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COP29 Climate Talks Amid Soaring Temperatures, Rising Emissions

THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

The 29th iteration of the annual United Nations climate talks, the Conference of Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is underway in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11-22 November. Amid record high global temperatures and increasing incidents of climate catastrophes, COP29 provides a pivotal opportunity for the world community to accelerate action, and enhance resources needed to confront the climate crisis.

In his address to the two-day world leaders summit at COP29 on 12 November, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated: "We are in the final countdown to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. And time is not on our side. At COP28, all of you agreed to move away from fossil fuels; to accelerate net zero energy systems and set milestones to get there; to boost climate adaptation; and to align the next round of economy-wide national climate plans with the



1.5 degree limit. It is now time to deliver." Kuwait was represented at the COP29 summit by the representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In his speech at the summit, His Highness the

Crown Prince reiterated Kuwait's commitment to environmental sustainability, and climate framework agreements, and added that the country seeks to align its economic growth with low-carbon development, attain climate resilience by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

The crown prince explained that in order to achieve these climate gains, Kuwait is developing strategic clean energy projects that reduce carbon emissions by employing low-carbon technologies. He added that through long-term investment partnerships in sustainable energy,

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Al Muzaini **المزيني**
 Exchange **للمصرفة**
 SINCE 1942

SEND MONEY TO INDIA
 FOR THE CHANCE TO

WIN GOLD & CASH

TOTAL PRIZES OVER
₹3,000,000

MEGA PRIZE
₹1,000,000

₹10,000
DAILY PRIZE

8 GRAMS
GOLD COIN
WEEKLY PRIZE

AL MUZAINI APP TRANSFERS GIVES
 THREE LUCKY WINNERS THE CHANCE TO WIN
IPHONE 16 PRO MAX

British Embassy hosts celebrations to mark birthday of King Charles III



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

British Embassy held a celebration last week to mark the 76th birthday of the British monarch, King Charles III. Attendees at the event included Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, and the Minister of Public Works Noura Al-Mashran, as well as a large gathering of diplomats, military attachés and special invitees.

In her address to the gathering, British Ambassador H.E. Belinda Lewis said that the year 2024 held special significance in the bilateral relations between Britain and Kuwait, as it marked 125 years of distinctive diplomatic ties and bonds of friendship between the two governments and people.

She added that various events and activities were held throughout the year to celebrate the 125 eventful years of strong ties, including cooperation in the field of culture and art. These included the recent painting of a mural at the Al-Mubarakiya market by artists from the United Kingdom and Kuwait, as well as artistic renditions that blended traditional Kuwaiti Sado art with the arts of Scotland in the British capital London in May.

Ambassador Lewis noted that military and security cooperation this year witnessed many achievements, including the joint exercise (Iron Shield) between the Kuwaiti forces and the United Kingdom forces to raise the readiness of both parties to face challenges in the region. And on the people's level, "the year 2024 witnessed the launch of visit-visa applications to the UK being made available online, making it more easier for Kuwaitis to visit the United Kingdom."

In a statement on the sidelines of the celebrations, Al-Yousef stressed the depth of firm and historical relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, pointing out that "this year the two countries celebrate 125 years of strong diplomatic relations and cooperation in various fields, including in the defense area. The Acting Prime Minister also revealed that he personally witnessed the depth of these relations during his period of training at the British military academy.

For his part, the visiting British Minister for Middle East and North Africa Affairs, Afghanistan and Pakistan Hamish Falconer said, "British-Kuwait relations exceed the 125 years of diplomatic relations. Our bilateral trade relations began in 1775 and have grown over the centuries to reach in excess of six billion British pounds a year today. These trade relations are expected to increase even higher in the coming years, especially after we finalize the free trade agreement with the GCC countries soon."

"Besides the strong economic, military and security ties, we are united even more through the strong relations between the two peoples, not only at the level of the heads of the two countries, but also at the level of what brings us together, like the 10,000 Kuwaiti students who study around the United Kingdom.

During his first visit to Kuwait, the British minister met with a number of senior Kuwaiti officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister

Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber, and discussed, "the very worrying situation in the Middle East, and the ways the United Kingdom and Kuwait can work together to address this situation."

Minister Falconer also welcomed the deal signed last month with the British company SRT Marine Systems to support the development of the Kuwaiti coast guard capabilities, praising the Defence and security cooperation between

the two countries. Other meetings held by Minister Falconer also included his meeting with the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, Ghanim Al-Ghaniman, and a roundtable meeting with representatives of prominent British businesses in Kuwait.

Commenting on his visit, Falconer said that "the United Kingdom and Kuwait have shared strong diplomatic relations for more than a

century and a quarter. This historic year also gave us the opportunity to reflect on our common history and work to strengthen current and future cooperation between our two countries."

The British minister's visit to Kuwait comes as part of a broader Gulf tour, where he will visit Saudi Arabia this week to discuss the importance of a ceasefire in both Gaza and Lebanon, and de-escalation in the region.



British Embassy solemnly observes Remembrance Day

British Embassy solemnly marked 'Remembrance Day' on 11 November, in honor of all those who sacrificed their lives for the nation in conflicts and from terrorism.

The ceremony was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, military attachés, veterans, and officers from the Kuwaiti and British armies to honor martyrs—whether soldiers who sacrificed their lives in defense of their countries or civilians lost to war and acts of terrorism.

Many attendees wore or drew the poppy flower, symbolizing remembrance and hope for a more peaceful future.

In a media statement on the occasion, Commander of the Air Defence Force, Major General Khaled Darer Al-Shariyan, who represented the



Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, said, "We thank the Ambassador of the United Kingdom for the kind invitation to commemorate the military martyrs who sacrificed their lives in service. Commemorating this anniversary is our duty towards them, and we express our appreciation and gratitude for their work, hoping for security and safety for all nations."

He added, "The martyrs of duty have our utmost appreciation and gratitude. Their sacrifice is the highest honor, especially in the defense of the homeland. This is the wish of every person who seeks to defend their country."

Addressing the gathering, British Ambassador H. E. Belinda Lewis said,

"This commemoration, held annually since November 1919, one year after the armistice that marked the end of the First World War, is always an occasion of great significance. This event offers an opportunity to reflect on the losses caused by conflict and terrorism, and to remember all those who lost their lives—regardless of side—due to these tragedies."

For his part, the British Embassy's Military Attaché, Colonel Neil Marriott (Royal Navy), said, "We are proud of the long history of relations between the United Kingdom and Kuwait. This year, we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations."

He highlighted the commitment of the armed forces of both countries to enhance security and military cooperation. He also emphasized the United Kingdom's dedication to supporting Kuwait and standing by its side to ensure peace, security, and stability in the region.

Regarding joint exercises, he said, "We strive to conduct exercises regularly between the British and Kuwaiti armed forces, and there are many training courses held in the United Kingdom, with the active participation of Kuwaiti soldiers."

He also pointed to the completion of the 'Iron Shield 2-2024' joint exercise between the Kuwaiti and British forces at the Saleh Al-Mohammed Automatic Brigade/94, with sixty British soldiers taking part. He noted that the exercise is part of ongoing joint cooperation between the two forces, designed to enhance training, command and control operations, and unify operational concepts. The exercise also serves to exchange experiences and improve the combat readiness of both sides.

He pointed out that 34 British military personnel are permanently stationed at the military command headquarters in Kuwait, in addition to British military personnel at the Arifjan Camp and Ali Al-Salem Air Base.

Regarding military projects and deals between the two countries, he said, "There are government arrangements between the British Ministry of Defence and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence, allowing Kuwait to purchase any military capabilities it may need from the United Kingdom. We are aware that Kuwait is currently studying several projects, and the UK is ready to offer solutions. While Kuwait has not yet submitted a purchase order through the two governments (G2G), there are opportunities to acquire exceptional capabilities."

Asked about coordination between the British Army and countries in the region amid current events, Marriott emphasized that the United Kingdom is committed to supporting regional peace and security and is actively engaged in significant diplomatic efforts throughout the region.

Elaborating on the occasion, Marriott said, "On Memorial Day, we honor those who sacrificed their lives for peace and freedom. As we celebrate 125 years of the Kuwaiti-British partnership, we hope to continue the shared values of courage, duty, and unity that have long strengthened the privileged ties between our two countries."

Kuwait ranks among world's influential financial centers

Kuwait is now ranked among the most influential financial centers globally, with the country listed sixth in the Gulf and 100th globally in the international Financial Centers Index (IFCI) published by the CEOWORLD magazine in collaboration with the CEO Policy Institute.

New York was ranked as the world's most influential financial center for 2025, with Singapore and London taking second and third places, while Amsterdam and Hong Kong followed in fourth and fifth. Zurich, Paris, Luxembourg, Tokyo, and Dubai were ranked sixth through tenth, respectively, in the latest IFCI.

In the Arab world, Dubai ranked first and

tenth globally, followed by Abu Dhabi in second place and 20th globally, then Doha in third at 68th globally, Riyadh in fourth at 77th globally, and Manama in fifth at 84th globally.

For decades, global financial centers have played a crucial role in capital market activities. These centers share key characteristics, including infrastructure that supports billions of transactions and regulatory frameworks that promote market transparency.

The IFCI provides an accurate assessment of global financial centers' competitiveness, based on data collected directly from a comprehensive questionnaire and over 50



reliable indicators, including sources such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Compiled by the magazine, this trusted index ranks 115 financial centers worldwide, drawing on insights from thousands of financial services professionals and global bankers.

A financial center is defined as a city or region strategically positioned within the financial industry, concentrating various sector participants—including banks, trading firms, exchanges, and other institutions—in one location. Such centers are distinguished by strong infrastructure, stable regulatory and political environments, attractive tax policies, and ample opportunities that drive trade and business growth.

Sedentary lifestyle in Kuwait increases health risks

Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abeer Al-Baho, announced that the rate of physical inactivity among adolescents aged 11 to 17 in Kuwait, has risen to 84 percent, according to recent statistics, and to about 67 percent among adults.

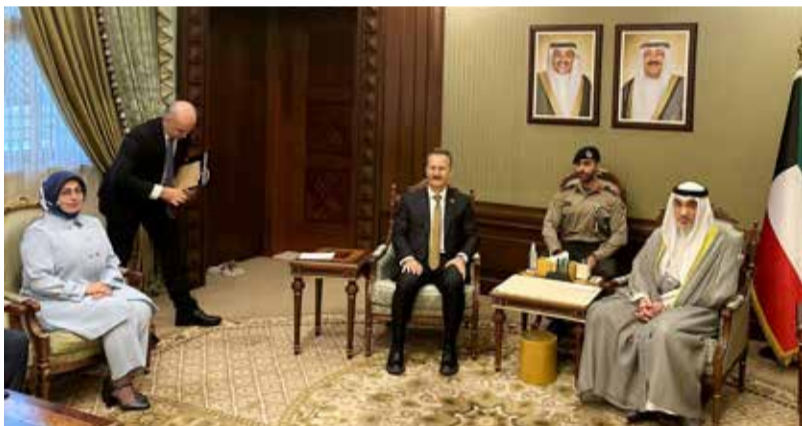
The alarming statistics were revealed by

Al-Baho during a physical exercise training course organized by the Ministry of Health's Primary Care Department. The initiative aims to encourage physical activity, which otherwise can lead to the risk of non-communicable chronic diseases such as cardiovascular ailments, obesity, and type2 diabetes.

The training course provides guidelines to promote and support a more active lifestyle across various age groups in Kuwait, including individuals with chronic conditions, disabilities, and for pregnant and postpartum women, ensuring inclusivity in health promotion.

The World Health Organization's sustainable

development plans aim to reduce physical inactivity rates by 15 percent by 2030. These recommendations encourage countries to launch national awareness campaigns and foster environments that support physical activity across all segments of society, promoting sports and exercise as accessible for everyone.



Visit by Turkish official strengthens cooperation in defense sector

Secretary of Defense Industries of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Haluk Görgün, along with his accompanying delegation, visited Kuwait last week to discuss cooperation between the two friendly countries in the defense sector.

The Turkish official was welcomed at the airport by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al Sabah and Acting Chief of General Staff, Major General Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Turkish Ambassador, H.E. Tuba Nur Sönmez, accompanied the delegation in the delegation's meetings with Kuwaiti officials.

Upon the arrival of the delegation, a meeting was held at Amiri Airport Lounge with the Undersecretary of the Defense Ministry and the Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff. Following the meeting, the delegation visited the Turkish Embassy. Afterward, they proceeded to the Headquarters of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) and met with KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai.

The visiting delegation were later hosted for lunch at the General Staff Headquarters. Attending on behalf of Kuwait were the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al Sabah; the Acting Chief of General Staff, Major General Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah; and the Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Procurement, Sheikha Dr. Eng. Shamayel Ahmad Khaled Al-Sabah.

The delegation was subsequently received by the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, at Bayan Palace.

Throughout these productive meetings, cooperation in the field of defense industries between Turkey and Kuwait was discussed, highlighting a shared commitment to strengthening ties. The positive atmosphere of the discussions underscored the promising outlook for enhanced collaboration in the defense industry sector in the years to come.



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Visiting US diplomat lauds Kuwait's efforts in combating TIP

United States Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Cindy Dyer, praised Kuwait's continued efforts in combating trafficking in persons (TIP), and the country's commitment to international laws and regulations. Kuwait's increased efforts in this sphere were also noted in the US Department of State's 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report.

The annual report maintained Kuwait's ranking in the second tier of the 'Watch List' for human trafficking for the third consecutive year, and highlighted Kuwait's progress in addressing human trafficking, including its adherence to global standards, though further improvements are still needed to fully address the issue.



In a media interview during her visit to Kuwait last week, Ambassador Dyer stressed the importance of prioritizing the prosecution, prevention, and protection of victims in legislative work. She praised Kuwait's efforts in this regard, especially the previously drafted National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Human Trafficking, which is used to monitor and identify cases of human trafficking. She encouraged Kuwait to try and seek "more investigations, prosecutions and convictions, as holding traffickers accountable is important."

Ambassador Dyer was acknowledged the tireless efforts of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, in the field of combating human trafficking, and stressed his initiative to

immediately deal with any company that is not committed to giving its workers' wages and taking legal action against them. She emphasized the importance of timely wage payments in combating labor exploitation, noting that delays or non-payment of wages can be a dangerous indicator of forced labor.

Expressing gratitude, Ambassador Dyer praised Kuwait's focus on ensuring fair wages for workers and highlighted the launch of an electronic reporting service for human trafficking crimes in October, aimed at facilitating the reporting of violations. This service is a step forward in providing better access to justice and supporting efforts to combat human trafficking and labor abuse.

The annual US report also acknowledged Kuwait's shelter and service center for female victims, while also recommending the establishment of a shelter specifically for male victims of trafficking. This recommendation aims to ensure that all victims, regardless of gender, receive appropriate support and protection. Kuwait's continued focus on enhancing its systems for victim support was noted as an important part of its ongoing efforts in this area.

In this regard, Ambassador Dyer expressed her admiration for the men's shelter center to be opened shortly, under supervision of Kuwait's Ministry of Interior, which she visited during her trip to Kuwait. Highlighting its positive features, she noted its excellent recreational and sports amenities, and the inclusion of a dedicated room for civil society organizations, which she found particularly encouraging. She emphasized that the government-run shelter reflects a significant step forward in addressing the needs of male victims of trafficking and exploitation.

On the long-standing issue of the sponsorship system in Kuwait, Ambassador Dyer noted that it can increase workers' vulnerability to human trafficking by restricting their ability to leave exploitative jobs. She emphasized that this limitation, if misused, contributes to labor exploitation and highlights the need for reform to prevent such abuse.

Ambassador Dyer suggested that Kuwait consider alternative amendments to the sponsorship system, based on feedback from civil society organizations in the country. These groups have expressed interest in exploring new methods for issuing visas and employment contracts. Moreover, she emphasized that these alternative options, proposed by non-

governmental organizations, could provide better solutions to reduce the risks of exploitation and human trafficking.

In response to questions about criticism of the US for politicizing human rights issues in the Gulf, Ambassador Dyer clarified that the US is required by law to assess human trafficking and human rights conditions in every country, including Gulf States. She emphasized that these evaluations are conducted across 188 countries, including the US itself, and are not selective. This systematic approach ensures a comprehensive and impartial review of government efforts worldwide.

Ambassador Dyer assessed the protection measures for domestic workers in Kuwait, highlighting the challenges in controlling recruitment companies abroad, such as in the Philippines or India. She noted that while Kuwait cannot directly regulate these foreign recruitment agencies, both the Philippines and India must ensure that their recruitment practices are transparent and honest. Furthermore,

Ambassador Dyer emphasized that Kuwait can enhance its control and oversight of local recruitment agencies to ensure workers' rights are respected, including honest claims regarding working hours or monthly salaries.

In addition, Ambassador Dyer praised Kuwait's use of electronic services like the 'Sahel' application, which she saw as a positive step in assisting workers who may face forced labor or abuse. She emphasized that such platforms are especially valuable for domestic workers who may have difficulty accessing physical shelters or services. The electronic system allows these workers to seek help more easily, making it a crucial tool in Kuwait's ongoing efforts to protect vulnerable laborers.

She suggested that Kuwait could expand the app's accessibility by offering it in additional commonly spoken languages to ensure that more workers can access the services they need. This would further enhance Kuwait's ability to support vulnerable workers and ensure that assistance is available to those who need it most.



City Hypermarket launches latest branch in Ahmadi

City Hypermarket, one of Kuwait's leading retail chains, inaugurated its newest branch in the country at Ahmadi on 7 November. The hypermarket was inaugurated by Founder and Chairman of City Hypermarket, Adel Yaqoub Alghanim, Chief Executive Officer, Jassim Yaqoub Alghanim, Deputy CEO, Nasser Adel Alghanim, as well as members of the senior management, media personnel, and community members from Ahmadi.

The new location, strategically situated to serve the surrounding communities, underscores City Hypermarket's commitment to expanding its footprint and providing a one-stop shopping experience for the residents of Kuwait. Located in Habara Plaza, the new store is designed to offer a comprehensive range of products and merchandise from a wide array of departments, including groceries, fresh produce, cleaning essentials, home goods, toys, and much more. The store aims to become a central hub for families in the community, offering everything they need under one roof, with an unmatched affordable shopping experience. City Hypermarket's expansion is driven by a strategic approach to selecting large-format locations that allow for maximum convenience and service to customers.

One of the company's flagship stores, located in Salmiya, is a prime example, covering up to 25,000 square meters of space. Similar to the Salmiya store, the new Ahmadi store's large size and diverse offerings are designed to cater to a broad range of customer needs and deliver an exceptional shopping experience, with promotions and value at the heart of the offering.

Expressing his pride in the company's rapid growth, Mr. Nasser Adel Alghanim, said, "We are delighted to open two large-format stores in the same year, beginning with our store in Hawally and now in Ahmadi. This marks a



significant milestone in our expansion plans, with three more stores set to open by 2025. We are committed to providing our customers with unparalleled service, and this new location is another step toward fulfilling that promise."

He also emphasized City Hypermarket's ongoing efforts to enhance the customer experience through innovative technologies. "We are investing heavily in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies to improve our operations and offer a more personalized, efficient shopping experience. Our focus on leveraging technology ensures that we can better understand our customers' needs and continue to build customer delight and loyalty."

The opening of the Ahmadi store also reflects City Hypermarket's vision to uplift the shopping experience, making it more convenient, enjoyable, and rewarding for customers. With cutting-edge technology, smart product offerings, and dedicated customer support, the company is redefining retail in Kuwait.

As City Hypermarket continues to expand its network of large-format stores across the country, the company remains focused on its core mission: to deliver quality products, exceptional service, and a truly innovative shopping experience for every customer.

Cruise Center wins accolade for MSC cruise sales

Cruise Center, a separate division under Kuwait based Caesars Travel Group, has been awarded the prestigious second-place accolade for promoting MSC Cruises within the GCC region.

Recognized among premium cruise lines, MSC Cruises is renowned for its extensive onboard entertainment, global itineraries, and luxurious MSC Yacht Club, a ship-within-a-ship experience.

The award ceremony took place aboard the MSC Grandiosa, sailing from Barcelona to Rome, and was attended by MSC's senior officials. Jyothi, a senior staff member from Cruise Center, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

"We are thrilled to receive this award," said P.N.J. Kumar, CEO of Caesars Travel Group. "This honor reaffirms our commitment to delivering exceptional service to MSC Cruise enthusiasts and all cruise lovers. We sincerely thank the judges and our loyal customers for their continued support and trust in Cruise Center."

Cruise Center is a prominent platform representing leading global cruise lines and specializes in promoting cruise vacations to enthusiasts in Kuwait. As a market leader in cruise sales, the division maintains strong relationships



with customers and travel agents, a key factor in earning this recognition from MSC.

Guided by Cruise Center's expert staff, whose industry insights and firsthand experience help travelers select cruises suited to their interests, the division has also received awards from other major cruise lines, recognizing its efforts to promote cruise travel both in Kuwait and beyond.

Health Ministry confirms significant drop in diabetic foot amputation rates

The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, confirmed today that recent efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of chronic diseases, particularly diabetes, have led to a significant reduction in diabetic foot amputation rates compared to previous years.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, by Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Asad at the Seventh Gulf Conference on Diabetic Foot, he highlighted that the Ministry has proactively established specialized centers for diabetic foot care in all hospitals.

Dr. Asad emphasized that these centers aim to provide both preventive and therapeutic care for diabetic patients, managed by specialized medical teams with expertise in diabetic foot surgery, reflecting the Ministry's commitment in addressing the wide-reaching impact of diabetes on individual and societal health.

Regarding the impact of diabetes, Dr. Asad emphasized that diabetes ranks among the most dangerous chronic diseases, with complications that extend beyond blood sugar issues to serious health risks, including limb amputation, heart disease, impaired vision, and arterial, kidney, and nerve problems.

About the Health Ministry's commitment, Dr. Asad highlighted



that, given the serious challenges posed by diabetes; the Ministry is focused on strengthening preventive programs as a priority over treatment. He emphasized that raising awareness about the importance of prevention is essential, and providing all necessary treatments and medications to support diabetic patients effectively.

Dr. Asad underscored the Ministry's commitment in advancing scientific knowledge and medical development, emphasizing

the role of scientific conferences in staying informed on the latest advances in diabetes prevention and treatment. He highlighted that these efforts are essential for providing integrated health care to diabetes patients, with a particular focus on those at risk of diabetic foot complications.

About the effects and severity, Dr. Asad explained that diabetic foot is a common and serious complication for individuals with diabetes, caused by prolonged high blood sugar levels affecting the nerves and blood vessels in the feet. This leads to reduced blood flow and loss of sensation, making the feet more vulnerable to ulcers and wounds, which can develop into severe infections if left untreated.

Early detection leads to prevention: Dr. Asad stressed the importance of early detection and continuous medical follow-up to prevent diabetic foot complications. He highlighted that regular awareness campaigns and periodic examinations play a crucial role in significantly reducing foot amputation rates among diabetic patients.

On the other hand, the Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at Al-Adan Hospital and Chairperson of the conference, Dr. Munira Bin Nakhi, highlighted in her speech that the two-day event focuses on a range of critical topics related to diabetic foot care.

Kuwait accedes to Arab Trade Liberalization Agreement

Decree-Law No. 159 of 2024 has been issued, formally approving the State of Kuwait's accession to the Agreement on the Liberalization of Trade in Services among Arab States, according to Q-8 Press.

The explanatory note stated, "Based on the desire to gradually liberalize trade in services between Arab countries, and following subsequent rounds of multilateral negotiations aimed at enhancing the interests of the parties based on mutual benefit, while achieving a balance between rights and duties, and considering the objectives of national policies and the situation of the least developed Arab



countries, as well as the importance of liberalizing trade in services between Arab countries in line with contemporary economic trends in regional and international markets, the Arab countries agreed to conclude this agreement."

The agreement consists of thirty-five articles divided into six parts. It stipulates that each party must grant services and service suppliers from any other party the same treatment as it provides for similar services and service suppliers from any other country, without less favorable conditions.

Any party may maintain procedures that are inconsistent with the agreement, provided that such procedures are in consultation with the obligations of the designated parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

UIS, IPS and UIIS jointly celebrate Founder's Day



The United Indian School; Indian Public School and; United International Indian School, celebrated their Founder's Day on November 2, 2024, at the United International Indian School, in loving memory of their Founder Chairman, Mr. Thomas Chandy. He was a man with a vision, a philanthropist par excellence, and a true patron of art, culture, and academics.

Mr. Thomas Chandy was an eminent educationist, a prominent politician, an astute businessman and the former Transport Minister of Kerala State. The occasion was a tribute to his foresight and determination, which have shaped the illustrious institutions into what they are today. The Chief Guest for the event was, H. E. Dr Adarsh Swaika, The Ambassador of India to Kuwait. The Guest of Honour was, Madam Vandana Swaika and Mr. Baija Nath, Second Secretary, Indian Embassy, was the Special Guest. The array of dignitaries included: Mr. Mohammed Al Humaidi, Former Undersecretary in the Ministry of Education and Sponsor of Indian Public School; Mr. Jassim Al Nuseef, Former Member of Parliament, Director of Personnel at Kuwait Civil Aviation, and Sponsor of United Indian School; Mr. Daham Al Shammari, Previous Consultant to Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Former Public Prosecutor and Legal Adviser to the group of institutions, Ms. Fay Al-Ibrahim, granddaughter of the Sponsor, Mr. Jassim Al Nuseef.

The programme was graced by the Principals of reputed CBSE Schools in Kuwait: Mrs. Asha Sharma, Principal of Indian Learners Own Academy; Mr. Prashanth Vasudev, Principal of Gulf Indian School; Mr. Arul Dharmaraj, Principal of Al Amal Indian School; Ms. Tasneem Billa, Principal of AMSB Indian school Kuwait; Sr. Saritha, Principal of Carmel school Kuwait; Mr. Anand Victor, Principal of Indian Educational School; Fr. James Tuscano, Principal of Indian English Academy School; Ms. Ritu Mathur, Principal of Integrated Indian School, Jleeb; Mr. Anoop Kumar Sharma,

Principal of New Gulf Indian School; Ms. Anita Sadanand, Principal of New Indian School and; Mr. Mahesh Padmanabha Iyer, Principal of Smart Indian school.

The event was attended by dignitaries from IIK, The Times Kuwait, faculty members, parents and student representatives from the three schools. The welcome speech was delivered by, Anwita of Indian Public School, Salmiya and she gracefully welcomed all the dignitaries and distinguished guests on behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of the three schools.



The Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika, the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, in his address expressed his pleasure at the mixed crowd present during the occasion. He spoke of the India - Kuwait ties and how it is strengthened by the Indian diaspora.

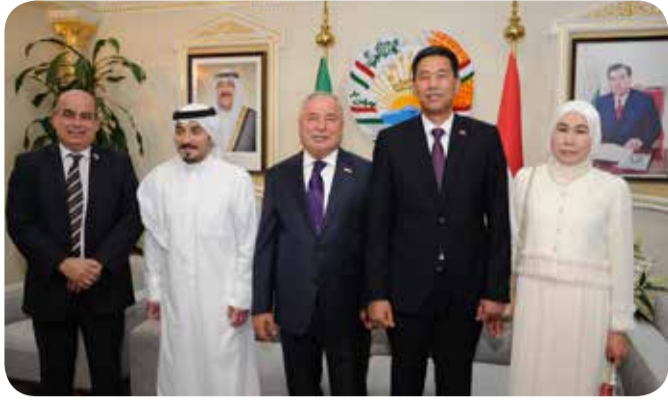
The Ambassador also conveyed his delight at the solidarity shown by the Indian Schools; the fact that Principals of various Indian Schools attended the event. It also signifies unity, the very thing India stands for. The Toppers of the CBSE Board Examinations were honoured with mementoes by the Chief Guest. The Certificates were distributed by the Guest of Honour, Madam Vandana Swaika, and The Thomas Chandy Memorial Cash Award, was given by Mr. Joel Jacob, the Executive Administrator of the group of Institutions.

The Chairperson of the group of institutions, Mrs. Mary Chandy, along with the Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Tessa Chandy, presented the Chief Guest with a Memento as a token of appreciation. The Principals of the three Schools; Mrs. Annamma Cherian; Mr. Radhakrishnan C and; Mrs. Elizabeth Joseph, accompanied the dignitaries on stage.

The event was replete with a plethora of programmes, which included a very traditional and classical welcome dance, a heartfelt tribute song rendition, a zestful Arabic dance presented by the tiny tots, a video montage about the Founder Chairman, Mr. Thomas Chandy, a thought provoking mime and a colourful folk dance-emphasizing India's Unity in Diversity.

Mrs. Tessa Chandy, the Vice Chairperson, addressed the gathering on behalf of the management, and spoke highly about her father's legacy and example which they plan to carry forward.

The Centum Scorers of the Schools were awarded by the Principals of the various CBSE schools who graced the event. The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks given by, Amy Mariam Alex of United Indian School.



Tajik-Kuwait relations on the upswing

Tajikistan celebrates National Day

THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

The Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, H. E. Ambassador Samih Hayat, praised the strong and rapidly growing Kuwaiti-Tajik relations.

The Ambassador highlighted the visit of Tajik President, H. E. Emomali Rahmon to Kuwait, which led to the signing of 8 cooperation agreements between the two nations.

In a statement to journalists during the celebration of Tajikistan's Independence Day on Thursday evening, H. E. Ambassador Samih Hayat revealed that the opening of a Kuwaiti embassy in Dushanbe is imminent.

Importantly, the Ambassador mentioned that discussions are underway with the Tajik Ambassador through diplomatic channels, to submit the name of the nominated Kuwaiti Ambassador, hoping for approval from the Tajik President, emphasizing that these are standard procedures between countries.

In turn, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

and Ambassador of Tajikistan to Kuwait, H. E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda, emphasized that his country views Kuwait as an important and reliable partner both regionally and globally.

Highlighting about the solid relations between the two nations, Dr. Zubaydzoda noted that the strong ties between Dushanbe and Kuwait are rooted in shared spiritual and historical bonds, as well as in the fraternal relations between the leaderships of the two brotherly countries.

In his speech during the celebration of Tajikistan's 33rd Independence Anniversary and the 30th anniversary of its constitution, Dr. Zubaydzoda highlighted the official visit of Tajikistan's President, H. E. Emomali Rahmon, to Kuwait from November 3 to 5, 2024, as a key moment in bilateral relations.

Consequently, Dr. Zubaydzoda noted that during the visit, a new package of agreements was signed, laying a strong foundation for expanding cooperation, particularly in economic, trade, and investment sectors. Additionally, he mentioned

Kuwait's intention to open an embassy in Tajikistan soon, which will further enhance the development of ties between the two nations.

Dr. Zubaydzoda also emphasized Kuwait's significant role in supporting Tajikistan's development through financial institutions and development funds, particularly the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Moreover, Dr. Zubaydzoda further mentioned that preparations are underway for the next session of the Tajik-Kuwaiti Joint Governmental Committee for Trade, Economic, and Technical Cooperation, which will be held in Kuwait.

Dr. Zubaydzoda stated that Tajikistan cooperates closely with Kuwait within the framework of international and regional organizations. These include: the United Nations; Organization of Islamic Cooperation; Asian Cooperation Dialogue and; Gulf Cooperation Council. He highlighted that both countries share similar positions and common visions on many international and regional issues.

On the occasion, Dr. Zubaydzoda stated that the Republic of Tajikistan gained its independence on September 9, 1991. He emphasized that since that date, and over the past thirty-three years, Tajikistan has made significant strides in preserving its independence and sovereignty, achieving numerous accomplishments along the way.

Furthermore, Dr. Zubaydzoda added that one of the historic steps taken by Tajikistan's leadership in the early years of independence was holding a popular referendum on November 6, 1994, to adopt a new constitution for the country. This year being celebrated as the thirtieth anniversary of this historic event.

Dr. Zubaydzoda explained that under the leadership of H. E. President Emomali Rahmon, Tajikistan is making steady progress towards a brighter future through various programs, visions, and strategies. Summarizing further, Dr. Zubaydzoda highlighted the National Development Strategy until 2030, which focuses on four main priorities: energy, communications, food security, and industry.

Tajik Cultural Days highlight diversity and depth of Tajik culture

The Tajik Cultural Days, a collaboration between the National Council for Culture and the Embassy of Tajikistan, featured cultural activities, an arts and crafts exhibition, and an opportunity to explore the beauty of Tajik culture, nature, and history.

Embassy of Tajikistan in coordination with Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) organized a two-day exhibition of Tajik culture under the banner of 'Tajik Cultural Days, at the Kuwait National Library. The exhibition, which was inaugurated on 11 November, witnessed the attendance of the Minister of Culture of Tajikistan Matlubakhon Sattoriyon, along with a gathering of diplomats, citizens, residents that included the Tajik community in Kuwait.

The event featured a variety of cultural activities, alongside an arts and crafts exhibition. Elaborating on the event, the Secretary-General of NCCAL, Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar, highlighted the importance of promoting cultural exchange and cooperation between countries to bring people closer, to learn about different cultures, and to encourage peaceful coexistence. He added, "This cooperation strengthens the deep ties between our two peoples and reaffirms our continuous commitment to supporting friendship and cultural exchange between countries."

Al-Jassar continued, "Through this exhibition, we showcase the artistic and cultural achievements of the Tajik people in Kuwait, presenting their creations and the depth of their ancient cultural heritage. It is an artistic journey that embodies the cooperation between our two countries, and opens new horizons to strengthen the good relations between our peoples."

He concluded by adding, "We hope this event



provides an opportunity to closely experience the aesthetics of authentic Tajik culture and the secrets and beauty of nature and history in our friendly country and wish you a unique cultural and artistic experience," he added.

For her part, Matlubakhon Sattoriyon thanked Kuwait for hosting the "Tajik Culture Days" following the recent official visit of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, to Kuwait. She described the visit as 'successful,' noting that the President met with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as a large number of officials, resulting in very positive outcomes.

The Tajik minister was accompanied at the exhibition by Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar and the

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda. Asked about her meeting with Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Ms. Sattoriyon stated: "We discussed ways to strengthen relations between the two countries in various cultural fields, Our current cultural relations are governed by the agreement signed between the two countries in 2013, under which we carry out various events and initiatives."

She continued, "We also had a meeting with the Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, where we discussed cultural events in both of our countries. During these two meetings, we reached an agreement

to prepare and sign a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Tajik Culture and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, as well as a cultural agreement between the Ministry of Tajik Culture and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information." She also invited citizens and residents in Kuwait to visit her country, concluding her remarks by saying, "I was impressed by the generosity of Kuwaiti hospitality and touched by the great interest of the kind Kuwaiti people in their Tajik brothers, particularly in the field of culture."

For his part, Ambassador Zubaydullo expressed his great happiness in hosting Kuwait's Tajik Culture Days and the participation of the Minister of Culture of Tajikistan in the opening of this significant cultural event.

The ambassador praised the deep Kuwaiti-Tajik relationship, referring to the recent visit of his country's President Emomali Rahmon and the official delegation to Kuwait, as well as the talks he held with His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He also highlighted President Rahmon's participation in the "Strengthening International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Building Flexible Border Security Mechanisms" conference hosted by Kuwait last week.

He added, "The exchange of views between the leaderships of the two countries will help solidify a unified stance on various critical issues in the region and the world. Moreover, Tajikistan attaches great importance to developing its relationship with Kuwait in all fields, especially culture." Pointing out that the establishment of Tajik Culture Days in Kuwait is part of enhancing bilateral cooperation and cultural exchange between the two nations.

He emphasized that the exhibition showcases the cultural convergence of Islamic civilizations, which unites the two brotherly countries. It also introduces Tajikistan's ancient cultural heritage, its renowned traditional crafts, the Tajik style of textiles, and other musical and visual arts reflecting the country's historical musical heritage.



Robust digital infrastructure increases e-commerce volumes

The country's e-commerce volume exceeded 500 million dinars, with a growth rate of 11.33% from 2018 to 2023, and is expected to rise to 12.57% annually from 2024 to 2028.

Kuwait's e-commerce volume is expected to reach more than US\$1.6 billion this year according to a new report by the technology market research firm Technavio.

Explaining this increase in e-commerce volumes, Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), Qusai Al Shatti said that the quality of digital infrastructure in Kuwait is a key enabler of the growth and expansion of e-commerce in the country.

He noted that digital infrastructure is especially significant since nearly 100 percent of the



population in Kuwait has access to the internet, with wide and fast capacities at competitive prices, allowing for easy and practical usage. Additionally, smartphones are widely accessible to all residents, regardless of their income or standard of living. Kuwait also became the first country in the world to adopt 5G telecommunications technology in the current year, according to data from the International Telecommunication Union, maintaining this position for the second consecutive year.

He revealed that the e-commerce growth rate in Kuwait from 2018 to 2023 reached 11.33 percent, and he expects the compound annual growth rate

of this trade to rise to 12.57 percent between 2024 and 2028. Pointing out that this growth rate places Kuwait among the fastest-growing markets in e-commerce, and is based on the volume of trade in sectors such as fashion, clothing, electronics, beauty and personal care products, toys and children's supplies, food, meals, and beverages. He also noted that the figures include orders sent by mail or delivery services, as well as those paid electronically or upon delivery.

He predicted that e-commerce and online shopping will reduce the number of shopping malls and physical stores in the near future. A recent survey on e-commerce in Kuwait by Ipsos, a global leader in market research, found that 53 percent of respondents shop online. The survey also revealed that while 60 percent of respondents stated that the in-store shopping experience cannot be fully replaced by e-shopping, 39 percent of the same group indicated that most of their future shopping will be online. This trend is not only seen in Kuwait or the region but also in many countries worldwide.

Al-Shatti noted that, according to a report by the EMarketer Studies Centre, global e-commerce volume is expected to reach \$6 trillion by the end of this year. China alone accounted for \$3 trillion of global e-commerce in 2023, with the Chinese market representing 47 percent of total global retail.

The same report states that the total global retail market volume is \$29.7 trillion, with e-commerce accounting for only 19.5 percent of this total. This indicates that e-commerce still has significant room for growth globally, while traditional shopping remains the dominant sales channel in the retail market.

When asked about the reasons for changing

consumer behavior and the growing demand for e-shopping, AlShatti pointed out that the development and increased use of electronic payment methods have led the consumer segment in Kuwait to shift towards this type of shopping. Key factors include saving time, ease and practicality, a wider variety of products, promotions, digital marketing, and price preferences.

In addition, other reasons for growth of e-commerce include the development of global trade platforms aimed at improving and simplifying the e-shopping experience, the ease of sending and receiving products, the reliance of international retail companies on multiple sales channels—known as the omni-channel concept—and the rise of marketing through social media platforms.



Swiss Embassy, IDC host training course in chocolates

By Rabih Kallas
Special to The Times Kuwait

Swiss Embassy in cooperation with the International Diplomatic Club (IDC) organized an advanced training course with Laura González, a renowned chocolatier from the Swiss Chocolate Academy, at the Swiss Residence on 13 November. The event was attended by Lana Al-Ayyar, the spouse of the Foreign Minister of Kuwait along with several ambassadors and their spouses.

Iveta Balmelli, wife of the Swiss Ambassador H.E. Dr. Tiziano Balmelli, and the host of the delightful evening, welcomed the exclusive gathering including Anne Koistinen, the European Union Ambassador to Kuwait, Aliya Mawani, the Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, and members of the International Diplomatic Club.

Addressing the guests Al-Ayyar stressed the importance of food diplomacy in bringing peoples closer together, noting that it is an effective mechanism for spreading culture and solving problems. She also emphasized the significance of cultural exchange as a vital bridge of communication between peoples, providing a strong foundation for mutual understanding.

Al-Ayyar pointed out that food is one of the most prominent aspects of a people's culture, as it is an integral part of their daily lives. She added that Kuwait is open to the world and seeks to familiarize global audiences with its traditions and culture through the many Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to the country.

In her remarks, González said that "In the world of pastries, chocolate plays a fundamental role. For professionals, it is one of the most enticing and motivating ingredients. When handled optimally, its results can be extraordinary, with a vast range of possibilities."

González adds that she discovered her passion for pastries at a very young age, baking cakes, biscuits, and desserts. She studied pastry in 2006 at the Argentino de Gastronomía Institute and dedicated her career to the hospitality industry, working as a pastry chef for nearly 15 years. She worked with hotels in Argentina, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates and was part of the teams that opened hotels in Latin America.

Earlier in his welcoming address, Ambassador Balmelli said, "Food is a great example of the importance of maintaining strong international relations that enrich all parties involved in a mutual way. In fact, people travel, discover new cultures, and bring back the positive aspects of what they have experienced abroad, especially

with regard to the art of cooking."

He further noted that "Kuwait is a great example of this: Kuwaitis, who have been great travelers and merchants for centuries, have created a cuisine that reflects this diversity—rich in flavors and traditions from different backgrounds. This also applies to relations between Switzerland and Kuwait."

Regarding the occasion, he said: "The purpose of this event is twofold. First, it provides a special moment of exchange and communication for female ambassadors and the wives of ambassadors. Secondly, it highlights one of the most famous Swiss products—chocolate—and demonstrates how



Kuwait has adopted it into its own culture."

He pointed out that "Swiss companies produce excellent chocolate bars, which are imported by Kuwaitis and used as raw materials to create high-quality chocolates. It's a combination of two advantages: Swiss raw materials and Kuwaiti expertise. The result was impressive, as we saw this evening at the residence."

The Swiss ambassador concluded: "This approach of developing win-win relationships at all levels, and the positive integration of everyone's skills, should also inspire diplomacy as a truly golden rule."

"I am very grateful to my wife, Iveta Balmelli, for organizing this beautiful event this evening at the Swiss residence, in cooperation with the International Diplomatic Club," he added.



Indonesian Embassy holds two-day cultural exhibition

Ricky Laxa
Staff Writer

Embassy of Indonesia organized a two-day exhibition at 'The Avenues', which was inaugurated by Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Lena Maryana, along with the ambassadors of Thailand and Vietnam, in the presence of a large gathering of special invitees.

The two-day exhibition featured a vibrant array of cultural performances, including traditional dances and music that captivated

the audience. Before the official opening, guests were invited to try playing classical Indonesian instruments.

In her welcoming speech, Ambassador Maryana expressed gratitude to the public, the cultural group, The Avenues, and individuals who contributed to the success of the event, which celebrated Indonesia's cultural diversity and fostered stronger ties with Kuwait. The two-day exhibition held under the 'Indonesian Pavilion' banner showcased Indonesian textiles, apparels, accessories, scents and classic coffee brew.



More protection for foreign workers in new residency law

In yet another serious attempt to eliminate trafficking in persons and human right violations the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers approved on Nov 12 a draft decree-law on the residence of foreigners, aimed at prohibiting the trade in residence, establishing rules for the deportation and expulsion of foreigners, and imposing strict penalties on those who violate the provisions of the Foreigners' Residence Law.

The new law comprising seven chapters and 36 articles includes among others:

- Prohibition in the trading in residencies by facilitating the recruitment of foreigners through accepting or offering financial benefits in exchange for entry visas, residency permits, or renewals.
- The law prohibits employers from forcing foreign workers to engage in work other than that specified in their work permit
- Employers are also not permitted to illegally withhold wages of their employees
- It is also illegal for anyone other than

their sponsor to shelter or employ expats, whether their residencies are valid or expired.

- Building owners are also prohibited from renting living space to illegal expats
- Sponsors of foreigners are now obligated to notify the Ministry of Interior if a foreigner's visa or residency expires and they do not leave the country.
- In a bid to realign the country's demographic structure, a quota system in the hiring of employees will be introduced and employers will not be allowed to exceed the quota for each nationality
- The new law imposes severe penalties on those who violate provisions of the new law, and establishes rules for the deportation and expulsion of expatriates violating the Foreigners' Residence Law.

Earlier the National Standing Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants had forwarded 12 recommendations



to the cabinet to address human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and called for reforms to the employer-based visa system.

These reforms include allowing workers to change employers freely and leave the country without the employer's approval. In response, the Council of Ministers urged government members to cooperate with the committee and provide full support to strengthen Kuwait's position in relevant international organizations, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf

and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, who heads the National Standing Committee in Combating Trafficking, presented the recommendations to the Council of Ministers on 22 October.

The recommendations included measures to ensure victims are not penalized for acts committed as a result of trafficking, increased inspections of both registered and fraudulent recruitment agencies, improved handling of domestic workers' complaints to identify potential trafficking cases, stricter penalties for passport confiscation to deter perpetrators, the abolition of recruitment fees imposed on workers, and the punishment of offenders.

The committee also suggested strengthening the enforcement of laws relating to domestic workers by facilitating their access to authorities, increasing inspections of registered and fraudulent recruitment agencies, and improving the examination of domestic workers' complaints to identify possible trafficking cases.

Dasman Diabetes Institute marks World Diabetes Day

Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), a leading diabetes institute in the region, established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), celebrated World Diabetes Day on 14 November.

The event, held at Assima Mall, offered visitors the chance to consult with diabetes specialists and dietitians, gain medical insights, and explore tips for healthier living.

DDI showcased various research projects and studies conducted by the Institute, encouraging eligible individuals to participate and benefit

from ongoing research initiatives.

The event featured booths offering educational sessions on proper dietary habits, pharmacotherapy counseling, physical activities, glucose and blood pressure testing, and vital signs assessments. DDI extended its gratitude to Zain for sponsoring this year's event and to Assima Mall for hosting it.

The event aligns with DDI's mission to prioritize health promotion and awareness, highlighting the importance of prevention over cure. Since its establishment in 2006, DDI has been dedicated to organizing events and campaigns to raise awareness about diabetes and related conditions.

Acting Director-General of DDI, Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, underscored the Institute's commitment to raising awareness about diabetes, striving for improved health outcomes



in diabetes management, and empowering individuals affected by the condition to proactively enhance their quality of life.

The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness about diabetes, promote

long-term health outcomes, and empower individuals to take charge of their health and well-being. The event attracted numerous visitors and their families, who benefited from the services provided.

Embassy of Mongolia, IWG jointly host Mongolia Cultural Day



International Women's Group (IWG), in collaboration with the Embassy of Mongolia hosted last week the 'Mongolian Cultural Day' at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The event, which pivoted on the theme of 'Women's Involvement in Saving the World', brought together Kuwait's diplomatic community, public and private sector officials, and IWG members.

In her welcoming address, President of the International Women's Group (IWG) Polina Dalmini, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of Mongolia and to Baigalmaa Bayantsagaan, wife of the Ambassador of Mongolia and Vice President of IWG, for organizing the meaningful 'Mongolian Cultural Day' event.

Furthermore, Mrs. Dalmini highlighted the theme's focus on the vital role women play in promoting peace, sustainability, and community resilience, emphasizing how women contribute in shaping a more harmonious world. She emphasized that events like 'Mongolian Cultural

Day' foster cultural exchange and unity, offering women from diverse backgrounds a chance to connect, share, and support one another's traditions, thereby reinforcing the core values of IWG.

Ambassador of Mongolia, H.E. Sergelen Purev, delivered the opening speech at the Mongolian Cultural Day, expressing his honor and privilege in welcoming the distinguished guests to the special occasion. In his remarks, Ambassador Purev emphasized the pivotal role women play in fostering a sustainable and peaceful world. He also expressed sincere appreciation to the IWG for their partnership in organizing the event.

The ambassador shared insights into Mongolia's deep connection to its environment and livestock, which are integral to both its culture and economy.

From the historical point of view, the ambassador also highlighted Mongolia's rich heritage of nomadic life, shaped by the vast steppes and rugged landscapes that have

sustained generations.

As a deeper insight, the ambassador provided historical context, noting Mongolia's significant contributions to the world's postal system in the 13th century, including the introduction of the first-ever horse postal system, Urtuu, and the first foreign passport, Gerege, during the era of Genghis Khan. Ambassador Purev also highlighted the prominent role of women in Mongolian society, stating that Mongolians hold a deep respect for women and mothers. Throughout its history, women have been at the heart of the communities, embodying courage, strength, and wisdom.

Further highlighting about the event, Ambassador Purev explained that the event's white dress code symbolized 'the pure, white heart of women, the color of milk that nourishes their children and their unwavering commitment to bringing peace to the world.' As guests arrived, they were each presented with a khadag; a traditional Mongolian scarf, in the color of the endless blue sky, symbolizing

respect, purity, goodwill, and a deep sense of honor.

Throughout the event, five interactive stations provided guests with a unique opportunity to explore Mongolian customs, traditions, and heritage. Attendees experienced traditional artifacts, games, luxurious cashmere, Mongolian cuisine, and the iconic Deel; traditional clothing, all set to enchanting music and vibrant dance performances.

Similarly, several models showcased stunning Deel garments on the runway, displaying intricate designs and vibrant patterns that reflected Mongolia's rich cultural tapestry.

The evening concluded with a powerful celebration of cultural heritage and the pivotal role of women in promoting peace. Through engaging displays, performances, and the inspiring theme of 'Women's Involvement in Saving the World' Mongolian Cultural Day offered a memorable journey into Mongolia's past and present, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

KEMS Zajil Telecom and MBCOM Technologies, Broadcom Representative to Strengthen Digital Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

KEMS Zajil Telecom, a subsidiary of Kalaam Group and a leader in digital solutions, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MBCOM Technologies who is the sole representative of Broadcom, a global powerhouse in infrastructure and enterprise software solutions. This partnership is set to enhance digital infrastructure and cybersecurity across the Middle East, helping businesses stay secure



and agile in an increasingly connected world.

The MoU focuses on delivering enterprise solutions in key areas such as network optimization, cloud services, and cybersecurity. The collaboration brings together the strengths of both companies to drive digital transformation in the region.

KEMS Zajil Telecom's CEO, Mr. Yusuf Ahmed, underscored the strategic importance of the partnership with MBCOM Technologies, Broadcom Representative, expressing



excitement about the enhanced value it brings to KEMS Zajil Telecom's digital services portfolio. "Collaborating with MBCOM Technologies, Broadcom Representative, a globally renowned technology leader, positions us to deliver cutting-edge solutions that drive business growth while ensuring the highest levels of security,"

Ahmed remarked. He further highlighted that digital transformation hinges on both advanced infrastructure and uncompromising security, and this partnership equips KEMS Zajil Telecom with the expertise and technology to empower businesses with the confidence they need to excel in today's rapidly evolving digital

landscape. MBCOM Technologies, Broadcom Representative's Regional Director for the Gulf and Pakistan, Mr. Mohsin Shafique, expressed excitement about the partnership, calling it a significant step in MBCOM Technologies's expansion in the region. "By working with KEMS Zajil Telecom, a trusted name in ICT solutions, we're excited to bring innovative technologies to businesses across the Middle East. This partnership will empower organizations to enhance their digital infrastructure and cybersecurity, enabling them to be more agile and secure in a fast-changing digital world."

This collaboration also aligns with KEMS Zajil Telecom's ongoing commitment to strengthening its cybersecurity offerings to meet the growing demands of enterprise customers. Together, KEMS Zajil Telecom and MBCOM Technologies will focus on developing state-of-the-art solutions that address both the security and performance needs of businesses as they embrace digital transformation.

The signing of the MoU marks a major milestone for both KEMS Zajil Telecom and Broadcom, underscoring their shared vision of delivering cutting-edge digital and cybersecurity solutions to empower businesses across the Middle East.



City Hypermarket Collaborates with Bait Al Zakat and Ighatha to support Al Salam Exhibition



City Hypermarket proudly announced the remarkable success of the Al Salam Exhibition, the first edition at Manara Mall in Shuwaikh on October 25th and 26th, followed by a second run at Salmiya on November 1st and 2nd, 2024. This initiative was designed to provide vital support to communities affected by the ongoing crises in Palestine and Lebanon.

The exhibition featured a wide range of unique whole foods, accessories, and traditional merchandise from local businesses representing the respective countries. Attendees enjoyed traditional Lebanese and Palestinian hospitality, with a cultural décor that reminded patrons of their hometowns and an atmosphere that celebrated the rich cultural heritage of these communities.

A central focus of this exhibition was the launch of City Hyper's Capsule Collection, a specially curated line of tote bags, t-shirts, and mugs, each designed to symbolize the resilience of Palestine and Lebanon. In collaboration with

the House of Zakat, 100% of the proceeds from these items will directly aid those in need in the affected regions.

Al Salam Exhibition was officially inaugurated by City Hypermarket's Deputy CEO Nasser Adel AlGhanim, alongside the esteemed ambassadors from Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan. Their presence highlighted the united commitment of Arab nations to a common cause.

"We may feel powerless in the face of the challenges confronting our brothers and sisters, but through initiatives like this, we can create a meaningful impact," stated Nasser Adel AlGhanim. "Every small action counts, and we are proud to contribute in any way we can."

The overwhelming response from attendees reflects a collective desire to support and uplift those affected by current events. City Hyper extends heartfelt gratitude to all who participated and contributed to this initiative. Together, we stand in solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon and strive for a brighter future.

KFAS launches SciMiK 2024 to promote interest in science, research

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), along with its centers and partners, has launched 'Science Month 2024 in Kuwait' (SciMiK), as part of its efforts to foster a passion for science and encourage young people to consider a career in science, technology, and engineering.

The event, which runs from 14 November to 12 December, features interactive workshops, exhibitions, lectures, and family activities, and will explore topics such as advancements in medical education, environmental protection, and space research with peaceful applications.

In a statement detailing SciMiK activities, KFAS said that the series of activities planned during the event are designed to spark interest in science, enhance scientific knowledge, and encourage participation across various fields of science and technology, and to make science engaging and inspiring for all ages.

Science Month also aims to foster a passion for science, strengthen a culture of scientific research, encourage continuous learning, and capture community interest by highlighting scientific discoveries and innovations.

The foundation pointed out that by offering hands-on experiences and interactive exhibitions, the science festivals aim to make learning enjoyable, simplify complex topics, and bridge the gap between scientists and the public, ultimately fostering a more knowledgeable and science-aware society.

As part of the KFAS initiative, Kuwait



Scientific Center, an affiliate of KFAS, is offering free educational trips for public school students of all levels throughout November. This initiative, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and in partnership with Warba Bank, aims to provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to explore the world of science and technology, enhance their love of learning, and promote environmental awareness in an interactive learning environment.

Through this initiative students will learn about various scientific topics and participate in interactive activities that enhance their skills and encourage research and discovery. These efforts reflect the Scientific Center's commitment to supporting education and enriching curricula with innovative methods that inspire students toward sustainable scientific exploration.

Minister of Social Affairs dissolves fifteen charitable organizations

Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, issued a decision to dissolve fifteen charitable organizations—twelve for violating laws and regulations, and three at the request of prominent individuals who were unable to manage them.

According to a decision published in the Official Gazette Kuwait Today on Sunday, several charitable organizations have been dissolved.

Among those affected are Mubarak Al-Charity, Kuwait's Khair, the Charitable Foundation for Intellectual and Social Development, Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah, National Unity, the Kuwaiti Folk Street, Charity Foundation, the Rituals of Goodness, Al-Manara Charity, Mubarak Abdulaziz Al-Hasawi, the Student of Knowledge, Charity Edifices, Development House, the Supervisor's Gentlemen, and Al-Ajman Charity.

Kuwait commits to low-carbon growth at COP29

In his address at the COP29 leaders summit in Baku, Azerbaijan on 13 November, representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's commitment to aligning economic growth with low-carbon development and climate resilience by 2050, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2060 through strategic projects that promote clean energy and reduce carbon emissions.

He began his speech by pointing out that climate change has become a global concern, posing a threat to many countries, including Kuwait, where its effects are increasingly tangible and accelerating,

with rising temperatures, dust storms, and scarce rainfall impacting daily life. He added that in this regard, Kuwait remained committed to pursuing environmental sustainability and fulfilling its obligations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol through national projects and actions.

He further called on developed countries to fulfill their obligations under the Framework Agreement by providing financial and technical support and building capacity for developing and least-developed countries to help them withstand and adapt to the effects of climate change and to implement their nationally determined contributions. His



Highness the Crown Prince added that Kuwait, represented by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, has actively supported many developing countries by offering a package of climate-impact reduction projects through its 1,330 loans and grants worth US\$23 billion.

His Highness added that Kuwait also aims to achieve a fifty percent share of solar energy in total electricity production by 2050, introduce new low-carbon technologies, develop long-term partnerships to invest in sustainable energy opportunities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to eighty percent by 2040, with the hope that our collective efforts will help secure a prosperous future for all.

UAE Ambassador highlights Embassy's role in Kuwait's green initiative



The UAE Ambassador to Kuwait, H. E. Dr. Matar Hamid Al-Niyadi, emphasized the Embassy's commitment to sustainability, and involvement in Kuwaiti initiatives that aim to boost environmental awareness and promote active participation in afforestation projects, transforming desert regions into green spaces.

In a statement to journalists during the UAE Embassy's participation in the 'Plant' campaign at the Abdaliyah Reserve, The UAE Ambassador underscored the significance of cooperative environmental efforts.

The campaign, held in collaboration with the Kuwait Oil Company and joined by diplomats and UN representatives, aligns with the World Climate Change Conference COP29 and the UAE's 'Plant' initiative.

Ambassador Al-Niyadi expressed appreciation for media efforts that spotlight these vital

initiatives, which contribute to reducing emissions and enhancing air quality.

Expressing his pride about the Abdaliyah Reserve, the Ambassador commended the Kuwait Oil Company's active role in promoting sustainability within the areas it oversees.

Furthermore, the Ambassador shared that the UAE Embassy, alongside other ambassadors, planted Al-Ghaf and Al-Sidr trees in the Abdali Reserve at a location known as 'Sih Al-Ghaf' meaning 'flat land' in the Gulf dialect.

These native Gulf plants are well-suited to the environment, retaining their greenery year-round, requiring minimal water, and offering valuable shade for birds and grazing for animals.

The Ambassador emphasized the Embassy's commitment to being part of the community and actively promoting sustainability within Kuwait.

Moreover, The Deputy Director General of

the Technical Affairs Sector at Kuwait's General Authority for the Environment, Dr. Abdullah Zeidan, praised the collaboration between the UAE Embassy and the Kuwait Oil Company, recognizing its role in the success of the 'Plant' initiative.

Dr. Zeidan emphasized that the Authority has sustainable development plans and local, regional, and international responsibilities endorsed by the State of Kuwait that must be fulfilled.

Importantly, Dr. Zeidan highlighted that strengthening the plant sector is among the top priorities of the Public Authority for Environment, underscoring its commitment to advancing environmental sustainability and green initiatives in Kuwait. He added that the reserves in Kuwait cover about 11% of the country's total area, which differs in terms of the owner or supervisor.

On the other hand, Dr. Zeidan addressed efforts

to tackle northern territorial encroachment and its environmental impact, mentioning ongoing meetings with Iraqi counterparts and specialists from both countries. These discussions focus on mitigating sand encroachment and climate challenges affecting northern Kuwait, with a shared commitment to cultivating the northern regions to reduce these effects.

Furthermore, the European Union Ambassador, H. E. Anne Koestinen highlighted the essential role of trees, calling them the 'lungs of the earth' crucial for the health and well-being of humans, animals, and the planet.

Ambassador Koestinen noted that the EU's biodiversity strategy includes a goal to plant at least 3 billion trees by 2030. She stressed the need for collective action to protect the planet and ensure a fair, inclusive transition to a sustainable future.

ALSAYER Celebrates 17th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest Award Ceremony

To honor the Kuwait National winners in the 17th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest (TDCAC), Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. (MNSS) and, ALSAYER Corporate Excellence Department, hosted the award ceremony at MNSS Toyota Shuwaikh Showroom in the presence of ALSAYER management, winners, parents, teachers, and well-wishers from the community.

This year, over 717 outstanding artworks were submitted by children aged 4-15, showcasing their creativity in innovative mobility concepts. The artworks addressed themes such as renewable energy, environmental and pollution challenges, and the importance of peace, love, and care for humanity.

ALSAYER Group management appreciated the winners and distributed awards to each age category. They observed and cherished children's remarkable creativity and ideas beyond their age and experience. It is called the power of dreams.

The ceremony was attended by: Ibrahim Mohamad Al-Fouzan, Senior Business Director Toyota Group Service; Theo Kruger, General Manager Toyota Sales; Nehad Mohammad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager Corporate Excellence; Riyad Mohammad Al Salem, Senior Manager Toyota



Sales and; Shibu Mohammed, CSR Manager.

The three winners in category A were: Diyaksha Sunil Kumar, age 7, for the artwork titled, 'The Marine Plastics Recycler'; Emmanuel Binoy, age 6, for his artwork titled, 'Eco-Friendly Car'; M.Y. Fathima Aafiya, age 6 for her artwork titled, 'The Flying Car'.

The three winners in category B were: Saraswata Roy, age 9, for the artwork titled, 'Toyota Savior'; Samith Wagle, age 8, for the artwork titled 'Driver Assistant - Accident Free Toyota Car'; Yassin Amr Rajai, age 11, for the artwork titled, 'AI Car'.

The three winners in category C were: Khadija Mahmoud, age 14, for her artwork titled, 'Flying

Gas Station'; Yousef Nawaf Al Gharabally, age 15, for his artwork titled, 'Driver Assistant - The Lunar Skylines'; Moukthika Manikandan, age 12, for the artwork titled, 'The Toyota Hydrovolt'.

This year the two winners from Kuwait who achieved the Toyota Middle East and Central Asia (MECA) Awards were: Diyaksha Sunil Kumar who won the 'Category 1 MECA Award' for her artwork titled, 'The Marine Plastics Recycler'; and Moukthika Manikandan who won the 'Mobility for All Award' for the artwork titled, 'The Toyota Hydrovolt'. Both the above winners were granted USD3,000 each, to be used for their educational purposes.

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 9.4 million children from 144 countries to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream. The contest inspires the next generation of inventors, thinkers, and dreamers to have unlimited imaginations and make the world a better place.

ALSAYER promotes Toyota DCAC to help young talents from Kuwait to learn new skills, be innovative and express creativity, which covers relevant sustainable development goals as part of their Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility objectives.



Dubai Design Week gets bigger and better

THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

Yet another successful Dubai Design Week's 10th edition just concluded with the participation of more than 1,000 creative designers, architects and artists from more than 50 countries who exchanged ideas and showed the positive impact that can be enhanced through design.

The leading event managed by Art Dubai Group over the past 10 years, Dubai Design Week has evolved into an annual meeting

- 40 art installations, 10 exhibitions and 60 workshops with the participation of more than 1000 designers, architects and brands from more than 50 countries in Dubai Design District
- Launch of the first editions exhibition of its kind in the region in limited edition arts and designs with the participation of more than 40 exhibitions, art institutions and a design studio
- A group of the most prominent international design personalities meet in the forum during "Downtown Design"

point for emerging and well-known designers, brands, cultural and educational institutions from the region and beyond, confirming Dubai's position as the design capital of the Middle East.

The event was held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture), in strategic partnership with Dubai Design District (d3), a subsidiary of TECOM Group, and with the support of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture).

Today, the design fair has evolved into a leading design event for the region, drawing visitors and participants from across the globe with an ever-expanding programme of showcases, events, public installations and talks. This appears to be a component of the broader effort to promote creative culture in this region, part of an ongoing image-building exercise to enhance the image of several Gulf cities.

Downtown Design Exhibition

The main event of Dubai Design Week "Downtown Design", which took place from 6 to 9 November, returned to the waterfront terrace in Dubai Design District. This exhibition is known as the most important contemporary and high-end design exhibition in the region, displaying the latest collections, innovative products and design solutions by prominent brands and manufacturers from around the world, in addition to a range of temporary creative concepts, installations and networking events, along with a program of dialogue sessions, keynotes and training courses at the forum. Downtown Design is the perfect destination for those looking for the latest trends in interior design, furniture, lighting and home accessories.

The exhibition has become a central cultural event, both creatively and commercially, as it provides an interactive platform for the most prominent well-known and emerging talents in the Middle East, and its impact extends much further, as the quality and strength of the exhibition is reflected in the continuous growth of the interior design and furniture market in the region over more than 10 years

of contemporary designs presented through the Downtown Design Exhibition.

Today, the exhibition continues to foster new connections and acts as a platform for launching partnerships, concepts and brands working in the field of design, in addition to nurturing pioneering dialogues that play a key role in the flourishing design landscape in the region and the increasing growth of the design community in the UAE.

Prominent international brands, including Poltrona Frau, which showcases unique designs in collaboration with famous brands and names such as Fei Togod, Draga & Orl, The Conran Shop, which exhibited its designs for the first time in the UAE, and De Journay, which offered painted and hand-embroidered wallpaper with great care. "Casa Milano" returned an interactive space known as "talking walls", Italian artist Jacobo Fujini presents innovative handicrafts using polycarbonate, and famous designer Ross Logrov has launched a collaboration with JNF in the field of 3D printing. In addition, Coscintino revealed a creative concept from the design of the Kuwaiti design studio "Bab Nim Nim", while Danish brands "Udo Copenhagen", "Guppy" and "Ferm Living" presented the "Power Company" project.

Editions Gallery

The Editions Gallery, owned and operated by Art Dubai Group, took place as the region's first limited edition art and design exhibition, in conjunction with Downtown Design. It offered a variety of exhibitions, studios and artistic and emerging art institutions across multiple media. The exhibition was a unique platform for limited edition works, offering high-quality pieces at various prices, opening up new horizons for art and design lovers. It also seeks to create a unique opportunity for a wider audience to connect and buy from contemporary creators.

Speaking about the evolution of the art scene in Dubai, Benedida Gion, Executive Director of Art Dubai, said: "Art Dubai Group is a platform for cultural exchange, and is committed to advancing new creative developments since its launch in 2007. The Editions exhibition was founded with the aim of meeting the growing demand in Dubai,

both through the influx of new residents and the flourishing cultural scene.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Downtown Design an interactive platform

Mette Degn-Christensen, director of Downtown Design, expressed her happiness to see how the exhibition has become a central cultural event, both creatively and commercially, as it provides an interactive platform for well-known as well as emerging design talents in the Middle East.

Speaking to The Times Kuwait she pointed out that the quality of the Downtown Design Exhibition, which has presented contemporary designs for over 10 years, is reflected in the continuous growth of the interior design and furniture market in the region.

She expressed her delight that the exhibition continues to foster new connections and acts as a platform for launching partnerships, concepts and brands working in the field of design, in addition, she noted that the exhibition helps to nurture pioneering dialogues that play a key role in the flourishing design landscape in the region and the increasing growth of the design community in the UAE.

Mette's attention to detail and keen desire to continue to improve drives the Downtown Design event to be better and more impressive every year since its launch. Mette feels the exhibition is a clear step up for everyone participating, having really understood the importance of the event, for the economy, and for their businesses. She points out that exhibitors are not just taking bigger spaces but really making more effort into what they are showcasing, and in engaging with audiences



Highlighting talents of the region

During the Dubai Design Week. The Times Kuwait managed to catch up with the director of the event, Natasha Karela, and spoke with her on the continued success of an event that is marking its 10 year of operation.

"Dubai Design Week has always been an event dedicated to highlighting the talents of the region, as well as showcasing their exceptional and authentic designs to the global audience," said Ms Karela. She revealed that keeping their commitments to exhibitors over the years, as well as using design as a catalyst for positive change, addressing pressing global challenges, and supporting dialogue on sustainability and inclusion, have been the cornerstones of their success.

Today, she says, Dubai Design Week is not just a celebration of aesthetics, but has become a vital platform for designers to exchange ideas and create a meaningful impact.

Natasha's contribution to Design Dubai cannot but be appreciated. The hard work, the attention to every detail, and most importantly the perfect execution of the exhibition year after year is indeed a remarkable achievement on its own. Elaborating on the event's continued success, she says, "It has seen a great evolution in terms of what the design scene represents here over the years through so many different facets. Whether it's emerging or established talent that is coming out of the UAE, or the academic offerings of new institutions."

"International brands have used downtown design as a sort of testing ground and then gone on to set up long term offices in the district as well," she adds.

As Natasha passionately points out, "We have over 1000 designers from 50 countries participating and this is a real testament to the success of the event."

Capitalism Is Driving Democracy's Death Spiral



Katharina Pistor

*Katharina Pistor, Professor of Comparative Law at Columbia Law School, is the author of *The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality* (Princeton University Press, 2019).*

This US election marks what Germans call a *Zeitenwende* ("turning point"). Voters are signaling clearly that they want change, preferring a second Donald Trump administration to another caretaker government presiding over a regime that they reject.

True, political parties that promised to protect the status quo have lost elections in country after country this year. But the significance of voters in the world's oldest democracy rejecting their country's constitutional foundations – the rule of law, an independent and impartial judiciary, due process, and an orderly transfer of power – can hardly be overestimated.

The blame game started before the election results had sunk in, with a predictable focus on elitism, identity, and the losing candidate herself. This cycle of recrimination will tear apart the Democratic Party and render it even less fit for governing in the future. It also will distract from the elephant in the room: capitalism. Democracy is in a death spiral because it is subject to a socioeconomic regime that pits everyone against everyone else, undermining the capacity for consensus and collective decision-making.

It is not the first time that capitalism has upended democracy. A century ago, the effects of rapid industrialization at the expense of individuals and their communities fueled communism and fascism in Europe. Writing during World War II, the economic historian Karl Polanyi traced the root cause of his era's



EXCLUSIVE TO THE TIMES KUWAIT

political upheavals to an economic system that subordinated society to the market principle.

The problem, according to Polanyi, started with the abolition of the "poor laws" in England in the early nineteenth century. Uprooted, landless masses had no choice but to migrate to cities, where they were exploited as cheap labor in factories that consumed their lives and those of their children. While this system undoubtedly generated prosperity, it came at enormous costs to too many people. Without the devastation brought by World War I, the backlash against it by the masses might have taken much longer.

The United States, which fought in WWI but not on its own territory, largely avoided the backlash despite the economic depression of the 1930s. Importantly, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration accomplished something that other countries did not: It gave the American people enough economic security that they could begin to envision a better future for themselves and their families.

This time is different, and not only in the US. We live in a system that most politicians have declared to be without alternative. In fact, they themselves have long surrendered control of the system and lack the capacity or

will to imagine a different one. The late Fredric Jameson's aphorism that "it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism" has gained renewed currency, and it is not hard to see why. Governments have very little room for maneuver, lest they be punished by (utterly amoral) financial markets. Long celebrated as a tool for disciplining policymakers, financial globalization has placed the fate of entire societies in the hands of investors who care only about price signals and are oblivious to human needs.

Governments tied their own hands in the hope that markets would deliver capital, goods, and jobs. Buying into the belief that they should get out of the market's way, they opened their countries to free capital flows, even as they supported the selective legal coding of assets and intermediaries to benefit the well-heeled. Later, they encouraged their central banks to bail out intermediaries who threatened to bring down the entire financial system in yet another crisis.

Countries also adopted international treaties that gave multinational corporations the power to sue host states for harming the profitability of their investments, or for "unfair and inequitable" treatment. With these

cases overseen by an arbitral tribunal located elsewhere, governments effectively disarmed their own courts and undermined their own constitutions (whose provisions cannot be used as a defense against violations of international treaties).

Some countries (Germany most prominently) went so far as to deny future elected governments the option of raising additional debt finance, by enshrining balanced-budget requirements in their constitutions. Others held their people on a short leash by pursuing fiscal austerity, even as the rich thrived on yet another asset boom supported by easy monetary policies. Like Odysseus, who had his hands bound to the ship's mast to withstand the call of the sirens, governments found ways to escape the call of the voters who had elected them. Democratic self-governance lost credibility long before the rise of the anti-democratic parties that now openly deride it.

For his part, Polanyi expected the war to be followed by another transformation that would put society, and not markets, in control. The legal and institutional mechanisms adopted to advance this goal did work initially, but powerful private actors and their lawyers soon found ways to arbitrage around them.

Two decades after the war, what the University of Michigan's Greta Krippner describes as the financialization of the American economy had already taken off. Financial returns became the end to which all other needs and aspirations were subordinated. While the collateral damage of this process was widespread, the biggest blow was dealt to our capacity for collective decision-making.

Had communism and socialism not collapsed at the very moment when financialization unleashed its full force, many might have noticed its corrosive effects on democracy much earlier. Instead, capitalism was celebrated as the only game in town. As a result, we did not witness the "end of history" that Francis Fukuyama proclaimed when the Cold War wound down. We are condemned to relive it, but whether as tragedy or farce remains to be seen.

COP29 Climate Talks Amid Soaring Temperatures, Rising Emissions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the country also aims to lower its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2040 and generate 50 percent of electricity from solar power by 2050. The Paris Climate Agreement, the legally binding international treaty on climate signed by 196 countries (Parties) in 2015, calls on nations to limit average global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. But, in order to achieve this target global GHG emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43 percent by 2030.

Despite promises at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels, the new 'Global Carbon Budget' report, published by a consortium of scientists worldwide, shows that global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are set to increase to 41.6 billion metric tons in 2024, up from the 40.6 billion tons last year. Nearly 90 percent of these emissions, or 37.4 billion tons, came from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

The rest of global CO₂ emissions came from land use, a category that includes deforestation and forest fires. Experts point out that the slow progress in reducing GHG emissions means that, without immediate and steep emission cuts of around 9 percent every year from now until 2030, and beyond, the aim of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C will no longer be realistically possible.

Addressing global leaders gathered at COP29, the UN Secretary General said, "Doubling down on

fossil fuels is absurd. The clean energy revolution is here. No group, no business, and no government can stop it. But you can and must ensure it is fair, and fast enough to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

Urging global leaders to focus on three priorities to address the climate crisis, he stressed that the first priority was to urgently reduce global emissions so as to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Second, you must do more to protect people from ravages of the climate crisis. The third priority, said the UN Chief, is finance for reducing emissions, as well as for enhancing adaptation and mitigation efforts in less endowed states.

Guterres pointed out that developing countries eager to implement climate action face several challenges, including scarce public finance, high cost of capital, crushing climate disasters, and debt servicing that soaks up funds. He added, "The result is adaptation denied, and a tale of two transitions. Last year, developing and emerging markets outside China received just fifteen cents for every dollar invested in clean energy globally. COP29 must tear down the walls to climate finance."

Considering the direct relation between global average temperatures and concentration of GHG emissions in the atmosphere, solving the climate change challenge cannot be realized without drastically reducing CO₂ emissions, and enhancing carbon sinks, such as dense forest covers or mangroves along coastal zones, that absorb atmospheric carbon. Efforts to reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon sinks are referred

to as mitigation processes.

Efforts to strengthen mitigation measures and enhance adaptation and resilience-building require considerable finances that many developing countries do not possess. Acknowledging the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities', the Paris treaty calls on developed countries and other financing sources to support the climate actions of less endowed and more vulnerable nations.

However, funding currently available from the donors falls far short of what is needed to tackle climate challenges. As the UN Chief said in his speech to global leaders at COP29, "The gap between adaptation needs and available finance could reach up to US\$359 billion a year by 2030. These missing dollars are not abstractions on a balance sheet: they are lives taken, harvests lost, and development denied."

Additionally, the Paris Agreement urges States to work towards net zero emissions and a climate neutral world by 2050. Rich nations struggling to reduce GHG emissions can offset some of their emissions by paying for actions to cut emissions in other countries. Experts say that implementing Article 6.4 of the Agreement, which aims to create an UN-managed system to regulate carbon offsets, could channel up to \$250 billion a year for climate work in developing nations.

To assess Parties commitments to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the Paris Treaty also calls on countries to submit their climate action plans, known as nationally determined contributions

(NDCs), every five years from 2020. The next NDCs are due in 2025, but as countries have realized submitting NDCs is the easy part, implementing them effectively is the challenge.

In his speech to global leaders at COP29, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell urged leaders to show more ambition in drafting their nation's new NDCs so that the world could benefit from a clean energy boom. He added that bolder climate action could help drive economic opportunities. "Clean energy can be the bedrock of your economies, providing more jobs, more growth, less pollution, healthier citizens and stronger businesses," said Stiell.

It is obvious that no country can solve the climate crisis on its own. In his inaugural address, COP29 President and Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Mukhtar Babayev, stressed that there was no alternative to multilateral climate action. He said Azerbaijan could help bridge geopolitical divisions, but for this endeavor to succeed, nations must be willing to cross the bridge, by committing to and engaging constructively in multilateral processes.

Concluding his speech to world leaders at the COP29 summit, the UN Chief underlined that there was no time to be wasted. "On climate finance, the world must pay up, or humanity will pay the price. Climate finance is not charity, it's an investment. Climate action is not optional, it's imperative. Both are indispensable: to a liveable world for all humanity. And a prosperous future for every nation on Earth."

Bone marrow: it is a whole nutrition

Bone marrow, the soft tissue found in the center of animal bones, is packed with essential nutrients and offers numerous health benefits. A delicacy in various cuisines around the world, bone marrow is typically enjoyed boiled or grilled, enhancing its rich, buttery texture and savory flavor. Beyond its culinary appeal, bone marrow provides valuable nutritional benefits, supporting a variety of bodily functions.

Bone marrow is an excellent source of healthy fats, particularly monounsaturated fats, which play a role in heart health by reducing bad cholesterol levels. A single serving of bone marrow, (example a 40 gram stick) contains approximately 110-130 calories, with 12 grams of fat, most of which are beneficial monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. It is also rich in essential fatty acids, like omega-3 and omega-6, which have anti-inflammatory properties and promote overall cardiovascular health.

In addition to healthy fats, bone marrow is packed with several key micronutrients. It contains high amounts of vitamin A, which supports immune function, skin health, and vision. Additionally, bone marrow provides zinc, which plays a crucial role in immune health and vitamin B12. Small amounts of iron are also present, contributing to red blood cell formation and helping prevent fatigue.

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy



Some of the health benefits of bone marrow include:

Joint and Bone Health: Bone marrow contains collagen and other compounds like glucosamine, which help maintain healthy joints. Collagen supports joint flexibility and resilience, while glucosamine can reduce inflammation and aid in cartilage repair. Consuming bone marrow can thus benefit individuals dealing with joint pain or arthritis.

Immune System Support: The immune system benefits from bone marrow's nutrient profile,

including zinc and vitamin A, both known for boosting immune responses. Vitamin A is also an antioxidant, which means it can help reduce

oxidative stress on cells, supporting a balanced immune system.

Skin Health and Anti-Aging: Bone marrow's collagen content also supports skin elasticity, which can help reduce wrinkles and other signs of aging. The fatty acids in bone marrow nourish the skin, promoting a healthy and glowing look.

Gut Health: Bone marrow may support gut health due to its gelatin content, which aids digestion and reduces inflammation.

To enjoy bone marrow, try roasting or grilling it with a sprinkle of salt and fresh herbs. It can be served on crusty bread or added to soups for a flavor-rich, nutrient-dense addition, making it easy to incorporate into a balanced diet.



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



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Uzbekistan on the way to a sustainable future: environmental initiatives and international cooperation



On November 11-13, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is taking part in the World Summit on Combating Climate Change at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Baku.

Delegations from almost 200 countries at the level of heads of state, government and ministers, representatives of international organizations, NGOs, expert, scientific and social circles are expected to participate in the conference.

The event is part of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-29), adopted in 1992 and covering almost all countries of the world. The Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are the documents adopted on the basis of and as a follow-up to this Convention.

Uzbekistan joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on June 20, 1993, ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 1999 and the Paris Agreement in 2017, assuming a number of commitments, including the main quantitative commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35% of the 2010 level by 2030.

As a party to the UN Framework Convention, Uzbekistan prepares and submits to the Convention Secretariat regular climate reporting – national communications, biennial reports, and adaptation plans, develops and updates nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Speaking at the High Level Segment of COP-28 in Dubai on 1 December 2023, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev presented the country's position on climate change, information on measures on decarbonization, adaptation to climate change, cooperation on ecosystem conservation and restoration of the Aral Sea ecosystem.

It is worth noting that Uzbekistan actively participates in international environmental initiatives aimed at combating climate change and protecting Central Asian ecosystems. One of the key tasks is the restoration of the Aral Sea, the ecosystem of which has been significantly damaged. Uzbekistan initiated the establishment of the UN-sponsored Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region, which aims to transform this region into a climate-resilient zone.

Uzbekistan seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions, develops renewable energy and cooperates with UNESCO's Green Education Program to promote environmental education.

At COP-28 and other meetings, the country



presented the "One Region, One Voice" strategy, bringing together countries in the region to jointly address environmental challenges and create common standards for conservation.

In addition, Uzbekistan has committed

to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through the development of "green" energy, reducing emissions and improving water management. This includes projects to develop solar and wind energy to

reduce dependence on hydrocarbons.

In 2022, the office of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the first representative office of this organization in the CIS and Central Asia, opened in Tashkent. GGGI is an international organization founded to support countries in the transition to sustainable economic growth through the development of "green" economy and climate initiatives.

The main goal of the institute's work in Uzbekistan is to promote sustainable development and environmental rehabilitation of the region, especially in the context of climate change. One of the significant projects was the green rehabilitation of Aral Sea region, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). This project is aimed at overcoming the consequences of the environmental crisis associated with the shoaling of the Aral Sea and improving living conditions in Karakalpakstan through "green" technologies and sustainable farming practices.

The climate agenda is also being actively promoted within other international formats. In particular, within the framework of the SCO, our head of state stressed the need to strengthen coordination and practical cooperation in decarbonization and introduction of "clean" technologies, development of "smart" agriculture and water conservation.

At the summit of the Organization of Turkic States held in Bishkek on November 5-6, Uzbekistan's leader suggested accelerating the establishment of the Turkic Ecological Council at the ministerial level to find solutions to acute environmental problems related to climate change.

All these initiatives reflect Uzbekistan's aspiration to contribute to international efforts in the field of ecology and ensure a more sustainable future for our country, the region and the planet as a whole.

The participation of the President of Uzbekistan in the upcoming event in Baku will once again reaffirm our country's commitment to "green" growth and development, readiness to consolidate efforts to mitigate climate change and fulfill its commitments to achieve the goals of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.



AI provides glimpse of future self

The system, named 'Future You', is aimed at helping young people improve their sense of Future Self-Continuity -- a concept in psychology that describes the degree to which a person sees their future self as an extension of their current self.

Every day brings news about the increasing capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI), and the innovative ways in which this technology is being applied. Two subsets of AI, Generative AI (Gen AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have in particular gained attention in recent years.

Generative AI is used to create new text, and realistic images, videos, and conversations using data from large foundational models. On the other hand, ML models analyze large amounts of input data to make predictions or decisions for tasks such as fraud detection and image recognition. On a basic level, while Gen AI focuses on creating, ML models aim to understand and predict.

Models that synthesize these two subsets of AI and work synergistically can produce even more amazing end results. One such example where the two AI sets work together is in autonomous vehicles, where ML algorithms process data from the vehicle's sensors to interpret road conditions and make real-time driving decisions. Gen AI then enhances this process so that vehicles can adapt to unforeseen circumstances, such as sudden changes in weather or road conditions.

Now researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States, along with colleagues in research labs elsewhere, have developed a new synergistic model that can predict what your future self might be like. The new system enables users to have a text-based conversation with an AI-generated simulation of their potential future self.

The system, named 'Future You', is aimed at helping young people improve their sense of Future Self-Continuity -- a concept in psychology that describes the degree to which a person sees their future self as an extension of their current self.

Studies have shown that a stronger sense of future self-continuity can positively influence how people make long-term decisions, such as exhibiting financial prudence today so as

to contribute to future financial savings, or focusing on their studies today to achieve future academic success.

The new 'Future You' utilizes a large language model (LLM) — a model of AI that can perform natural language processing (NLP) tasks, such as generating and translating text — to gather information provided by the user and generate a relatable, virtual version of the individual at age 60. This simulated future self can answer questions about what someone's life in the future could be like, as well as offer advice or insights on the path they could follow.



Although not a real 'time machine', the AI powered system allows people to interact with their future self and to contemplate about the consequences of choices they make today. Future self-Continuity is not a new concept; earlier versions had people write letters to their future self, or more recent versions used virtual reality goggles to help people visualize their future self. But these models had their limitations, mainly the inability to interact with their future selves.

The advent of generative AI and large

language models such as ChatGPT, provided the researchers with an opportunity to make a simulated but realistic 'Future You' that converses with people through text about their goals and aspirations. Users begin the process by answering a questionnaire about their current lives, things that are important to them, and goals for the future.

The AI system uses this information to create what the researchers call "future self memories" which provide a backstory that the model pulls from when later interacting with the user. For instance, the system could talk about the

who they see themselves becoming.

To help people visualize their future selves, the system generates an age-progressed photo of the user, and provides vivid answers using phrases like "when I was your age," so the simulation feels more like an actual future version of the individual. Studies show that people using the system when contemplating an uncertain future are more likely to consider the advice offered by an older version of themselves, rather than from a generic AI chatbot.

But these realistic interactions could also boomerang or fail if the simulation moves in a negative direction. To prevent this, the researchers have enabled 'Future You' to caution users that it shows only one potential version of their future self, and they have the agency to change their lives. In other words, the machine warns users that its prediction is not to be treated as a prophecy, but only as a possibility. The system is also capable of providing a totally different conversation, if alternate answers are provided to the original questionnaire.

To evaluate Future You, the researchers conducted a user study with 344 individuals. Some users interacted with the system for 10-30 minutes, while others either interacted with a generic chatbot or only filled out surveys. The evaluation, based on a statistical analysis of responses from users, found that participants who used Future You were able to build a closer relationship with their future selves compared to those who used a chatbot or filled out survey forms.

The participants also reported less anxiety about the future after their interactions. In addition, Future You users said the conversation felt sincere and that their values and beliefs seemed consistent in their simulated future identities. The researchers voiced hope that their model, rather than making users dependent on the tool, would help them have meaningful experiences that help them see themselves and the world differently, and guide them in self-development.

Dubai Design Week gets bigger and better

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Special Projects: Doors and Civil Works Exhibition

Abwab is one of Dubai Design Week's most important programs, dedicated to regional talents through annual committees studying new installations or pavilions. Since its launch in 2015, more than 180 designers from countries including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates have participated in the doors.

The 2024 theme explored local architecture and sustainable design processes through the use of local materials, climate-responsive technologies and community-centred designs. Three regional works have been selected: "The Present/Absent" by Iraqi Ola Saad Zenad,

the work depicting the architectural heritage of the marsh Arabs in Iraq using reeds and ancient Sumerian techniques, "Re-rooting" Dima Al-Sarouri from Jordan and Palestine, Da

Hamati from Lebanon and Palestine and Andy Cartier from France and Rosa Hamalainen from Finland who explored emergency housing solutions through an ecological lens using a material derived from fungi.

Exhibitions

This year's program offered 10 exhibitions in various design disciplines, including an exhibition of UAE Designers at Downtown Design, supervised by Emirati designer Omar Al Gurg, and included furniture and products for more than 30 designers originating from or residing in the UAE. Design Next is the first co-exhibit between Dubai's design district and the Italian design group Isola, which aims to contribute to shaping the future of the circular economy by highlighting sustainable and innovative designers, studios and startups and organizing inspiring dialogue sessions.

Events

The audience experienced many

temporary and special activities and performances offered by cultural institutions and design-based brands, including a multi-sensory event linked to the rich heritage of Arabian perfumes by Hind Al Oud, a partner at Dubai Design Week, to celebrate the launch of two distinctive perfumes, a new collection of perfumes called "Pride from Millennium to Yi", inspired by the poem "Pride" by the famous Kuwaiti poet Faisal Al-Adani. Global media brand Monocle also launches its first temporary store and cafe in Dubai during Dubai Design Week, which includes the magazine's custom edition of prints, clothing, household items, bags and accessories.

Doha Design

Doha Design, an annual design exhibition created by Qatar Museums, hosted an interactive reading room showcasing the Arab Design Now event, which highlighted contemporary designers from the region.

Workshops and Training Courses

Dubai Design Week included more than 60 workshops and an interactive training course. One of the highlights of the UAE Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, which presents arts and creations in the UAE from a local perspective. Baltek Studio from Lebanon also hosted a workshop entitled Sustainable Space Making, which addresses how to turn discarded plastic into practical products and furnishings.

Dialogue Sessions

The Forum, which is held annually as part of the Downtown Design exhibition, continued to attract a selection of influential voices in the global design world. This year, India has delivered the keynote address.

In addition, The Forum also hosted the first part of the editorial panel program, which highlighted the ever-evolving dynamics of the creative world through the perspectives of artists, collectors, designers and industry leaders.



There Is No Alternative to Multilateral Climate Action



Mukhtar Babayev
President-Designate of COP29, is Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

Our world is at a critical juncture. The devastating effects of global warming are increasingly evident, and the crisis is deepening. To mitigate it, we must urgently reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions. Failing to act now will only increase the human and economic toll.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, presents a unique opportunity for effective collective action. Amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty, COP29 will serve as a test of the multilateral system on which humanity's ability to respond to this existential threat depends.

The groundwork for coordinated action was laid in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with the creation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which established the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to promote consensus-based solutions. The philosophy was simple: given that climate change is a global issue, addressing it requires a collaborative approach.

The UNFCCC fosters cooperation between smaller countries and superpowers, enables civil-society organizations to engage directly with governments, and facilitates cross-border technology transfers. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a framework for collective action in which each country's efforts encourage others to step up their own.

While the 1997 Kyoto Protocol set binding emission-reduction targets for developed economies, it quickly became clear that more was needed. In response, developed countries pledged in 2009 to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing



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countries' climate policies. The 2015 Paris climate agreement marked a turning point, setting the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels and ensuring that the increase stays well below 2°C. To monitor progress, the agreement established a system of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) through which each country outlines its emission-reduction plans. Periodic global audits assess whether countries are on track to fulfill their climate commitments.

Regrettably, the first global audit, released ahead of last year's COP28 in Dubai, showed that we are far from meeting these climate targets. It also offered a comprehensive roadmap, calling on all countries to commit to NDCs aligned with the 1.5°C goal and establishing clear steps and timelines—including transitioning away from fossil fuels—that could bring the Paris

agreement's objectives within reach.

COP29 represents the next step for the multilateral approach, with leaders expected to agree on a significant boost to the \$100 billion climate finance target—the so-called New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). Moreover, each country must submit its updated NDCs by February 2025.

Transparency is essential to this process. If the Paris agreement's targets are the destination, and the NDCs are the roadmap, the NCQG provides the fuel needed to get there. Building trust in countries' commitment to bold climate action and willingness to provide the necessary financing is key.

As COP29 President, Azerbaijan is urging all countries to submit NDCs aligned with the 1.5°C target as soon as possible. We are also doing everything we can to secure a fair

and ambitious new climate-finance goal that addresses developing countries' needs and matches the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Falling short would force us to confront tough questions: Are we willing to accept the failure of the Paris agreement? And what are the alternatives? One thing is clear: without a viable backup plan, we must do all we can to meet the 1.5°C goal. Sleepwalking into a climate catastrophe is not an option.

To be sure, the multilateral system has its flaws. But it remains the best framework to tackle this daunting challenge. Over three decades, it has fostered lasting international cooperation, a shared understanding of the science behind climate change, and a strong consensus concerning global climate goals.

The alternative to multilateralism is a fragmented response, with governments pursuing their own agendas without coordination or cooperation. This approach would mean slower progress, higher costs, and less equitable outcomes. Without a unifying goal, any sense of shared purpose would all but vanish.

Consider, for example, COP29's objective of finalizing negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris agreement, which aims to standardize carbon markets. By channeling resources toward the most effective mitigation projects, this framework could save \$250 billion annually by 2030—a substantial boost in an era of limited resources.

Given the alternatives, we have no choice but to make the current system work. The COP29 Presidency will leave no stone unturned to achieve an international consensus. With an agenda focused on advancing transformative climate action, Azerbaijan could help bridge geopolitical divisions. But our success hinges on countries' willingness to engage constructively and commit to the multilateral process.

The science is clear, the frameworks for coordinated action are in place, and the plan has been laid out. Now, we must find the political will to put these tools to use. COP29 is our chance to prove that multilateralism can work.

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