Issue No: 1308
Established 1996
15 - 21 November 2026

THE TIMES
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
www.timeskuwait.com
250 Fils

timeskuwait
thetimesq8
thetimeskuwait



LOCAL
Kuwait affirms Sharia compliance in Civil Code amendment, says Justice Minister 2



LOCAL
Kuwait's cash economy shrinks as ATM withdrawals fall by KD 414.5 million 4

LOCAL
3 *Kuwait's merger rules extend to foreign deals despite absence of local entities*



Safe driving starts at home as experts urge parents to set the right example

The Times Kuwait Report

Respect for traffic laws must begin at home, with parents playing a crucial role in shaping the next generation of responsible road users, family and social experts have stressed, calling on motorists to lead by example and make road safety an integral part of their children's upbringing.

The experts warned that children learn far more from observing their parents' behaviour than from simply being told to follow traffic rules. They said everyday driving habits, from wearing seat belts and obeying traffic signals to managing anger and avoiding mobile phone use behind the wheel, can influence how young people behave when they eventually become drivers themselves.

Dr Maryam Al-Azmi, former Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and a family counsellor, said responsible driving extends beyond technical skills, teaching children discipline, self-control, respect for the law and consideration for the safety of others.



She stressed that parents must begin educating children about road safety before they even enter a vehicle, explaining the importance of seat belts, proper seating and protecting the lives of passengers and other road users.

Family relations consultant Nawal Al-Muhaini said parents must demonstrate these principles through their own actions, ensuring children remain properly seated and preventing them from leaning or hanging out of vehicle windows.

She added that children also observe how adults manage their speed, emotions and frustration while driving, making responsible behaviour behind the wheel an important part of family education.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



THE TIMES
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
The Times Kuwait
www.timeskuwait.com
15 - 21 November 2026

Kuwait is more than a second home; it is a friend I chose, says Peru envoy

Ambassador Carlos Jiménez describes Kuwait as a chosen friend, recalling lessons in friendship, openness and diplomacy • Peruvian envoy bids farewell to Kuwait, cherishes friendships and lasting memories

By Rabih Kallas
Special to The Times Kuwait

Peruvian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Carlos Jiménez has described his two-and-a-half-year diplomatic assignment in the country as a memorable chapter in his professional and personal life, saying his experience had given him lasting lessons in friendship, openness and resilience.

In a farewell message, Ambassador Jiménez said Kuwait had become much more than a second home, describing the country as a friend he had chosen and would always cherish.

He said the most valuable aspect of his stay had been the relationships he built with people and the lessons he learned from Kuwaiti society, particularly its openness, hospitality and ability to deal with challenging circumstances. Ambassador Jiménez noted that diplomatic assignments offered opportunities to experience different societies and cultures, but some countries left a deeper impression than others.

Kuwait, he said, would remain one of those experiences, particularly because of the regional circumstances and challenges he witnessed during his tenure, which taught him the importance of adapting to changing situations. Asked what he would miss most after leaving Kuwait, the ambassador highlighted



the friendships he had developed and the country's atmosphere of openness, freedom of expression and exchange of ideas.

He said Kuwait provided an important space for dialogue and discussion on a wide range of subjects, an environment that had enriched his personal experience. On the professional front, the Peruvian envoy described his posting in Kuwait as an important learning experience, offering exposure to different situations in bilateral diplomacy and multilateral forums. He stressed that diplomacy was not simply about establishing personal relationships but about strengthening ties between countries and building bridges of cooperation and understanding between peoples. He also underlined the importance of recognizing genuine friendship and maintaining mutual respect in professional relationships.

Reflecting on his tenure, Ambassador Jiménez said diplomats often arrive at their assignments with several ambitions and objectives, but experience teaches them to concentrate on priorities that can deliver tangible results for bilateral relations.

Offering advice to his successor, who will take over after his departure early next month, he urged the incoming envoy to embrace Kuwaiti society, get to know its people and make the most of the country's warmth and hospitality.

Ambassador Jiménez will return to Peru's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he has several more years of diplomatic service ahead. He expressed hope that he would continue contributing to the development of relations between Peru and Kuwait, building on the progress achieved during his assignment.

He added, he will carry home memories of a country that had given him more than diplomatic experience — lasting friendships and lessons that would remain with him long after his departure.

Kuwait affirms Sharia compliance in Civil Code amendment, says Justice Minister

Kuwait's Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait has reaffirmed that no legislation will be enacted in the country that contradicts Islamic Sharia, stressing that the recent amendment to the Civil Code was introduced in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Speaking at a press conference, Al-Sumait dismissed claims that the amendment to Article 830 of the Civil Code violates Islamic inheritance principles, emphasizing that the legislation aims to protect families from losing their only residential property without compromising the rights of other co-owners or heirs.

He said the amendment was introduced following direct instructions from His Highness the Amir and reflects the government's commitment to balancing property rights with humanitarian and social considerations.

Protecting the family home

The amendment addresses situations in which the division or public auction of jointly owned residential property could leave one of the co-owners, including a father, mother or child, without a home.

Under the revised provisions, courts may postpone the division of a residential property if it is established that the property is the applicant's only residence and that the individual lacks sufficient financial resources to purchase a suitable alternative.

The court will also consider the person's family and social circumstances before deciding whether to grant a postponement.

Al-Sumait explained that the protection is not permanent. Other co-owners may request the termination of the postponement once the circumstances that justified it no longer exist.



Amendment protects families from losing their only home while safeguarding inheritance and co-ownership rights

The court may also determine fair compensation for the continued use of the property, where appropriate, to safeguard the financial interests of the other co-owners.

The minister stressed that the amendment does not alter the established principles governing inheritance under Islamic Sharia. An official fatwa issued by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs has confirmed that the amendment is consistent with Islamic Sharia, he said.

The revised provisions also allow other co-owners to acquire the share of the individual seeking division of the property, provided they pay its assessed value. The value will be determined by an expert appointed by the court in accordance with the law.

This arrangement enables the co-owner seeking division to receive fair compensation and withdraw from joint ownership, while allowing the remaining owners to retain the family home.

Al-Sumait said the amendment seeks to ensure that the rights of all parties are protected, while preventing families from being displaced from their only residence.

Addressing the results of the national debtors' relief campaign, Al-Sumait announced that contributions had reached KD 16.539 million, raised through donations from 138,328 contributors. The campaign benefited 3,807 debtors by settling their outstanding liabilities in full or in part. A total of 5,645 judicial rulings had been issued against the beneficiaries, while the initiative helped lift 14,928 enforcement measures.

The minister said 62 government and private entities had contributed to the campaign, reflecting broad institutional and community support. He also announced plans to launch an exceptional debt-relief campaign during the coming Ramadan, with wider facilities and more flexible eligibility conditions to assist a larger number of beneficiaries.

Legislative reforms reduce court cases

Al-Sumait highlighted the impact of Kuwait's national plan to modernize its legislative framework, revealing that the number of cases registered before the judiciary in 2026 had declined by approximately 20 percent, or around 170,000 cases, compared with the corresponding period in 2024.

He attributed the decline to legislative and regulatory measures introduced to improve judicial efficiency and reduce the accumulation of cases. The minister also announced that three major laws — the Family Law, Penal Law and Personal Status Law would be unveiled soon as part of the continuing reform program.

The Personal Status Law is expected to be presented to the ministerial committee and completed before the end of 2026. The proposed legislation is intended to address significant social and family-related challenges.

Al-Sumait reaffirmed the Ministry of Justice's commitment to modernizing Kuwait's legal system, strengthening family stability and ensuring that legislative reforms protect individual rights while remaining consistent with Islamic Sharia.

Kuwait's merger rules extend to foreign deals despite absence of local entities

The absence of a local corporate presence does not necessarily remove a transaction from Kuwait's merger-control requirements.





By Tijan Al Mughrabi
Dr. Yaqoub AlSanea & Partners (YYA)
Special to The Times Kuwait

Foreign companies involved in mergers and acquisitions may need to obtain prior approval from Kuwait's Competition Protection Agency (CPA), even when neither party has a subsidiary, branch or shareholder in the country, under the wording of Kuwait's revised merger-control rules.

The issue arises from amendments introduced through CPA Board Resolution No. 32 of 2026, which took effect on April 5, 2026. While the reforms raised the financial thresholds for merger notifications and introduced a local-sales condition for certain transactions, the condition does not apply uniformly across all notification tests.

The distinction is significant for international businesses undertaking cross-border acquisitions, as a transaction between two foreign companies may still fall within Kuwait's merger-control framework if the relevant financial thresholds are met.

Three tests determine notification requirements

Under Article 12 of Law No. 72 of 2020 on the Protection of Competition and the 2026 resolution, transactions must be assessed against three alternative financial tests, using audited accounts for the last financial year before completion.

A notification may be required when:

- One party's annual sales in Kuwait exceed KD1.5 million.
- The parties' combined sales in Kuwait exceed KD3 million, provided the company or activity being acquired generates at least KD1.5 million in Kuwaiti sales.
- The parties' combined registered assets in Kuwait exceed KD7.5 million.

April 2026 reforms raise merger-control thresholds, but foreign acquisitions may still require prior CPA approval based on Kuwaiti sales or assets

The key distinction is that the target-sales condition applies only to the combined-sales test. It does not expressly qualify the single-party sales test or the combined-assets test. Consequently, a foreign buyer with sufficient sales in Kuwait may trigger the notification requirement even if the target has no Kuwaiti sales or local business presence.

Local presence is not essential

The rules focus on economic activity in Kuwait rather than the physical presence of a company.

Kuwaiti sales include revenue generated directly in the local market or through branches, subsidiaries and controlled companies. On the natural reading of the resolution, direct exports and online sales to Kuwaiti customers may also count.

Kuwaiti assets include assets registered, owned or used in economic activity in the country. However, the resolution does not clearly address revenue channelled through independent regional distributors or how sales by a buyer's parent and sister companies should be attributed. Such circumstances may require case-by-case assessment.

The framework covers mergers, acquisitions of direct or indirect control and joint ventures carrying out lasting, independent economic activities. Even a minority investment may constitute an acquisition of control if the investor obtains rights that provide decisive influence over the business.

Prior approval required before completion

Kuwait operates a prior-approval system rather than a regime that permits transactions to close automatically after filing. Article 14 prohibits parties from taking steps to complete a transaction before approval from the CPA Board. Silence from the authority does not constitute consent.

The review period can extend to 90 days after a complete application is referred to the Executive Director, with a possible additional 90-day extension. A separate 30-day period applies to the Board's decision after the application is presented to it. Objections from third parties can suspend the review clock.

Failure to notify when required can attract fines of up to 10 percent of the parties' total revenues for the preceding financial year. The law does not specify in the relevant provision whether this refers to Kuwaiti or worldwide revenues. The article also notes that other fining provisions in the same article were struck down by the Constitutional Court in 2025, while this penalty remains in force.

Implications for international businesses

The revised thresholds provide clearer financial benchmarks, but the wording leaves questions about how the target-sales condition interacts with the other tests. For companies planning cross-border transactions, the practical implication is that Kuwait should remain part of the merger-control assessment even where the buyer and target are both foreign entities.

Businesses should review each party's Kuwaiti sales and assets, assess whether minority rights confer control, and seek legal advice where the attribution of revenue or the notification obligation is unclear.

The article recommends using the CPA's pre-notification consultation process where necessary, allowing sufficient time for Arabic-language filings and legalised powers of attorney, and including CPA approval as a condition precedent in transaction documents whenever the relevant thresholds are met.

Kuwait's approach underscores an important principle for international dealmakers: the absence of a local corporate presence does not necessarily remove a transaction from the country's merger-control requirements.



Kuwait's cash economy shrinks as ATM withdrawals fall by KD 414.5 million

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait is witnessing a significant shift away from cash transactions, with ATM withdrawals declining by KD 414.5 million in the first nine months of 2026, as digital payment methods gain popularity and regulatory restrictions on cash transactions take effect.

Official banking data show that the total value of ATM withdrawals fell to KD 6.22 billion between January and September 2026, compared with KD 6.635 billion during the corresponding period last year, marking a decline of 6.66 percent. The number of ATM transactions also decreased to 45.214 million, down from 49.123 million in the same period of 2025, representing a reduction of approximately 3.9 million transactions.

The figures point to a broader transformation in the country's payment landscape, with consumers increasingly relying on electronic alternatives for everyday purchases and financial transactions.

Digital payments reshape consumer habits

The growing popularity of card payments, contactless transactions and electronic collection systems is contributing to the decline in cash usage. Banking sources have also reported a reduction in the frequency of cash replenishment at ATMs, reflecting lower demand for physical currency.

The downward trend extends beyond ATM withdrawals to cash transactions conducted through bank branches, suggesting that the shift is becoming more widespread across the banking sector.

Banking officials expect reliance on cash payments to decline further in 2027, potentially falling to around 20 percent as electronic payment methods become more deeply integrated into commercial activities.



Digital payments gain ground as tighter cash controls and changing consumer habits reshape financial transactions

Regulatory measures accelerate the transition

Alongside changing consumer preferences, tighter regulatory controls are playing an increasingly important role in reducing cash transactions. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in coordination with the Central Bank of Kuwait and other authorities, has introduced restrictions on cash payments across approximately 14 business activities.

The measures aim to strengthen financial transparency, improve oversight of commercial transactions and combat money laundering. Restrictions vary by activity, with some sectors facing a complete prohibition on cash payments, while others operate under specified limits.

Businesses dealing in gold, jewellery, precious metals and gemstones are among those subject to restrictions. Real estate transactions are also covered, with brokers prohibited from receiving or handing over cash connected with property deals, including deposits and advance payments. The rules extend to vehicle dealerships, certain commercial exhibitions, hospitals and government healthcare facilities.

Cash limits extend to everyday services

In several other business categories, cash payments exceeding KD 10 are prohibited, requiring customers to use electronic payment methods for higher-value transactions. These include pharmacies, health institutes, fitness centres, sports clubs, salons, medical companies, businesses dealing in public-health pesticides and hotels. Separate restrictions apply to financial transfers, where cash payments exceeding KD 1,000 are prohibited. Establishments that violate approved payment regulations may face legal and administrative action, including closure and referral to the competent investigative authorities, depending on the nature of the violation.

A gradual move towards a digital economy

The decline in cash withdrawals reflects the combined impact of expanding digital payment infrastructure, changing consumer preferences and stricter regulatory oversight. For Kuwait, the transition represents an important step towards a more transparent and digitally connected economy. As electronic payment systems become increasingly accessible and cash restrictions expand, the country's dependence on physical currency is expected to continue falling, reshaping how individuals and businesses conduct everyday financial transactions.

Visit Kuwait puts the country's tourism attractions at visitors' fingertips with AI

Kuwait is harnessing artificial intelligence and cloud computing to transform the visitor experience, making it easier for tourists, residents and citizens to explore the country's attractions, discover events and access essential travel services through the Visit Kuwait digital platform. Developed in line with the objectives of New Kuwait 2035, the platform brings together tourism information and services through a single digital destination, helping visitors plan their trips and discover the country's cultural, sporting and entertainment offerings.

The initiative also aims to strengthen Kuwait's position as a regional tourism destination by making information more accessible and improving coordination among the public and private sector entities involved in the tourism industry.

One platform for tourism and events

Visit Kuwait provides information on cultural, artistic, sporting and entertainment events, including their dates and locations, through an interactive smart map. The platform also facilitates access to tourist visa information and offers exclusive deals in Arabic and English, enabling visitors to plan their trips more conveniently.

In addition to serving travellers, the platform provides a unified portal for local and international companies seeking licences to organize tourism, cultural, artistic and entertainment events in Kuwait. By bringing these services together, Visit Kuwait seeks to simplify procedures, improve coordination and create new opportunities for businesses operating in the tourism and events sector. Officially launched on November 1, 2025, the platform was developed by the Public Authority for Youth and Sports in cooperation with Microsoft and implementation partner Diyar United.

It connects more than 80 public and private sector entities, bringing together information on tourism attractions, cultural activities, sporting events, transport, hospitality and related services.

A key feature of the platform is Rashid, a multilingual smart assistant developed using Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and other Azure artificial intelligence technologies. Available in Arabic and English, Rashid helps users plan their journeys, provides guidance on tourist visas, recommends destinations and offers real-time assistance.



Smart platform brings tourism, culture, events and essential visitor services together in one digital destination

The assistant is designed to support visitors before, during and after their trips, providing a more interactive way to explore Kuwait and discover activities suited to their interests. The integration of artificial intelligence is intended to make tourism information more accessible while helping visitors navigate the country's attractions and services through a single digital interface.

Microsoft cloud technology supports integration

The platform uses Microsoft Azure, Azure API Management and Microsoft Fabric to enable secure information-sharing among participating entities. Its data and analytics capabilities provide government stakeholders with real-time insights into tourism trends, visitor engagement and event performance.

These insights can help guide strategic planning, investment decisions and service improvements, supporting the development of a more responsive tourism sector.

The cloud-based infrastructure is designed to accommodate additional partners, new services and major national events while providing flexibility, scalability and security. Centralized content management also helps streamline operations at the Public Authority for Youth and Sports.

Supporting Kuwait Vision 2035

Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports Dr Fatima Sayed Hashem told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that Visit Kuwait represents an important step in presenting the country to the world by bringing tourism, culture, sports, events and essential services together on one smart platform.

She said the platform provides a smoother and more interactive experience for visitors, residents and citizens, adding that cooperation with Microsoft had enabled the use of artificial intelligence and cloud computing to develop a secure and scalable digital service. The initiative also strengthens public-private sector cooperation and supports the ambitions of New Kuwait 2035, she added.

Head of the Networks and Technical Support Department at the authority Engineer Nouf Al-Nasr said the partnership with Microsoft extends beyond the launch of a tourism platform, aiming instead to build an integrated system capable of continuous innovation.

He said the company was proud to partner with Kuwait in developing secure and smart digital experiences that support New Kuwait 2035 and create sustainable value for citizens, residents, visitors and businesses.

As Kuwait continues to expand its tourism offerings, Visit Kuwait represents a significant step towards a more connected and accessible visitor experience, bringing the country's attractions and services closer to those seeking to discover them.

Italian Embassy celebrates National Day, highlights strong ties with Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

The Italian Embassy in Kuwait hosted a reception on Tuesday to celebrate Italy's National Day, Unity Day and Armed Forces Day, bringing together senior Kuwaiti officials, diplomats and representatives of international organizations to mark the occasion and highlight the longstanding friendship between the two countries.

Italian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Lorenzo Morini welcomed the guests and reaffirmed the strong strategic partnership between Kuwait and Italy, describing defence and military cooperation as a key pillar of bilateral relations founded on mutual trust, shared values and common principles.

The reception was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Meshaan, Kuwait Air Force Commander Major General Staff Pilot Fahad Al-Khrenj, heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organizations in Kuwait.

In his address, Ambassador Morini highlighted the steady progress in bilateral relations and the commitment of both countries to expanding cooperation across various fields, particularly defence and security. He described the recent visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to Kuwait as an important milestone in relations. During the visit, Meloni met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The visit resulted in the signing of several agreements and the adoption of the Kuwait-Italy Joint Action Plan for 2027-2030, which sets out a roadmap for strengthening cooperation over the next four years.

Morini said the plan covered political dialogue, defence and security, economic and judicial cooperation, as well as cultural, social and environmental affairs.





> *Defence and military cooperation remain a key pillar of Kuwait-Italy relations, founded on mutual trust, shared values and a common commitment to regional security and stability.*



He added that ensuring its implementation would be among his main priorities, in coordination with the relevant Kuwaiti authorities.

Highlighting the historical dimension of military relations, the ambassador recalled Italy's participation in the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 and the decades of cooperation between the armed forces of both countries. This partnership has focused on exchanging expertise, improving coordination and developing joint capabilities.



He said the close defence ties reflected a shared commitment to regional security and stability, adding that Italy would continue to support Kuwait and strengthen cooperation in defence and security.

Morini concluded by underscoring the longstanding friendship between the Kuwaiti and Italian peoples and his commitment to turning bilateral agreements into practical initiatives that further strengthen the strategic partnership.



MOI urges parents to monitor children's behavior and social circles

The Ministry of Interior (MOI) has urged parents and families to remain vigilant about their children's behavior, friendships and social surroundings, emphasizing that early intervention and open communication are essential to protecting young people from harmful influences.

The ministry's awareness campaign highlights the importance of recognizing early warning signs, including frequent absences, sudden behavioral changes and shifts in children's social relationships.



The guidance, distributed through a series of awareness brochures, aims to help families identify potential risks and take appropriate action before problems escalate.

The ministry warned that children may be vulnerable to exploitation, neglect and abuse, stressing that parents have an important role in safeguarding their well-being through guidance, supervision and timely intervention.

The MOI has encouraged parents to pay close attention to changes in their children's daily routines and behavior, particularly unexplained absences, changes in friendships and signs of withdrawal or unusual conduct.

Families were also urged to understand their children's social surroundings and remain aware of the people with whom they spend their time. The ministry emphasized the importance of educating children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and drugs, warning that awareness and parental involvement can help prevent young people from engaging in risky behavior.

The ministry stressed that maintaining open and trusting communication within families is essential to protecting children.

Parents were encouraged to listen calmly to their children without blame or judgment, creating an environment in which young people feel comfortable discussing their concerns and seeking help.

Such communication, the ministry noted, can help families identify problems at an early stage and respond in a constructive manner. The MOI also urged families to seek assistance whenever necessary, emphasizing that protecting children requires a combination of parental supervision, awareness and cooperation with the relevant authorities.

The ministry's message reinforces the importance of shared responsibility in safeguarding children, with families playing a central role in creating a safe and supportive environment for their growth and development.

Safe driving starts at home as experts urge parents to set the right example

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hamoud Aqla Al-Anzi, a member of the American International Society for Cost Engineering Development, said respect for traffic regulations must be demonstrated consistently, regardless of time pressures or personal circumstances.

He urged parents to obey traffic signals, give way to other motorists, avoid using mobile phones while driving and refrain from cutting queues or blocking roads.

Al-Anzi cautioned against justifying traffic violations by claiming to be in a hurry, stressing that parents must also acknowledge their mistakes and take responsibility rather than attempting to evade the consequences.

The experts called for stronger cooperation between families and schools through joint traffic-awareness programmes, regular discussions about road safety and clear household rules.

They said that when children see their parents consistently respecting traffic laws, they are more likely to develop lasting habits of responsible driving, helping build a safer road environment for the wider community.

The message is clear: safer roads begin not only with traffic regulations and enforcement, but also with the everyday choices made by parents and the example they set for their children.



Behbehani claims Super Stock Pro title at Kuwait Motor Town

Ducati rider finishes 2026 KMTC SBK championship with 85 points, securing the title by a 10-point margin

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwaiti rider Masoud Behbehani has been crowned the 2026 Kuwait Motor Town (KMTC) SBK Super Stock Pro 1100cc champion, adding a significant achievement to Kuwait's motorsport calendar and Ducati's growing international racing success.

Riding his Ducati Panigale V4 S under race number 67, Behbehani secured the overall championship after a consistent and determined campaign. A second-place finish in the fourth and final round on October 30 earned him the points needed to clinch the title, finishing the season with 85 points and a commanding 10-point advantage over his nearest rival.

Behbehani's victory adds another milestone to an exceptional year for Ducati, whose Panigale motorcycles have enjoyed championship success across several international racing series. From Ryo Mizuno's JSB1000 success in Japan and Kyle Ryde's British Superbike Championship triumph to victories in Euro Moto, the Australian Superbike Championship and the Asia Road Racing Championship, Ducati has continued to demonstrate the competitiveness of its racing machines.

The Italian manufacturer also enjoyed success at the highest levels of international competition, with Nicolò Bulega securing the WorldSBK Riders' Championship, alongside Ducati's Manufacturers' and Teams' titles. Darryn Binder also claimed the MotoAmerica Supersport championship aboard the Panigale V2. Behbehani's achievement in Kuwait further strengthens the Panigale's international racing legacy, demonstrating the motorcycle's competitiveness on circuits beyond the world's major championship series.



More than a high-performance motorcycle, the Panigale represents Ducati's racing heritage, combining powerful V4 performance, advanced electronics and engineering developed through competition. In Behbehani's hands, the Panigale V4 S proved a championship-winning machine, supporting a season defined by consistency, determination and competitive spirit.

For Behbehani, the title represents a significant personal milestone and a proud moment for Kuwait's motorsport community, bringing local recognition to a racing tradition that extends from Ducati's historic home in Borgo Panigale, Italy, to circuits around the world. With his championship victory, Behbehani has added his name to Ducati's growing list of international racing successes, bringing the manufacturer's winning tradition to Kuwait Motor Town.

Joyalukkas lights up the festive season offers with 'Joywali Diwali'

. . . Offering free 24K Gold Bars and more!

This Diwali, the brilliance of gold is set to light up every celebration with exciting offers from Joyalukkas. The world's favourite jeweller, has unveiled its much-anticipated 'Joywali Diwali' promotion campaign. The campaign aims to bring together the timeless traditions of the Festival of Lights and the enduring beauty of fine jewellery, giving customers the chance to celebrate prosperity with exceptional value and the auspicious gift of gold.

The festive offers are valid until 8 November 2026 across all Joyalukkas showrooms in Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, KSA, Singapore, Malaysia, the UK, the USA, Australia and India.

A Season of Gold and Good Fortune

At the heart of this year's celebration is a truly golden line-up of rewards. Shoppers can enjoy:

- FREE 24K gold bars or cash vouchers on diamond and precious stone jewellery purchases.
- 0% deduction on old gold exchange.



Get a FREE 22K gold coin on every purchases of gold jewellery worth KWD 350 and above, exclusively on Dhanteras, 6 November 2026.

Together, these offers make this season an ideal time to invest in gold, upgrade a cherished collection or find the perfect festive gift.

Brilliance for Every Celebration

To make Diwali truly special, Joyalukkas showrooms are showcasing an extensive range of festive collections. Shoppers will find everything from timeless gold ornaments and elaborate bridal sets to diamond jewellery and rare precious stones.

Whether customers are looking for traditional temple jewellery, contemporary everyday pieces or statement designs for festive gatherings, there is something to suit every taste, occasion and budget.

A Festival That Unites Hearts and Homes

Diwali is a time for togetherness, gratitude and new beginnings. It celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil and is a moment to share joy with family and friends.

At Joyalukkas, this spirit is reflected in every collection and every offer, because jewellery is more than an adornment. It is a symbol of love, prosperity and bonds that bring people together. This festive season, Joyalukkas invites customers to celebrate with gold that shines as brightly as their hopes for the year ahead.

Announcing the festive campaign, Mr. John Paul Alukkas, CEO, Joyalukkas Jewellery, said, "Diwali is one of the most cherished festivals across our markets, and it brings us immense joy to be part of our customers' celebrations.

"This year, our 'Joywali Diwali' campaign is all about giving back, quite literally, with the gift of gold. We have curated special offers and an extraordinary range of collections to make this festive season truly memorable.

"Whether it is a wedding, a family gathering or a personal milestone, we hope our customers will find something that brings them joy and prosperity for years to come. We wish everyone a Diwali filled with light, laughter and golden moments," CEO added.

New Personal Status Law Must Balance Tradition with Women's Rights and Social Change

Modernising Personal Status Law While Preserving Justice, Islamic Principles and Women's Rights



By Bibi Ahmad Alsunni
Special to The Times Kuwait

The family in today's society is no longer the same as the family known to previous generations. Kuwaiti society has undergone significant social, cultural, economic, and educational transformations. Women have become active partners in shaping society, with an increasingly prominent presence in the fields of employment, education, scientific research, and leadership. Their role is no longer confined to traditional social expectations.

Accordingly, any review of the Personal Status Law must begin with a fundamental recognition: legislation is not a rigid set of provisions detached from society's reality. Rather, it is an instrument designed to regulate relationships, protect rights, and achieve justice. The success of any legislative reform should therefore be measured by its ability to respond to social developments and address contemporary challenges.

The discussion surrounding the proposed new Personal Status Law raises an important legal question: to what extent do the proposed provisions reflect the transformations taking place within society, and do they genuinely achieve a balance between the rights and obligations of spouses? It is difficult to speak of legislative development while certain approaches remain rooted in traditional social roles that may no longer reflect the realities of modern family life or recognise the educational, professional, and economic independence women have achieved.

Women today are not on the margins of family or social development; they are essential participants in both. It is therefore inconsistent for society to advance across different fields while certain legislative approaches remain confined to perceptions that no longer adequately reflect contemporary life.

One of the most important issues requiring careful consideration concerns the regulation of marital rights and obligations. Marriage should not become a relationship based on the exercise of authority or the restriction of either spouse's freedom. Rather, it should be founded on affection, mercy, cooperation, and shared responsibility. Marriage is both a legal and human relationship, not a relationship of subordination. The regulation of family obligations must never be interpreted in a manner that undermines human dignity or the independent legal personality of women.

In this context, it is essential to recognise that Islam historically affirmed the status and dignity of women. It recognised their independent financial capacity, their right to own and dispose of property, and their rights concerning marriage, dowry, and inheritance. It also established affection, mercy, and good treatment as fundamental principles governing marital relationships. The Holy Qur'an states: "And women shall have rights similar to those exercised against them, according to what is fair" (Al-Baqarah, 2:228), and "And live with them in kindness" (An-Nisa, 4:19).

Accordingly, reliance on Islamic Sharia in developing Personal Status legislation should be guided by its fundamental objectives: justice, mercy, the prevention of harm, and the preservation of human dignity. These principles should not be reduced to isolated interpretations or provisions detached from their broader purposes and context. The dignity of women is not a concept introduced by modern international conventions or recent social developments; it is an established principle within Islamic teachings.

With regard to child custody, the governing standard should be the best interests of the child, rather than the mere attainment of a specific age or the mechanical application of a predetermined order without considering the child's individual circumstances and psychological, social, and educational needs. A child should never be treated as an object of dispute between parents, but rather as an independent rights-holder whose interests require legal and judicial protection.



Meaningful legislative reform also requires consideration of social and psychological research, alongside consultation with legal professionals, judges, academics, and specialists in family studies. Addressing contemporary family issues through a purely traditional perspective, without considering their broader implications, may result in legislation that fails to respond adequately to present-day realities.

It is equally important to emphasise that advocating for the development of women's legal rights does not mean promoting one social model at the expense of another, nor does it seek to weaken the family institution or diminish the importance of marriage. Rather, it recognises that family stability cannot be achieved at the expense of the dignity of any of its members. Protecting the family must begin with protecting the rights of everyone within it. The younger generation today differs from previous generations in terms of education, awareness, aspirations, and the nature of social relationships. Legislation that fails to recognise these transformations risks becoming inadequate in addressing the very realities it was designed to regulate.

In my view, what is required is not simply the introduction of a new law, but the development of a more responsive legislative philosophy: one that balances established religious principles with evolving social realities and preserves the identity of society without using that identity as a justification for restricting rights or overlooking the changing nature of modern life. A successful law is neither one that takes society backwards under the pretext of preserving tradition, nor one that abandons its identity in the name of modernisation. Rather, it is one that combines the authenticity of principles, the fairness of legal provisions, and the ability to respond to the demands of the future.

Ultimately, family justice must remain the central objective. Women are not in opposition to men, the family is not in opposition to progress, and Islamic Sharia is not in opposition to women's rights. The real challenge lies in developing legislation that recognises that justice is indivisible, and that human dignity and fundamental rights must remain present in every legal provision.

Bibi Ahmad Alsunni is Kuwaiti lawyer with a strong interest in legal affairs, social issues, and legislative development. My interests include criminal law, international law, aviation law, women's rights, and human rights. She is passionate about legal research and exploring the relationship between law and contemporary societal challenges.

United Indian School Celebrates Founder's Day and annual Thomas Chandy Memorial Award Ceremony 2026







United Indian School celebrated the Founder's Day on October 29, 2026, honoring the vision and legacy of its founder, the late Thomas Chandy, while recognizing the academic achievements of students and the contributions of teachers and staff at its annual Thomas Chandy Memorial Award ceremony.

The event celebrated the outstanding performance of Grade X and XII students in the 2026 CBSE Board Examinations, including subject toppers and students who achieved centums. Teachers who guided students to perfect scores in the Grade X examinations, along with House In-Charge Teachers for the 2025–26 academic year, were also honored for their dedication and commitment.

The program began with the Kuwait National Anthem, followed by the recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation. Mrs Geetha Reji led the opening prayer, remembering the founder and seeking blessings for the occasion.

Principal C. Radhakrishnan welcomed management representatives, dignitaries, teachers, parents and students, reaffirming the school's commitment to its core values.

A school choir presented a tribute song, "Your Dream Lives On", while senior-most faculty member Achamma Kuruvilla, Head of Science at the Primary Section, shared memories of Thomas Chandy and his contribution to the institution. The award ceremony recognized not only academic achievers but also administrative and support staff and school drivers for their dedicated service. The program was compered by Anija Rachel Abraham, while Baby K. Joseph anchored the overall event. The centerpiece of the day was the grand Award Ceremony, compered by Mrs. Anija Rachel Abraham:

Academic Excellence: Meritorious students of Grades X and XII, including subject toppers and centum scorers, were felicitated for their exceptional performance in the 2026 CBSE Board Examinations.

Teacher Appreciation: Teachers who guided students to achieve centums in the Grade X exams and the House In-Charge Teachers for 2025–26 were honoured for their dedicated leadership.

Staff Recognition: Administrative staff, support staff, and drivers were warmly appreciated and recognized for their selfless service to the institution.

Qatar to host global health leaders under 'The New Health Span'

The Times Kuwait Report

Qatar is preparing to host the eighth edition of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH 2026), bringing together international health leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators and healthcare professionals to address some of the most pressing challenges facing global health systems.

Organised by the World Innovation Summit for Health, an initiative of Qatar Foundation, the two-day summit will take place on November 29 and 30, 2026, at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, under the theme 'The New Health Span'.

The summit will focus on a fundamental question confronting healthcare systems worldwide: how can societies ensure that longer lives are also healthier, more dignified and supported by equitable access to quality healthcare?

As medical science, public health and technology continue to extend life expectancy, WISH 2026 will examine how these advances can translate into meaningful improvements in the physical, mental and social wellbeing of people across different stages of life.

The gathering will provide a platform for international collaboration on healthcare policy, scientific research, technological innovation and sustainable financing, with an emphasis on turning evidence and ideas into practical solutions.

According to WISH, the summit will bring together representatives from government, healthcare institutions, academia, research, technology, the private sector and civil society to examine how health systems can respond to demographic changes and rapid scientific advances.

The event reflects Qatar's continued efforts to strengthen its position as an international platform for healthcare dialogue and innovation, while contributing to discussions on the future of health policy and global cooperation.

Beyond longer lives: The new meaning of health

The central theme of WISH 2026, 'The New Health Span', reflects a growing recognition that increasing life expectancy alone is not sufficient to guarantee better health outcomes.

While medical advances have enabled people to live longer, many societies are experiencing a rise in chronic illnesses, age-related health conditions and the demand for long-term care.

For some people, additional years of life are accompanied by good health, independence and continued participation in society. For others, they may involve chronic disease, social isolation, financial hardship or limited access to appropriate healthcare.

The summit will therefore examine how healthcare systems can move beyond a narrow focus on treating illness and develop approaches that support people in maintaining their health, independence and quality of life for longer. WISH Chief Executive Officer Dr Slim Slama has highlighted the importance of addressing this challenge through international cooperation, noting that no single country, sector or discipline can independently develop all the solutions required.

The summit will bring together the experiences of different health systems, the expertise of researchers and healthcare professionals, the perspectives of policymakers and the voices of communities to identify practical ways of improving health outcomes.

Five priorities shaping the future of healthcare

The WISH 2026 programme will be organised around five major themes, each addressing a different dimension of the changing global healthcare landscape.



As medical science, public health and technology continue to extend life expectancy, WISH 2026 will examine how these advances can translate into meaningful improvements in the physical, mental and social wellbeing of people across different stages of life.

1. The Longevity Dividend

The first priority will examine how scientific advances in ageing research can help people remain healthy, active and independent for longer.

Discussions will explore ageing biology, senescence and epigenetics, alongside the policies and social conditions needed to translate scientific discoveries into healthier lives. The emphasis will be on extending health span, rather than simply increasing lifespan.

2. Financing the Cure

Breakthrough treatments, including gene therapies, CAR-T cell therapies and other advanced medical interventions, are creating new possibilities for treating serious diseases.

However, the high cost of these treatments raises questions about affordability, insurance coverage and the long-term sustainability of healthcare budgets. This theme will explore innovative financing arrangements that can make advanced treatments accessible without placing excessive pressure on health systems.

3. AI and Human-Centred Health

Artificial intelligence is transforming medical research, diagnostics, clinical decision-making and the delivery of healthcare.

WISH 2026 will examine how AI can strengthen primary healthcare and support medical professionals while maintaining patient safety, privacy, accountability and public trust.

The discussions will focus on ensuring that technology augments human expertise rather than replacing the essential relationship between healthcare professionals and patients.

4. Future of Fertility

Advances in reproductive medicine are creating new possibilities for individuals and families, while raising complex ethical, social and regulatory questions.

The summit will explore developments in fertility preservation, assisted reproduction, gene editing and AI-assisted embryo selection, alongside concerns about equitable access, responsible clinical practice and appropriate regulation.

5. Health Diplomacy 2.0

Health challenges increasingly cross national borders, making international cooperation essential to protecting populations and strengthening healthcare systems.

This theme will examine how countries can work together amid conflict, climate pressures, migration, disease outbreaks and disruptions to medical supply chains. Discussions will consider how diplomacy, partnerships and coordinated policies can improve preparedness, protect healthcare services and support equitable access to essential medical resources.

From research to real-world solutions

A central objective of WISH 2026 will be to bridge the gap between scientific discovery and its practical application in healthcare systems.

The summit's research programme will examine how emerging technologies and medical advances can be translated into policies and services that benefit patients and communities. Four research reports will address the themes of healthy longevity, financing advanced treatments, responsible AI in healthcare and the future of fertility. These reports are intended to provide evidence-based analysis and practical recommendations for policymakers and healthcare decision-makers.

The programme will also feature plenary sessions, panel discussions and roundtables, creating opportunities for participants to exchange experiences and examine potential approaches to shared challenges.

WISH CEO Dr Slim Slama has emphasised that the summit's success will ultimately be measured by the tangible outcomes achieved after the event, including the development of clear recommendations and practical public policy options.

Qatar's growing role in global health dialogue

WISH 2026 builds on more than a decade of international engagement by Qatar in healthcare research, policy and innovation.

Established in 2012 as an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, WISH has developed into an international healthcare forum connecting researchers, policymakers, practitioners and innovators.

The inaugural summit was held in Doha in 2013, bringing together more than 1,000 global healthcare leaders. Subsequent editions have expanded the organisation's international reach through policy research, expert discussions and partnerships with institutions working on major health challenges.

The initiative operates under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. Its work is focused on identifying evidence-based approaches to improving healthcare systems and encouraging the adoption of innovative policies and practices. The eighth summit will continue this mission by examining how longer lives can be matched with healthier communities, more resilient healthcare systems and fairer access to medical advances.

A forward-looking agenda for global healthcare

The WISH 2026 agenda comes at a time when healthcare systems are facing a combination of demographic, technological and financial pressures.

Ageing populations are increasing demand for long-term care, while advances in medical science are creating new treatment possibilities that may require different approaches to financing and delivery.

At the same time, the rapid development of AI and digital healthcare is changing how medical services are provided, raising important questions about regulation, safety and public confidence.

The summit's focus on healthy longevity, equitable access to treatment, human-centred technology, reproductive health and international cooperation reflects the need for healthcare systems to respond to these interconnected challenges. The summit will take place on November 29 and 30 at the Qatar National Convention Centre. Registration is open through the official WISH website, where further programme information and participation details are available.

THE TIMES KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
Publisher & Editor-In-Chief
Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry
editorial@timeskuwait.com
Managing Editor
Sheikha Suhaila Fahad Al-Sabah
editor@timeskuwait.com
Executive Managing Editor
Reaven D'Souza
reavendsouza@timeskuwait.com
P O Box 5141, Safat 13052, Kuwait
Tel : 24814404, 24810109
Email : editor@timeskuwait.com
Printed in: Al Khat Printing Press Co.



TAJIKISTAN

Mountain Lakes, Ancient Stories and a Warm Welcome



From turquoise mountain lakes and Silk Road heritage to delicious cuisine and heartfelt hospitality, Tajikistan offers Kuwaiti travelers a refreshing escape with a distinctive cultural character.

Imagine a summer holiday surrounded by spectacular mountains, crystal-clear lakes and fresh mountain air, followed by evenings over a traditional meal and a cup of tea. In Tajikistan, this experience comes with an added attraction: a journey through centuries of history and a culture in which hospitality remains a cherished tradition.

For Kuwaiti travelers seeking something beyond the familiar, Tajikistan offers a rewarding combination of nature, culture and relaxation. Families can explore historic sites and gardens, couples can enjoy scenic mountain retreats, and adventure seekers can venture into the legendary Pamirs.

Dushanbe: A capital with character

The journey begins in Dushanbe, a welcoming capital of tree-lined avenues, elegant parks and striking architecture. Rudaki Park, named after the celebrated Persian-Tajik poet, provides a pleasant introduction to the country's literary heritage, while the Ismail Samani Monument reflects Tajikistan's historical identity.

Visitors can admire the craftsmanship of Kakh-i Navruz, explore the National Museum of Antiquities and browse Mehrgan Bazaar for local produce, textiles and handicrafts. The city also offers inviting cafés, restaurants and green spaces where visitors can slow down and enjoy everyday life.

A short excursion to Hisar introduces travelers to the imposing gateway of its historic fortress, offering a glimpse into the region's past.

Lakes that take your breath away

Beyond the capital, the landscape transforms into a world of mountain valleys, winding roads and spectacular lakes.

Iskandarkul, nestled in the Fann Mountains at an elevation of approximately 2,200 metres, is among Tajikistan's most memorable natural attractions. Its name is associated with Alexander the Great, whose legendary journeys have become part of local storytelling. Here, the dramatic mountain backdrop and tranquil waters invite visitors to pause, take photographs and enjoy the scenery.

Another highlight is Haft-kul, or the Seven Lakes, near Panjakent. Set along the Shing Valley, these seven mountain lakes display changing shades of blue and green, each framed by a distinctive landscape. Scenic drives, short walks and visits to nearby villages make the area an excellent choice for travelers who want to experience the mountains without committing to a demanding trek.

Local guesthouses can add a personal dimension to the journey, offering opportunities to meet residents, discover village life and experience Tajik hospitality firsthand.

Tajikistan invites visitors to create a holiday at their own pace, whether that means exploring Dushanbe, discovering the mountain lakes, tracing the Silk Road or venturing into remote highlands. For Kuwaiti travelers, it is a destination where spectacular scenery meets a rich cultural heritage—and where the welcome can be as memorable as the journey itself.

A journey through the Silk Road

Tajikistan's appeal extends well beyond its natural beauty. Its territory preserves remarkable traces of the civilizations that flourished along ancient trade routes.

Near Panjakent, the ruins of Ancient Panjakent reveal the world of the Sogdians, whose cities played an important role in regional trade and cultural exchange. Nearby Sarazm, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, preserves evidence of settlement dating back to the fourth millennium BCE and offers a fascinating glimpse into early urban life.

For visitors, combining these historical sites with the Seven Lakes creates a particularly rewarding itinerary: mountain scenery one day, ancient civilizations the next. Those with more time can travel north to Khujand or plan a separate expedition to the Pamirs. The legendary Pamir Highway, the remote Wakhan Valley and the dramatic landscapes around Khorog offer extraordinary experiences for adventurous travelers, although these routes require additional time and careful planning.

The taste of Tajik hospitality

Perhaps the most lasting memories of Tajikistan are made around the table. Hospitality is deeply rooted in local culture, and guests are welcomed with tea, freshly baked bread, seasonal fruit and generous meals.

Palav, a traditional rice dish prepared with ingredients such as meat, carrots and onions, occupies a special place in Tajik cuisine. Sharing a meal is more than a culinary experience; it is an opportunity to connect with people and learn about their traditions.





The country's cultural heritage is also alive in its handicrafts, music and celebrations. Chakan and Suzani embroidery showcase intricate designs and colorful craftsmanship, while traditional musical forms such as Shashmaqam and Falak offer a distinctive expression of the region's artistic heritage. During Nawruz, the spring festival celebrated across the region, traditions of renewal, community and hospitality take center stage.

For Kuwaiti visitors, the warmth of the welcome may feel familiar, even as the surrounding landscapes and cultural expressions offer something new.

Your next journey awaits

Tajikistan invites visitors to create a holiday at their own pace, whether that means exploring Dushanbe, discovering the mountain lakes, tracing the Silk Road or venturing into remote highlands. For Kuwaiti travelers, it is a destination where spectacular scenery meets a rich cultural heritage—and where the welcome can be as memorable as the journey itself.

Plan Your Visit

Best time to visit: Spring and autumn for city sightseeing and cultural excursions; summer for many mountain destinations, depending on altitude and weather.





Suggested stay: Eight to ten days for Dushanbe, Hisar, the Fann Mountains and Panjakent. The Pamirs require additional time.

Flights: Check Jazeera Airways for direct Kuwait–Dushanbe services on your preferred travel dates.

Entry requirements: Kuwaiti nationals enjoy the visa-free entry arrangements for 30 days. Other Kuwait residents should check requirements based on their nationality.

Travel information: traveltajikistan.tj | ctd.tj

TIMES KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
The Times Kuwait
www.timeskuwait.com
15 - 21 November 2026





HYATT REGENCY LONDON

The Churchill blends British heritage with contemporary luxury

The Times Kuwait Report

Set in the elegant Marylebone neighbourhood, the five-star hotel combines a tribute to Winston Churchill with refined accommodation, distinctive dining and convenient access to London's most celebrated attractions.

In the heart of London's West End, where historic streets meet the energy of one of the world's most vibrant capitals, Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill offers a hospitality experience shaped by British heritage, contemporary comfort and understated sophistication.

Located at 30 Portman Square in Marylebone, the five-star property overlooks the leafy Portman Square Garden and places guests within easy reach of Oxford Street, Hyde Park and the capital's renowned shopping, cultural and entertainment districts. Its location makes it an appealing choice for international visitors, business travellers and those seeking a luxurious base from which to explore London.

A tribute to a defining British figure

The hotel's identity draws inspiration from Sir Winston Churchill, the British prime minister whose leadership during the Second World War helped define modern British history. Rather than relying solely on traditional grandeur, the property incorporates subtle Churchill-inspired design details into its interiors, creating a setting that reflects classic British style while meeting the expectations of modern luxury travellers.

The result is an atmosphere that balances elegance with a welcoming residential feel. Many rooms offer views of the gardens at Portman Square, providing a peaceful contrast to the pace of central London.

The property features 440 guest rooms and suites, including 50 suites, with accommodation designed to cater to individual travellers, families and guests seeking more spacious residential-style comfort. Selected suites offer separate living and dining areas, while premium accommodation provides additional amenities and access to Regency Club services.



A distinctive culinary experience

Dining is an important part of the hotel's appeal, with restaurants and bar spaces offering different experiences, from relaxed meals to sophisticated evenings. For a different mood, The Churchill Bar & Terrace offers a more intimate setting inspired by Sir Winston Churchill and his wife, Clementine. A distinctive feature of Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill is The Churchill Bar & Terrace, which offers a dedicated experience for cigar enthusiasts in a setting inspired by Sir Winston Churchill's appreciation for fine cigars and leisurely conversation.

The experience extends to the hotel's elegant outdoor terrace, where guests can enjoy cigars in a heated, semi-enclosed setting throughout the year. A specially commissioned, life-size bronze statue of a young Churchill, titled In Conversation, adds a distinctive historical touch, creating the impression of sharing a relaxed moment with the former British prime minister himself. The terrace combines comfortable seating and atmospheric surroundings, making it a popular setting for guests seeking an unhurried evening in central London.

Designed for business and special occasions

Beyond its leisure offering, the hotel's event facilities include a ballroom, meeting rooms, boardrooms and flexible function spaces equipped for business and social occasions. The hotel also accommodates weddings and private events, with its events team helping organise gatherings ranging from smaller meetings to larger celebrations.

For business travellers, the combination of accommodation, dining and meeting facilities within one property offers convenience, while its central location provides access to London's commercial districts and transport connections. Guests seeking additional services can also explore the hotel's Regency Club offering, which includes dedicated lounge facilities and enhanced services for eligible room categories. A fitness facility and concierge services further support the needs of international travellers.





A prime address for exploring London

One of the property's strongest advantages is its location. Situated in Marylebone, it offers access to the boutiques and restaurants of the surrounding neighbourhood while remaining close to the major attractions of the West End.

Oxford Street and Marble Arch are nearby, while Hyde Park offers a welcome green escape from the city's busy streets. Guests can also explore neighbouring Mayfair, visit museums and galleries, enjoy London's theatre scene or discover the capital's historic landmarks.

The hotel's position also makes it practical for visitors combining leisure with business engagements, with transport links connecting the neighbourhood to other parts of London and major railway stations. In a city with a wide selection of luxury hotels, Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill distinguishes itself through the combination of a prestigious address, Churchill-inspired character and contemporary hospitality.



Its appeal lies in bringing together several elements of the London experience: the elegance of Marylebone, the tranquillity of a garden-facing setting, thoughtfully designed accommodation and dining venues that cater to both hotel guests and local visitors. For travellers seeking a centrally located luxury hotel with a recognisably British identity, the property offers a blend of comfort, convenience and character — a place where the legacy of a prominent historical figure informs the atmosphere without overshadowing the demands of modern travel.

The hotel's ownership history reflects several decades of change in London's luxury hospitality sector. Opened in 1970 as The Churchill under the management of the American Loews Hotels group, the property was developed by Sir Eric Miller, who chose its name in honour of former British prime minister Sir Winston Churchill. It was acquired by Hong Kong-registered Park Lane Hotels International in 1982 before ownership passed to the National Bank of Kuwait in 1992.

In February 1998, the bank sold the property for US$242 million to a Qatari consortium, which subsequently engaged InterContinental Hotels to manage it. In 2004, Hyatt took over the hotel's management, establishing its current identity as Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill

SAAZ Group partners with BIBA to expand Indian fashion presence in Kuwait



India's leading ethnic wear brand widens its global footprint, bringing contemporary Indian fashion to Kuwait.

Kuwait's fashion retail market is set to welcome BIBA, one of India's leading ethnic womenswear brands, following a partnership with Saaz Group to introduce its traditional and contemporary collections across the country's major shopping destinations.



The partnership, led by Saaz Group Founder and Managing Director Dr Shabbir Qamar and BIBA Managing Director Siddharth Bindra, marks an important step in the Indian brand's international expansion, bringing its distinctive blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern fashion to Kuwait.

Founded in Mumbai in 1988 by Meena Bindra, BIBA has grown into a recognized name in Indian womenswear, offering affordable collections ranging from salwar kameez, everyday kurtas and suit sets to fusion outfits, unstitched fabrics and occasion wear. Its portfolio has also expanded to include premium wedding wear, handbags, footwear, jewellery, fragrances and accessories.

The Kuwait launch will also introduce BIBA NXT, the brand's contemporary fashion line targeting Gen Z and millennial consumers. The collection features fusion silhouettes, corset-style tops and versatile designs combining Indian influences with international fashion trends. BIBA also operates a dedicated children's range, BIBA Girls, catering to those aged two to 15.

The brand has more than 330 stores across 26 Indian states and is also available through major retail chains, including Shopper's Stop, Lifestyle and Pantaloons.

Dr Qamar said Saaz Group was delighted to bring BIBA to Kuwait, describing the brand as a name synonymous with the colors and craftsmanship of Indian fashion. He said the partnership would combine BIBA's fashion heritage with Saaz Group's local market knowledge and retail expertise to create an appealing shopping experience.

Siddharth Bindra said international expansion was an important part of BIBA's growth strategy, noting the growing appreciation for Indian fashion in overseas markets, particularly the Middle East. He expressed confidence that the partnership would help introduce the brand's collections to Kuwaiti customers and establish a strong presence in the region.

The Kuwait expansion comes as founder Meena Bindra secured the top position in the Fashion and Lifestyle category of the Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026.

Union OF EUROPEAN FLAVOURS

40 Anniversary of EU-Kuwait Relations

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



One of the most famous dishes of the Croatian Zagorje region is undoubtedly Zagorje štrukli. This traditional speciality is made with fresh cow's cheese, butter, eggs and flour, topped with sour cream and baked in the oven. It promises to delight even the most discerning food lovers.

Whether boiled, baked, or boiled and then baked, štrukli can be served in soup or enjoyed as a savoury or sweet dish. They are equally delicious as an appetiser, dessert or a meal on their own.

Preparing this traditional dish requires a special skill known to generations of home cooks in Croatian Zagorje. The art of making Zagorje štrukli has been recognised and included on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Croatia.

INGREDIENTS

- Makes approximately 50 pieces
- For the Pastry
- 1 kg all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 2 dl water, plus extra if needed
- 1 dl sunflower oil
- 1 tsp salt

For the Filling

- 2.5 kg cottage cheese
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp sugar*
- 3 tsp salt
- 0.5 dl oil
- 2 dl sour cream

The quantities above are for savoury štrukli. For a sweet version, increase the sugar and reduce the salt to taste.

For the Topping

- 1 dl sour cream
- 1 egg
- A pinch of salt
- A few cubes of butter, for topping

PREPARATION

- Prepare the pastry dough. Mix the lukewarm water with the salt and oil. Add the mixture to the flour and egg in a bowl, then knead until a smooth, soft and elastic dough forms.
- Rest the dough. Divide the dough into three portions. Lightly coat each portion with oil, cover with cling film and leave at room temperature for 30 minutes to one hour.
- Roll out the pastry. Lightly flour a tablecloth and sprinkle it with oil. Let it rest for five minutes. Place one portion of dough on the tablecloth, roll it out and gently stretch it towards the edges of the table until it becomes very thin. Trim any excess dough hanging over the edges.
- Prepare the filling. In a bowl, combine the cottage cheese, eggs, sugar, salt, oil and sour cream. Mix until evenly combined.
- Fill the pastry. Spread one-third of the filling evenly over the rolled-out dough. Lift the edge of the tablecloth to help roll the pastry and filling into a long roll.
- Repeat. Repeat the process with the remaining two portions of dough and filling.
- Cut the štrukli. Using the edge of a plate, cut each roll into pieces approximately 8–11 cm long.
- Arrange in the baking dish. Grease a baking dish with butter and arrange the štrukli inside.
- Prepare the topping. In a small bowl, combine the sour cream, egg and a pinch of salt. Pour the mixture evenly over the štrukli and scatter a few cubes of butter on top.
- Bake. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Bake for approximately 40 minutes, or until the štrukli are golden brown.
- Serve. Allow the štrukli to cool slightly before serving warm.



Kuwait, India deepen strategic partnership as diplomatic ties mark 65 years

Kuwait and India are looking to expand their longstanding strategic partnership, with growing opportunities in trade, investment, energy and other key sectors as the two countries mark 65 years of diplomatic relations.

Kuwait's Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shamali said the anniversary reflected a deep-rooted friendship shaped by centuries of maritime trade, social exchanges and expanding cooperation between the two nations.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the ambassador said diplomatic relations, established in 1961, had developed into a comprehensive partnership covering politics, defense, trade, investment, education, culture, healthcare, labor and energy.

Our strategic partnership reflects the shared commitment of Kuwait and India to achieving their development ambitions, while opening new avenues for trade, investment, energy and broader cooperation.



The two countries have concluded nearly 40 agreements and memoranda of understanding, with several additional agreements under consideration and negotiation. Their completion would further strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and commercial fields.

From historical friendshi to strategic partnership

Kuwait and India have enjoyed longstanding commercial and social connections, with maritime trade serving as an important link between their peoples long before the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.

Over the decades, reciprocal high-level visits and sustained diplomatic engagement have transformed these historical ties into a broader partnership. The relationship reached a new milestone in December 2024, when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kuwait and the two countries elevated their relations to a strategic partnership.

The ambassador said the partnership reflected the shared commitment of both nations to achieving their development ambitions under Kuwait Vision 2035 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Amid prevailing geopolitical tensions, continued coordination between the two countries has become increasingly important, with political consultations and joint committees providing platforms to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise.

Trade and investment offer new opportunities

India remains one of Kuwait's key trading partners, with economic cooperation extending beyond traditional commercial exchanges.

Al-Shamali highlighted the contribution of Kuwaiti investments to vital sectors of the Indian economy, noting that these investments also support Kuwait's efforts to diversify its sources of income.

He expressed hope for increased Kuwaiti investment in India and greater Indian investment in Kuwait, particularly in sectors that can contribute to national economic development. The two countries are seeking to build on their existing commercial relationship by identifying new areas of cooperation that can generate mutual benefits and support long-term growth.

Energy remains a cornerstone

Energy continues to be a central pillar of Kuwait-India relations, with Kuwait supplying around five percent of India's oil and gas requirements, according to the ambassador.

The importance of this partnership extends beyond energy supplies, as both countries seek to broaden cooperation in sectors that complement their respective development priorities.

With Kuwait pursuing economic diversification and India advancing its long-term development ambitions, the two nations have considerable scope to expand cooperation across a wider range of industries.

Building on 65 years of friendship

The 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations provides an opportunity for Kuwait and India to strengthen their longstanding friendship and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Al-Shamali expressed confidence that bilateral relations would continue to grow in the coming years, supported by the strategic partnership, expanding economic ties and close people-to-people connections.

As both countries look towards the future, their shared history and common development objectives offer a strong foundation for a partnership that continues to evolve with changing regional and global priorities.

