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250 Fils



WHERE WINTER STILL FEELS LIKE A FAIRYTALE

Around four in the afternoon, Kraków's Main Market Square turns blue. Lanterns flicker on, snow settles on the rooftops, and from a medieval tower a lone trumpeter plays the same melody that has rung out every hour for centuries. Below, the winter market hums with roasting chestnuts, wooden stalls and hand-painted glass ornaments.



Main Market



Krakow Old Town

This is winter the way storybooks draw it. And with Jazeera Airways flying direct from mid-December into February, it's closer than ever.

The city

Poland's royal capital for five centuries, Kraków kept its historic heart almost intact, and its Old



Wieliczka Salt Mine

Town is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Climb to Wawel Castle above the Vistula River, then wander the cafés and lantern-lit courtyards of Kazimierz. When the cold bites, warm up with thick hot chocolate and a plate of pierogi, Poland's beloved dumplings.

Just 30 minutes away, the Wieliczka Salt Mine reveals a world carved over 700 years, with vast underground halls where even the chandeliers are made of salt.

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Flights: Jazeera Airways flies direct to Kraków twice weekly, mid-December to early February

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Visa: Check Schengen requirements before booking

Book: jazeeraairways.com

Into the mountains

Two hours south lies Zakopane, Poland's winter capital at the foot of the Tatra Mountains. Take the cable car up Kasprowy Wierch for views into Slovakia, glide through pine forests on a horse-drawn sleigh, or book a first ski lesson on gentle slopes. Then end the day in the steaming outdoor thermal pools nearby, sitting in warm water while the snow falls.

Some trips you take for the sights. Winter in Poland is one you take for the feeling: the crisp air, the warm cup, the first snowfall a child will never forget.

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ALL SEATS. ALL FLIGHTS

Kuwait tightens grip on wage violations as thousands of companies face action

The Times Kuwait Report

For workers who rely on their monthly salaries to pay rent, meet household expenses and support families back home, going without wages for months can mean mounting debts and growing uncertainty. Kuwait is stepping up action against employers who fail to pay salaries, with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah warning that labour violations will no longer be tolerated and that the law will apply equally to all.

Authorities are examining the files of around 10,000 companies over unpaid wages. In some cases, workers reportedly went as long as 18 months without receiving their salaries. In response, the government is suspending company files, checking salary payments more closely and taking steps to hold employers accountable across the private sector.

Speaking at a meeting with company owners and representatives of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), Sheikh Fahad stressed that employers must fulfil their obligations to workers, regardless of nationality or the ownership of the business. He warned that companies found violating the rules could face the suspension of all related files and licences, rather than action being limited to the specific file in which the violation occurred.

The minister also raised concerns about questionable company arrangements, the misuse of commercial licences and suspected money laundering. Citing cases discussed during the meeting, he said 70 million dinars had circulated through three companies, one of which operated under a restaurant licence with only one registered employee. He also highlighted a case in which a Kuwaiti citizen was officially registered as earning 3,000 dinars a month but reportedly received only 180 dinars.

Such practices, he warned, could expose workers and citizens to exploitation while damaging Kuwait's international standing and raising concerns over financial transparency.

Salary monitoring moves into sharper focus

PAM Director-General Eng. Rabab Al-Osaimi said the authority had suspended 8,849 company files by the end of June 2026 for wage-payment violations. The figure represented 18.3 percent of the 48,408 registered company files employing five or more workers. In the



Workers reportedly went without salaries for up to 18 months as Kuwait tightens wage monitoring and warns employers of tougher penalties, including company-file suspensions and possible exclusion from government tenders.



meantime, the latest enforcement drive has targeted around 10,000 company files for non-compliance with salary-payment requirements. Authorities have stressed that employers must regularise their records and meet their obligations to workers.

There are also signs of improvement in compliance. PAM reported that wage-payment compliance reached 75.6 percent in July 2026, compared with 38.7 percent in the same month last year. Companies submitted 93,865 applications through the wage collection system between January and September, up from 31,757 during the corresponding period in 2025. To strengthen oversight further, PAM is coordinating with the Central Bank of Kuwait on additional procedures to verify salary transfers and establish whether wages recorded as paid have actually been received by the employees. The proposed measures are intended to identify discrepancies and make it harder for employers to conceal non-payment through official records.

Al-Osaimi has also urged companies to designate staff responsible for salary documentation and ensure that the required information is submitted through PAM's electronic systems. She warned that failure to meet wage-payment requirements could result in immediate file suspension.

Home-delivery service sector also under scrutiny

The meeting also addressed labour and regulatory violations in the home-delivery sector, where concerns include excessive working hours and compliance with traffic rules. Sheikh Fahad said around 300 delivery workers had been deported following a campaign to enforce traffic regulations. He urged companies to

recruit suitably qualified and experienced workers and ensure that their operations comply with applicable rules. He also criticised practices that force delivery workers for excessive hours and highlighted unsafe riding practices that can contribute to accidents. Employers, he stressed, must not use alleged worker violations as a justification for withholding salaries.

The wider message was that businesses must take responsibility for the people they employ, including ensuring that wages and other contractual entitlements are paid in full.

Amir's directive on access to government services

Alongside the labour enforcement measures, Sheikh Fahad recalled His Highness the Amir's directive to keep government doors open to citizens.

He instructed PAM officials to dedicate one day each week, from 8am to 1pm, to receiving citizens and hearing their concerns. The move is intended to provide a more direct channel for people seeking assistance with employment-related and administrative matters.

The minister also called for more accessible procedures while making clear that those who violate the law must be held accountable.

A stronger message to employers

The government's latest measures signal a broader effort to make wage compliance a fundamental condition of doing business in Kuwait. Authorities are pursuing closer electronic monitoring, stricter administrative action and stronger coordination to identify employers who fail to meet their obligations.

For workers, particularly expatriates supporting families across borders, regular salary payments are not simply an administrative requirement; they are the foundation of financial security. Delayed wages can leave employees struggling to cover basic expenses even as they continue to work. For employers, the message is equally clear: company registrations and licences do not provide protection from accountability. Businesses must maintain transparent records, comply with labour regulations and ensure that every worker receives the wages and entitlements legally due.

As Kuwait intensifies its enforcement drive, the challenge will be to translate the warnings and monitoring systems into consistent compliance, ensuring that workers are paid on time and that companies operating within the law are not undermined by those that fail to meet the same standards.

Kuwait Expats Can Report Lost Passports Through Sahel App

New Interior Ministry e-service allows residents to obtain official loss certificates online, reducing paperwork and the need for in-person visits

Expatriates in Kuwait can now report lost passports and obtain official loss certificates electronically through the government's unified Sahel application, as the Ministry of Interior expands its digital services for residents.

The new service, titled "Certificate of Loss of Passport," is available under the Security Services section of the Sahel app, enabling expatriates to complete the reporting process online without having to visit government offices.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the service allows residents to formally report missing passports and obtain an official certificate that can be submitted to the relevant authorities for further processing.

The initiative is expected to simplify administrative procedures, reduce paperwork and save time for expatriates who need to document the loss of an important travel document.

The ministry announced the launch through the official Sahel platform as part of ongoing efforts to



expand electronic government services and make essential transactions more accessible to residents.

Losing a passport can create difficulties for expatriates, particularly when dealing with embassy procedures, passport replacement and related residency documentation. The new digital service provides an electronic route for obtaining the loss certificate required to proceed with the relevant formalities.

However, the certificate documents the reported loss and does not replace the passport itself. Expatriates will still need to follow the applicable procedures with their respective embassies or passport-issuing authorities to obtain replacement travel documents.

The introduction of the service reflects Kuwait's continuing drive to streamline government transactions through digital platforms, reduce the need for physical visits and improve the efficiency of public services.

Vacancy

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Kuwait Reviews Transfer of Domestic Workers to Private Sector

Kuwait is reviewing the possibility of allowing domestic workers to transfer their residency permits from Article 20 to Article 18, potentially opening a pathway for eligible workers to move from domestic employment into the private sector.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah announced the review during his second meeting with private-sector company owners and representatives, held under the theme "The Wage Payment System: Protecting the Workforce, Building a More Compliant Labour Market."

Sheikh Fahad said the relevant authorities were examining the proposed transfer mechanism. However, the possibility remains under review, and no final decision to reopen transfers has been announced.

If approved, the move could provide domestic workers with an additional route to private-sector employment, subject to the conditions and regulations that may be established by the competent authorities.

Proposed move from Article 20 to Article 18 residency permits remains under study as authorities intensify wage protection measures

The discussions also focused on strengthening compliance with wage-payment regulations and ensuring employers meet their legal obligations towards workers.

Sheikh Fahad revealed that the files of around 10,000 companies employing five or more workers had been suspended over salary-payment violations. Some cases involved delays in paying wages for periods ranging from several months to as long as 18 months.

He said an automated monitoring system was in place to suspend company files when employers failed to pay salaries regularly, stressing the importance of enforcing labour regulations and protecting workers' rights.

Director-General of the Public Authority for Manpower Eng. Rabab Al-Osaimi outlined additional measures to strengthen wage monitoring, including cooperation with the Central Bank of Kuwait to verify salary withdrawals and help ensure workers receive their



earnings directly. The proposed review of domestic-worker transfers comes alongside these wider efforts to regulate employment practices, improve labour-market compliance and reinforce protections for workers across Kuwait.

Kuwait Cracks Down on Delivery Workers Violating Residency Rules

General Department of Traffic intensifies inspections, with violators detained at police stations as authorities tighten enforcement

Kuwait's General Department of Traffic (GDT) has intensified inspections targeting home-delivery workers, with violators being detained at police stations as authorities step up efforts to enforce traffic regulations and residency requirements.

The campaign forms part of ongoing efforts to regulate the delivery sector, ensure compliance with applicable laws and address violations committed by workers operating motorcycles and other delivery vehicles.

Authorities are conducting inspections to verify workers' documents and ensure that delivery personnel comply with the regulations governing their employment and movement on the country's roads.

Workers found violating the applicable rules are being referred for legal procedures, with some detained at police stations pending the completion of the necessary action.

The crackdown highlights the authorities' growing focus on monitoring the home-delivery sector, which has

expanded significantly alongside the growth of online shopping, restaurant



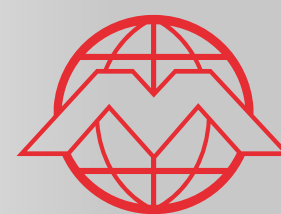
delivery services and app-based platforms.

Delivery companies and employers are expected to ensure that their workers hold valid documentation and comply with the regulations governing their work. Violations may expose both workers and employers to legal consequences, depending on the nature of the offence.

The inspections also form part of wider traffic enforcement efforts aimed at improving road safety and ensuring that commercial delivery activities are conducted within the legal framework.



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Bhutan showcases tourism and investment opportunities in Kuwait

By Ricky Laxa
Staff Writer

Bhutan has highlighted its tourism potential and emerging investment opportunities in a bid to strengthen engagement with Kuwait's business community, showcasing the Himalayan kingdom's distinctive approach to sustainable development, cultural preservation and economic growth.

The Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Kuwait, in cooperation with FAS Holding Group of Companies, organised a special event on October 17 at Sedra Continental Hotel, bringing together more than 200 guests from Kuwait's business, government, diplomatic, banking and media communities.

Bhutan's Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Phub Dorji, delivered the main presentation, outlining the country's tourism strategy and investment prospects, with particular emphasis on the ambitious Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) project.

Sustainable tourism at the heart of Bhutan's appeal

Presenting Bhutan as a destination that combines natural beauty, cultural richness and tranquillity, Ambassador Dorji highlighted the kingdom's high-value, low-volume tourism policy.

The approach seeks to attract visitors interested in meaningful travel experiences while safeguarding Bhutan's environment, cultural identity and natural resources. Rooted in the country's philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), it places quality of life, environmental sustainability and cultural harmony alongside economic development.

With landscapes extending from lush valleys to the towering peaks of the Himalayas, Bhutan offers visitors opportunities for trekking, exploring traditional communities, attending colourful festivals and experiencing the country's distinctive hospitality.

The ambassador encouraged prospective visitors from Kuwait to discover Bhutan's heritage and natural attractions, positioning the country as an appealing destination for travellers seeking experiences beyond conventional tourism. A key focus of the presentation was Gelephu Mindfulness City, a major development initiative intended to combine economic opportunity with sustainable living, innovation and well-being. The project reflects Bhutan's ambition to attract



Ambassador Phub Dorji highlights sustainable tourism, Gelephu Mindfulness City and emerging avenues for international investment

international investment while maintaining its commitment to environmental protection and the principles of Gross National Happiness.

GMC is designed to promote development across eight core sectors: spirituality; health and wellness; education and knowledge; agri-tech and forestry; green energy and technologies; finance and digital assets; aviation and logistics; and tourism. By bringing these sectors together within a broader development framework, the initiative seeks to create opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable economic activity. The presentation invited Kuwaiti investors and business leaders to explore the potential opportunities emerging from Bhutan's development vision.

Dialogue strengthens business engagement

Following the ambassador's presentation, an interactive question-and-answer session gave participants an opportunity to learn more about Bhutan's tourism ambitions and investment prospects.

S.N. Ramachandran, Group CFO of FAS Holding Group of Companies, shared personal recollections of Bhutan, describing a country where peace, happiness and tranquillity remain integral to everyday life. His reflections offered attendees a personal perspective on the kingdom's culture, lifestyle and appeal as a destination. The event provided a platform for exchanging views on Bhutan's development priorities while encouraging greater engagement between the kingdom and Kuwait's business community.

Ambassador Dorji also briefed participants on upcoming initiatives intended to advance Bhutan's



international profile. These included the planned completion of 108 Jangchub Chortens at Gelephu Mindfulness City on November 1, 2026. Each structure is planned to stand 15 metres tall, with the chortens arranged along the Mau Chhu river.

He also highlighted the Bhutan Innovation Festival, scheduled for March 24-26, 2027, at Dungkar Dzong in Paro, and the Invest Bhutan Summit, scheduled for February 11-12, 2027. Both initiatives are expected to provide further platforms for showcasing Bhutan's development vision, innovation agenda and investment opportunities. Through its engagement with Kuwait's business and diplomatic communities, Bhutan is seeking to broaden awareness of a development model that combines economic ambition with environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.

The event underscored the potential for deeper tourism and investment links between Bhutan and Kuwait, while presenting Gelephu Mindfulness City as a central component of the kingdom's long-term economic vision.

Jazeera Airways Joins Embassy of Poland to Celebrate First-Ever Winter Flights to Krakow

Airline partners with Polish Embassy and Małopolska Tourism Organization to promote winter travel and strengthen tourism ties

Jazeera Airways, in collaboration with the Embassy of Poland in Kuwait and the Małopolska Tourism Organization, hosted a special event to celebrate the launch of its first winter flights from Kuwait to Krakow, Poland. The event highlighted Krakow's rich cultural heritage, winter attractions and growing appeal as a holiday destination, while emphasising the role of direct air connectivity in strengthening tourism and people to people ties between Kuwait and Poland.

His Excellency Michał Cholewa, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the State of Kuwait, said, "The introduction of Jazeera Airways' winter flights to Krakow represents an important step in bringing Poland and Kuwait closer together. Poland offers a wealth of cultural, historical and natural attractions, and Krakow is one of our country's most celebrated destinations. These direct flights will provide an excellent opportunity for travellers from Kuwait to experience Poland's unique winter charm, while encouraging greater tourism, cultural exchange and stronger connections between our two countries. We welcome Jazeera Airways' continued efforts to enhance connectivity and look forward to further strengthening our



bilateral relationship."

Jazeera Airways will operate twice weekly direct flights between Kuwait and Krakow from 16 December 2026 to 6 February 2027, offering convenient and affordable travel options during the winter holiday season. The schedule is designed to provide travellers with greater flexibility to plan festive getaways, family holidays and European winter experiences.

Addressing guests at the event, Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said, "We are delighted to introduce Krakow to our winter network, offering



travellers an exciting new European destination rich in history, culture and festive experiences. With direct and affordable flights from Kuwait, we are making this beautiful Polish city more accessible while expanding travel choices for our customers. As we continue to grow our fleet and network, we look forward to strengthening tourism and connectivity between Kuwait and Poland."

One of Poland's oldest and most beautiful cities, Krakow offers a winter experience characterised by its medieval charm, festive markets, UNESCO listed Historic Centre and

iconic Wawel Royal Castle. The city also serves as a gateway to Zakopane and the scenic Tatra Mountains, offering skiing, snow covered landscapes and other winter attractions.

The event also highlighted Kuwait's winter calendar of sporting, cultural and entertainment events, including the Super Cup and concerts. These events attract visitors from across the GCC and beyond.

Combined with Kuwait's pleasant winter weather, diverse cuisine and warm hospitality, these attractions are boosting tourism, supporting local businesses and strengthening the country's appeal as a regional destination.

Barathan added, "Our new winter flights to Krakow expand travel choices while strengthening tourism and cultural ties between Kuwait and Poland. Through our partnership with Visit Kuwait, we are also promoting Kuwait's unique attractions to international visitors, supporting our vision of connecting people, driving tourism growth and positioning Kuwait as a vibrant winter destination."

Flights to Krakow are available for booking through the Jazeera Airways website, jazeeraairways.com, and the Jazeera mobile app.

Kuwait Studies Nationality Quotas for Private-Sector Companies

Kuwait is studying a proposal to introduce nationality-based quotas for private-sector companies, with each nationality potentially limited to between 30 and 40 percent of a company's workforce, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah has announced.

Under the proposed system, companies exceeding the permitted share for a particular nationality could be required to pay additional fees. The measure remains under study, and the authorities have yet to announce a final decision or implementation date.

Sheikh Fahad said he had instructed officials at the Public Authority for Manpower and the Residency Affairs Department to examine the proposed quota mechanism as part of wider efforts to regulate the labour market and improve oversight of private-sector employment.

The proposal could introduce a new approach to managing the nationality composition of company workforces, potentially requiring employers to review their recruitment plans and workforce distribution if

Proposed system would limit each nationality to 30-40 percent of a company's workforce, with additional fees for exceeding the threshold



the system is approved. The announcement was made during a meeting with private-sector company owners and representatives focused on wage protection, employers' obligations and compliance with labour regulations.

Sheikh Fahad also highlighted the government's efforts to address violations involving unpaid salaries, revealing that the files of around 10,000 companies employing five or more workers had been suspended over wage-payment violations.

He stressed that employers must fulfil their

obligations towards all workers, warning that violations could result in wider action against a company, including the suspension of its other files and licences.

The meeting also addressed the retention of skilled workers, with Sheikh Fahad asking officials to examine measures to prevent skilled employees from transferring to other companies when their existing employers are complying with contractual obligations.

Other proposals discussed included studying the transfer of domestic workers from Article 20 to Article 18 residency permits, potentially allowing them to move into private-sector employment.

The nationality quota proposal, however, remains under review. Further details, including how the percentages would be calculated, which companies would be covered and the level of additional fees for exceeding the proposed limits, have yet to be announced.

The proposed measures form part of Kuwait's broader efforts to strengthen labour-market regulation, improve employer compliance and establish clearer controls over workforce management.

Kuwait Orders travel agencies to Clearly Disclose Airport Fees on Tickets

DGCA circular standardizes fee codes and charges, helping passengers understand ticket costs and clarify refund claims



Kuwait has directed airlines and travel and tourism agencies operating in the country to clearly disclose airport fee codes and their corresponding amounts on airline tickets, in a move aimed at improving transparency, protecting passengers' rights and reducing confusion over the cost of air travel.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), through Circular No. 58 of 2026 issued on October 19, has introduced a standardized approach to displaying fees associated with Kuwait International Airport. The measure is intended to ensure that passengers receive clear information about the charges included in their tickets when booking flights.

DGCA spokesperson Abdullah Al-Rajhi said the circular seeks to regulate the relationship between passengers, airlines and travel agencies by making the components of ticket prices easier to understand.

He clarified that the fees listed in the circular are not all new, as some were already in use, while others had been introduced more recently. The main objective is to standardize how these charges are disclosed and ensure that the relevant codes and amounts are clearly itemized on tickets.

The requirement is also expected to help passengers refer to the applicable charges when cancelling bookings or seeking refunds. However, any refund remains subject to the ticket's terms and conditions and the regulations governing the transaction.

Al-Rajhi stressed that all airlines and travel and tourism agencies operating in Kuwait must comply with the circular and display the relevant fee codes and amounts clearly and separately.

The DGCA said the measure forms part of its broader efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight, improve clarity in travel-related transactions and safeguard the rights of passengers.

By ensuring that airport-related charges are presented more transparently, the authority aims to help travelers better understand what they pay when purchasing tickets and provide a clearer reference when dealing with cancellations and refund requests.

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IWG celebrates Eswatini heritage, promotes women's empowerment in Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

The International Women's Group (IWG) in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Eswatini, hosted a cultural evening celebrating Eswatini's rich heritage, promoting international friendship and highlighting the importance of women's empowerment.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Farwaniya, the event brought together Princess Temaswati Dlamini and Princess Tzandzile Dlamini, heads of diplomatic missions, distinguished guests and members of the community for an evening of cultural performances, tourism and investment presentations, and discussions on women's leadership and economic participation.

The gathering reflected the IWG's annual theme, "Discover, Connect, Empower," which promotes cultural understanding, international cooperation and greater opportunities for women.

IWG President Mona Haddad Al-Khoury said the event provided an opportunity to introduce guests to Eswatini's traditions and cultural identity while recognising the contribution of women to society. She also paid tribute to Princess Temaswati, a member of Eswatini's Senate and an advocate for women's issues, noting her personal connection with Kuwait, where she received part of her education.

For Princess Temaswati, the occasion was particularly meaningful. Describing Kuwait as her "second home," she recalled living in the country from the age of 19 to 30 and spoke warmly of the friendships and memories she had developed during those years. Returning to Kuwait with her husband and children, she said, was a special experience.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of the event, the princess expressed hope for stronger relations between Kuwait and Eswatini, particularly in cultural, economic and commercial cooperation.

She also emphasised the importance of encouraging more Kuwaiti women to pursue leadership positions and participate in decision-making. Confidence, professional competence, innovative ideas and individual capabilities, she noted, were essential to advancing women's participation across different sectors.

Princess Temaswati said Eswatini was making efforts to expand women's representation in parliament,



Cultural evening brings diplomats together to showcase traditional music, strengthen bilateral ties and highlight women's leadership

the private sector and executive positions. She also highlighted the value of travel and cultural exchange in broadening perspectives, building relationships and creating opportunities for cooperation among women from different societies.

Eswatini's Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Nkululeko Dlamini, thanked the IWG for providing a platform to showcase his country's heritage and traditions. He said the celebration carried added significance as Eswatini marked the 40th anniversary of King Mswati III's accession to the throne. The ambassador also commended his wife, Pauline Dlamini, for her efforts in organising the event and introducing guests to the country's cultural heritage.

Women's empowerment and inclusive development featured prominently in the programme. Eswatini Senator Lauren Nksumalo highlighted the importance of women's participation in national development and called for stronger measures to combat gender-based violence. While acknowledging progress in women's representation in legislative institutions, Nksumalo stressed that empowerment must extend beyond leadership appointments to include equitable access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

She called for greater financial support for women entrepreneurs, particularly those in rural communities, noting that access to resources and business opportunities was essential to enabling women to establish enterprises, achieve economic independence and contribute to national development.

The programme also featured presentations on Eswatini's tourism and investment opportunities,

alongside reflections on the IWG's visit to the kingdom in 2025. Traditional music and dance performances by an Eswatini cultural troupe brought the country's customs and cultural expression to life, offering guests an engaging introduction to its heritage.

In a particularly warm moment, Princess Temaswati joined guests in a group dance celebrating the friendship



between Kuwait and Eswatini. The evening also coincided with her birthday, adding a personal dimension to the celebration.

Beyond its cultural performances and formal discussions, the event highlighted the role of people-to-people exchanges in strengthening relations between nations. By combining cultural discovery with dialogue on women's leadership and economic opportunity, the IWG celebration underscored how shared experiences can foster mutual understanding, encourage cooperation and build lasting international friendships.

IEAS Kuwait Reaches Quarter-Finals, Stands Out Among Gulf Teams



Indian English Academy School (IEAS), Kuwait, achieved a notable milestone at the CBSE U19 Basketball Nationals 2026 in Bathinda, Punjab, with its Under-19 boys' team becoming the only Gulf team to reach the quarter-finals across the participating categories.

Representing Kuwait at the national-level tournament held at St. Xavier's High School, the IEAS team delivered an impressive group-stage campaign, securing victories over DPS Qatar (32-24), New Indian School Bahrain (26-16), DPS Surat (30-12) and the host school, St. Xavier's High School, Bathinda (20-0).

Despite a challenging encounter against Velammal Vidyalaya, Tamil Nadu, the team demonstrated determination and resilience to

progress to the knockout stage. Its campaign concluded in the quarter-finals against Yuganter Public School, but the achievement marked a proud moment for IEAS and highlighted the school's growing sporting credentials.

Under the guidance of coach Clarence, the players showcased teamwork, discipline and perseverance throughout the competition, bringing recognition to their school and Kuwait.

IEAS expressed gratitude to its management, coaches, parents and the wider school community for their continued support. Special appreciation was extended to Rajesh and the ITL WORLD Travel Management team for their planning and coordination, which helped make the team's participation possible.



ALSAYER Promotes Breast Cancer Awareness and Early Detection

ALSAYER Group, in collaboration with Bader Medical Center, organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at its KFTZ1 headquarters on 19 October, 2026, coinciding with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The campaign featured an educational session addressing breast cancer prevention, risk factors, early warning signs, and the importance of regular screenings. Participants also had the opportunity to consult healthcare professionals and receive complimentary medical check-ups. Eng. Nehad Al Haj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence Department at ALSAYER Group, said the initiative aimed to empower women to make informed health decisions and encourage them to prioritize early detection and preventive care.

He added that employee health and

wellbeing remain integral to ALSAYER Group's sustainability and social responsibility priorities, reaffirming its commitment to supporting health awareness programs that enhance quality of life and contribute to sustainable social impact across Kuwait.





US celebrates 250 years of independence, 65 years of ties with Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

The United States celebrated the 250th anniversary of its independence alongside 65 years of formal diplomatic relations with Kuwait at a special Freedom 250 event, with US Chargé d'Affaires Steven Butler highlighting the enduring friendship between the two countries and their shared commitment to freedom, sovereignty and security.

Addressing guests at the celebration, Butler said the occasion offered an opportunity to reflect on the founding ideals of the United States while looking ahead to the next 250 years of liberty, innovation and ingenuity. He noted that the principle of a nation governed by its people and founded on individual freedom represented a radical idea when the United States declared independence in 1776. The Freedom 250 initiative, he said, celebrates the country's journey while reaffirming the importance of these ideals for future generations.

The event also marked 65 years of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and Kuwait, established in 1961. However, Butler emphasised that the relationship between the two countries predates formal diplomatic ties, tracing its roots to 1911, when the American Mission Hospital was established in Kuwait.

"Kuwaitis and Americans have been part of each other's lives and stories for many, many more years than just the time that we're celebrating this year," Butler said, describing the relationship as a lasting friendship that has endured significant challenges.

A partnership tested by history

Reflecting on the history of bilateral relations, Butler recalled the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and the role of the United States in leading the international coalition that liberated the country in February 1991. He said the two countries had continued to stand together through subsequent



Freedom 250 event highlights enduring friendship, shared security commitments and American innovation

regional security challenges, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding Kuwait's sovereignty, protecting its people and supporting regional stability.

Butler also referred to the temporary evacuation of US Embassy personnel amid security concerns and their subsequent return to Kuwait to resume operations. Recalling his return in June, he described leading the team that reopened the embassy as one of the proudest moments of his life. He also highlighted the visit of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Kuwait, during which he met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and senior Kuwaiti officials, including the foreign minister, reaffirming Washington's commitment to the bilateral partnership. Butler said the raising of the American flag at the embassy following its reopening was a particularly meaningful moment, symbolising continuity and the United States' commitment to its relationship with Kuwait.

American innovation on display

The celebration also showcased American innovation, technological advancement and cultural influence, which Butler described as important contributors to economic development and everyday life around the world.

Among the highlights was a 1964 Chevrolet Corvette, presented as an iconic example of American engineering and automotive design. Butler noted the personal significance of the vehicle, explaining that the Corvette is manufactured in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the state where he was born.

Celebrating the anniversary in Kuwait alongside a vehicle associated with his home state, he said, made the occasion particularly special.

The event also brought together American companies and brands operating in Kuwait, reflecting the breadth of US commercial and cultural influence. Butler thanked the participating companies for their



sponsorship and support.

He noted that international hotel chains and familiar brands, including Starbucks and McDonald's, had become part of everyday life in countries around the world, including Kuwait, illustrating the reach of American business and popular culture.

Looking towards the future

Asked what distinguished the 250th anniversary from previous national celebrations, Butler highlighted the importance of milestone anniversaries in encouraging reflection on a country's founding principles, historical journey and future direction.

Drawing a comparison with the US bicentennial celebrations in 1976, he said such occasions provided an opportunity not only to remember the past but also to consider the values that would guide the country in the decades ahead.

Butler concluded by welcoming guests and expressing hope that the celebration would encourage renewed appreciation of the ideals underpinning American independence.

The Freedom 250 event underscored the longstanding relationship between the United States and Kuwait, built over generations through diplomatic engagement, security cooperation, commercial ties and connections between their peoples. As both countries mark significant anniversaries, the celebration highlighted a partnership rooted in shared history and continuing cooperation, with both sides looking towards further engagement in the years ahead.

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EU cookbook celebrates culinary heritage of 27 member states

The Times Kuwait Report

The European Union Delegation to Kuwait launched the second edition of A Union of European Flavours on October 20, bringing together the culinary traditions of all 27 EU member states in a celebration of cultural diversity, heritage and the enduring friendship between Kuwait and Europe.

The launch, held at Si Restaurant, was attended by European ambassadors accredited to Kuwait and invited guests. The publication comes as Kuwait and the European Union mark 40 years of diplomatic relations, adding a cultural dimension to a partnership built on dialogue, cooperation and mutual understanding.

The cookbook features recipes contributed by the embassies of all 27 EU member states in Kuwait, offering readers an opportunity to explore the distinctive flavours, cooking traditions and cultural identities that have shaped European cuisine across generations.

More than a collection of recipes, A Union of European Flavours highlights the close relationship between food, history and identity. Traditional dishes and cooking techniques reflect the lifestyles, customs and experiences of communities, preserving culinary knowledge while connecting generations.

Speaking at the launch, EU Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Anne Koistinen highlighted the significance of the publication coinciding with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the European Union and Kuwait. She underscored the importance of shared values, dialogue and cooperation in strengthening



Publication marks 40 years of Kuwait-EU diplomatic relations, using food to strengthen cultural understanding and people-to-people ties



relations between the two sides.

Ambassador Koistinen also highlighted the common appreciation for gastronomy and culinary heritage in European and Kuwaiti cultures. She noted that diversity remains a defining feature of European identity, with regional cuisines reflecting the history, creativity and way of life of individual countries and communities.

Food traditions, she explained, serve as a living record of cultural and social development, preserving the knowledge and customs of previous generations while continuing to influence contemporary lifestyles. The ambassador also drew attention to the European Union's commitment to maintaining high food safety and quality standards to protect consumers and ensure the quality of food products.

Adding a practical culinary dimension to the event, Si Restaurant head chef Marco Vigonovo presented a menu inspired by European gastronomic traditions and his exploration of Mediterranean cuisine. The presentation highlighted how different cultures,



ingredients and flavours come together to create distinctive culinary experiences.

Sustainability was another key element of the evening, with seasonal ingredients and local produce incorporated into the menu. The approach demonstrated how culinary heritage can be celebrated alongside environmental responsibility and the efficient use of resources.

The digital edition of A Union of European Flavours is available through the European Union Delegation's social media channels under EUinKuwait, allowing readers to discover recipes from across the 27 member states and learn about the cultural stories behind them. By bringing Europe's culinary traditions to a wider audience in Kuwait, the cookbook underscores the role of food as a universal language that transcends borders. It offers a platform for cultural exchange, encourages appreciation of different traditions and reinforces the people-to-people connections at the heart of Kuwait-EU relations.

Aspire Indian School students explore higher education options in India

The Times Kuwait Report

Aspire Indian School hosted a higher education counselling session on September 29, connecting around 400 to 500 students from Grades 10 and 12 with representatives of Indian universities to explore study options, admission requirements and career opportunities in India. The session was attended by AIIS Counsellor Mrs. Lia Varghese, who welcomed the visiting university delegates.

Organised in collaboration with Indus India Education and The Times Kuwait, the session formed part of India Education Career Counselling 2026, held from September 28 to 30. The programme aimed to help students understand the range of academic pathways available after school and make informed decisions about their future education.

Representatives from seven Indian institutions participated in the session: Yenepoya University, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), REVA University, Marwadi University, Woxsen University, Atria University and RV University. They introduced students to their academic programmes and explained eligibility criteria, admission procedures, entrance examinations and application processes.

The discussions covered a broad range of disciplines, extending beyond conventional choices such as engineering, medicine and commerce. Students learned about emerging fields including artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, robotics and business analytics, alongside maritime studies, psychology, design and healthcare. Established disciplines such as law, management, architecture and the sciences were also discussed.

The interaction provided students with an opportunity to seek information directly from university representatives about course structures, admission requirements and potential career pathways. The session also highlighted professional and vocational programmes, as well as online degree courses that offer flexible learning opportunities for



Yenepoya University



Christ
(Deemed To Be University)



Marwadi University



Atria University



RV University

Counselling session connects 400 to 500 students with Indian universities and emerging career pathways



working professionals and others seeking additional qualifications. The counselling programme was designed to help students assess the options available to them after completing their school education, while gaining a clearer understanding of the qualifications and academic requirements associated with different professions.

Following the counselling session, the visiting delegation met Aspire Indian School Principal Dr. Geetika Ahuja, who holds PHD. in English, an M.A. in Psychology, an MBA and a B.Ed. She also holds a diploma in Learning Disabilities. The discussion provided an opportunity to exchange views on students' educational interests and the importance of selecting higher education programmes that align with their abilities, aspirations and long-term goals. Affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Aspire Indian School



provides education up to the senior secondary level. The school emphasises academic development, discipline and character formation as part of its efforts to prepare students for higher education and future professional responsibilities.

India Education Career Counselling 2026 sought to strengthen connections between students in Kuwait and higher education institutions in India by providing direct access to information about academic programmes and career opportunities.

Students considering higher education options were encouraged to evaluate factors such as institutional recognition and accreditation, course content, practical training, tuition fees and future employment prospects when comparing programmes and selecting a suitable academic pathway.

Czech envoy reaffirms solidarity with Kuwait, eyes stronger ties, year-round direct flights

The Times Kuwait Report

The Czech Embassy in Kuwait hosted a reception to mark the Czech Republic's Independence Day, bringing together guests to celebrate the country's history and its longstanding friendship with Kuwait. The occasion also highlighted the strength of bilateral relations, with Czech Ambassador H.E. Juraj Chmiel reaffirming his country's commitment to expanding cooperation with Kuwait across diplomatic, economic, trade and defense sectors, while underscoring the importance of regional security and stability.

Speaking at a reception Ambassador Chmiel said the fifth round of Czech-Kuwaiti political consultations, held in October despite the security challenges facing the region, reflect the strength of the partnership between the two countries.

The ambassador expressed appreciation for the longstanding historical relationship between Prague and Kuwait, recalling that Czechoslovakia recognized Kuwait in 1961, established diplomatic relations in 1963 and opened its embassy in Kuwait in 1965.

Since then, bilateral relations have continued to develop beyond diplomatic engagement to encompass trade, economic cooperation and investment, creating opportunities and mutual benefits for both countries, he said.

Czech Republic expresses solidarity with Kuwait

Ambassador Chmiel expressed deep sorrow over the Iranian attacks on Kuwait earlier this year, conveying sincere condolences on behalf of the Czech Republic and its embassy to the families of the victims. He reaffirmed his country's solidarity with the Kuwaiti people and leadership during these difficult circumstances, stressing that the Czech Republic stands alongside Kuwait in honoring the memory of



Czech Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Juraj Chmiel reaffirms Prague's solidarity with Kuwait, highlights expanding defense and economic cooperation, and calls for stronger tourism links.



those who lost their lives. He also expressed hope that the victims would rest in peace. The ambassador underscored the Czech Republic's commitment to supporting regional security and stability, noting that his country's participation in Operation Desert Storm and its longstanding defense cooperation with Kuwait had helped lay the foundations for the close partnership enjoyed by the two countries today.

He stressed the importance of continuing and strengthening this cooperation in the coming years in ways that serve their shared interests and contribute to regional peace and stability.

Push for year-round direct flights

Turning to tourism and people-to-people ties, Chmiel expressed hope that direct flights between Kuwait and the Czech Republic could operate throughout the year rather than being restricted to specific seasons.

He noted that Jazeera Airways is offering travelers the opportunity to benefit from direct winter flights to the Czech Republic beginning this year. The ambassador expressed hope that further efforts would lead to year-round direct services, strengthening links between the two peoples while supporting tourism

and economic exchanges.

In his address, Chmiel recalled the establishment of Czechoslovakia in October 1918, paying tribute to the contributions of founding figures Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Milan Rastislav Štefánik and Edvard Beneš, among others, who helped secure the country's independence.

He noted that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic emerged as independent states through a peaceful separation in 1993, following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, while maintaining close relations with each other. The ambassador thanked the guests for attending the celebration and expressed hope for peace in the region and around the world, as well as the continued strengthening of friendship between the Czech Republic and Kuwait.

He also acknowledged the sponsors supporting the reception and praised the embassy team and an intern Natalia for organizing the first reception of its kind at the embassy premises.

The event featured a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, a short musical performance by musicians from the Kuwait Music Academy and an exhibition introducing visitors to the Czech Republic, held on the ground floor of the embassy building.



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Kuwait's New Arbitration Law

A Legislative Milestone Strengthening Investor Confidence and Aligning with Gulf and International Developments

Decree-Law No. 120 of 2026 Establishes a Modern Dispute Resolution Framework and Strengthens Kuwait's Position on the Regional Arbitration Map

By Tareq Youssef AlShumaimry
Former Secretary-General of the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre

In a significant legislative development reflecting the State of Kuwait's commitment to modernising its legal and investment environment, Decree-Law No. 120 of 2026 promulgating the Arbitration Law was issued on 13 October 2026 and published in the Official Gazette on 18 October 2026.

The new legislation marks a major shift in the regulation of commercial and investment arbitration, ushering in a new era of alignment with international standards and modern arbitration legislation across the Gulf region.

The significance of the law lies in consolidating arbitration provisions within a standalone legislative framework. Previously, these provisions were dispersed between the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law and Law No. 11 of 1995 concerning Judicial Arbitration.

This consolidation enhances procedural clarity and legal certainty, two fundamental safeguards sought by both domestic and foreign investors.

Key Reforms Enhancing Arbitration Efficiency

The new law enshrines fundamental principles firmly established in international arbitration, most notably the separability of the arbitration agreement from the underlying contract, the arbitral tribunal's authority to determine its own jurisdiction, commonly known as competence-competence, and respect for party autonomy in selecting arbitrators, determining procedures and choosing the applicable law.

The legislation also recognises electronic arbitration agreements and permits the use of modern communication technologies in conducting proceedings, holding hearings, exchanging documents and executing electronic signatures, while granting such procedures legal validity. Among its significant innovations is the regulation of emergency arbitration and interim and conservatory measures before the constitution of the arbitral tribunal, enabling parties to protect assets and safeguard urgent rights.

The law also establishes time limits for rendering arbitral awards, strengthens the confidentiality of proceedings and requires parties to disclose sources of third-party funding for arbitration costs, thereby reducing the potential for conflicts of interest.

Furthermore, it introduces provisions governing the establishment, licensing and supervision of arbitration centres, alongside safeguards regulating arbitration in contracts involving state entities. These measures seek to strike an appropriate balance between protecting investment and safeguarding public funds.

One of the law's particularly distinctive features is Article 79, which provides for the Court of Appeal to determine the merits of a dispute when setting aside an arbitral award, subject to Article 78. This mechanism is intended to prevent unnecessary expenditure of time and costs.

Kuwait's new arbitration legislation closely reflects the fundamental principles underpinning the



UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration of 1985, as amended in 2006.

These principles include the separability of arbitration agreements, party autonomy, competence-competence, procedural equality, interim measures and judicial supervision of arbitral awards.

Nevertheless, this convergence does not amount to complete legislative uniformity.

The Kuwaiti law incorporates specific domestic provisions governing arbitration institutions, judicial arbitration, state contracts, confidentiality and disclosure of third-party funding, while also differing in certain aspects of judicial oversight and procedures for setting aside arbitral awards.

It is important to emphasise that the UNCITRAL Model Law serves as a legislative reference and framework rather than a binding international convention. Accordingly, differences between national legislation and the Model Law do not necessarily undermine adherence to its fundamental principles.

Gulf Arbitration Laws: A Continuing Legislative Evolution

The member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have progressively modernised their arbitration legislation. In Saudi Arabia, the Arbitration Law was enacted by Royal Decree No. M/34 on 16 April 2012. It remains the principal legislative framework governing arbitration, alongside continuing developments in the Kingdom's judicial system and arbitration institutions.

In the United Arab Emirates, Federal Law No. 6 of 2018 on Arbitration was subsequently amended by Federal Decree-Law No. 15 of 2023, reflecting the country's sustained commitment to strengthening its arbitration environment.

Bahrain enacted Law No. 9 of 2015 concerning Arbitration, distinguished by its direct adoption of the amended UNCITRAL Model Law. This places Bahrain among the Gulf jurisdictions whose arbitration legislation is most closely aligned with the international model.

Qatar introduced Law No. 2 of 2017 promulgating the Arbitration Law in Civil and Commercial Matters, drawing upon contemporary principles of international arbitration.

In the Sultanate of Oman, the Arbitration Law was promulgated by Royal Decree No. 47 of 1997 and subsequently amended by Royal Decree No. 3 of 2007, alongside continuing efforts to develop the country's legislative and institutional arbitration framework.

With the enactment of Decree-Law No. 120 of 2026, Kuwait has joined this broader Gulf legislative modernisation process through an independent arbitration law combining international standards with national legal characteristics.

Arbitration Centres and Chambers of Commerce: Parallel Institutional Development

The evolution of arbitration across the Gulf has extended beyond national legislation to encompass the rules and institutional frameworks of arbitration centres associated with chambers of commerce and specialised dispute resolution institutions.

In Kuwait, the Kuwait Commercial Arbitration Centre, affiliated with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was established in 1999.

In Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) has emerged as a leading national institution specialising in the administration of commercial disputes, with its updated Arbitration Rules taking effect in May 2023.

The United Arab Emirates hosts several prominent arbitration institutions, including the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), operating under its 2022 Arbitration Rules, the Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre, whose rules came into effect in 2024, and the Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Centre.

In Bahrain, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR) operates under its updated 2022 Arbitration Rules.

Meanwhile, the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA), affiliated with the Qatar Chamber, administers disputes under its revised rules, effective from January 2025.

Oman has also witnessed significant institutional development through the Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, which updated its arbitration rules in 2026 pursuant to Decision No. 3 of 2026.

These amendments introduced developments concerning expedited arbitration procedures, digitalisation and disclosure of third-party funding.

Collectively, these developments demonstrate that competition among Gulf jurisdictions in international arbitration increasingly extends beyond legislative reform to encompass the quality of institutional rules and the efficiency of dispute administration.

The GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre: Towards a New Legal Framework for Greater Regional Integration

Within the broader development of arbitration across the Gulf, particular significance attaches to the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre.

The Centre was established pursuant to a decision of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its 14th session, held in Riyadh in 1993, with its headquarters located in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It was conceived as a joint Gulf institution dedicated to resolving commercial disputes and supporting economic cooperation among GCC member states.

CONTINUED on PAGE 11

Abdulrahman Al-Houti named 'Law Firm Leader of the Year' at Middle East Legal Awards 2026

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The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwaiti legal professional Abdulrahman Ibrahim Al-Houti, CEO and Managing Partner of Dar Al-Muhama Law Firm, has been named 'Law Firm Leader of the Year' at the LAW.COM Middle East Legal Awards 2026, recognising his leadership and contribution to the legal profession.

The award highlights a professional approach that places client needs, practical legal solutions and the development of legal talent at the centre of the firm's work. Dar Al-Muhama continues to strengthen its role in Kuwait's legal sector through knowledge-sharing initiatives, professional training and collaboration with specialists across different fields.

"Our experience should benefit our clients and the next generation of lawyers," Al-Houti said following the recognition, emphasising the importance of translating professional expertise into practical value for clients while supporting the growth of emerging legal professionals.

Beyond its legal advisory services, the firm is expanding its engagement with evolving areas of legal practice, including legal technology, artificial intelligence and Islamic finance. It also focuses on practical legal training and collaboration with in-house legal leaders, reflecting the changing requirements

*Dar Al-Muhama
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Partner recognised
for leadership,
client-focused
legal services and
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developing the next
generation of legal
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of businesses and the growing complexity of the commercial environment.

Al-Houti said the firm assesses its progress by the quality of its advice, its ability to understand clients' needs and the professional development of its team.

He explained that effective legal leadership involves more than providing technically sound advice. It also requires understanding the decisions clients face, offering guidance that can be applied in practice and ensuring that colleagues continue to develop the skills and confidence needed to take on greater responsibilities.

The firm also seeks to extend the benefits of its experience beyond individual client engagements by sharing knowledge through training, practical insights and cooperation with specialists. This approach aims to contribute to the wider legal community while strengthening the quality of professional services.

"Every matter we handle adds to our experience. We want that experience to reach further through practical training, useful insights and collaboration with specialists. That is the direction we are taking at Dar Al-Muhama, step by step," Al-Houti said.

Expressing his appreciation for the award, Al-Houti acknowledged the contribution of his colleagues and the confidence placed in the firm by its clients. He noted that the recognition reflects the sustained effort



behind the firm's daily work and the commitment of its team to continuous improvement.

"I am delighted to receive this recognition, and I know how much everyday work sits behind it. I thank my colleagues for their commitment and our clients for their trust and for the difficult questions that keep pushing us to improve," he added.

A Legislative Milestone Strengthening Investor Confidence and Aligning with Gulf and International Developments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Drawing upon my experience as Secretary-General of the Centre, I undertook, beginning in 2021, a comprehensive review and revision of the legal framework governing its operations. This initiative sought to modernise the Centre's governing provisions and enhance its operational mechanisms in response to developments in international commercial arbitration, while strengthening its role in facilitating trade and investment throughout the GCC.

The institutional process towards adopting a new legal framework for the Centre is expected to proceed following its submission to the relevant GCC ministers and completion of the procedures required for approval by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

This initiative represents an important step towards modernising the legal framework for joint Gulf arbitration and reinforcing the Centre's position as a regional institution capable of addressing complex cross-border commercial and investment disputes.

Modernising the Centre's legal framework in parallel with developments in national arbitration legislation would also promote greater legal integration across the Gulf and provide a more coherent and predictable environment for investors and businesses operating within GCC markets.

Kuwait: From Legislative Modernisation to Investor Confidence

The enactment of Kuwait's new Arbitration Law represents far more than an addition to the country's legislative framework.

It is a significant step towards establishing a clearer, more predictable and more effective investment environment in which commercial disputes can be resolved efficiently. Nevertheless, the law's ultimate success will depend on the effectiveness of its implementation, the independence of arbitration institutions, judicial expertise, the timely enforcement of arbitral awards, the professional development of arbitrators and the continued modernisation of institutional rules and procedures.

Investors seek more than promising economic opportunities. They require a legal system through which risks can be assessed, rights protected and disputes resolved fairly and effectively.

Against this background, Arbitration Law No. 120 of 2026 sends an important message to the international business community: Kuwait is advancing the modernisation of its legal framework in line with international standards, while strengthening its economic competitiveness and its position within the Gulf arbitration landscape. Modern legislation lays the foundations for confidence, but effective implementation is what transforms that confidence into sustainable investment and lasting economic strength.

Through this combination of legislative reform and institutional efficiency, Kuwait can further consolidate its standing among jurisdictions recognised for their commitment to investment protection and international arbitration



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Kuwait commits to tackling cross-border cybercrime, upgrading security system

Deputy Director of the Cybercrime Department at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Colonel Hamad Al-Hamoud reiterated Wednesday Kuwait's commitment to developing its security system to fight cybercrime and enhance cooperation with Arab countries to tackle cross-border cybercrimes.

Al-Hamoud is also the head of Kuwait's delegation participating in the 3rd Conference of Officials Responsible for Combatting IT Crimes in Arab Interior Ministries.

He explained to KUNA that the Cybercrime Department has specialized human resources trained in the latest methods of investigation, research, digital evidence collection, criminal monitoring, and analysis, as well as dealing with various types of cybercrime through continuous training.

Al-Hamoud pointed out that the department is working on making use of AI to detect criminal indicators early, as well as setting up channels of communication with commercial companies



and relevant government bodies to enhance coordination, exchange information, proactively monitor cybercrime, and analyze signs of fraud while taking early preventative measures.

He also added that Kuwait pays special attention to combating fraud and cyber scams by coordinating with government bodies, financial institutions, and telecom companies to counter any new method of fraud and protect the community.

Joyalukkas opens Jewel of Joy, the Middle East's biggest jewellery showroom in Dubai



The Middle East's Biggest Jewellery Destination, "Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas," was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates, alongside H.E. Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Consul General of India in Dubai; Mr. Issam Galadhari, CEO of Ithra Dubai; Mr. Rashid Alharmoodi, Senior Director of Commercial at Dubai Gold District; Mr. Tawhid Abdullah, Chairman of Dubai Gold and Jewellery Group; Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group; Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery; family members and other distinguished dignitaries.

Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller, has officially opened Jewel of Joy, the Middle East's biggest jewellery showroom, at Dubai Gold District. The launch marks a milestone in the group's journey of nearly four decades in the UAE and celebrates Dubai's enduring status as the City of Gold.

The showroom was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates, alongside H.E. Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Consul General of India in Dubai; Mr. Issam Galadhari, CEO of Ithra Dubai; Mr. Rashid Alharmoodi, Senior Director of Commercial at Dubai Gold District; Mr. Tawhid Abdullah, Chairman of Dubai Gold and Jewellery Group; Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group; Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery; family members and other distinguished dignitaries.

A destination of unprecedented scale

Spanning 25,000 square feet, Jewel of Joy has been designed as a comprehensive jewellery experience centre, featuring timeless gold jewellery, elaborate bridal collections, responsibly sourced diamonds and rare precious gemstones.

Located in the heart of Dubai Gold District, Jewel of Joy is Joyalukkas' only showroom of its kind, offering an exclusive experience unlike any of its more than 200 showrooms worldwide. The name "Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas" was unveiled by Mr. Issam Galadhari, CEO of Ithra Dubai. At the heart of the showroom is The Royal Bangle Walk, a monumental bangle installation through which visitors can walk. The signature installation was scheduled to be unveiled by H.E. Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Consul General of India in Dubai, during the inauguration.

An experience designed around every customer

Jewel of Joy incorporates several features designed to provide customers with a personalised and memorable visit, including an exclusive designer studio, a premium VIP lounge, a kids' engagement zone and dedicated maintenance services.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group, said, "Jewel of Joy is more than a showroom. It is our tribute to a city that has given us so much, and our promise to customers that we will always strive to give them more."

For nearly 40 years, we have grown alongside the UAE, and this destination reflects the scale, craftsmanship and warmth that define both Joyalukkas and Dubai.

From The Royal Bangle Walk to our most extensive collection to date, every detail has been designed to make our customers feel truly special. This is our way of saying that the best is yet to come."

Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery, said, "Our mission is to constantly meet our customers' expectations and enhance their jewellery shopping experience. This showroom will be an experience like never before. It has everything a jewellery lover would like to experience and more. I invite all UAE residents and tourists to visit and experience the magnificent destination we have created for them."

With a legacy of more than 70 years, over 200 showrooms across 13 countries and the trust of more than 10 million customers, Joyalukkas continues to set benchmarks in jewellery retail. Jewel of Joy brings the group's legacy of trust, craftsmanship and excellence to Dubai Gold District.

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There are places that impress with their grand landmarks, and others that win visitors over through the little moments – a quiet walk along a river, a coffee in a centuries-old square or the discovery of a small town where history seems to linger around every corner. Czechia, also known as the Czech Republic, brings these experiences together in a country that is as rewarding to explore slowly as it is to visit for a short city break.

At the heart of it all is Prague, a city whose red rooftops, historic towers and winding cobbled streets create a picture-book setting. Yet beyond its postcard beauty, the Czech capital has a lively personality, with cafés, independent shops, cultural venues and restaurants giving its historic neighbourhoods a contemporary feel.

Prague: Where history comes alive

Few sights capture the spirit of the city quite like Prague Castle. Perched above the Vltava River, the sprawling complex has watched over the capital for centuries. Its courtyards, palaces and churches tell the story of Bohemian rulers and the evolution of the Czech state. The magnificent St Vitus Cathedral is one of its highlights, with soaring Gothic architecture and intricate stained glass. Nearby, the Old Royal Palace and St George's Basilica offer glimpses into different chapters of the country's past, while the colourful houses of Golden Lane add a more intimate touch to the experience. Down by the river, the Charles Bridge offers another unforgettable perspective. Lined with statues and connecting the Old Town with the charming Malá Strana district, it is one of Prague's most recognisable landmarks. Early morning is an especially lovely time to visit, when the crowds are thinner and the city feels almost still.

The Old Town Square is equally deserving of time. Colourful façades, historic churches and outdoor cafés surround the square, while the medieval Astronomical Clock draws visitors eager to witness its hourly display. The neighbouring lanes lead to hidden courtyards, the historic Jewish Quarter and shopping streets where old-world character meets modern city life.

The best way to experience Prague is not to rush from one attraction to the next. Allow time to wander, pause for coffee, explore a side street and enjoy the atmosphere. Often, these unplanned moments become the most memorable part of the visit.

Beyond Prague: Castles and storybook towns

While Prague may steal the spotlight, Czechia's smaller towns reveal a different side of the country. Český Krumlov is one of its most enchanting destinations. Set around a bend in the Vltava River, the town is known for its narrow lanes, colourful historic buildings and impressive castle complex. Its compact centre is ideal for exploring on foot, with viewpoints offering beautiful scenes across the rooftops and river.

The town is particularly appealing to travellers who want to step away from the pace of a major city and enjoy a slower rhythm. A leisurely lunch, a walk through the old streets and time spent exploring the castle grounds can easily fill a day.

History enthusiasts may also want to visit Kutná Hora, whose medieval heritage includes the striking St Barbara's Church. Once an important silver-mining centre, the town offers a fascinating look at the wealth and influence that shaped parts of Bohemia during the Middle Ages.

Another worthwhile excursion is Karlštejn Castle, surrounded by wooded hills not far from Prague. Its dramatic setting makes it a popular choice for those interested in medieval architecture and the landscapes

From Prague's fairytale skyline and medieval castles to elegant spa towns, forest trails and an evolving food scene, Czechia offers a European holiday filled with history, culture and relaxation. For travellers from Kuwait, it is a destination where a few days in a vibrant capital can easily turn into a journey through the heart of Central Europe.

that once protected the country's historic strongholds.

Together, these destinations show that Czechia's appeal extends well beyond its capital. Each town has its own character, and travelling between them offers a glimpse of regional life that a city-only itinerary might miss.

A culture that goes beyond architecture

Czechia's cultural identity is not confined to its castles and historic streets. The country has a rich tradition of classical music, opera, theatre and puppetry, with performances taking place throughout the year.

In Prague, historic concert halls and theatres provide an opportunity to experience music and the performing arts in settings that are attractions in themselves. Even visitors who do not usually plan their holidays around cultural performances may find an evening concert a memorable addition to their stay.

Local festivals, craft markets and seasonal celebrations also bring towns and public squares to life. Christmas markets are particularly atmospheric, transforming historic centres into gathering places filled with festive decorations, traditional food and handcrafted gifts. Checking local event calendars before travelling can help visitors discover performances and celebrations that add something special to their itinerary.

Spa towns made for slowing down

For travellers who prefer a little indulgence alongside sightseeing, Czechia's spa towns offer a welcome change of pace. The country has a long-established spa tradition, combining mineral springs, wellness treatments and elegant resort architecture. Many of these destinations are surrounded by landscaped parks and rolling hills, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to slow down. Karlovy Vary is among the best known. Its elegant colonnades, riverside walkways and historic buildings give the town a distinctive charm. Visitors can stroll between its mineral springs, admire the architecture, sample traditional spa wafers and explore the surrounding hills.

The experience is less about ticking off attractions and more about enjoying the setting taking a gentle walk, spending time in a wellness facility or simply sitting at a café and watching the town go by. For visitors looking to combine sightseeing with rest and rejuvenation, these towns can turn a conventional holiday into a more restorative experience.

Czechia has plenty to offer travellers who would rather exchange city streets for forest paths and mountain views. Its national parks and protected landscapes provide opportunities for hiking, cycling,

wildlife observation and scenic drives.

When should you visit?

Czechia changes character with the seasons, so the best time to travel depends on the kind of holiday you have in mind. Spring and autumn are particularly appealing for walking tours, exploring historic towns and enjoying the countryside. Temperatures are often milder than during the height of summer, and these seasons can offer a more relaxed sightseeing experience.

June to August is the main tourist season, bringing longer days and opportunities for outdoor activities. Popular attractions can be busy, however, so booking accommodation and planning visits to major landmarks in advance is advisable.

Winter has its own appeal, especially in Prague, where festive decorations and Christmas markets add warmth to the historic setting. Temperatures can be low and daylight hours shorter, while mountain areas attract visitors interested in winter sports.

Getting around and planning your trip

One of Czechia's advantages is that many of its major attractions can be combined without spending long hours travelling. Rail and bus services connect Prague with numerous regional destinations, making day trips and multi-city itineraries possible without necessarily hiring a car.

Public transport is convenient for getting around major cities, while trains and buses can be useful for reaching historic towns. For more remote countryside locations, a rental car may offer greater flexibility. Checking connections and journey times in advance will help make the most of a short stay.

An itinerary that leaves room to explore

For a first visit, three or four nights in Prague provide a good introduction to the country's history, architecture, food and cultural life. A day trip to a nearby castle or historic town can add variety without making the schedule feel rushed. Travellers with more time could continue to Český Krumlov, spend a few nights in Karlovy Vary or explore the countryside. A longer holiday could include mountain scenery, regional food experiences and a stay in one of the country's spa towns.

Rather than attempting to see everything in one trip, it is worth choosing a few places and allowing enough time to enjoy each one. Czechia rewards travellers who are willing to slow down and look beyond the obvious landmarks.

More than a European city break

Czechia's charm lies in its contrasts. One day might be spent walking through medieval streets and admiring grand castles; the next could bring a peaceful spa promenade, a forest trail or a long lunch in a countryside restaurant.

Prague provides a memorable introduction, but the smaller towns, wellness traditions, cultural experiences and natural landscapes reveal a country with far more to offer than its famous capital alone.

For travellers from Kuwait looking for a European escape that combines heritage, scenery, gastronomy and relaxation, Czechia presents an appealing choice. With a little planning around the season, transport and visa requirements, the journey can become much more than a city break – it can be an opportunity to discover the many layers of Central Europe, one historic street and scenic town at a time.



Thought
for the
week

“If you're helping someone and expecting something in return, you're doing business not kindness.”

- Unknown

The Healthy Habits That Aren't as Healthy as We Think



It's winter time and Christmas time!

When good intentions go too far, even healthy habits can become unhealthy.

We live in a world where everyone seems to be chasing a healthier lifestyle. We count calories, buy supplements, eliminate sugar, drink green juices, and try to follow every new wellness trend. But here is a question worth asking:

Can we become so obsessed with being healthy that we end up doing the opposite?

The answer is yes. Because sometimes, it is not the habit itself that is the problem, but how far we take it.

1. Eating less is not always better.

Many people believe that eating smaller portions or skipping meals is the fastest way to achieve better health or lose weight. However, consistently eating too little can leave us feeling tired, affect concentration, and make it harder to meet our nutritional needs. Healthy eating is not about eating as little as possible; it is about giving the body what it needs.

2. Natural does not always mean harmless.

Herbal teas, detox drinks, and dietary supplements are often marketed as natural solutions to everyday health concerns. But natural products can still have side effects, interact with medications, or be unnecessary for certain people. And despite their popularity, detox drinks cannot replace the liver and kidneys, which already work continuously to process and eliminate waste.

3. Avoiding entire food groups can do more harm than good.

Carbohydrates are often blamed for weight gain, fats are treated as the enemy, and sugar is sometimes viewed as something that must be eliminated completely. Yet our bodies need a variety of nutrients to function properly. Whole grains, healthy fats, fruits, and other carbohydrate-containing foods can all have a place in a balanced diet. What matters is the overall quality, quantity, and pattern of our eating habits.

4. Exercising more is not always healthier.

Physical activity is essential for health, but rest and recovery matter, too. Excessive exercise without adequate recovery can increase the risk of injury, persistent fatigue, and poor performance. A healthy routine should leave room for rest, not make us feel guilty whenever we take a break.

5. Supplements cannot replace healthy foundations.

Collagen powders, multivitamins, and protein supplements may be useful in certain circumstances, but they are not magic solutions. No supplement can compensate for consistently poor sleep, an unbalanced diet, or a lack of physical activity. Before spending money on another wellness product, it is worth asking whether we actually need it.

So, what does being healthy really mean?

Perhaps the biggest mistake we make is believing that healthier always means more: more rules, more restrictions, more supplements, and more discipline.

In reality, health is not about perfection. It is about balance, consistency, and understanding what our bodies need.

Sometimes, the healthiest thing we can do is stop chasing every health trend and start questioning whether it truly makes us healthier.

Eat like Mira
Create healthy habits, not restrictions

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



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

RECIPE

Saffron Paneer
Sweet Potato Bombs

Crispy golden sweet potato bites with a creamy, saffroninfused paneer filling, delicately flavoured with Indian spices and fresh herbs. Served with refreshing mintyoghurt dip, these irresistible vegetarian bites bring a touch of royal indulgence to your Diwali celebrations.

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Cooking Time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4

Ingredients

*For the sweet potato mixture

- Sweet potatoes, boiled and mashed – 2 cups
- Cornflour – 2 tbsp
- Red chilli powder – ½ tsp
- Chaat masala – ½ tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Fresh coriander, finely chopped – 2 tbsp

*For the paneer filling

- Paneer, crumbled – 200 g
- Saffron strands – a pinch
- Warm milk – 1 tbsp
- Black pepper powder – ¼ tsp
- Fresh coriander, chopped – 1 tbsp
- Salt – to taste
- Chopped pistachios or cashews – 2 tbsp (optional)

*For the coating

- Cornflour – 2 tbsp
- Allpurpose flour – ¼ cup
- Water – as needed
- Breadcrumbs – ½ cup
- Oil – for shallow frying

*For the mintyoghurt dip

- Hung curd – ½ cup
- Fresh mint leaves – ¼ cup
- Lemon juice – 1 tsp
- Green chilli – 1 small (optional)
- Salt – to taste

Method

- Soak the saffron strands in warm milk for a few minutes. Mix with crumbled paneer, black pepper, coriander, salt, and chopped nuts.
- In a bowl, combine mashed sweet potatoes, cornflour, red chilli powder, chaat masala, coriander, and salt. Mix until the mixture holds its shape.
- Take a small portion of the sweet potato mixture and flatten it in your palm. Place a spoonful of paneer filling in the centre, seal carefully, and roll into a smooth ball.
- Mix the cornflour and allpurpose flour with enough water to make a smooth coating batter. Dip each ball into the batter and coat with breadcrumbs.
- Shallowfry over medium heat until crisp and golden on all sides.
- For the dip, blend hung curd, mint, lemon juice, green chilli, and salt until smooth.



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

Union OF EUROPEAN FLAVOURS



As part of a series The Times Kuwait
will publish recipes of the European Union on a
weekly basis. We begin the first part with Austria



From the Mediterranean's vibrant flavours and the rustic warmth of Central European kitchens to the distinctive specialties of Northern and Eastern Europe, the collection takes readers on a journey across a continent where food is deeply intertwined with identity, history and everyday life.

Food has a remarkable way of bringing people together, transcending borders, languages and cultures through the universal pleasure of sharing a meal. From treasured family recipes passed down through generations to distinctive regional specialties shaped by history and tradition, every dish tells a story of the people, places and heritage behind it. It is this spirit of cultural discovery and togetherness that lies at the heart of A Union of European Flavours, a celebration of the culinary diversity of the 27 Member States of the European Union.

Launched by the Delegation of the European Union in Kuwait, the cookbook brings together an extraordinary collection of recipes contributed by the embassies of EU Member States accredited to the State of Kuwait. Each recipe offers readers a taste of Europe's rich gastronomic landscape, revealing the unique ingredients, cooking techniques and traditions that distinguish one country from another while highlighting the shared appreciation for good food that unites them all.

From the Mediterranean's vibrant flavours and the rustic warmth of Central European kitchens to the distinctive specialties of Northern and Eastern Europe, the collection takes readers on a journey across a continent where food is deeply intertwined with identity, history and everyday life. Behind every recipe lies a tradition shaped by geography, local produce, family customs and generations of culinary knowledge. Together, these dishes offer more than inspiration for the kitchen; they provide an intimate glimpse into the cultural character of Europe's diverse nations.

Yet, A Union of European Flavours is about more than cooking. It reflects the belief that food can serve as a bridge between cultures, encouraging curiosity, conversation and mutual understanding. In Kuwait, where diverse communities come together and hospitality remains an important part of social life, the cookbook also celebrates the shared values that

A Culinary Journey Across 27 Nations



Ambassador of the European Union
to the State of Kuwait
H.E. ANNE KOISTINEN

connect Europeans and Kuwaitis around the dining table.

As the European Union and Kuwait mark four decades of diplomatic relations, this culinary collection carries a special significance. It brings the partnership between the two sides into homes and kitchens, inviting readers to explore unfamiliar flavours, recreate traditional dishes and discover the stories that make each cuisine unique.

Whether prepared for a family gathering, a festive occasion or a simple everyday meal, every recipe offers an opportunity to experience a different part of Europe. Ultimately, A Union of European Flavours reminds us that while culinary traditions may differ, the joy of preparing food, welcoming guests and sharing a meal is universal. Through these 27 national cuisines, the cookbook celebrates not only Europe's extraordinary diversity but also the enduring friendships that grow whenever cultures meet around a table.

EUROPEAN FOOD CULTURE



Austria

WIENER SCHNITZEL

*The Original Wiener Schnitzel
is made from veal*



The dish is traditionally served in Austria with lettuce tossed with a sweetened vinaigrette dressing, optionally with chopped chives or onions, potato salad, cucumber salad, or parsley potatoes. Currently, it is also served with rice, French fries, or roasted potatoes.

If you ever are in a small Austrian restaurant, the beating noise out of the kitchen tells you exactly when a Schnitzel is in process, because a true Wiener Schnitzel should be beaten to a very thin thickness.

The Schnitzel is one of the best-known specialties of Viennese cuisine and is a national dish of Austria. According to a legend, Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz brought the recipe of "Wiener Schnitzel" from Italy to Vienna in 1857.

INGREDIENTS

For 4 persons

- 600 g veal
- About 200 g flour
- 3 eggs
- About 300 g dry bread crumbs
- Lemon slices and parsley for garnish

PREPARATION

- Beat the meat to approximately 4 mm thickness.
- Incise the edges and put salt on both sides.
- Prepare 3 plates, each containing flour, beaten eggs (a little salt, pepper and 1 spoon of milk can be added), and dry, very fine bread crumbs.
- Coat and dip the meat on both sides in the following order: 1. flour, 2. eggs, 3. dry bread crumbs.
- Heat oil (2-3 cm deep) in a large, flat pan to a high temperature (a piece of butter added to the oil improves the taste of the "Wiener Schnitzel").
- Lay in the meat and fry it for about 2 to 3 minutes (to be fried in a frying pan, not in a deep fryer), depending on the thickness of the meat. Turn only once. The color should be golden brown on both sides.
- Remove the Wiener Schnitzel and drain on kitchen paper.
- Serve garnished with slices of lemon and parsley.



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