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Kuwait and UN reaffirm diplomacy as cornerstone of peace and global stability

Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah and UN Resident Coordinator Ghada Al Taher highlight Kuwait's legacy of mediation, humanitarian assistance and international cooperation on UN Day 2026

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait has reaffirmed its commitment to diplomacy, international law and multilateral cooperation, with Foreign Minister H.E. Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Al Taher underscoring the critical role of dialogue in preventing conflicts, containing crises and building lasting peace.

Marking United Nations Day on October 24 under the theme 'The Power of Diplomacy', both highlighted the importance of peaceful engagement, respect for national sovereignty and international cooperation amid escalating geopolitical tensions, protracted conflicts and mounting global challenges.

Sheikh Jarrah said diplomacy remains an essential instrument for preserving peace, preventing disputes, bridging differences and building trust among nations, even under the most complex circumstances. Its effectiveness, he stressed, depends on adherence to the UN Charter, respect for international law and strengthening a multilateral system that provides countries with a framework for resolving disputes and protecting their rights and interests.

Al Taher echoed these sentiments, describing diplomacy as a strategic choice and an indispensable tool for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Eighty-one years after the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, she said, the international community continues to need stronger multilateral cooperation and a renewed commitment to dialogue over confrontation.

She emphasised that diplomacy extends beyond managing relations between states, reflecting political courage, wisdom and moral responsibility. The willingness to engage with adversaries, listen to differing perspectives and seek common ground is essential to overcoming divisions. The true measure of strength, she noted, lies not in the ability to destroy, but in the capacity to prevent conflicts and protect civilians.

Drawing on nearly three decades of experience in conflict and war-affected environments, Al Taher warned that civilians, particularly women, children and older people, bear the greatest burden of armed conflicts. Disregard for international law and international humanitarian law can devastate lives, damage essential infrastructure and deprive entire generations of opportunities for education, development and stability.

Kuwait's diplomatic legacy and the UN partnership

For Kuwait, the power of diplomacy is not merely a theoretical principle but a fundamental pillar of its national identity and foreign policy. Since joining the United Nations in 1963, Kuwait has consistently advocated respect for state sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

Guided by these principles, the country has pursued a balanced foreign policy centred on dialogue and mediation, contributing over several decades to efforts aimed at resolving regional and international disputes and easing tensions. Sheikh Jarrah noted that some Kuwaiti diplomatic initiatives have been publicly recognised, while others have been conducted quietly behind the scenes, reflecting the country's enduring belief that diplomacy can open doors that conflict closes.

Al Taher similarly praised Kuwait's contribution to multilateral cooperation, describing the country as an active partner in mediation, humanitarian diplomacy and development assistance. Kuwait has helped bring parties closer together, facilitate dialogue and support efforts to contain crises and resolve disputes. It has also hosted major humanitarian conferences that mobilised international assistance for millions affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

UN support during Kuwait's liberation

The foreign minister recalled the historic role played by the United Nations and its institutions, particularly the Security Council, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The international community's decisive response, grounded in justice and international law, contributed to Kuwait's liberation and restoration of sovereignty in 1991.

Sheikh Jarrah described this episode as one of the United Nations' most significant success stories, demonstrating the importance of the UN Charter and the international community's collective responsibility to uphold international law.

The experience reinforced Kuwait's conviction that the rule of law and multilateral cooperation are essential safeguards for national sovereignty, particularly during times of crisis.

Sheikh Jarrah said diplomacy remains an essential instrument for preserving peace, preventing disputes, bridging differences and building trust among nations, even under the most complex circumstances.

Humanitarian diplomacy and development assistance

Kuwait's partnership with the United Nations, spanning more than six decades, has produced significant humanitarian and development initiatives, including assistance to communities affected by conflict and natural disasters, support for sustainable development and cooperation with UN agencies, programmes and funds.

Al Taher highlighted that Kuwaiti development assistance has reached more than 100 countries over six decades, reflecting the country's commitment to international solidarity and investment in people. Humanitarian action, she said, is deeply rooted in Kuwait's national identity. The tradition of helping others predates the discovery of oil and has since become an integral component of the country's foreign policy.

A major milestone in this commitment was the establishment of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in 1961. Through the fund and its partnerships with international organisations, Kuwait has continued to support development projects, strengthen communities and promote sustainable growth.

The exhibition 'Diplomacy Through Development', held alongside the UN Day celebrations, highlights the connection between diplomatic engagement and development assistance, illustrating how these efforts can improve people's lives and strengthen their resilience.

Sheikh Jarrah stressed that peace and development are inseparable, noting that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without development, just as development cannot flourish without peace. Al Taher also paid tribute to the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, whom the United Nations recognised as a Humanitarian Leader in honour of his outstanding contributions to humanitarian action and international solidarity.

Multilateral cooperation amid global challenges

Both officials stressed that effective diplomacy and international cooperation are increasingly necessary as the world confronts overlapping crises and emerging threats. Beyond armed conflicts and geopolitical tensions, these challenges include climate change, water scarcity, pressure on food systems, pandemics, forced displacement, widening inequality, misinformation and rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

Al Taher said no country, regardless of its resources or capabilities, can tackle these challenges alone. Coordinated international action, shared responsibility and a common vision are essential to achieving security, stability and sustainable development. She added that multilateralism draws its strength not simply from the existence of international institutions, but from member states' willingness to uphold the UN Charter, respect international law and UN resolutions, honour their commitments and cooperate despite differences.

In this context, Al Taher welcomed Kuwait's re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council, expressing the UN's commitment to continued cooperation with the country in advancing human rights, promoting decent work and protecting the rights of all segments of society.

She particularly highlighted the importance of safeguarding migrant workers' rights, recognising their contribution to Kuwait's economy and social development.

Kuwait pledges continued support for the United Nations

Sheikh Jarrah reaffirmed that, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait will remain an active and trusted partner of the United Nations.

The country will continue to support multilateral cooperation, advocate peaceful diplomatic solutions and contribute to humanitarian initiatives aimed at advancing global peace, stability and prosperity, he said. Both officials called for sustained efforts by diplomats, policymakers and institutions across society to strengthen dialogue, prevent escalation and reinforce respect for international law.

Al Taher also encouraged young people to participate in volunteer work and UN initiatives, saying such engagement can develop their skills and enable them to become active partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Kuwait. Concluding his message, Sheikh Jarrah said United Nations Day offers an opportunity not only to reflect on the organisation's achievements, but also to renew commitment to the principles upon which it was founded, particularly the belief that dialogue can overcome divisions and collective action can address shared challenges.

Together, the messages from Kuwait's foreign minister and the UN resident coordinator underscored a common conviction: building a safer, fairer and more peaceful world requires political will, respect for international law and a commitment to translating the principles of diplomacy into practical action.

Kuwait's commitment remains central to its foreign policy and its longstanding partnership with the United Nations, as the country continues to champion humanitarian assistance, peaceful solutions and international cooperation in pursuit of a more stable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Inside the Exchange Companies' AML Rulebook

By Legal Counsel Suha Alsahli
Emtithal Law Firm
Special to The Times Kuwait

On 26 August 2026, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) instructed banks, exchange companies and the other financial institutions it supervises to strengthen the due diligence they apply when executing transactions where information, evidence or indicators suggest a link to money laundering, terrorist financing or the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The circular expressly directs these institutions back to the CBK's instructions of 16 February 2023.

The circular is the latest in a series of 2026 developments. In January, the CBK circulated Resolution No. 176 of 2025 on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, stressing that sanctions decisions must be applied immediately and without delay. In February, it set new minimum requirements for the content of compliance officers' reports, effective 1 April 2026.

When an ordinary remittance becomes a costly violation

Consider a customer who visits an exchange company to send money abroad. He presents a valid civil ID and the transaction appears entirely routine. However, the funds belong to someone else, who has asked him to send them on their behalf.

The instructions require the exchange company to obtain a certificate signed by the customer confirming that he is the beneficial owner of the transaction and is not acting on behalf of another person. Where the company identifies that he is acting for someone else, it must verify the identity of the true requester of the transaction and apply due diligence proportionate to that person's risk.

If the identity of the customer or the beneficial owner cannot be verified, the company must refrain from executing the transaction and consider whether the case should be reported to the Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (KFIU).

Consider another customer, this time a politically exposed person (PEP), or a close associate or relative of one up to the second degree. The remittance may be perfectly legitimate, but the instructions require the prior approval of the company's management before the relationship begins, measures to identify the source of funds and wealth, and enhanced, ongoing monitoring of the relationship.

The remittance itself carries obligations. Every outward electronic transfer must carry the sender's full name, civil ID number and address, as well as the beneficiary's name. An exchange company that cannot meet these requirements must refrain from executing the transfer. Inward remittances that arrive without this information must be monitored and the beneficiary's identity verified.

Sanctions screening is equally strict. Exchange companies must have efficient systems to screen the names of customers, the persons they authorise to deal with the company and the beneficial owners of requested transactions. No financial or related service may be provided to a listed person, entity or group as soon as the relevant decision is issued.

Even identifying a suspicious transaction does not conclude the company's obligations. The KFIU must be notified within two business days of any suspicious transaction or attempted transaction, regardless of its value, and employees, managers and anyone with knowledge of the report are prohibited from disclosing it to the customer or to others.

What the Central Bank of Kuwait Expects Before a Remittance Leaves the Counter

When compliance is measured on paper

The instructions also impose a demanding set of documentary obligations.

Each exchange company must prepare a written study of the money laundering and terrorist financing risks it faces, updated periodically, covering its customers, the countries it deals with and its products and services. The study, like the company's AML/CFT policy and procedures, must be approved by its management and all partners.

Customer information must also be updated periodically depending on each customer's risk tier. Relationships with correspondents abroad carry their own requirements. Before contracting with a foreign correspondent, an exchange company must prepare a written study setting out the need for the relationship and the information gathered on the correspondent. The study must confirm that the company has obtained the correspondent's licence to carry out money transfers, evidence that it is subject to AML/CFT supervision, and its undertakings to apply due diligence and to provide transaction documents, including proof that the beneficiary received the funds, within a set time period. A contract defining each party's AML/CFT responsibilities must be signed before dealings begin. These requirements also apply to existing relationships, including correspondents the company previously dealt with without a contract.

An exchange company that cannot evidence these steps for each of its correspondents is in breach of the instructions, even if no transfer through that correspondent has ever raised concern.

The compliance officer must report to the company's manager and all partners periodically, including on any suspicious transactions identified, and the compliance function must itself be independently examined as part of the company's internal audit plan.

The February 2026 circular raises the standard for those reports. Each report must now include an executive summary, an assessment of the company's AML programme, an action plan to address deficiencies, and conclusions and recommendations, and must be approved by the board or the owners and partners. Its appendices include, among other things, the number of high-risk customers, a statement of the company's beneficial owners, the suspicious transaction reports submitted to the KFIU and the training provided, including to partners.

For smaller exchange companies, these requirements can be resource-intensive. However, a deficiency in any one of them is a violation of the instructions in its own right, whether or not a suspicious transaction has ever passed through the company.

For exchange companies, the absence of suspicious transactions is insufficient. The question is whether their risk study, policies, procedures and records would withstand the next CBK inspection as that is where compliance is measured.

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Putting Kuwait on the Tourism Map

By Mohamed Elshazly
Tourism and Destination Development Expert

How do we encourage travellers to choose Kuwait when planning their next holiday? What experiences can we offer that will inspire them to dedicate their time and budget to visiting our country?

These are questions I have been reflecting on throughout my years of working in tourism, and they have become even more relevant following my recent participation in the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai.

I believe that putting Kuwait on the global tourism map requires us to move beyond promoting attractions and focus on creating compelling reasons to visit. We need to understand what travellers are looking for, develop experiences that reflect Kuwait's identity, and make those experiences easy to discover, plan and book.

This is why I have been exploring the idea of moving from "Visit Kuwait" to "Book Kuwait." The question is not simply how we attract attention to Kuwait, but how we convert that interest into clearly defined travel experiences that visitors can book and enjoy.

Inspiration from the ground

I would like to acknowledge Walid Amer, a young Egyptian resident of Kuwait who organises and conducts sightseeing tours for international visitors transiting through the country. His work helps travellers discover Kuwait's attractions even when they have only a few hours available.

From "Visit Kuwait" to "Book Kuwait"

Although I have worked in tourism for years, Walid's persistence, determination and continued efforts have inspired me to apply my own experience and vision to developing tourism opportunities in Kuwait.

His initiative demonstrates that even a short transit can become an opportunity to introduce visitors to the country. It also raises an important question: if we can encourage travellers to explore Kuwait during a brief stopover, how can we persuade them to return for a longer holiday?

I believe the answer lies in creating distinctive experiences that give visitors a reason to stay longer and something memorable to take home with them.

Creating experiences that reflect Kuwait's identity

When I think about Kuwait's tourism potential, I see an opportunity to connect its heritage, culture, modern attractions and everyday life through carefully designed itineraries.

I envisage tours that bring together Kuwait Towers, the Grand Mosque, Sadu House, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, the Fish Market and traditional dhow harbour, along with views of Seif Palace, the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre and the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway.

Our cultural offering could extend to the Kuwait National Museum, Bait Al-Othman Museum, Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, the Mirror House and the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre. Al Shaheed Park and The Scientific Center could add further opportunities for leisure, education and family activities. Shopping and dining experiences at The Avenues, 360 Mall and Marina Mall could complement these itineraries, offering visitors a taste of contemporary Kuwait alongside its traditions.

However, I believe the real value lies in how we bring these places to life. Visitors should not simply move from one attraction to another. They should hear the stories behind Kuwait's maritime and trading heritage, discover the traditions of Sadu weaving, taste Kuwaiti cuisine, experience the atmosphere of Al-Mubarakiya and meet the people who give the country its character.

These are the details that transform sightseeing into an experience and give travellers memories they want to share.

I see the sea as a central element of Kuwait's tourism identity. Our maritime heritage, coastal attractions and islands offer opportunities to develop experiences that could appeal to families, adventure seekers and visitors looking for something different. Failaka Island, with its historical significance, could form part of heritage-focused excursions, while Al Khiran's chalets, resorts and waterways offer opportunities for leisure breaks.

I also see potential for organised boat and yacht excursions to Kubbar, Qaruh and Umm Al-Maradim islands, subject to the necessary permissions, operational feasibility and environmental considerations.

With the right partners, these programmes could include boating, snorkelling, scuba diving, water sports and other marine activities, carefully planned around the season, sea conditions and safety requirements.

My ambition is to connect these experiences with accommodation, transportation and dining so that visitors can book a complete holiday rather than having to arrange each element separately.

I also believe that Kuwait's desert landscapes deserve a stronger place in our tourism offering. Seasonal programmes in Al Mutlaa and Kabd could feature camping, camel farm visits and traditional hospitality, allowing visitors to experience a different side of the country.

Imagine a holiday that combines the city's cultural attractions, a day by the sea and an evening in the desert. By connecting these experiences, we can offer visitors a more complete picture of Kuwait.

Events that give travellers a reason to plan their visit

I believe that tourism is not only about the places we have; it is also about the experiences we create around them. Kuwait has an opportunity to develop events and tourism seasons that encourage traveller

Kuwait and Italy chart course for strategic partnership

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait and Italy are working to transform their longstanding friendship into a more comprehensive strategic partnership, expanding cooperation across defence, security, trade, investment, technology, education and crisis management, Italian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Lorenzo Morini has said.

Speaking to the media following Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's visit to Kuwait, Ambassador Morini described the visit as an important milestone in bilateral relations, reinforcing political dialogue and providing a framework for closer cooperation in the coming years.

The prime minister was received by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace, where discussions focused on bilateral relations, regional developments and opportunities to deepen collaboration between the two countries.

Describing the relationship, Ambassador Morini said the central message was that the two countries are "brothers", reflecting a partnership built on mutual respect, friendship and a shared history of supporting one another during difficult times.

"Action plan for 2027–2030 targets defence, investment, technology, education and security cooperation as Italian Prime Minister's visit strengthens bilateral ties.

Action plan sets priorities for 2027–2030

A key outcome of the visit was the adoption of a bilateral action plan covering 2027–2030, intended to translate political commitments into practical initiatives. The framework identifies priority areas including political dialogue, defence and security, technical cooperation, economic relations, investment, digital transformation, agriculture and food-related sectors, public security, judicial cooperation, creative industries, healthcare and education.

Ambassador Morini said the next phase would involve close coordination between government institutions, technical teams and officials to identify projects and establish mechanisms for implementing the agreed priorities.

He emphasised that the plan provides a roadmap for turning the vision agreed upon by the two countries' leaders into tangible results.

Defence and security cooperation

Defence remains a central pillar of Kuwait–Italy relations, with both countries exploring opportunities to expand existing arrangements and develop new areas of cooperation.

The ambassador referred to a letter of intent signed by Italian defence and aerospace company Leonardo and Kuwait's Ministry of Defence. He clarified that the document was not a binding contract but an expression of intent to explore and expand cooperation

in designated fields. Leonardo already has a presence in Kuwait through its involvement in the Eurofighter programme and radar systems.

The two countries are also advancing cooperation between Italy's Carabinieri and Kuwait's National Guard. An agreement had been initialled and was expected to be signed subsequently, opening the way for joint activities in the security field.

Ambassador Morini said no specific numbers or deployment plans had been established for any potential increase in Italy's military presence in Kuwait. Any future expansion would depend on the programmes discussed and Kuwait's requirements.

Investment and business opportunities

Economic cooperation is another major focus of the developing partnership, with both countries seeking to encourage stronger private-sector engagement and two-way investment.

An agreement between the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and the Italian Trade Agency is intended to facilitate business contacts, promote investment opportunities and strengthen commercial links between the two markets.

The arrangement will provide a framework for closer institutional collaboration, helping Italian companies explore opportunities in Kuwait while encouraging Kuwaiti investors to consider investments in Italy.

Ambassador Morini stressed that bilateral relations should deliver tangible economic benefits alongside political and security cooperation. Identifying practical projects and encouraging partnerships between businesses will therefore be important priorities.

Cooperation in public security and crisis management

The two countries are also expanding cooperation between their interior ministries, particularly in combating transnational crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, financial crime and smuggling.

A recent technical visit by a Kuwaiti delegation to Italy explored opportunities for exchanging expertise and strengthening cooperation in these areas.

Discussions also covered prison management, security procedures, staff training and approaches to managing diverse prison populations.

Civil protection and crisis management represent another promising area. Ambassador Morini highlighted the importance of coordinating military personnel, emergency services, hospitals, utilities and other civilian institutions to ensure the continuity of essential services during emergencies. Italy's experience in coordinating emergency responses, including cooperation with neighbouring European countries during natural disasters and wildfires, could provide useful lessons for Kuwait.

Italy reaffirms commitment to Kuwait's stability

Addressing regional developments, Ambassador Morini said security and stability in Kuwait have wider implications for Italy and Europe.

"Your security is our security, your stability is our stability," he said, reaffirming Italy's readiness to support Kuwait and other regional partners.

He recalled Italy's participation in the international coalition that supported Kuwait during the 1990–91 liberation period, describing the shared history as an enduring foundation of bilateral relations.

The ambassador emphasised that the relationship extends beyond formal agreements, resting on trust, reliability and a willingness to stand together during challenging circumstances.

From political understanding to practical results

The latest developments reflect a shared commitment to giving Kuwait–Italy relations a more structured and forward-looking direction.

With the 2027–2030 action plan establishing priorities across multiple sectors, the coming months will focus on identifying projects, coordinating institutions and developing practical arrangements to implement the agreed objectives.

For Kuwait, the partnership offers opportunities to draw on Italian expertise in defence technology, investment, education, healthcare and crisis management. For Italy, closer cooperation provides avenues for expanding commercial engagement and strengthening its ties with a strategically important Gulf partner.

Ambassador Morini expressed confidence that continued engagement between officials, institutions and businesses would help both countries advance their shared objectives and build on decades of friendship and mutual support.

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Tajikistan Seeks to Turn Strong Ties with Kuwait into Tangible Investment Partnerships

By Rabih Kallas
Special to The Times Kuwait

Tajikistan is seeking to translate its strong political relations with Kuwait into tangible economic and investment partnerships, with opportunities spanning water security, agriculture, renewable energy, tourism and infrastructure, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kuwait Khusrav Noziri has said.

In an interview the ambassador stressed that the two countries have considerable scope to expand bilateral trade, encourage private-sector investment and turn existing agreements into practical projects that deliver mutual benefits.

He described Kuwait as an important partner for Tajikistan in the Gulf region, praising its contribution to development cooperation and international dialogue. Diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Tajikistan were established on March 31, 1995. A significant milestone came during the official visit of Tajikistan President H.E. Emomali Rahmon to Kuwait from November 3 to 5, 2024, when the two countries signed nine cooperation documents covering various fields.

The opening of Kuwait's embassy in Dushanbe and the appointment of its first resident ambassador to Tajikistan have further strengthened institutional ties and created opportunities for closer engagement.

Noziri said the priority now is to activate bilateral cooperation mechanisms, particularly the joint intergovernmental committee, strengthen direct links between businesses and investors, and translate agreements into commercially viable projects.

Water management and security represent promising areas for bilateral cooperation, with Tajikistan's abundant freshwater resources complementing Kuwait's experience in seawater desalination and water distribution systems.

The ambassador identified two practical avenues for cooperation: exporting bottled drinking water from Tajikistan to Kuwait and establishing joint ventures for water production, bottling and marketing with Kuwaiti investors. He noted that Tajikistan's natural and mineral water products could offer opportunities for Kuwaiti importers and distributors, provided that quality standards, transport and storage costs, pricing and market demand are carefully assessed.

He proposed beginning with direct contacts between Tajik producers and Kuwaiti importers, followed by technical assessments and trial shipments before considering larger investments.

Large-scale water transportation through pipelines or dedicated transport systems would require more extensive technical, economic and environmental studies.

Noziri also highlighted the potential for cooperation in water infrastructure, hydropower and sustainable resource management. Tajikistan's experience in hydropower and reservoir management could complement Kuwait's expertise in desalination and water conservation.

He pointed to the involvement of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in financing the Rogun hydropower project as an example of the existing partnership in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

During his meeting with Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem on October 15, 2026, the ambassador discussed opportunities to expand cooperation in water and energy and strengthen engagement between the relevant institutions.

Agriculture and food security

Food security is another priority, with Tajikistan seeking to increase agricultural exports and attract Kuwaiti investment into food production and processing.

The country produces a range of agricultural products, including apricots, grapes, cherries, raisins, nuts and honey. Noziri identified dried fruit as a practical starting point for exports to Kuwait because of its relatively long shelf life and ease of storage.

Cooperation could subsequently expand to fresh fruit and vegetables, subject to market requirements and the availability of suitable transport and refrigeration facilities. Beyond exports, the ambassador welcomed Kuwaiti investment in orchards, greenhouses, cold-storage facilities, sorting and packaging centres, and food-processing industries.

He said discussions with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Deputy Director-General Imad Al-Zaid on September 29, 2026, covered ways to strengthen business links and promote Tajik products in Kuwait. The discussions also included proposals for a joint business forum and an exhibition of Tajik products in Kuwait.

Ambassador Khusrav Noziri highlights opportunities in water security, food security, renewable energy and tourism

> *The ambassador said air freight could be considered for products requiring rapid delivery, while integrated land and sea transport options could be assessed for other goods. He emphasised that stronger direct links between exporters, importers and economic institutions would be essential to expanding trade.*

Tajikistan adopted its Law on Investment and Promotion of Investment Activity in May 2025 to strengthen the legal framework for investment and government support. Noziri said potential incentives and facilities could be examined in accordance with applicable legislation and the nature of individual projects.

Tourism potential and visa facilitation

The ambassador also invited Kuwaitis to discover Tajikistan, describing it as a destination combining spectacular natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage and traditional hospitality.

Located in Central Asia, Tajikistan is known for its high mountains, clear lakes, rivers and scenic landscapes. Its tourism offerings include nature-based holidays, ecotourism, adventure travel and family trips.

The capital, Dushanbe, features parks, museums and cultural attractions, while destinations such as Iskanderkul Lake, the Fann Mountains, Khujand, Panjakent and the ancient archaeological site of Sarazm offer opportunities to explore the country's natural and historical heritage.

A major advantage for Kuwaiti travellers is visa-free entry for stays of up to 30 days, according to the ambassador. Direct flights operated by Jazeera Airways between Kuwait and Dushanbe also provide an important link for tourists and business travellers, subject to current schedules and availability. The embassy is working to raise awareness of Tajikistan's tourism attractions through engagement with Kuwaiti media, tourism authorities and travel companies.

Noziri said preparations were being pursued for a Tajikistan-Kuwait tourism forum that would bring together tour operators, travel agencies, airlines and tourism-sector representatives to explore joint holiday packages and other opportunities. The proposed programmes could combine stays in Dushanbe with visits to lakes, mountains and historic sites, alongside experiences of Tajik cuisine and local hospitality. The launch of direct flights between Kuwait and Dushanbe by Jazeera Airways on December 29, 2022, marked an important step in improving connectivity and supporting tourism, business travel and commercial exchanges. During a meeting with Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer Bharathan Pasupathy on August 24, 2026, Noziri discussed prospects for aviation cooperation and the role of direct connectivity in strengthening bilateral relations. He said increasing flight frequencies or extending services throughout the year, where justified by passenger demand, commercial viability and operating conditions, could provide additional support for tourism and investment.

Logistics remain a challenge for bilateral trade, particularly because of geographical distance, transportation costs and the need for efficient supply chains. Agricultural and food products require particular attention to shipping times, storage and refrigeration.

The ambassador said air freight could be considered for products requiring rapid delivery, while integrated land and sea transport options could be assessed for other goods. He emphasised that stronger direct links between exporters, importers and economic institutions would be essential to expanding trade.

Investment opportunities for Kuwaiti businesses

Noziri identified agriculture, food processing, tourism, renewable energy, mining, manufacturing, transportation and infrastructure as sectors offering potential for Kuwaiti investors.

He highlighted the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development as an important example of development cooperation between the two countries. Since 2001, the fund has supported development projects in Tajikistan through loans and grants across various sectors.

In June 2026, an agreement was signed for a KD 6 million loan to finance the development of 10 schools in different regions of Tajikistan, supporting education and human development.

The ambassador said he had also discussed new opportunities in economic development, infrastructure, energy and transportation with Acting Director-General of the Kuwait Fund Rashid Al-Bader on September 24, 2026.

For private investors, he encouraged the development of joint projects with Tajik companies, particularly in agriculture, food industries, tourism, logistics and renewable energy. He said the next step would be to identify priority projects, prepare clear information on investment requirements and economic feasibility, and connect project developers with Kuwaiti investors and financing institutions.

Hydropower and the green transition

Hydropower remains one of the pillars of Tajikistan's energy sector, supported by the country's substantial water resources. Noziri said Tajikistan's hydropower capabilities could complement Kuwait's experience in modern energy projects, including solar power, creating opportunities for technical cooperation, investment and knowledge exchange. He welcomed the participation of Kuwaiti companies in studying, financing and implementing energy projects in Tajikistan, either through direct investment or partnerships with local institutions.

Cooperation could also include technology transfer, professional training and improvements to energy infrastructure, contributing to broader sustainable-development and green-economy objectives.

Beyond economic relations, Tajikistan attaches importance to strengthening ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, particularly Kuwait, which the ambassador described as an important partner in promoting regional stability and international cooperation.

He said Tajikistan's foreign policy is based on respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes and adherence to international law.

The ambassador highlighted the growing importance of cooperation between Central Asia and the Gulf in addressing security challenges, including terrorism, extremism, transnational organised crime and illicit drug trafficking. He pointed to the high-level international conference on strengthening international cooperation against terrorism and building effective border-security mechanisms, hosted by Kuwait on November 4 and 5, 2024, under the Kuwait phase of the Dushanbe Process.

The conference resulted in the adoption of the Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management, reflecting the importance of international cooperation in addressing shared threats. Noziri said continued coordination through the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and other international and regional forums would help strengthen mutual trust, reduce tensions and promote peaceful solutions.

Turning agreements into tangible results

Looking ahead, the Tajik embassy's priorities include following up on the agreements reached during President H.E. Emomali Rahmon's November 2024 visit, preparing for the next session of the joint intergovernmental committee in Dushanbe and strengthening political consultations between the two foreign ministries.

The embassy also intends to encourage business forums, expand cultural exchanges and explore the possibility of organising Kuwaiti cultural days in Tajikistan, alongside greater cooperation between media and tourism institutions. Noziri said the ultimate objective is to ensure that the strength of political relations is reflected more clearly in economic and investment projects, expanded trade, increased business engagement and stronger tourism and cultural exchanges.

He emphasised that success should not be measured solely by the number of meetings held or agreements signed, but by the ability to translate them into employment opportunities, investments and sustainable development projects that benefit both countries and their peoples.

Kuwait event celebrates 42 Palestinian women and their stories of resilience

Ambassador Rami Tahboub says women's rights are inseparable from national freedom as cultural gathering honours Palestinian women's achievements and artist Sliman Mansour's legacy

The Times Kuwait Report

Forty-two Palestinian women from different generations and professional backgrounds were celebrated at a cultural event in Kuwait, highlighting their achievements, resilience and role in preserving Palestinian identity amid decades of adversity.

Held at the Contemporary Art Platform on Monday to mark Palestinian Women's National Day, observed on October 26, the event was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the State of Palestine. It also paid tribute to the late Palestinian artist Sliman Mansour, whose works have become enduring expressions of Palestinian heritage, collective memory and resilience.

Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Rami Tahboub stressed that women are the foundation and spirit of Palestinian society, emphasising that their rights cannot be separated from the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, dignity and national liberation.

He said genuine national freedom cannot be achieved without justice and equality for women, underscoring their historic contribution to social development, political participation and the resilience of Palestinian communities.

Ambassador Tahboub recalled that Palestinian Women's National Day commemorates the first Palestinian Women's Congress, held in Jerusalem in 1929, which marked a significant milestone in organising women's activities and strengthening their political participation.

He also highlighted the progress Palestinian women have achieved in education, noting that literacy stands at approximately 97 percent. However, he pointed out that economic participation continues to face significant challenges arising from occupation, high unemployment and persistent social stereotypes.

Beyond hardship: Celebrating women's achievements

Reema Khalidi, wife of the Palestinian ambassador, said Palestinian women should not be defined solely by suffering, stressing that their stories also reflect determination, generosity, achievement and an enduring commitment to building stronger communities.

Khalidi selected 42 women whose lives span the period from the British Mandate to the present day. Their diverse experiences and professional achievements offered a broader perspective on the contributions Palestinian women have made across generations.

She said the initiative sought to challenge perceptions shaped by relentless news coverage that often reduces Palestinian lives to conflict and suffering, overlooking the individual achievements, aspirations and human experiences of the people behind the headlines. Drawing on her own family history, Khalidi spoke about being born to Palestinian parents in Jerusalem and the lasting impact of the Nakba and Naksa on her family. The experiences of displacement and upheaval, she noted, have been passed down through generations, shaping family memories and collective identity.

She also highlighted the everyday difficulties faced by Palestinians, including restrictions on movement between Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, the separation of families across different cities and concerns over children's safety while travelling to school.

Palestinian art preserves collective memory

The event also honoured Sliman Mansour, one of the leading figures in Palestinian art, whose work draws inspiration from the land, cultural heritage and shared experiences of the Palestinian people.

Emirati writer, researcher and art collector Sheikh Sultan bin Saud Al Qasimi described Palestinian art as a repository of collective memory and a powerful expression of resilience and resistance.

He praised Mansour for continuing to create art despite the restrictions and practical difficulties confronting Palestinian artists, including periods when obtaining art materials was challenging.

Al Qasimi noted that Mansour had received recognition from institutions and leaders in several countries, including Türkiye, Egypt and Jordan, with his work offering audiences a deeper understanding of Palestine through its history, culture and artistic traditions.

He highlighted the symbolism of trees in Mansour's paintings, representing steadfastness, and traditional Palestinian embroidery, which serves as an expression of cultural identity. These elements, he explained, go beyond artistic decoration, preserving memories and communicating the experiences of a people confronting physical and psychological displacement.

Referring to Mansour's works Sad Tunes (1977) and A Quiet Morning, Al Qasimi invited the audience to appreciate the details of Palestinian embroidery and the ways in which art carries cultural identity across generations.

The gathering brought together two complementary narratives: the achievements of Palestinian women and the enduring influence of Palestinian art. Together, the 42 women's stories and Mansour's artistic legacy highlighted the importance of recognising Palestinian life not only through the challenges it faces, but also through its creativity, determination and contributions to society.

India, Kuwait to mark 65 years of diplomatic ties with cultural and economic initiatives

The Times Kuwait Report

India and Kuwait will mark 65 years of diplomatic relations in 2027, with the Embassy of India in Kuwait preparing a series of cultural, community and economic initiatives to celebrate the longstanding partnership and strengthen ties between the two countries.

Speaking at the first press conference under the India–Kuwait Media Connect (IKMC), Ambassador of India to Kuwait H.E. Paramita Tripathi outlined the embassy's forthcoming programme, highlighting opportunities for greater engagement between the Indian community, Kuwaiti public, business leaders and the media.

The anniversary celebrations are expected to include a diplomatic photographs exhibition, a community gathering and a food festival, with further details to be announced following consultations and preparations. The activities are planned for January and February 2027, ahead of Ramadan.

The embassy is also preparing for India's Republic Day on January 26, which will be marked with celebrations at the mission and an official reception. January is expected to be a particularly busy month, with several cultural and community initiatives planned alongside the anniversary programme.

Ambassador Paramita Tripathi outlines commemorative events, business opportunities and stronger people-to-people connections

Strengthening cultural and community ties

Emphasising the importance of sustained engagement, Ambassador Tripathi invited members of the media to participate in embassy activities and contribute ideas to strengthen outreach and make future programmes more effective.

She highlighted the embassy's upcoming Diwali Diwaniya, scheduled for November 2–3, as an opportunity to celebrate the cultural connections between India and Kuwait. The gathering will bring people together in a setting that combines the spirit of the Indian festival with Kuwait's tradition of community interaction and hospitality.

Looking ahead to January 2027, the ambassador said Bharat Mela would showcase India's traditional arts, crafts, cuisine and heritage while fostering cultural exchange between the two countries.

Providing an overview of developments in India, Ambassador Tripathi said the country recorded GDP growth of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the 2026–27 financial year, reflecting continued economic momentum and expanding international engagement.

She highlighted sustained export growth and advances in science and technology, including quantum communication, indigenous artificial intelligence chip development, the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and next-generation launch vehicle technologies.

India's achievements in sports and the strong performance of young participants at WorldSkills Shanghai also reflected the country's talent, determination and innovation, she said.

These developments provide a broader backdrop for India's engagement with Kuwait, as both countries seek opportunities to expand trade, investment, technological cooperation and business connections.

Business and investment opportunities

Looking ahead, Ambassador Tripathi outlined several major international events in India that could provide opportunities for Kuwaiti businesses, investors and other stakeholders to engage with the Indian market.

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, scheduled for January 10–12, 2027, will offer opportunities for investment and business collaboration, while Aero India, scheduled for February 8–12 in Bengaluru, will showcase India's aerospace and defence capabilities, indigenous manufacturing and international partnerships. The ambassador also highlighted the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo, scheduled for November 2–5 in New Delhi, and the 31st CII Partnership Summit, taking place on November 12–13 in Visakhapatnam, as platforms for international businesses, policymakers and investors to strengthen economic cooperation. Other events include the 57th International Film Festival of India, scheduled for November 20–28 in Goa, which will bring together filmmakers and audiences from around the world. Ambassador Tripathi encouraged interested members of the media to contact the embassy regarding participation in the festival.

Media engagement and a year of cooperation ahead

The ambassador said the embassy intends to maintain regular communication with the media through its monthly newsletter, press releases and interactions, creating more opportunities to exchange information and discuss developments in India.

As India and Kuwait approach the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the forthcoming initiatives offer an opportunity to celebrate their longstanding friendship while exploring new avenues of cooperation in trade, investment, technology, education and culture.

The embassy's programme reflects a broader commitment to bringing the two communities closer together and ensuring that the partnership continues to evolve through meaningful exchanges and practical collaboration.

Joyalukkas breaks two Guinness World Records with world's heaviest and largest pair of gold earrings

Record breaking gold earrings unveiled by UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism at Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas in Dubai Gold District

Joyalukkas Jewellery has entered the Guinness World Records with two titles, 'Heaviest pair of gold earrings' and 'Largest pair of earrings', for a handcrafted pair of gold jhumkas.

The record breaking earrings were unveiled by His Excellency Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, at Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas, located in Dubai Gold District and described as the biggest jewellery destination in the Middle East.

Two records, one creation

Named Mayura Sahasra, meaning 'A Thousand Peacocks', the earrings draw inspiration from the peacock, India's symbol of grace, pride and divine beauty. The design reflects the plumage of a thousand peacocks, brought together in a single creation.

The traditional bell shaped gold jhumkas, associated with South Asian bridal heritage, were handcrafted over several months by Joyalukkas' master artisans. The combined net gold weight of the 22 carat earrings is 16.514 kg, more than five times the previous world record. Both records were verified by Guinness World Records.

The earrings will be preserved as a complete pair and displayed permanently at the Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas showroom. The earrings were unveiled on Saturday, October 24, at Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas in Dubai Gold District in the presence of Ms. Laila Mohd Suhail, Member of Dubai Golden Jewellery Group, Chair of the Marketing Committee and former CEO of the Strategic Alliances and Partnerships Sector at Dubai Tourism and Economy; Mr. Rashid Alharmoodi, Senior Director of Commercial at Dubai Gold District; Mr. Levy Pezulu, Senior Policy Lead at the World Gold Council; Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group; Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery; members of the Joyalukkas family and other dignitaries.

An official Guinness World Records adjudicator presented certificates for both titles to Dr. Joy Alukkas and Mr. John Paul Alukkas in the presence of His Excellency Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, invited guests, media and influencers from across the region.

Leadership remarks

Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group, said the earrings were a tribute to Dubai and the artisans whose craftsmanship brought the creation to life. He said the two Guinness World Records titles represented a proud moment for the family, its teams in 13 countries and its customers, dedicating the achievement to the UAE.

Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO of Joyalukkas Jewellery, said Jewel of Joy was built to be the biggest jewellery destination in the Middle East and would now be home to the world's heaviest and largest pair of gold earrings. He said the earrings were a landmark creation and invited residents, tourists and jewellery lovers to visit Dubai Gold District and experience the craftsmanship.

Earrings on permanent public display

The record breaking earrings are now on permanent public display at Jewel of Joy by Joyalukkas in Dubai Gold District. Entry is free, and visitors can view the earrings during showroom hours from 10 am to 10 pm, seven days a week.

World Bank Group seeks to unlock Kuwait's investment potential through integrated expertise

Azhar Hussain highlights private capital mobilisation, job creation and public-private partnerships at 'Partners in Growth and Prosperity' Diwaniya

The Times Kuwait Report

The World Bank Group is seeking to deepen its partnership with Kuwait by combining its global development expertise, financing capabilities and private sector support to unlock investment opportunities, generate employment and advance sustainable economic growth.

Speaking on the sidelines of the World Bank Group Diwaniya, held at The St. Regis Kuwait under the theme 'Partners in Growth and Prosperity', World Bank Group Country Manager for Kuwait Azhar Iqbal Hussain said the integration of the Group's five institutions enables it to provide comprehensive development, financing and advisory solutions to governments and businesses.

The gathering aimed to strengthen engagement with the Kuwaiti community, highlight the longstanding partnership between Kuwait and the World Bank Group, and explore opportunities for expanded cooperation with public and private sector stakeholders.

Hussain explained that the Group brings together five institutions under a unified leadership structure: the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), International Development Association (IDA), and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Their complementary capabilities span sovereign financing, private sector investment, political risk insurance, policy advice, market intelligence and investment dispute resolution. By coordinating these capabilities, the Group seeks to connect governments and local businesses with global expertise and a wider range of financing and advisory services.

Six decades of partnership with Kuwait

Kuwait has been an important partner of the World Bank Group for more than 60 years, reflecting a longstanding relationship built around development cooperation, knowledge exchange and international economic engagement. The Group comprises 190 member countries and maintains a presence and operations in approximately 110 countries. Its country office in Kuwait was established in 2009, marking around 17 years of local presence.

Hussain said the World Bank works with the Kuwaiti government by sharing international experience and supporting knowledge transfer, drawing on nearly eight decades of global development work. The Group's engagement in Kuwait has included more than 100 advisory and assistance assignments covering policy development, structural reforms and knowledge transfer. These initiatives support efforts to strengthen institutions, improve governance and advance national development priorities.

Mobilising private capital for investment growth

A key focus of the Diwaniya was the mobilisation of private capital and the role of Kuwait's business community in expanding investment into emerging markets.

Hussain said the challenge is not simply to make capital available, but to channel it towards productive projects that create economic and social value. The World Bank Group seeks to facilitate this process through financing instruments, technical expertise and advisory services that help businesses expand into new markets.

The IFC plays a central role by supporting private sector companies, helping businesses

grow and encouraging investment in emerging economies. The event presentation cited approximately US$1.6 billion in IFC investment and private capital mobilisation associated with supporting the expansion of Kuwaiti businesses in emerging markets. Hussain highlighted the potential for Kuwaiti companies and investors to take their capital, expertise and business capabilities into markets that require further development.

Such investments can support economic activity, create jobs and strengthen commercial ties across borders. MIGA complements these efforts by providing guarantees against political and other non-commercial risks, helping investors manage risks when entering unfamiliar markets. Meanwhile, ICSID provides a framework for resolving international investment disputes, supporting confidence in cross-border investment arrangements.

Job creation remains a central priority

Hussain identified job creation as a core objective of the World Bank Group's development agenda, emphasising that activities across the public and private sectors are intended to generate employment and deliver sustainable economic outcomes.

He said stronger cooperation between governments, investors and businesses is essential to creating an environment in which companies can grow, investment can expand and new employment opportunities can emerge.

The Group's engagement in Kuwait encompasses several areas aligned with national development priorities, including human capital development, public sector modernisation, sustainable investment flows, business regulations, public-private partnerships, resilient infrastructure, knowledge and capacity building, and private capital mobilisation.

These priorities reflect the importance of combining economic reform with investment in people, institutions and infrastructure to support long-term growth.

The World Bank Group's engagement in Kuwait also includes efforts to develop local professional capabilities and strengthen the participation of Kuwaiti nationals in its work.

The Diwaniya presentation highlighted more than 20 Kuwaiti nationals working with the Group through structured programmes designed to support professional development.

Hussain said the Group aims to continue applying its global knowledge and experience to support Kuwait's economic priorities, improve the efficiency of public institutions and strengthen the environment for investment and business activity.

Diwaniya provides a platform for dialogue

Explaining the choice of the Diwaniya format, Hussain said it reflected the Group's appreciation of Kuwait's social traditions and the importance of direct dialogue and the exchange of ideas.

The gathering provided an opportunity to engage with the local community, hear the perspectives of stakeholders and explain how the Group's institutions can support government priorities and private sector ambitions.

Looking ahead, the World Bank Group sees scope to deepen cooperation with Kuwait by combining the country's established business capabilities and investment resources with its own global expertise, advisory services and financing instruments.

Hussain expressed confidence that stronger collaboration, greater private capital participation and a continued focus on employment and institutional development could help unlock new opportunities for Kuwait while supporting sustainable growth across emerging markets.

Enter the world of imagination at 20th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

Draw Your Dream Car, Drive the Future

ALSAYER Group announces the 20th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest to invite children from Kuwait to demonstrate their exceptional artistic and imaginative skills.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest encourages children all over the world to dream, imagine, and create artworks expressing the mobility of the future. Since 2004, Toyota has inspired nearly 10 million children from 153 countries to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream.

Guided by its mission to "Produce Happiness for All", Toyota aims to create a future where everyone can dream of a better tomorrow. Believing in the power of creativity, we hold this contest to inspire children, the leaders of tomorrow, to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream.

Submit a hand-drawn or digitally created artwork of "Your Dream Car," along with a brief description of your idea. Your artwork should showcase your creativity and originality, as it may be viewed by a global audience.

Kuwait National winners can expect amazing rewards from ALSAYER. Selected 9 finalists to enter the Toyota World Contest, Japan, and you could win $5,000 and $10,000 for their school to spend on their educational purpose.

The steps to enter the Contest are as follows: Scan the QR code and download the contest terms and conditions, complete the entry form, follow the guidelines to avoid disqualification.

Submit your original artwork and entry form to Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. Toyota sales & service branches (Jahra – Shuwaikh – Aswaq Qurain – Ahmadi – Fahaheel – Toyota Spare Parts Center in Sharq) or ALSAYER Dream Car Administration – CE-CSR Office, Kuwait Free Trade Zone, Shuwaikh Port.

For online submission send to – dreamcar@alsayergroup.com

For additional enquiry contact: 97168234, 1803803 ext 1082 / 1092.

Completed 'Entry Form' should be securely attached to the back of the drawing sheet; Online submission must be in JPG, PNG (Artwork) & PDF format (Entry Form).

Last date of Artwork submission 11th February 2027.

Kuwait residents 15 years old and below can participate.

Category 1: 7 years old and below; Category 2: 8-11 years old; Category 3: 12-15 years old.

The materials to be used are A3 size paper. Any coloring materials (pencils, crayons, watercolors, markers, paints etc). Digital artworks are acceptable. Avoid copying previous contest entries, famous paintings, or using trademarked characters.

Kuwait praised for preserving Crimea's Islamic heritage

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait has been recognised for its role in preserving Crimea's Islamic heritage, underscoring the importance of cultural conservation and international cooperation in protecting the historical and religious legacy of Muslim communities.

The recognition highlights Kuwait's longstanding interest in safeguarding Islamic heritage and preserving historic landmarks that reflect the region's rich cultural and religious history. Such efforts are particularly significant for communities whose heritage faces challenges arising from political upheaval, displacement and restrictions on cultural expression.

The Ukrainian envoy's acknowledgement also draws attention to the historical and cultural significance of Crimea, a peninsula with deep-rooted Islamic traditions and a longstanding connection to the Crimean Tatar community.

The Crimean Tatars, an indigenous people of Crimea, have maintained a distinct cultural identity shaped by their language, traditions and Islamic faith. Mosques, historic religious sites, manuscripts and other cultural artefacts form an important part of this heritage.

Preserving these landmarks and traditions is essential not only for the community itself but also for protecting the region's diverse historical legacy for future generations.

Kuwait has consistently emphasised the importance of international cooperation, cultural preservation and humanitarian engagement. Its recognition in this context reflects the broader value of partnerships that help safeguard historic sites and protect the cultural identities of communities affected by conflict and political uncertainty.

Ukrainian envoy highlights Kuwait's contribution to safeguarding Islamic heritage and protecting the cultural identity of Crimea's Muslim community

The issue of Crimea's cultural heritage carries particular significance amid continuing concerns over the preservation of historical and religious sites in territories affected by geopolitical disputes.

Protecting cultural heritage is widely regarded as an important part of preserving collective memory, promoting mutual understanding and ensuring that the history of communities is not lost amid changing political circumstances.

Kuwait's contribution, as highlighted by the Ukrainian envoy, reinforces the importance of continued international engagement in protecting religious and cultural landmarks and ensuring that the heritage of Crimea's Muslim community remains part of the region's historical narrative.

LuLu Hypermarket Launches World Food Festival with Global Flavours and Exciting Offers

LuLu Hypermarket, one of the region's leading retail chains, is set to delight food lovers across Kuwait with the much-anticipated LuLu World Food Festival, a vibrant celebration of international cuisines, attractive shopping offers, exciting culinary competitions and fabulous prizes. Running from 28 October for seven days across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait, the festival promises a memorable experience for food enthusiasts and families alike.

The official inauguration of the festival was held on 29 October at LuLu Hypermarket's Al Rai outlet. Adding glamour to the occasion, renowned South Indian film actress Nikhila Vimal inaugurated the festival in the presence of LuLu Kuwait's senior management and representatives of the festival's sponsoring brands.

Throughout the festival, shoppers can enjoy attractive offers and discounts across a wide range of categories, including groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen meat and seafood, chilled and dairy products, home appliances and kitchen essentials. Beyond food, the festival also features exciting technology deals, a Buy KD 10, Get KD 10 offer on garments, special footwear brand sales, a dedicated Toy Fest and much more, making it a rewarding shopping experience for the entire family.

A major highlight of the festival is its exciting lineup of culinary competitions, celebrating creativity, passion and talent in the kitchen. The Taste & Win Competition invites participants to prepare dishes at home and present them for evaluation by a panel of judges. Young cooking enthusiasts can showcase their skills in the Master Junior Chef Contest, while the Pizza Decoration Contest gives participants an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through imaginative pizza designs. Winners of all competitions will receive valuable prizes, while all kids' participants will be awarded consolation prizes in recognition of their enthusiasm and participation.

Adding to the festival's appeal is a diverse range of themed promotions catering to different tastes and culinary preferences. Global Foodie celebrates international cuisines, including Arabic, Indian, Continental, Filipino, Thai and more. Healthy Eats focuses on wholesome choices such as salads, cheeses and olives, while Meet a Meat presents a wide selection of meat products and Go Fish showcases fresh and frozen seafood. The Best Bake caters to bakery enthusiasts, while Snack Time brings together a variety of quick bites. Biryani lovers can explore Biryani World, while Desi Dhaba celebrates the vibrant flavours of Indian street food. Dessert enthusiasts can indulge in Cake So Cookies, and Naadan Thattukada highlights traditional South Indian Street snacks. Completing the experience, Kitchen Must Have features essential kitchen tools, gadgets and accessories for everyday cooking.

Further enhancing the festival atmosphere, special global cuisine street food counters will be introduced across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets, offering an exciting selection of international favourites. Featuring flavours from South Indian, North Indian, Mexican, Korean, Italian, Spanish, Continental and other cuisines, these counters will bring the spirit of international street food to shoppers, creating an engaging culinary experience beyond the aisles.

With its impressive combination of global flavours, exceptional shopping offers, culinary competitions, live food experiences and valuable prizes, the LuLu World Food Festival promises an exciting celebration for shoppers across Kuwait.

With its impressive combination of global flavours, exceptional shopping offers, culinary competitions, live food experiences and valuable prizes, the LuLu World Food Festival promises an exciting celebration for shoppers across Kuwait. The festival invites families, food lovers and shoppers to discover new tastes, enjoy exclusive offers and celebrate the joy of food at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets nationwide.

Lebanese Embassy brings together over 85 women for breast cancer awareness in Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

More than 85 women gathered in Kuwait for a breast cancer awareness and health and wellness event organised by the Embassy of Lebanon, highlighting the importance of early detection, preventive healthcare and emotional well-being in protecting women's health.

The second edition of the initiative was held on Saturday, October 24, in cooperation with the Lebanese Women's Council in Kuwait, bringing together participants for a programme combining medical guidance, practical health advice and activities promoting physical and psychological wellness.

Mona Haddad Al-Khoury, wife of Lebanon's ambassador to Kuwait, opened the event by reaffirming the embassy's commitment to making the initiative an annual tradition. She stressed that awareness and knowledge are essential tools in addressing breast cancer and encouraging women to take an active role in safeguarding their health.

Al-Khoury emphasised that regular screening and early detection can save lives, while access to reliable medical information enables women to make informed decisions about their health. She also highlighted the importance of mental and emotional well-being, noting that overall health extends beyond physical fitness to include emotional balance and psychological resilience.

The programme featured specialised sessions addressing different aspects of women's health. Dr. Joanne Hanz led a session on mental and emotional health, examining their influence on everyday life and overall well-being. Her presentation highlighted the importance of recognising emotional needs and maintaining psychological balance as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Event combines expert medical advice, emotional well-being and fitness activities to promote early detection and a holistic approach to women's health.

Dr. Georgette Assal of Dar Al Shifa Hospital followed with a presentation on breast cancer prevention and routine screening. She emphasised the value of regular medical examinations and early detection in improving treatment opportunities and reducing complications.

The programme also encouraged participants to translate awareness into action through physical activity. Fitness trainer Rania Al-Khatib led an interactive exercise session, demonstrating how regular movement and healthier lifestyle choices can complement preventive healthcare and routine medical check-ups.

A message of hope and solidarity

One of the most meaningful moments of the gathering was the embassy's 'Tree of Wishes', which provided participants with an opportunity to express messages of hope, prayers and encouragement for women affected by breast cancer. Participants wrote their personal wishes and words of support before hanging them on the tree, transforming the activity into a collective expression of compassion and solidarity with patients and survivors.

The initiative also created an opportunity for women to connect, exchange experiences and strengthen community ties in a supportive environment.

By bringing together medical awareness, emotional support and physical activity, the event underlined the importance of approaching women's health holistically, recognising that prevention, early diagnosis and emotional resilience all contribute to overall well-being.

At the conclusion of the programme, Al-Khoury thanked the sponsors and supporters whose contributions helped make the initiative possible. The embassy also expressed appreciation to the participants and everyone involved in organising the gathering.

The event reinforced a message extending beyond Breast Cancer Awareness Month: regular screening, reliable medical information and a strong support network are essential in encouraging women to prioritise their health and face challenges with greater confidence and hope.

Tanishq welcomes the festive season with special offers across Kuwait

As Kuwait enters the festive season, Tanishq, India's most trusted fine jewellery brand and part of the Tata Group, brings its gold and diamond jewellery collections to customers at a time when families and communities are preparing for a series of celebrations and occasions.

"Kuwait holds a special place in Tanishq's regional journey, and we take our commitment to the community here seriously," said Arun Narayan, Chief Executive Officer, Jewellery, Titan Company Limited. "To be part of the festive season in Kuwait feels deeply right. These occasions bring people together, and we want Tanishq to be part of the moments and celebrations that matter to them."

As part of its festive celebrations, Tanishq is bringing its 2026 campaign, 'Share the Light, India Wali Diwali', to Kuwait. Centred on the idea of apne log, the people who make a place feel like home, whether family by birth or the relationships built along the way. The campaign celebrates the traditions people carry with them and the connections they create wherever life takes them.

The festive calendar brings together a series of occasions, including Karva Chauth, Dhanteras, Diwali and Bhai Dooj. Each offers an opportunity to come together, observe cherished traditions and celebrate with family and friends. Jewellery remains an integral part of these occasions, whether chosen as a gift, worn for a celebration or treasured as a reminder of a meaningful moment.

To complement the season, Tanishq is offering customers across Kuwait special festive benefits, including up to 25% off on diamond value and making charges, 100% valuation on old gold exchange, and an additional benefit of up to KWD 1.5 per gram on exchanged old gold jewellery. The offers give customers an opportunity to explore the festive collection, choose gifts for loved ones or exchange existing jewellery as they prepare for the celebrations.

With boutiques at Al-Salam Mall in Salmiya and in Fahaheel, Tanishq brings customers closer to the jewellery and experiences that mark special occasions. As Kuwait enters this celebratory period, the brand looks forward to being part of the moments, traditions and relationships that make the season meaningful.

Alongside its 'Share the Light, India Wali Diwali' campaign, Tanishq brings special jewellery offers to customers across Kuwait ahead of the festive season.

Customers can visit their nearest Tanishq boutique in Kuwait to explore the festive collection and offers. Terms and conditions apply.

Tanishq, part of the Tata Group, is one of India's leading jewellery brands, known for its craftsmanship, design and assured product quality for more than two decades. Its range of gold and diamond jewellery brings together traditional and contemporary styles for occasions ranging from everyday wear to weddings and festivals. Tanishq has been named The Most Trusted Jewellery Brand in India by Trust Research Advisory. The brand has more than 430 stores in India and over 15 stores across the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Singapore and the USA.

Shop online at www.tanishq.ae

Kuwait awards KD1.991 million consultancy contract for Mina AlAhmadi refinery upgrade

Project targets replacement of catalyst regeneration unit, exhaust gas cooler and associated facilities at Kuwait's major refinery

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries have approved the award of a KD1.991 million consultancy services contract for a project to replace the catalyst regeneration unit, exhaust gas cooler and associated facilities at Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery.

The Supreme Purchasing Committee of KPC and its subsidiaries approved the award following negotiations, with the contract going to the bidder offering the lowest price that met the specified terms and technical requirements.

According to the committee's decision, published in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm, the consultancy contract covers services required for the planned replacement project at the refinery. <Cite refs={["turn990802view0","turn990802search1"]}/>

The award marks a further step in advancing the project by providing the necessary consultancy services ahead of the replacement work.

The catalyst regeneration unit and exhaust gas cooler are among the facilities associated with refinery processing operations. Replacing the equipment and related infrastructure forms part of efforts to maintain operational reliability and support the continued functioning of the refinery.

Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery is a key component of Kuwait's petroleum refining industry, contributing to the country's downstream oil operations. The consultancy award concerns the planning and technical services associated with the replacement project; the announcement does not identify the successful bidder or specify a completion schedule for the wider project.

Thailand donates 100 books to Kuwait National Library to strengthen cultural ties

The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of Thailand in Kuwait has donated 100 books to the Kuwait National Library, promoting cultural exchange and strengthening mutual understanding between the two countries. The collection, covering Thai culture, arts, literature and history, was handed over by Chargé d'Affaires of the Thai Embassy Uraiwan Courtaud at a ceremony held at the library last week.

Courtaud said the initiative aims to introduce Kuwaiti readers and students to Thailand's heritage, traditions and way of life, highlighting the importance of cultural understanding in building lasting international friendships. The books, provided with support from the Thailand Foundation, will be housed in the library's newly established Diplomacy Hall, developed by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Speaking on behalf of NCCAL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar, Director of the External Cultural Relations Department and Kuwait National Museum Department Mohammed bin Redha welcomed the donation, describing it as a valuable addition to the library's cultural and intellectual resources.

The initiative carries added significance as Kuwait and Thailand mark 63 years of diplomatic relations, established in 1963. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cultural cooperation and strengthening the longstanding friendship between their peoples.

Smallsman clinches Hankook Golf Tournament title as 50-year partnership is celebrated

Steven Smallsman scores 40 points to win the 20th edition of the tournament, highlighting sporting excellence and a longstanding business partnership between Hankook and AlMailem Group

The Times Kuwait Report

Steven Smallsman emerged champion at the Hankook Golf Tournament 2026, scoring an impressive 40 points to claim the title at Sahara Golf Club, as the annual sporting event marked its 20th edition and celebrated five decades of partnership between Hankook and AlMailem Group.

Held on Friday, October 23, the tournament brought together golf enthusiasts from across Kuwait for a day of competitive sport and camaraderie, reinforcing its position as a prominent fixture on the country's golfing calendar.

The competition began at 8 am with a shotgun start and was played under the Stableford format, with a three-quarter handicap allowance.

Smallsman topped the leaderboard with 40 points, while veteran golfer Qatami Al-Qatami secured second place with 37 points. Young golfer Uday Bhasin also finished with 37 points, taking third place following a countback.

Ali Al-Ansari delivered an outstanding performance to win the Best Gross award with a score of 66. He also claimed the Men's Longest Drive title, adding to his achievements on the course.

In the women's category, Fadia Emadi won the Women's Longest Drive award. Al-Qatami secured the Men's Nearest to Pin prize, while Raji Lamba claimed the corresponding award in the women's category. Favourable weather conditions contributed to the success of the tournament, with a cool morning breeze giving way to bright sunshine as the competition progressed.

The afternoon prize-giving ceremony was attended by South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Jang Hyun Kim and Hankook MENA Managing Director Dae-Hee Yun, marking a significant milestone in the longstanding relationship between Hankook and AlMailem Group.

Addressing the gathering, AlMailem Group Managing Director Kuldeep Lamba expressed appreciation for Hankook's continued commitment and support in developing the brand in Kuwait over the past 50 years.

He also commended the participating golfers for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship, while praising the Sahara Golf Club team for its professional organisation and efficient administration of the tournament. The 2026 edition combined a celebration of golfing achievement with recognition of a partnership that has endured for five decades, reflecting the value of long-term business relationships built on trust, cooperation and shared commitment. The tournament's 20th edition further demonstrated how sporting events can bring together businesses, sporting communities and international partners, strengthening relationships beyond the golf course.

Through its continued presence on Kuwait's sporting calendar, the Hankook Golf Tournament remains an occasion that celebrates competition, community spirit and the enduring partnership between Hankook and AlMailem Group.

SOLACHEY enters Kuwait's lighting market with flagship showroom in Shuwaikh

The Times Kuwait Report

Indian entrepreneur Chetna Jolly has launched SOLACHEY, a lighting products brand, with the inauguration of its flagship showroom in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, turning her late father's long-held business ambition into reality.

Indian Ambassador H.E. Paramita Tripathi inaugurated the showroom and also praised the Indian community's solidarity and mutual support, and wished Jolly and her family success in their new venture.

The brand represents the fulfilment of a dream cherished by Jolly's father, an electrical engineer who arrived in Kuwait in 1974 and later ventured into business. Following his passing, Jolly spent 15 to 17 years gaining professional experience and developing the knowledge needed to bring the project to fruition.

SOLACHEY has also emphasised product quality and regulatory compliance, with its products meeting applicable Gulf conformity requirements and carrying G-Mark certification. The company has undertaken conformity procedures for products sourced from China, India and Türkiye. A third-generation member of a family that has lived in Kuwait, Jolly expressed gratitude for the opportunities the country has provided, describing Kuwait as her family's home.

The showroom launch marks both a new entrant in Kuwait's lighting market and a personal milestone, reflecting family legacy, entrepreneurial determination and the support of the Indian community.

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Kuwait, Türkiye reaffirm strategic partnership at National Day reception

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait and Türkiye have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation across various sectors, with both countries emphasising their longstanding friendship, mutual trust and strategic partnership.

Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila conveyed the congratulations of Kuwait's leadership, government and people to the Republic of Türkiye on the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic.

Speaking on the sidelines of a National Day reception hosted by the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait on Thursday, October 29, Al-Huwaila underscored the strength of relations between the two friendly countries and their shared commitment to expanding cooperation in ways that serve their mutual interests and aspirations.

The reception, held at the St. Regis Sheraton Hotel, was attended by senior Kuwaiti officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the business community and members of the Turkish community in Kuwait.

Addressing the gathering, Turkish Ambassador-designate to Kuwait Can Oğuz highlighted the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, brotherhood and solidarity between the two countries, reaffirming Türkiye's unwavering commitment to supporting Kuwait's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Referring to recent regional developments, Ambassador Oğuz said Türkiye had strongly condemned the attacks targeting Kuwait and reiterated its solidarity with the country. He emphasised that Türkiye would continue to stand alongside its strategic partner and support efforts to safeguard its security and stability.

The ambassador also expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices of those who lost their lives in the attacks.

Turning to bilateral relations, Oğuz described the Türkiye-Kuwait partnership through three key words: "Potential, Promise and Partnership." He highlighted significant opportunities for expanding cooperation in defence, healthcare, tourism, agriculture and trade, noting that Kuwait's acquisition of Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicles had opened a new chapter in defence cooperation between the two countries.

The ambassador also underscored the growing contribution of Turkish companies to Kuwait's development and the increasing interest of Kuwaiti investors in Türkiye. He noted that more Kuwaitis were visiting Türkiye to experience its rich cultural heritage, natural attractions and tourism offerings.

In this regard, he highlighted the ongoing construction of Terminal 2 at Kuwait International Airport by Turkish company Limak, noting that the project would strengthen connectivity and enhance Kuwait's position as a regional and international aviation hub. Oğuz said the elevation of bilateral relations to the level of a strategic partnership represented a significant milestone in the longstanding ties between the two countries.

He recalled the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Türkiye in May 2024, describing it as a landmark event that opened new avenues for cooperation. He also referred to the visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Kuwait in October 2025, which further strengthened bilateral relations. The ambassador explained that the strategic partnership rests on three main pillars: the close friendship and mutual trust between the leaders of both countries; strong institutional cooperation, to be further strengthened through the Strategic Dialogue Mechanism; and the enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity between the Kuwaiti and Turkish peoples.

He expressed confidence in the future of bilateral relations, affirming that both countries would continue working together towards a stronger and more prosperous future. "For Türkiye and Kuwait, the only way is up," he said.

The reception also featured a cultural performance by students of the Kuwait Turkish School, who presented traditional Turkish folk dances showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage.

Guests were additionally offered the opportunity to participate in a raffle draw featuring round-trip airline tickets to Türkiye, generously sponsored by Turkish Airlines, Pegasus Airlines and Jazeera Airways.

Francophone Diwaniya blends Kuwaiti tradition with French culture

The Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait, in collaboration with the French Institute and the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie, hosted a Francophone Diwaniya, bringing together Kuwaiti social traditions and French language, music and culture.

Held as part of Francophonie Month, the gathering highlighted the role of Kuwait's traditional diwaniya as a platform for cultural exchange and community engagement. Lebanese Ambassador H.E. Ghadi Khoury said the initiative uses the diwaniya's unique place in Kuwaiti society to promote French culture in a setting that encourages conversation, interaction and hospitality.

The event featured French music and artistic performances, including classical French songs accompanied by the oud, creating a distinctive blend of French and Arab musical traditions. French Ambassador H.E. Olivier Gauvin described the gathering as an exceptional cultural occasion, highlighting Lebanon's historic ties with the French language and the importance of the diwaniya as a symbol of Kuwaiti identity. The initiative demonstrated how Kuwait's traditional gathering place can serve as a bridge between cultures, encouraging dialogue, cultural understanding and stronger connections between communities.

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Personalized Care to Tackle Chronic Disease

At the 3rd Primary Care Academy in Dubai, medical specialists called for more personalized approaches to chronic disease prevention, smoking cessation and long-term patient care.

By Wilson D'cunha

The growing burden of chronic disease across the Gulf is prompting healthcare professionals to look beyond conventional clinical measurements and consider the realities that shape patients' everyday lives. That was a central theme at the 3rd Primary Care Academy 2026, held in Dubai on October 3, where regional clinicians discussed cardiovascular health, metabolic risk, obesity, smoking management and the evolving role of primary care.

Organized in partnership with Emirates Hospital Group and endorsed by the Emirates Family Medicine Society and Turkey's Health Promotion and Health Policy Association, the conference gathered regional clinicians to explore how primary care can support earlier intervention and sustainable approaches to chronic disease management.

Throughout the sessions, speakers emphasized that measurements such as blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index provide only part of the picture. Effective prevention also requires clinicians to understand the behavioral, social and economic circumstances that influence a patient's ability to follow medical advice.

Dr. Adil Sajwani, a family medicine consultant speaking at the event, highlighted the value of taking a holistic approach to patient care. He explained how family medicine was developed in the United States during the 1970s partly in response to concerns around fragmented care, with family physicians taking a broader view of patients instead of focusing solely on individual symptoms or organ systems.

As Dr. Sajwani noted, advising a patient to exercise more, eat less and lose weight may be simple to prescribe, but practical barriers can be considerable. Someone working long hours may struggle to find time for physical activity, while another patient may have limited access to healthier food options because of their workplace or financial circumstances. For prevention strategies to be sustainable, clinicians therefore need to understand these barriers and agree on realistic goals with their patients.

A Practical Approach to Smoking Cessation

This approach is evident in smoking management. Tobacco use remains a major contributor to preventable disease, including cardiovascular and respiratory conditions and several forms of cancer. Yet quitting can be difficult when smoking is closely connected to daily routines, social environments and stress.

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Abdul Malak, a Kuwaiti family medicine doctor who operates a smoking cessation clinic and spoke on the sidelines of the event, emphasized the importance of preparation when attempting to quit.

Relapse, he noted, can be a significant challenge. Patients and clinicians should work together to identify triggers and adjust the cessation strategy. Stress, poor sleep, coffee and social gatherings can all contribute to cravings when smoking has become embedded in everyday routines.

Dr. Sajwani also explained how some smokers may be reluctant to seek help from dedicated smoking cessation facilities because they feel uncomfortable being seen entering a clinic specifically associated with tobacco use.

Integrating cessation support into routine primary care could help address this barrier by allowing patients to discuss tobacco use as part of a broader health consultation, making support more accessible while reducing the stigma associated with seeking help.

For patients who continue to struggle despite repeated attempts to quit, clinicians may also need to consider different approaches to cessation and harm reduction. Complete cessation of tobacco and nicotine use remains the preferred goal. However, for adults who smoke and are unable to quit, discussions around alternatives may form part of an individualized approach, taking into account the available evidence and the different risk profiles of tobacco and nicotine products. Non-combustible products, including heated tobacco products, e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches, are not risk-free. Their potential role in harm reduction should therefore be distinguished from eliminating health risks, and such products should not be initiated by non-smokers.

Prevention is more effective when it reflects the realities of patients' lives, combining evidence-based treatment with practical, individualized support.

This distinction was also highlighted during panel discussions by Dr. Sherif Bakir, Consultant Cardiologist at Medcare Medical Centre, who emphasized the importance of differentiating the risks associated with combustible tobacco use from those associated with nicotine itself. He stressed that harm-reduction discussions should remain focused on current adult smokers and should not encourage nicotine use among people who do not currently use tobacco or nicotine products.

Dr. Adil Sajwani

Dr. Abdul Malak

The conference also explored the potential role of artificial intelligence in supporting personalized care, including clinical decision-support approaches that could help assess dependence, individual triggers and comorbidities when developing cessation pathways.

Tackling Obesity Beyond Weight Alone

The individualized care approach was also examined regarding obesity. Dr. Rahila Bhatti, Consultant in General Internal Medicine, Diabetes and Endocrinology at Genesis Healthcare Centre, urged clinicians to approach obesity as a complex, multifactorial disease, and not purely a matter of personal willpower or body weight.

Lifestyle, environment, metabolic health and socioeconomic circumstances can all influence an individual's ability to manage their weight. In more severe cases, Dr. Sajwani noted, medical treatment or bariatric surgery may be considered alongside dietary and lifestyle interventions, depending on the patient's circumstances. The wider environment can also influence long-term health. Dr. Abdul Malak highlighted reliance on food delivery services, sedentary routines and the spread of health misinformation online as challenges that can make healthy lifestyle changes more difficult.

Unverified diet trends circulating on social media can encourage restrictive eating patterns or lead individuals to abandon prescribed treatments. Addressing misinformation is part of helping patients make informed health decisions. As Dr. Abdul Malak put it: "Health is wealth that you don't feel until you lose it."

The discussions at the 3rd Primary Care Academy pointed to a common principle across chronic disease management: prevention is more effective when it reflects the realities of patients' lives. Across obesity, cardiovascular risk and smoking cessation, primary care physicians can help patients make sustainable changes by combining evidence-based treatment with practical, individualized support.

RECIPE: *A Festive Delight*

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

Chef Chhaya Thakker

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. serve the hot sweet potato bombs with mintyoghurt dip, garnished with chopped pistachios, coriander, and a few saffron strands.

**Tip: Ensure the sweet potato mixture is not too moist, and chill the stuffed balls for 15 minutes before coating to help them hold their shape.*

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

60 Anniversary of EU-Kuwait Relations

As part of a series featuring recipes from European Union member states, The Times Kuwait continues with the second edition, showcasing the cuisine of Belgium.

Crunchy biscuits made with brown sugar, speculoos are flavoured with cloves and cinnamon. They can be enjoyed plain, with vanilla, or coated in handmade chocolate. Crushed, they can be mixed with yoghurt, added to coffee, sprinkled over cheesecake, or used to top chocolate mousse.

According to tradition, speculoos are a tasty reward for well-behaved children during the celebration of Saint Nicholas on December 6. As crunchy as they are cheeky, these biscuits have the power to instantly lift your mood and brighten your day.

When nothing goes right, go speculoos!

This traditional speculoos recipe comes straight from Maison Dandoy, a Belgian artisanal biscuit maker established in 1829.

Preparation Time: 30 minutes
Cooking Time: 10 minutes

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 kg flour
- 300 g butter
- 600 g brown sugar
- 100 ml water
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 pinch of ground cloves

PREPARATION
- In a bowl, combine the brown sugar, butter, salt, cinnamon and cloves. Whisk until the mixture becomes creamy.
- Gradually add the water to the mixture, stirring well to combine.
- If possible, sift the flour and bicarbonate of soda to remove any lumps.
- Gradually add the flour and bicarbonate of soda to the creamy mixture, mixing until a firm dough forms. Avoid kneading the dough for too long, as this may make it too elastic. If the dough becomes sticky, place it in the refrigerator to chill.
- Divide the dough into portions and flatten them slightly with a rolling pin.
- If using a speculoos mould, dust it with flour and press the dough firmly into it by hand. Trim away any excess dough with a wire cutter. Tap the mould against a table to release the dough, then carefully remove the shaped biscuits and place them on a greased baking tray.
- If you do not have a speculoos mould, roll out the dough to a thickness of 2–5 mm. Cut it into your desired shapes and arrange the biscuits on a greased baking tray.
- Preheat the oven to 180°C. Bake the biscuits for approximately 10 minutes, or longer depending on their thickness, until they are baked through.

TIP: All brown sugar is suitable for making speculoos. Just know that if you use pale brown sugar, the speculoos will be lighter in colour.

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Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed opens first French Week in Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah inaugurated the first French Week in Kuwait on Wednesday evening at the Assima Mall, under the theme 'France in Kuwait', marking a new milestone in the longstanding strategic partnership between Kuwait and France.

Held under the gracious patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, the event brought together ministers, members of the ruling family, senior government officials, ambassadors, heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, and prominent public figures. The exhibition features a wide range of French institutions and companies showcasing their expertise across various sectors, including culture, automobiles, advanced technology, institutional development and other industries. The participation of internationally renowned brands highlights the diversity and depth of French expertise and innovation.

Strengthening 65 years of bilateral relations

The launch comes in the wake of the official visit to Kuwait by French President Emmanuel Macron on October 19, 2026, during which he was received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The visit marked a significant milestone in the 65-year history of diplomatic relations between the two countries, culminating in the signing of several agreements and memoranda of understanding covering the economy, defense, scientific research, education, culture and the exchange of expertise.

These developments reflect the growing momentum of bilateral relations and the deepening strategic partnership between Kuwait and France.

French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gouvain said the 'France in Kuwait' exhibition reflects the strength and depth of the strategic partnership between the two countries, built on decades of cooperation and continuing to evolve in ways that promote prosperity, security and mutual interests.

French ambassador highlights depth of partnership

French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gouvain said the 'France in Kuwait' exhibition reflects the strength and depth of the strategic partnership between the two countries, built on decades of cooperation and continuing to evolve in ways that promote prosperity, security and mutual interests.

He noted that the exhibition highlights the broad scope of bilateral cooperation, spanning trade and investment, education and culture, defense, and emerging and advanced technologies.

French companies continue to contribute their expertise and innovation across several priority sectors in Kuwait, while Kuwaiti investors and institutions maintain a valued presence in France's dynamic economy, the ambassador said.

He added that educational and cultural ties remain at the heart of the partnership, strengthened by the continued interest of Kuwaiti students, families and visitors who choose France as a preferred destination.

Gouvain expressed his appreciation for the gracious patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed and commended the efforts of the organizing committee, headed by Ahmad Ismail Behbehani, and his team in bringing the event to fruition.

Chairman of the organizing committee Ahmad Ismail Behbehani said the event, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, carries exceptional significance in strengthening Kuwaiti-French relations, particularly as the two countries mark 65 years of strong diplomatic ties.