduced by the Government of India to passport charges for Indian missions abroad. The revised fees apply to all applications submitted on or after the effective date, irrespective of when appointments were booked.

The revised fee structure covers fresh passports, passport renewals, Tatkaal (expedited) services, replacement of lost or damaged passports, Police Clearance Certificates (PCC), Emergency Certificates, surrender certificates, and other miscellaneous passport-related services. Applicants have been advised to check the updated fee schedule before submitting their applications.

Revised Passport and Passport-Related Service Fees (Effective July 1, 2026).



The Embassy has urged members of the Indian community to verify the applicable fees before submitting their applications and to rely on official Embassy announcements for the latest information. The revised fee schedule forms part of a broader update by the Ministry of External Affairs aimed at aligning passport service charges with current administrative and operational costs.

Service	Previous Fee (KD)	Revised Fee (KD)
Ordinary Passport (36 pages – 10 years)	23	38
Tatkaal Passport (36 pages)	68	76
Ordinary Passport (60 pages – 10 years)	31	53
Tatkaal Passport (60 pages)	76	91
Minor Passport (36 pages – 5 years)	16	27
Tatkaal Minor Passport	61	65
Replacement of Lost/Damaged Passport (36 pages)	46	65
Tatkaal Replacement (36 pages)	91	103
Replacement of Lost/Damaged Passport (60 pages)	53	76
Tatkaal Replacement (60 pages)	99	114
Emergency Certificate	4	4
Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)	8	12
Surrender Certificate	8	12
Miscellaneous Certificate based on Passport	8	12

Tanzanian Ambassador Visits The Times Kuwait, Explores Opportunities to Boost Tourism and Trade



His Excellency Saidi Hussein Masoro, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Kuwait, paid a courtesy visit to The Times Kuwait, where he met with Editor-in-Chief Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry and Executive Managing Editor Reaven D'Souza to discuss a wide range of issues aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and enhancing mutual understanding.

The discussions focused on the longstanding and friendly relations between Tanzania and Kuwait, with particular emphasis on expanding cooperation in tourism, trade, investment and economic development. Both sides highlighted the importance of promoting greater business engagement and encouraging closer collaboration between the private sectors of the two countries.

Ambassador Masoro outlined Tanzania's growing investment potential and highlighted the country's diverse economic opportunities across sectors such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, infrastructure, energy and the blue economy. He also emphasized Tanzania's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment and strengthening partnerships with Kuwait and the wider Gulf region.

Tourism featured prominently in the discussions, with the Ambassador showcasing Tanzania as one of Africa's premier travel destinations. Home to world-renowned attractions including Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, and the idyllic islands of Zanzibar, Tanzania offers exceptional wildlife, cultural heritage and beach tourism experiences. Both sides discussed opportunities to promote Tanzania among travelers from Kuwait and the Gulf

region through greater awareness and stronger tourism partnerships.

The meeting also explored the role of the media in fostering international cooperation by highlighting investment opportunities, cultural exchanges and tourism initiatives. Al-Shumaimry reaffirmed The Times Kuwait's



commitment to promoting constructive dialogue and showcasing developments that strengthen bilateral relations between Kuwait and friendly nations.

Ambassador Masoro thanked The Times Kuwait for its continued support in highlighting international cooperation and expressed confidence that stronger media engagement would contribute to expanding awareness of Tanzania's economic potential, tourism offerings and investment opportunities.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing optimism that enhanced cooperation in tourism, trade and investment would further strengthen the enduring friendship between Tanzania and Kuwait while opening new avenues for mutually beneficial partnerships.

PAM Digitally Transfers 27,141 Workers

The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has successfully completed the automatic digital transfer of residency permits for 27,141 expatriate workers from previously restricted sectors to approved sectors, following the consent of their original employers. The initiative, carried out entirely through an electronic system, eliminated the need for workers to visit PAM offices, reflecting the Authority's continued commitment to digital transformation and more efficient public services.

According to official figures, the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sector accounted for the largest number of approved transfers with 16,048 workers, followed by the agricultural sector (4,460), industrial sector (3,300), livestock sector (3,087), and the fisheries sector (246).

PAM said the initiative forms part of broader government efforts to regulate the labor market, improve workforce mobility, and ensure compliance with approved labor policies while



addressing the evolving needs of the national economy. The Authority added that the fully automated process reduces administrative procedures, enhances operational efficiency, and supports Kuwait's ongoing drive toward digital governance, while ensuring that labor transfers are conducted in an organized and transparent manner.

Kuwait, China Mark 55 Years of Diplomatic Relations

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait and China are set to elevate their longstanding strategic partnership as the two countries commemorate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to expanding cooperation across infrastructure, trade, investment, logistics, food security, and sustainable development.

Speaking during a reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait to mark the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese Ambassador H.E. Yang Xin said bilateral relations have reached a new stage of development, underpinned by strong political trust, close coordination between the leaderships of both countries, and growing collaboration across a wide range of strategic sectors.

The ambassador highlighted that cooperation is now focused on translating high-level agreements into concrete projects that support Kuwait's national development agenda. Among the most significant milestones, he confirmed that the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project has officially entered the implementation phase, describing it as one of the flagship initiatives under the expanding Kuwait-China partnership.

He added that both countries are actively consulting on several additional strategic projects and expressed confidence that further agreements and positive developments will be announced in the near future, opening broader avenues for economic cooperation and mutual growth. Ambassador Yang also revealed that discussions with Kuwaiti officials have extended to cooperation in



food security, water resource management, logistics infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. China, he said, is prepared to share its expertise and encourage reciprocal visits by government officials, technical experts, and specialists to strengthen knowledge exchange and accelerate project implementation.

He noted that the expanding partnership aligns closely with Kuwait Vision 2035, creating opportunities for collaboration in industrial modernization, digital transformation, green development, and smart infrastructure while supporting Kuwait's ambition to become a regional commercial and logistics hub.

On the regional front, the ambassador announced that Beijing is

preparing to host the Second China-Arab Summit and the Second China-GCC Summit, with consultations currently underway with Arab and Gulf countries to finalize the dates. He described the upcoming summits as important platforms for advancing dialogue, economic cooperation, and regional partnerships. Addressing developments in the Middle East, Ambassador Yang reaffirmed China's support for diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving an immediate ceasefire and lasting peace. He noted that Chinese President Xi Jinping has proposed several initiatives designed to promote long-term security, stability, and peaceful development across the region through dialogue and international cooperation.

Reflecting on China's own development journey, the ambassador said the Communist Party of China has led the country's remarkable transformation over the past century, lifting more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty while building the world's largest education, healthcare, and social security systems. He added that China now contributes more than 30 percent of global economic growth and remains committed to promoting international cooperation through initiatives that advance development, security, and cultural exchanges.

As Kuwait and China celebrate more than five decades of diplomatic relations, Ambassador Yang expressed confidence that the strategic partnership will continue to deepen, driven by mutual trust, shared development goals, and expanding economic cooperation. He reaffirmed China's readiness to work closely with Kuwait to advance major infrastructure projects, broaden trade and investment, and build a stronger partnership that delivers lasting benefits to both countries and their peoples.

Kuwait's Legislative Revolution Gains Momentum

Continued from Page 1

A New Legislative Era

Since August last year, the Official Gazette Kuwait Today has published approximately 140 decrees by law, ranging from amendments to long-standing legislation to entirely new legal frameworks designed to address modern economic and social realities.

The objective is clear: modernize Kuwait's institutional framework to support the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035 and position the country as a transparent, competitive and investment-friendly economy. Unlike many reform programmes that focus solely on attracting foreign investment, Kuwait's strategy recognizes that sustainable economic growth begins with strong institutions, effective governance and public confidence in the legal system.

Reform Begins with Society

Economic competitiveness is built upon social stability. One of the landmark reforms has been the implementation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, which came into force in March. The legislation represents a significant advancement in strengthening family protection while introducing mechanisms for mediation and reconciliation where appropriate.

Its impact has been immediate. According to official statistics, domestic violence cases registered with the Public Prosecution declined by 33 percent during the first three months of implementation, falling from 486 cases to 328. Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait described the figures as clear evidence that carefully designed legislation can influence behaviour while preserving family cohesion.

Importantly, the law balances compassion with accountability. While encouraging reconciliation in suitable cases, it maintains strict criminal provisions for serious offences such as sexual abuse, violence against children and crimes involving vulnerable individuals, where no compromise is permitted.

Such reforms strengthen social trust an often overlooked but essential ingredient of long-term economic development.

Winning the Fight Against Drugs

Perhaps no reform has produced more dramatic results than Kuwait's new anti-drug legislation. Decree Law No. 159 of 2025 introduced some of the toughest anti-narcotics measures in the region, combining harsher penalties with expanded treatment opportunities for addiction.

The results have been striking. According to the Ministry of Interior, drug trafficking into Kuwait has declined by approximately 80 percent since the law took effect. Prices of illegal narcotics have reportedly increased between 200 and 300 percent due to supply shortages, while security agencies

now intercept around 95 percent of attempted drug shipments. Official statistics for the first half of the year reveal an 86 percent reduction in major drug trafficking cases compared with the same period last year, while trafficking-related offences overall have fallen by nearly half.

Equally noteworthy is the humanitarian aspect of the legislation. Complaints seeking treatment for addiction have increased by almost 15 percent, reflecting growing public confidence in confidential rehabilitation programmes established under the new legal framework. The law illustrates Kuwait's dual approach: uncompromising enforcement against criminal networks alongside greater support for rehabilitation and public health.

Safer Roads Through Stronger Laws

One of the most visible examples of legislative reform has been the new Traffic Law. For years, reckless driving and road fatalities ranked among Kuwait's most persistent public concerns. The revised legislation introduced significantly tougher penalties for dangerous driving behaviours including excessive speeding, running red lights, using mobile phones while driving and failing to wear seat belts.

The behavioural change has been remarkable. Red-light violations have declined by 63 percent, while speeding offences have fallen by 65 percent. Within one month of implementation, camera-detected violations including speeding and red-light offences had dropped by 83 percent.

Most importantly, road fatalities have decreased by more than 55 percent, demonstrating that stronger legislation, combined with effective enforcement, can directly save lives.

Safe roads are not merely a public safety issue; they also contribute to economic productivity, reduce healthcare costs and improve the overall quality of life.

A Faster and More Efficient Justice System

An efficient judiciary is fundamental to any competitive economy. Recognizing this, Kuwait introduced amendments to the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law and the Criminal Procedures Law aimed at reducing litigation delays and improving judicial efficiency.

The results have been encouraging. Cases before the courts declined by approximately 21 percent during the second half of 2025 compared with the previous year. Even more significant was the 45 percent reduction in cases before the Court of Cassation, easing pressure on the country's highest judicial authority.

For investors, judicial efficiency translates into faster dispute resolution, stronger contract enforcement and greater confidence in the rule of law.

The government's judicial reform agenda has been further strengthened through new

amendments restructuring the Juvenile Court system. Under the revised framework, appeals against Juvenile Court judgments will now be heard by a dedicated chamber of the Court of Appeal rather than a single judge, while the Court of Cassation will review cases through a three-judge panel. The changes are designed to enhance judicial consistency, improve procedural safeguards for minors and accelerate the resolution of juvenile cases by streamlining the appeals process. Together with recent reforms to bankruptcy courts and civil procedures, the measures reinforce Kuwait's broader effort to build a faster, more specialised and efficient justice system capable of supporting both social welfare and economic confidence.

Building the Foundations for Investment

While social and judicial reforms strengthen the domestic environment, Kuwait has simultaneously accelerated reforms designed to attract investment and stimulate private-sector growth.

Among the most significant is the implementation of the Real Estate Developer Law, which establishes a modern regulatory framework for housing development.

The government has already announced plans to qualify developers for three major housing investment opportunities involving approximately 5,000 residential units across Al-Mutlaa, Saad Al-Abdullah and Jaber Al-Ahmad cities.

The initiative is expected to encourage private-sector participation, improve housing availability and stimulate construction activity while creating new employment opportunities.

Modern Laws for a Digital Economy

Kuwait is also modernizing the legal infrastructure needed for a twenty-first-century economy. Proposed legislation governing digital commerce seeks to establish comprehensive rules for e-commerce, strengthen consumer protection, safeguard personal data and introduce regulatory sandboxes that encourage technological innovation.

At the same time, executive regulations governing multinational enterprise taxation align Kuwait more closely with evolving international tax standards, providing greater certainty for global investors and multinational corporations.

These measures reflect an understanding that competitiveness today depends not only on physical infrastructure but also on digital readiness, legal clarity and regulatory predictability.

Transparency Builds Investor Confidence

Modern investors increasingly evaluate governance as carefully as market opportunities. Recognizing this reality, Kuwait has introduced measures to enhance transparency across financial and real estate transactions.

Requirements that property transactions be

conducted through traceable banking channels reduce opportunities for fraud and money laundering, while stronger financial oversight reinforces Kuwait's commitment to international compliance standards. Such reforms may appear administrative, but they send an important message: Kuwait is committed to creating a rules-based economy where transparency and accountability underpin commercial activity.

Strengthening Fiscal Flexibility

The revival of Kuwait's Public Debt Law marks another significant milestone. Restoring the government's ability to access international capital markets provides greater flexibility to finance strategic infrastructure projects and long-term development initiatives without compromising fiscal stability.

Combined with ongoing reforms in public-private partnerships, logistics, housing and investment regulation, the legislation strengthens Kuwait's capacity to finance future growth while supporting private-sector expansion.

Building Institutions Before Chasing Headlines

Unlike some regional economies that rely heavily on high-profile announcements and billion-dollar mega-projects, Kuwait appears to be pursuing a quieter but potentially more durable strategy. Its emphasis is on institution-building. Transparent laws, Efficient courts, Safer communities, Modern regulations, Digital governance, Responsible fiscal management.

These reforms may not generate the same international headlines as futuristic cities or landmark investment deals, but they create the foundations upon which sustainable economies are built. Businesses seek certainty more than spectacle. Investors value predictability more than publicity. Kuwait's recent legislative transformation demonstrates a growing recognition of this principle.

Slow and Steady Can Still Win the Race

The country is steadily building the legal, regulatory and institutional architecture required for long-term competitiveness. Transformation is not always measured by speed. Sometimes it is measured by the strength of the foundations being laid. Through an unprecedented programme of legislative modernization, Kuwait is demonstrating that sustainable progress is achieved not through dramatic announcements alone, but through consistent reforms that improve governance, strengthen public confidence, enhance investor certainty and create an environment where businesses can thrive.

The journey may be gradual, but it is purposeful and if the momentum continues, Kuwait's quiet transformation could well become one of the Gulf region's most enduring economic success stories.

Kuwait leads GCC in purchasing power, ranks among region's most affordable places to live

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait has emerged as the Gulf's leading country for purchasing power while also offering one of the region's most affordable living environments, according to the latest Numbeo 2026 Cost of Living Index. The findings underscore the country's strong economic fundamentals, competitive salary levels, and relatively moderate consumer costs.

The report places Kuwait at the top among GCC countries in terms of purchasing power, indicating that residents enjoy greater spending capacity relative to the cost of goods and services. The index also identifies Kuwait as one of the most affordable places to live in the Gulf, particularly when housing costs are excluded.

Numbeo's Purchasing Power Index measures how much the average net salary can buy compared with that of New York City, taking into account local prices for consumer goods and services. A higher score reflects stronger purchasing capacity and greater value for household income.

Kuwait's performance is attributed to a combination of tax-free personal income, competitive wages, government subsidies, and relatively stable prices for essential goods and services. These factors continue to support household purchasing power despite global inflationary pressures experienced in recent years. The report also notes that Kuwait maintains one of the lowest overall costs of living in the GCC after excluding rental expenses. Consumer



prices for groceries, transportation, utilities, and dining remain comparatively affordable, making the country an attractive destination for both citizens and expatriates.

Economists point out that while Kuwait remains heavily dependent on imports, government subsidies on fuel, electricity, water, healthcare, and education continue to cushion residents from sharp increases in living costs. This has helped preserve purchasing power even as many countries grapple with persistent inflation.

The findings reinforce Kuwait's position as one of the Gulf's most financially accessible destinations, offering residents a favorable balance between income levels and everyday expenses. Although housing costs and other lifestyle choices can vary, the country's overall affordability and strong purchasing power continue to enhance its appeal for professionals, families, and investors alike.

Kuwait tightens oversight of vehicle rental sector with sweeping regulatory reforms

Kuwait has launched a comprehensive overhaul of its vehicle rental industry, introducing a series of regulatory measures aimed at strengthening consumer protection, improving pricing transparency, and establishing uniform standards across the sector.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has formed a four-member committee comprising



representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Interior, the Insurance Regulatory Unit, and the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice to review and update the legal framework governing vehicle rental operations. The initiative seeks to eliminate inconsistencies in rental practices while ensuring greater accountability among operators.

Among the key reforms under consideration is the introduction of a standardized classification system for rental vehicles, categorizing them

into economy, mid-range, and luxury segments. The move is intended to prevent misleading pricing practices and ensure customers receive vehicles that accurately match the category and rate advertised.

The committee is also working to standardize rental contracts by introducing clear and uniform terminology that precisely defines the rights and obligations of both rental companies and customers. Officials believe the changes will reduce contractual disputes and enhance consumer confidence in the sector.

The proposed framework builds on earlier consumer protection measures introduced under Ministerial Resolution No. 231 of 2024, which required rental companies to provide comprehensive insurance coverage, document vehicle condition before and after rental through photographs or videos, prohibit the use of promissory notes, and eliminate ambiguous contractual clauses. The regulations also require companies to supply vehicles that meet all safety standards and clearly define liability in the event of accidents, delays, or vehicle impoundment.

Authorities say the latest reforms are designed to create a more transparent, fair, and competitive vehicle rental market while safeguarding the interests of both consumers and service providers. Once finalized, the new regulations are expected to establish consistent operating standards across Kuwait's rental industry and further strengthen oversight of the growing sector.

Kuwait introduces new ride-hailing regulations, sets seven eligibility criteria for drivers

Kuwait has introduced a new regulatory framework for ride-hailing services, establishing seven mandatory eligibility requirements for drivers as part of broader efforts to improve passenger safety, enhance service quality, and regulate the country's rapidly expanding app-based transport sector.

The new regulations, issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, apply to drivers working for licensed ride-hailing platforms and are intended to ensure that only qualified individuals are permitted to provide transport services. Under the new rules, drivers must meet seven key conditions. They must hold a valid Kuwaiti driving licence, possess a legal residency permit and work authorization, maintain a clean criminal record, pass the required medical fitness examination, comply with all traffic and transport regulations, be registered through an approved ride-hailing platform, and satisfy any additional licensing requirements prescribed by the relevant authorities.

The regulations also require ride-hailing companies to verify driver credentials, maintain updated records, and ensure that vehicles operating on their platforms comply with approved safety and insurance



standards. Authorities said these measures will strengthen oversight of the sector while enhancing consumer confidence in app-based transportation services.

The initiative forms part of Kuwait's wider transport modernization strategy, which includes tighter driver licensing procedures, the introduction of specialized driving academies, greater use of digital technologies, and enhanced enforcement of traffic laws. Officials have emphasized that improving driver competence and raising service standards are essential to reducing accidents and ensuring safer roads. The latest reforms also align with the government's objective of creating a transparent and well-regulated transport ecosystem capable of supporting future investments in smart mobility while safeguarding the interests of passengers, drivers, and transport service providers.

Grand Hyper Marks Major Milestone with Opening of 50th Store in Kuwait

Grand Hyper has reached a significant milestone in its growth journey with the grand opening of its 50th outlet in Kuwait, reaffirming its commitment to expanding its retail footprint and delivering a world-class shopping experience to customers across the country.

The new store, Grand Hyper City-3, located at Souk Al Mutahida in Kuwait City, was officially inaugurated in the presence of senior company executives, distinguished guests, business partners, suppliers, and members of the public. The opening ceremony attracted a large gathering of shoppers eager to take advantage of exclusive launch promotions and special offers.

The launch of the landmark outlet represents another important chapter in Grand Hyper's continued expansion strategy, reflecting the company's confidence in Kuwait's dynamic retail sector and its dedication to meeting the evolving needs of consumers through quality products, competitive pricing, and exceptional customer service. Speaking on the occasion, company officials expressed their



gratitude to customers for their unwavering trust and loyalty, describing the opening of the 50th store as a testament to Grand Hyper's sustained growth and strong presence in Kuwait's highly competitive retail market.

The newly opened Grand Hyper City-3 has been designed to offer a modern and convenient shopping environment, featuring a comprehensive range of groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, premium meat and seafood,

bakery products, household essentials, electronics, fashion items, health and beauty products, and other everyday necessities under one roof. The spacious layout, enhanced shopping facilities, and customer-friendly services are aimed at providing an enjoyable and seamless retail experience for families and individual shoppers alike.

To celebrate the milestone, Grand Hyper introduced an array of attractive inaugural

promotions, exclusive discounts, and special offers across multiple product categories, drawing enthusiastic crowds throughout the opening day. Customers also enjoyed a festive atmosphere with entertainment and family-friendly activities that added to the celebrations. Over the years, Grand Hyper has steadily expanded its network across Kuwait, earning a reputation for delivering quality products at affordable prices while maintaining high standards of service. The company continues to invest in modern retail concepts, innovative shopping solutions, and customer-focused initiatives that enhance convenience and value.

The opening of the 50th outlet underscores Grand Hyper's long-term commitment to Kuwait's retail industry and its vision of making quality shopping more accessible to communities across the country. As the company continues its expansion, it remains focused on strengthening customer satisfaction, supporting local economic growth, and setting new benchmarks in the retail sector.

RECIPE

Savory Crumpets with Creamy Beetroot Yogurt



Golden, soft, and delightfully porous, crumpets are a classic British griddle bread known for their signature tiny holes that soak up flavors beautifully. In this savory fusion recipe, warm homemade crumpets are served over a vibrant beetroot yogurt sauce and finished with creamy labneh, fresh herbs, and a drizzle of olive oil. This colorful dish is perfect for breakfast, brunch, or a light meal.

Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Resting Time: 45 minutes
Cooking Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour 20 minutes
Serves: 8 crumpets

Ingredients

***For the Crumpets**

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups warm milk
- ½ cup warm water
- 1 tsp instant yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 2 tbsp warm water (to dissolve baking soda)
- Butter or oil for greasing

***For the Beetroot Yogurt**

- ¼ cup boiled beetroot pieces
- 1 cup thick Greek yogurt or hung curd
- 1 garlic clove, grated (optional)
- ½ tsp roasted cumin powder
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh dill

Garnish

- Labneh or hung curd
- Fresh mint leaves
- Chopped dill
- Olive oil
- Freshly cracked black pepper

Directions:

- In a bowl, combine warm milk, warm water,

sugar, and yeast. Let it stand for 5–10 minutes until frothy.

- Add flour and salt, then whisk into a smooth, lump-free batter.

- Cover and let it rise for about 45 minutes until light and bubbly.

- Dissolve the baking soda in 2 tablespoons of warm water and gently fold it into the batter.

- Lightly grease crumpet rings and place them on a hot non-stick pan over low-medium heat.

- Fill each ring halfway with batter.

- Cook for 6–8 minutes until the surface is covered with holes and completely set.

- Remove the rings carefully and cook for another minute if needed.

- No flipping is required.
- Blend the beetroot, yogurt, garlic, cumin, lemon juice, salt, pepper, olive oil, and dill until smooth.

- Spread the beetroot yogurt on a serving plate, arrange the warm crumpets on top, add a spoon of labneh, garnish with mint and dill, and finish with a drizzle of olive oil.

Chef's Tip

- For an extra Mediterranean touch, garnish with toasted pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, or a sprinkle of za'atar.

- This recipe beautifully combines the comforting texture of traditional British crumpets with fresh Mediterranean flavors, making it both elegant and nourishing.



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

Cities Show How Climate Action Makes Life Better



Michael R. Bloomberg, Teresa Ribera

Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder of Bloomberg L.P. and Bloomberg Philanthropies and a former mayor of New York City (2002–13), is the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions and Co-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. Teresa Ribera is Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Clean, Just, and Competitive Transition and Co-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

private investment, making climate action an economic opportunity.

Mayors have been putting these principles into practice for years. As a result, GHG emissions have fallen in many of the world's largest cities, even as their populations have continued to grow. Moreover, cities of all sizes and regions are working together to accelerate the progress they have made individually.

Over the past decade, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) has grown into an alliance of more than 14,000 cities and local governments across 150 countries, representing over one billion people. Many member cities have adopted climate goals that are more ambitious than their national governments'—and are on track to achieve them more quickly.

Yet cities could move faster and go further with increased support. Specifically, they have a pressing need for technical expertise and access to finance. Many local authorities still lack the resources required to identify, develop, and implement climate projects at the necessary scale.

Partnerships can help address these needs. The City Climate Finance Gap Fund, supported by GCoM and the World Bank, is already assisting cities in developing projects that can attract investment and deliver tangible benefits for their populations. Over the past few years, it has supported more than 1,400 cities in turning climate ambition into practical action.

Now, GCoM, C40 (a network of the world's biggest cities committed to addressing climate change), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are building on that work with a new partnership to help cities scale up climate projects through technical and financial assistance. This initiative will focus largely on regions where the gap between ambition and available resources is widest.

National governments increasingly recognize the power of cities to drive progress on climate change. While promising, it should be only the beginning. Mayors and city leaders understand better than anyone that the most successful climate policies are those that people can see and feel in their everyday lives: cleaner air, safer streets, lower energy bills, healthier homes, and better protection against extreme weather.

With the right support, cities can continue to protect people, strengthen resilience, and create the conditions for sustainable growth. Most importantly, cities can play a powerful leadership role by showing the world that climate action is not a burden, but an opportunity to build better lives and more vibrant communities for all.

In the global fight against climate change, there has been no shortage of targets and commitments. But people ultimately judge progress by what they experience in their daily lives. And nowhere is the impact of climate action more tangible than in the world's cities.

Mayors understand that the same measures that reduce greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and strengthen climate resilience also improve people's daily lives. Energy-efficient homes lower the families' bills. Increased access to renewables reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and vulnerability to spikes in oil and gas prices. Better public transport and safer cycling infrastructure give people more affordable and healthier ways to move around their communities. Trees and green spaces improve air quality, cool neighborhoods, and make cities more pleasant places to live.

But climate action is also about protecting people from the already tangible effects of a warming planet. Heat waves, floods, droughts, and extreme-weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. Cities and their residents are increasingly on the front line of these challenges. That is why confronting climate change requires pursuing adaptation alongside mitigation.

Around the world, local leaders are adapting schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and public spaces to protect citizens from excessive heat and other climate risks. Shading systems, green roofs, and natural cooling solutions can significantly enhance cities' resilience to rising temperatures, with children, older people, and other vulnerable residents often benefiting the most.

A combination of adaptation measures and energy efficiency can save lives, improve well-being, and reduce energy costs. These green investments also attract talent, innovation, and

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Jaishankar Visit to further Strengthen India-Kuwait Partnership

The Times Kuwait Report

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar is scheduled to spend three days in Kuwait from July 7 to 9 as part of his official Gulf tour, making it the longest stop of his four-nation itinerary and highlighting the growing strategic importance New Delhi places on its partnership with Kuwait.

While the minister will spend one day each in Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, his extended stay in Kuwait reflects the momentum achieved in bilateral relations following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark visit to the country last year.

The visit is expected to feature a series of high-level meetings with Kuwait's leadership and senior government officials, focusing on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, energy, defence, technology, healthcare, labour mobility and regional security. Diplomatic observers believe the discussions will primarily aim to translate the agreements reached during the Prime Minister's visit into concrete initiatives that further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established between the two nations.

Economic cooperation is expected to dominate the agenda. India and Kuwait have enjoyed strong commercial ties for decades, with Kuwait remaining one of India's key energy suppliers and India among Kuwait's leading trading partners. Both sides are expected to explore opportunities to diversify bilateral trade beyond hydrocarbons by promoting investment in infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, food security and digital services.

Kuwait's Vision 2035 development programme also presents significant opportunities for Indian businesses. Discussions are likely to focus on increasing the participation of Indian companies in sectors such as construction, engineering, information technology, renewable energy and smart infrastructure, while encouraging greater investment by Kuwaiti sovereign wealth funds in India's expanding infrastructure and clean energy sectors.

Energy cooperation, long regarded as the cornerstone of India-Kuwait relations, is expected to receive renewed attention during the visit. Besides ensuring the continued supply of crude oil and liquefied natural gas, both countries are expected to discuss collaboration in emerging areas including renewable energy, green



hydrogen, carbon reduction technologies and the broader energy transition. As both nations pursue ambitious sustainability goals, officials are expected to identify new avenues for clean energy investments and technology partnerships.

Regional developments and security cooperation are also expected to feature prominently in the discussions. Against the backdrop of evolving geopolitical challenges in the Gulf region India and Kuwait are likely to exchange views on regional stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and the protection of critical infrastructure. India has consistently advocated dialogue and peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, while maintaining strong and balanced relations with countries across the Gulf. Strengthening security cooperation with Kuwait is expected to remain a shared priority in safeguarding regional peace and economic stability.

The welfare of the nearly one million Indians living and working in Kuwait is also expected to receive considerable attention. Discussions are likely to cover labour mobility, recruitment reforms, worker protection, digital consular services, skill development and measures aimed at facilitating the movement of skilled professionals

between the two countries. The Indian community continues to make significant contributions to Kuwait's economy across healthcare, education, engineering, finance, retail and numerous other sectors, making expatriate welfare an integral component of bilateral relations.


Technology and innovation have emerged as important pillars of India-Kuwait cooperation, and the visit is expected to further expand collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, fintech, cybersecurity, digital governance, smart city development, research partnerships and start-up ecosystems. India's growing expertise in digital public infrastructure and innovation offers significant opportunities as Kuwait accelerates its own digital transformation under Vision 2035.

Defence cooperation is also expected to figure prominently on the agenda. The two sides are likely to discuss military exchanges, defence training, maritime cooperation, intelligence sharing and efforts to combat transnational crime. Enhanced defence coordination is increasingly viewed as an important component of the broader strategic partnership between the two friendly nations.

Beyond bilateral matters, the visit is expected to reinforce cooperation on regional and international issues. India and Kuwait have traditionally worked closely in multilateral forums, and discussions are likely to include developments in West Asia, global energy security, food security, climate change, sustainable development and reforms of international institutions.

Following the Gulf leg of his tour, Dr. Jaishankar will travel to New York to launch India's campaign for election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2028-2029 term before attending high-level meetings in Brussels.


As India continues to strengthen its engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council, Kuwait remains one of New Delhi's most trusted and strategically important partners. The minister's three-day visit is expected not only to consolidate the gains achieved through recent high-level exchanges but also to lay the groundwork for deeper cooperation across a broad spectrum of sectors. With both countries committed to shared economic growth, regional stability and sustainable development, the visit is expected to further reinforce the enduring friendship and strategic partnership that continue to define India-Kuwait relations.




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