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الجمعة 23 أكتوبر 2026

2
خبران

8
صف

نتائج اليوم

• لا يوجد

الراي
Al-Rai



• اخبر

النهار
Annahar



السفير الأرجنتيني: تتضامن مع الكويت في مواجهة التحديات

• لا يوجد

السياسة
Al-Seyassah

السياسة

• لا يوجد

القبس
Al-Qabas



• لا يوجد

الجريدة
Al-Jarida



• لا يوجد

الأنباء
Al-Anba



• اخبر

Kuwait Times



UN Resident Coordinator visits Kuwait Times and Kuwait News

• لا يوجد

Arab Times



1 السفير الأرجنتيني: نتضامن مع الكويت في مواجهة التحديات

Kuwait Times

1 UN Resident Coordinator visits Kuwait Times and Kuwait News

UN, Kuwait plan \$45m framework to support national development

UN Resident Coordinator visits Kuwait Times and Kuwait News



UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait Ghada Eltahir poses for a group photo with Kuwait Times team.



Kuwait Times Managing Editor Shakir Reshamwala and the editorial team brief the UN Representative in Kuwait on newsroom operations.



Ghada Eltahir checks old issues of Kuwait Times in the archive. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat.

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The United Nations Secretary-General Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ghada Eltahir, highlighted the longstanding partnership between Kuwait and the United Nations and announced plans for a new four-year strategic framework worth \$45 million to support projects and programs in Kuwait. Speaking during a visit to Kuwait Times, Eltahir said the framework would align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 and Kuwait Vision 2035, with Kuwait funding 100 percent of the initiatives to be implemented for the benefit of the Kuwaiti people.

"Kuwait and the UN share a lot, including the same belief in diplomacy, negotiation and a peaceful approach," she said, expressing appreciation for the country's continued commitment to international cooperation. She also highlighted the upcoming fifth season of the Young Ambassadors initiative, which will focus on SDG 12, responsible consumption and production, noting that the initiative would continue to engage young people and strengthen cooperation with Kuwait Times.

UN faces critical juncture

Eltahir said the world was at a critical juncture, with conflicts, climate change and emerging technologies presenting significant challenges for humanity. She recalled the establishment of the UN 81 years ago, when world leaders recognized the need for diplomacy, negotiations and collective action to prevent war and maintain international peace and security. "Today, we find ourselves in a troubled world. Conflicts everywhere. The sound of the guns is louder than the sound of reason and logic," she said.



The UN Representative tours the Kuwait Times museum.

She stressed that no country could address global challenges alone, emphasizing the importance of multilateral cooperation and calling for continued reforms to ensure the organization responds to the aspirations of younger generations and to be actively involved in shaping the future. Eltahir acknowledged the work of outgoing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during a particularly challenging period and said the next secretary-general would need to continue the reform process and strengthen the institution's ability to respond to global needs.

Missing Kuwaitis file remains open

Addressing the issue of Kuwaiti missing persons and the recovery of national archives following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Eltahir said the UN recognized that important aspects of the file remained unresolved despite the closure of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). She explained that UNAMI's mandate ended

on Dec 31, 2025, while the UN's operational presence in Kuwait concluded at the end of September following the completion of the liquidation process, adding that the UN Secretary-General had appointed a high-level envoy Mari Yamashita as Senior Representative for implementation of Security Council resolution 2792 (2025) to work with Kuwait and Iraq on the missing persons and archives file.

"The envoy had visited both countries twice and held meetings with senior officials, including His Highness the Crown Prince, the prime minister and the foreign minister, as well as Kuwait's representative handling the file. The envoy had also met families of missing persons and was expected to return to Kuwait," she added. "Although 35 years have passed, it is definitely an important file for the families who have lost their loved ones and still do not have closure," Eltahir said, expressing hope for further progress.

Gaza crisis

Turning to Gaza, Eltahir described the humanitarian situation as devastating and said the crisis remained a wound in the world's conscience, emphasizing that respect for international law and international humanitarian law was an obligation for all states, not an option. She called on member states to ensure humanitarian assistance reaches civilians and that civilians can safely access essential aid, stressing the need to protect humanitarian workers and guarantee freedom of movement for both civilians and aid organizations. Eltahir stressed that civilians and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted, specifically citing hospitals, schools, water facilities and electricity grids, saying that safeguarding civilians and ensuring humanitarian access were essential to reducing suffering in conflict zones.

Action against violence

Eltahir also highlighted that the UN in Kuwait will mark the annual Orange the World campaign during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence which seeks to raise awareness of violence against women and children in conflict zones, homes and workplaces. She described media organizations as crucial partners in raising awareness and encouraging safer environments for women and children, adding that the campaign must also address online violence and harassment, and that anonymity on digital platforms can facilitate abusive behavior. She called for collective efforts to ensure women and children can live, work and participate in society without fear of violence.

In a related initiative, Eltahir said the UN was preparing the third edition of a Women, Peace and Security event, scheduled for the first week of December. The event will highlight Kuwaiti women's contributions to law enforcement and the justice system, including their work as prosecutors and in the police and military. She praised the growing role of Kuwaiti women in these fields and said the event would provide a platform for sharing their experiences and achievements.

Eltahir also welcomed Kuwait's re-election to the UN Human Rights Council with 173 votes, describing the result as a demonstration of international confidence in Kuwait and its role in diplomacy. She praised the country's engagement with the international community and reiterated the importance of cooperation in addressing shared challenges. During her visit, Eltahir commended Kuwait Times for preserving the country's history and documenting its development over the decades, noting that newspapers serve not only as sources of information but also as historical records of a country's people and institutions.

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