

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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Japan embassy announces winner of logo contest

KUWAIT: The Japanese embassy in Kuwait released the following statement, announcing the winner for the logo contest to mark the 60th anniversary for establishing diplomatic relations between Japan and Kuwait:

"Surprisingly, we have received a large number of logo designs not only from Kuwait but also from Japan and other neighboring countries. The Embassy of Japan in the State of Kuwait is deeply grateful and impressed by the enormous and creative designs that were submitted, as they showed great interest in strengthening the friendship and bilateral relations between Japan and Kuwait. We would like to thank all participants for their enthusiastic participation and wonderful designs.

"We have to say that all submitted designs were excellent and unique, which made it very difficult for us to select a winning logo. After much consideration, we are excited to announce that the winning design is created by Yuka Satori, a Japanese art student. The Evaluation was based on the simplicity and originality.

"The selected logo shows the Kuwaiti flag represented by the number six, while Japan's flag is represented by number zero, and the Sakura flower that symbolizes Japan. Together, the two numbers are a symbol of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The wave refers to the sea, which is a common natural environment between the two countries, represents the strong and deep relations between Japan and Kuwait. The winning logo design will be used for activities related to the 60th anniversary."



Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: People walk towards a mosque in Kuwait City to perform the Maghrib prayer during the curfew hours on Sunday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

NBK participates in event promoting women empowerment

KUWAIT: Celebrating International Women's Day, NBK participated in the 'Ring the Bell Event,' organized by UN Women and in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) and Boursa Kuwait to promote the empowerment of women in various fields. UN Women themed this year's event "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world, in celebration of

the great efforts made by women for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

NBK participated in the event, which was held virtually represented by Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, and Emad Al-Ablani, GM - Group Human Resources, who shed light on the bank's achievements in promoting gender diversity and inclusion as a cornerstone of the bank's system.

The event discussed ways to consolidate efforts and visions to promote the seven principles of the empowerment of women launched by UN Women and UN Global Compact. In 2021, the focus was on the third and fifth of these principles regarding guaranteeing the health, safety, and well-being of all women and men workers, and implementing enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.

On this occasion, Bahar said: "Commemorating International Women's Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on women's achievements and the progress made in achieving gender equality globally. Moreover, it encourages business leaders to act proactively to accelerate realization of this goal in the coming years."

Bahar pointed out that all organizations and institutions are required to proactively support the principle of equal opportunities in all job roles, and that career progression should be based on key criteria basically skill, experience and competence.

Bahar emphasized that women leaders showed great examples in addressing the coronavirus pandemic and contributed to putting countries on the track of recovery, noting that achieving gender equality in women's leadership and representation is a global prerequisite to create an environment that promotes sustainable development and creates a positive impact on society in the long term.

Bahar added that supporting women to reach their full potential has always been one of

NBK's priorities, stemming from the bank's belief in the importance of gender diversity and inclusion as critical factors to sustain its success in the future.

"At NBK, we are proud to be one of the first private sector institutions in the region to endorse UN Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPPs), as we were early to adopt a more systematic approach towards gender equality, which contributed to comprehensive adoption of these principles, and also provided us with a framework to work on the overall UN Sustainable Development Goals including gender equality as one of its key pillars," she pointed out.

Bahar noted: "NBK follows a unique approach with regards to guaranteeing equal opportunities, as it ensures equal opportunities for all its employees, with no exception, with the aim to motivate them to innovate. This approach is also clearly manifested in having no salary gap between women and men employees in the bank."

Bahar indicated that gender-diverse workforce gives added value to the bank's business, operating across 4 continents and 15 countries worldwide. We are proud that women employees represent 46% of the workforce, which is a remarkable achievement across the banking sector and the regional labor market. Moreover, the bank is keen to empower more women through mentoring and offering them career development opportunities. Over the past years, the bank adopted many initiatives that help attract and retain female talents, in addition to helping working parents create a better work-life balance.



Shaikha Al-Bahar

FRONTLINE HEROES OF KUWAIT

Student Art Competition 2021



It is our pleasure to welcome each and every youngster to our Student Art Competition. We hope that everyone is ready to create beautiful artworks and show support for our heroes of Kuwait! We're searching for great art – so get your paintbrushes, color pencils, crayons and markers ready. Let your talent flow and start painting. Good luck to our young artists!

- The competition is open to students aged 6 - 18 years with categories (6 - 8 years) (9 - 11 years) (12 - 14 years) (15 - 18 years) and special abilities students.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (government and private).
- Submissions are open from February 14, 2021 till March 31, 2021.
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools and individuals interested in participating in this competition are welcome.
- Participants in the ages 6 - 8 years may use marker colors only.
- You can use any drawing sheet, but of A3 size.
- All artwork must be hand drawn and not computer generated.
- All paintings should be submitted by email at painting@kuwaittimes.net in PDF format ONLY.
- Participant must include on the bottom of the artwork the following: name, age, email address, phone number and school in legible font.

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Kuwait deplores Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Sunday condemned "in the strongest possible terms" a string of drone attacks launched by Yemen's Houthi group towards "civilian sites" in Saudi Arabia. These "terrorist crimes" represent a major escalation of violence and put the kingdom's security at great risk, said a Kuwaiti foreign ministry statement, adding such transgressions "run counter to international law and humanitarian principles." It slammed the international community's "silence" in the face of these "despicable actions," saying Kuwait "stands in solidarity with Saudi Arabia" and supports all the measures taken by Riyadh to keep its security and stability intact.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemned the drone and missile attacks. "These terrorist attacks not only target Saudi Arabia, but strike at the pulse of the global economy and energy supplies to the world," GCC chief Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said in a statement. He underlined the six-nation bloc's "unwavering support" for all the measures Riyadh has taken to protect its national interests, which support global energy security and maritime trade operations. Colonel Turki Al-Malki, the spokesman for the Saudi defense ministry and the military coalition led by the kingdom, said the site of the world's biggest offshore oil loading facility was attacked with a drone coming from the sea, before it was intercepted and destroyed prior to reaching its target.

In the meantime, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has condemned in the strongest terms the Houthi militias' foiled terrorist attacks. In a press statement on Sunday, the OIC Secretary General Dr Youssef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimen stressed that these terrorist,

sabotage and criminal acts against vital installations not only target the Kingdom, but also target the security and stability of global energy supplies. He also warned that such acts pose a threat to the lives of thousands of Saudi Aramco employees and their families of various nationalities. He called on the international community to stand with the Kingdom in taking practical deterrent measures against all terrorist entities that carry out and support these subversive acts.

Saudi Arabia had derailed a drone assault on oil reservoirs at Ras Tanura Port and a ballistic missile attack on a residential compound of workers of the country's energy giant Aramco, announced the Saudi Energy Ministry. "One of the petroleum tank areas at the Ras Tanura Port in the Eastern Region, one of the largest oil shipping ports in the world, was attacked this morning by a drone, coming from the sea," the Saudi Press Agency quoted an official spokesman of the Energy Ministry as saying Sunday. The spokesman added that another deliberate attempt was also made this evening to attack Saudi Aramco's facilities. "Shrapnel from a ballistic missile fell near Saudi Aramco's residential area in the city of Dhahran, where thousands of the company's employees and their families from different nationalities live," he stated. He said that both attacks did not result in any injury or loss of life or property.

In his statement, the spokesman stressed that the Kingdom condemns and criminalizes such repeated acts of sabotage and hostility. "The Kingdom calls on nations and organizations of the world to stand together against these attacks, which are aimed at civilian objects and vital installations," he said. "Such acts of sabotage do not only target the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but also the security and stability of energy supplies to the world, and therefore, the global economy. They affect the security of petroleum exports, freedom of world trade, and maritime traffic." He added that they also expose coasts and territorial waters to grave environmental catastrophes due to potential leakage of petroleum or petroleum products. —KUNA