

## Kuwait's wise leadership a boon to the world

### STAFF REPORT

On the jubilant occasion, we take a look at the important role that diplomacy has played over the years in shaping and consolidating Kuwait's relations with the rest of the world. In particular, we look at His Highness the Amir's savoir-faire in statecraft that has enabled the country to peacefully pursue its aspirations and win the esteem and confidence of the international community for its adherence to the noble principles of compassion and generosity, as well as its genuine desire to ensure peace and prosperity for people around the world.

Commenting on this global view of Kuwait and its leadership, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, recently observed, His Highness the Amir's leadership is a shining example of human solidarity and constructive engagement for the collective future of this region and our world."

Kuwait has benefited from the wise guidance and leadership of the Amir ever since he entered public service more than five decades ago. On 19 June, 1961, Kuwait gained its full independence from Great Britain, following abrogation of the treaty that had made Kuwait a British Protectorate in 1899. A new constitution was then drafted and ratified in 1962 and elections were held to a directly elected parliament on 23 January 1963. Five days later, on 28 January, 1963, at the age of 33, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was inducted into Kuwait's first post-independence cabinet as the country's Foreign Minister. In addition to his role as Foreign Minister, His Highness has held on various occasions the posts of Acting Minister for Finance and Oil, Acting Minister for Information and Acting Minister of Interior. In 1978, he was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and in 1992, made first Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.



With the formal separation of the posts of Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness was appointed as Prime Minister on 13 July, 2003. And, on the sad demise of the late Amir, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah, and subsequent abdication on health grounds by the Father Amir, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, on 29 January, 2006, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was unanimously proclaimed by the

country's parliament as the fifteenth Amir of the State of Kuwait.

In 1963, delivering his maiden address to the UN General Assembly, following the acceptance of Kuwait as the 111th member of the world body, Sheikh Sabah outlined Kuwait's aspirations to be a responsible member of the world community, and stated: "Kuwait's participation in international activities clearly indicates that the independence of Kuwait and its membership in the UN are not an end in themselves, rather, they are a means by which Kuwait would share the responsibility of improving the lives of people in our country and around the world."

Since then, for over fifty years, Kuwait has been contributing greatly to the service of humanity by directly aiding countries in need, and actively participating and generously fulfilling its obligations to various UN bodies that provide assistance in times of emergency and for development work around the world.

کویت

*National Day  
& Liberation Day Greetings*

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# What Being Kuwaiti Means to Me...

**NOURAH AL-OSEIMI**  
Special to The Times Kuwait

I've always identified as an introspective individual. During the month of February, in particular, I find myself postulating alternate realities wherein I was born during the invasion, or I was born before the invasion or I wasn't born at all. The latter could have been a reality. These words wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be here. My father was a soldier and like the many brave soldiers in 1990, he refused to leave his country. He filled my childhood with tales of his bravery, the Kuwaiti soldiers' unwavering loyalty to their nation and the strong sense of brotherhood that bound all Kuwaitis despite status, wealth or background.

I will not spend too much time reflecting on the horrors of the past. My heart goes out to all who lost a family member or a loved one during this dark period in Kuwait's history. The focus of my message can be summarized in one word; 'resilience'. I am forever awed

by our undying commitment to better ourselves and our country. I am forever grateful that our strong, proud and authentic patriotism never faltered even in the most difficult of times.

As young Kuwaitis, we face a lot of criticism for how entitled we

may seem. There's no denying that so many of us were born into a life of privilege. I'm not here to defend our privilege or our affluence, instead, I'm here to advocate for the many young, talented individuals who do not rely on their privilege to lead valuable, purpose-driven

lives. I turn my attention to the fascinating young men and women I interviewed over the past year in my "Essentially Kuwaiti" series and I can't help but realize how much they embody the Kuwaiti spirit. I think about the thousands of young people that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting who continue to do inspiring work on a daily basis.

What does it mean to be Kuwaiti? No words can capture that essence, no words can do it justice. To be Kuwaiti is to be remarkable. To be brave. To be noble. To be, to be, to be. Essentially, being Kuwaiti is exactly that. We get to be what we choose to be. We are immersed in opportunity, potential and drive. We have a constitution that declares us all as equals. We have the world's Humanitarian Leader as the ruler of our great nation H.H Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. Embodying all of our best, most authentic values, H.H Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah has inspired millions through his generosity, intellect and outstanding leadership. As a young Kuwaiti woman, my heart fills with joy and hope knowing that our country is led by someone as brilliant as he is. I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all that he has done and for all that he will continue to do in the many years to come for our beloved Kuwait. As we near the

celebration of our 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day, I urge all Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis reading this to reflect on their treatment and outlook towards our country. I urge you to be more considerate and mindful towards one another. Kuwait, like many other nations, faces several socio-political challenges. Kuwait, like many other nations, faces uncertainty as oil revenues dwindle. On the other hand, Kuwait, uniquely, bolsters a strong youthful presence leading a positive moment. Kuwait, uniquely, is the home of many innovators paving the way towards an inspired future for our country. Kuwait, you never cease to amaze me.

Take a moment and ask yourself, are the opportunities extended to you in this country available to you elsewhere? We live in a globalized world, and many of us have the opportunity to leave and explore the vast potential we have outside of Kuwait and yet we choose to stay. I used to fantasize about starting a new life elsewhere until I started to reflect deeply about what that life would look like. Would this life include a safe, nurturing home? Would this life include the comfort of my mother's cooking? Would this life include the dynamic career opportunities that have been offered to me here?

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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## Happy National Day Kuwait

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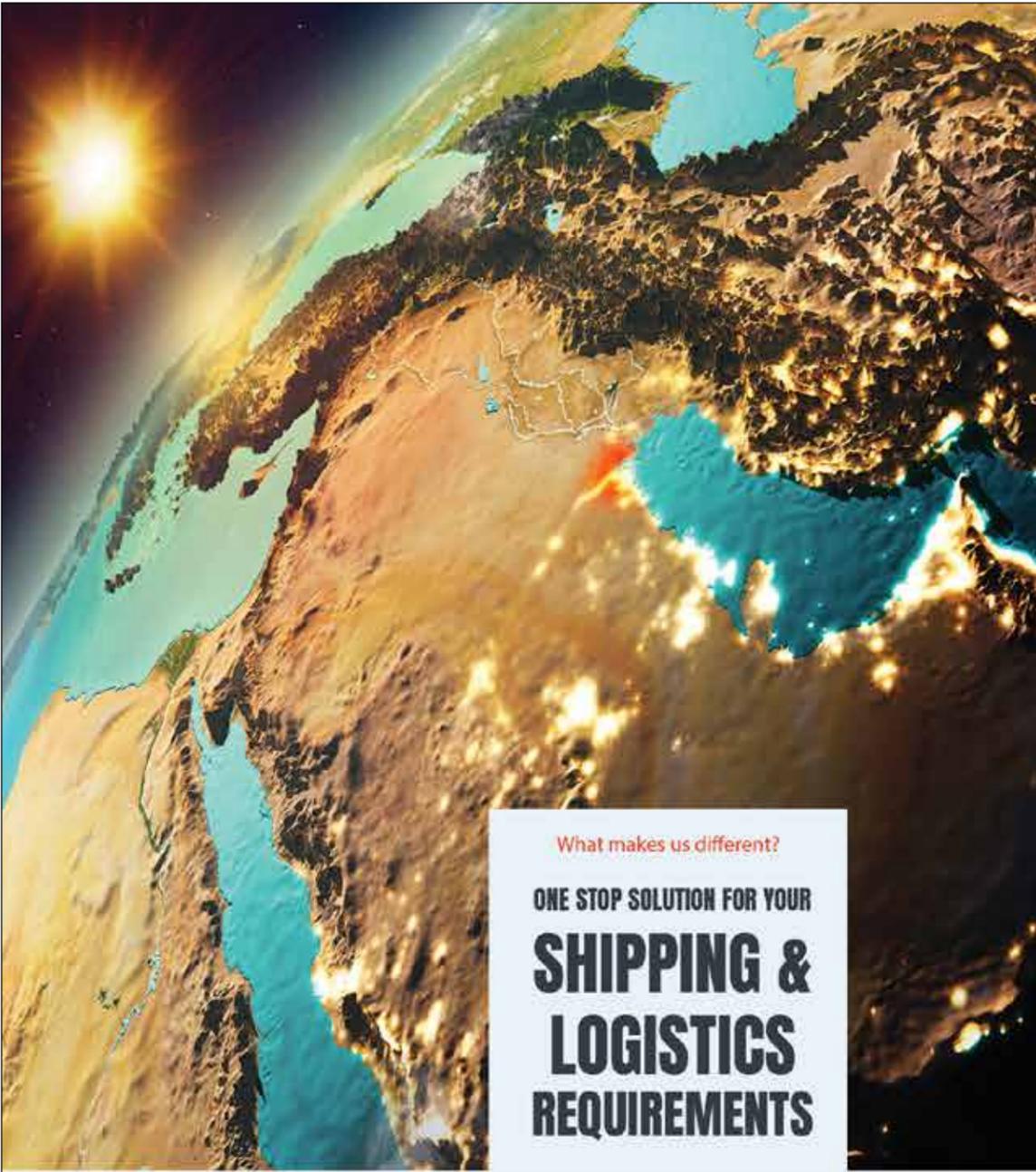
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# Kuwaiti women most emancipated in the Middle East

Women played an important role in the social fabric of Kuwait long before the discovery of oil in the country. For hundreds of years, they were the driving force behind family cohesiveness, they were active in parenting, livestock rearing and weaving. Nonetheless, they had very few legal rights and were not viewed as persons with individual rights of their own.

It was only with the opening of the first private school for girls in 1926, that women began to learn reading and writing. Public schooling began in 1937 and though enrollment of girls was initially low, by 1940s many young Kuwaiti women were enrolled in primary schools.

With the modernization that began following the discovery of oil in the 1930, women in Kuwait experienced many changes to their social status. In the 1950s their access to education and employment increased dramatically and it was often women themselves who pushed for these educational advances and opportunities. In 1956 a group of them rallied for their right to go abroad to study.

With education came a greater awareness of their role in society and in the late 60s early 70s there were calls and campaigns for women's suffrage. Women frequently took their petition to parliament, which was however always

rejected by the male lawmakers.

But the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait forever changed not only the view of women by their male counterparts but also women's own outlook about their gender and capabilities. During the occupation, Kuwaiti women played a large role in resisting the Iraqi invasion and this period served as a catalyst for the eventual liberalization of women's political and social rights.

Following the liberation there were louder calls for more women's representation in the political life of the country. In 1993, Nabila Al-Mulla became the first female ambassador in the Gulf region. True political equality, however, remained elusive as the election Law continued to ban political rights for women for another decade.

In 1999, the then Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during an interregnum of parliament, promulgated a decree granting women suffrage. However, the next duly elected parliament overturned this decision. In 2003, another government-sponsored bill that would give women the right to vote and run in municipal councils was rejected by the parliament.

Between 2000 and 2005 a number of cases were filed in courts against the Minister of Interior for his refusal to include



women in the election tables. In 2004 they took their protests to the halls of parliament and a year later held one of the largest demonstrations in Kuwait's history.

Through the combined efforts of activists, lawyers, politicians, and everyday citizens, women were finally able to get Parliament to grant them their voting rights on 18 May, 2005. Parliament granted women their voting right by a simple amendment that removed the word 'men' from Article 1 of the election-law. The amendment was passed by a vote of 35 in favor and 23 against.

For the first time in Kuwait's history, women were able to file their names as candidates in the snap elections that were

called for in 2006. Though 32 women ran for parliament in this election, and again in the 2008 elections, though there were 27 women in a pool of 275 candidates, none managed to secure a seat.

But through persistence and by running effective and professional campaigns women were finally able to shatter the glass ceiling and four of them made their way into parliament in the 2009 elections.

The four, Massouma Al Mubarak, Aseel Al Awadhi, Rola Dashti, and Salwa Al Jassar, assured a place for themselves in the history of women's fight for equality in Kuwait. Dr. Mubarak also became the first Kuwaiti woman to serve as a cabinet

minister. In February 2012, all four women lost their seats in parliament but the subsequent elections in December 2012 saw Masooma Al Mubarak return to parliament along with newcomers Safaa Al Hashem and Thekra Al-Rashidi.

Throughout their time in parliament, women legislators were the driving force behind drafting many new labor laws, including those that stipulated regulations surrounding working conditions and workers' rights, especially those for women.

Today, women in Kuwait are among the most emancipated in the Middle-East. Women form over 46 percent of those employed in the country and are seen in every sector of the economy and play an important role in the political and administrative life of the country. Employment rate of women in Kuwait is the highest in the MENA region and Kuwait is also ranked top among all Arab countries in the Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index.

Though women in Kuwait have seen their long history of official political and social activism finally beginning to bear fruit, they need to remain vigilant against changing political scenarios that might attempt to rescind their hard won freedom and equality.

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# World congratulates KUWAIT on occasion of the National Day & Liberation Day



## ALBANIA



On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Albania and on my own behalf, I have the honor to extend to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah my sincere congratulations

and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

As this year also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Albania and Kuwait, I would like to express my strong belief that through our joint efforts we will continue to strength our very good, friendly, bilateral relations in benefit of both countries and people. On this historic occasion of National and Liberation's Day, I wish again to congratulate the State of Kuwait, leadership, government and people of Kuwait, and wish you all a happy blessed celebration.

**H.E. SAIMIR BALA**  
Ambassador of Albania



## ARGENTINA



On behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Argentina, I warmly congratulate the Government and people of Kuwait on the 58th anniversary of their independence and the 28th anniversary of liberation.

Since establishing diplomatic relations our countries have continued to maintain friendly and cooperative relations. We are confident that these relations will be further strengthened and enhanced in the years to come. The Government of Argentina remains committed to working with the Government of Kuwait for a prosperous future.

In this spirit of friendship, I extend my best wishes for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Kuwait. I take this opportunity to renew my best wishes for the good health, success and personal well-being to His Highness the Amir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber

Al Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as warmest greetings to the friendly people of the State of Kuwait.

**H.E. CLAUDIA ALEJANDRA ZAMPIERI,**  
Ambassador of Argentina



## AUSTRIA



It is my distinct pleasure to extend on behalf of the government and the people of Austria to the leadership, the people and the nation of the friendly country of Kuwait the most sincere and heart-felt congratulations on

the occasion of 58th Kuwait National Day and 28th Kuwait Liberation Day. Austria and Kuwait share over 50 years of strong diplomatic relations based on common principles, international norms, trust and mutual understanding. Many Kuwaitis are personally familiar with Austria as it is one of their favorite travel destinations and we are happy to welcome them there. We wish the people and the State of Kuwait a bright future, continued well-being and prosperity, lasting peace and stability, and success in all their aspirations. Let us all enjoy together the marvelous festivities and celebrations.

**H.E. SIGURD PACHER**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Austria



## AZERBAIJAN



On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on my own behalf, I have the great pleasure to extend the heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister's Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on the auspicious occasion of the 58th Anniversary of the Independence and 28th

Anniversary of the Liberation of the State of Kuwait and I would like also to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the 13th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's state leadership.

Under the visionary and sagacious leadership His Highness the Amir, the State of Kuwait has achieved tremendous progress that all friendly countries both in the region and the world had appreciated. In this regard I cannot forget to mention about the most outstanding and prominent role of His Highness the Amir in leading Kuwait to be the International Humanitarian center and His Highness the Amir as Humanitarian leader.

Again, on these notable occasions, I would like to reaffirm Azerbaijan's desire to strengthen friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the State of Kuwait. I remain confident that through the joint efforts, bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Kuwait will be further deepened and enhanced for the mutual benefit of our two nations.

May I again offer congratulations to the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day, and wish all a happy celebration.

**H.E. ELKHAN GAHRAMAN**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan



## BANGLADESH



On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh & People of Bangladesh and on my personal behalf, I extend my warmest congratulations to the brotherly country and people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary of National Day and the 28th Anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

Bangladesh and Kuwait are enjoying excellent bilateral relation which is based on mutual trust and confidence and I hope this will continue in future.

Under the dynamic leadership of His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Kuwait is going to be a progressive, prosperous and developed country of the world.

I would like to congratulate to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince,

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah, the Prime Minister and His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait on this auspicious day for their outstanding contribution for building Kuwait as progress, prosperous and developed country.

**H.E. S.M. ABUL KALAM**  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



## BELGIUM



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the 13th year of his rule and to the government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of the national and liberation

days. His Highness the Amir is beloved in Kuwait because of his wisdom and the proximity to his people. He is respected on the international scene as a humanitarian leader and a voice of peace and moderation.

The bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Belgium and the State of Kuwait have grown ever stronger over the last years. At the political level I can highlight the recent bilateral meeting between deputy prime minister and foreign Minister HE Didier Reynders and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah in New York, where both countries are currently members of the United Nations Security Council. Belgium and Kuwait share the same values and are staunch supporters of regional integration and multilateralism. In the economic field there is a renewed interest in bilateral trade and investment. In the cultural field there have been multiple exchanges between our countries during the last years.

I am looking forward to spending the rest of this month with my good friends in Kuwait in the pleasant winter temperatures of February. I wish you all good health and prosperity in this festive month and in the years to come.

**H.E. PIËT HEIRBAUT**  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Belgium





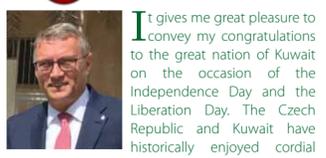
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# Kuwait National Day & Liberation Day

Special Supplement

**TIMES**  
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE  
24 February - 02 March, 2019

## CZECH REPUBLIC



It gives me great pleasure to convey my congratulations to the great nation of Kuwait on the occasion of the Independence Day and the Liberation Day. The Czech Republic and Kuwait have historically enjoyed cordial and friendly relations ever since Kuwait became an independent state in 1961. Former Czechoslovakia (the precursor to modern-day Czech Republic) was one of the first European countries to open its embassy in Kuwait in 1963 and since then, the political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries have flourished steadily. Czechoslovaks were proud to be able to contribute to the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 by deploying a special unit of the Czechoslovak army in combat operations with the aim of protecting coalition forces from chemical attacks by the retreating Iraqi army. Many Kuwaitis know my country very well, as they have traditionally enjoyed going to the major Czech spas, in particular the popular spas of Teplice and Karlovy Vary. The Czech Embassy in Kuwait is pleased to see a continuation of this tradition and we have always taken great pride in showcasing Czechia as an attractive destination for leisure, spa and medical tourism. We have been consistently promoting the further development of the ties between Kuwaitis and Czechs, as we strongly believe that the cultural and educational exchange between the people of different nations, religions and cultures furthers their mutual understanding, respect and friendship. Ladies and gentlemen, let me once again pass on my congratulations and warm wishes to enjoy the National Day celebrations in a spirit of peace and cordiality to the wonderful nation of Kuwait.

**H.E. MARTIN DVORAK**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic

## GHANA

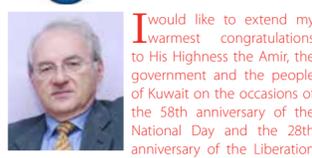


On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana, and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness The Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and through your Highness to the Government and people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of the 58th National Day celebration and 28th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

On this auspicious occasion, as you and your compatriots celebrate, it is my fervent prayer that the bonds of friendship and cooperation subsisting between our two countries will continue to grow and be consolidated under your leadership for the mutual benefit of our peoples. I pray that Allah blesses His Highness with good health and personal well-being and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the State of Kuwait

**H.E. ALHAJI AHMED-RUFAY YAHAYA IDDI**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana

## GREECE



I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to His Highness the Amir, the government and the people of Kuwait on the occasions of the 58th anniversary of the National Day and the 28th anniversary of the Liberation Day of Kuwait. I fully share the importance of these two anniversaries to the national pride of the Kuwaiti people and to its endeavor towards a prosperous and peaceful society. Kuwait's policy of moderation, prudence and mediation for a stable and secure environment in the Gulf area as well as in the wider region is an inspiration to us all. Conveying the sentiments of deep friendliness of the Greek people, I wish to the Kuwaiti people every success to its aspirations.

**H.E. ANDREAS PAPANAKIS**  
Ambassador of Greece

## GUYANA



Assalam O Alikum, His Excellencies The President, Prime Minister, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Guyanese, and the Embassy of GUYANA, South America, in the State of Kuwait, extends Our Congratulations, Joys and Continued Successes, to His Highness The Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness The Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; The Prime Minister, The Speaker of Parliament, All Members of the Ruling Families, Government and People of Kuwait, on the 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day, HALA February 2019 Celebrations.

With His Highness the Amir's Visionary, Wise, Caring, Inspirational, Outstanding, Strategic and Humanitarian Leadership, Kuwait's Global Stature, Standing and Prominence, continues to grow daily. In addition, Kuwait's presence, activities, and leadership, at the United Nations Security Council, is exemplary, as a Beacon of Hope for many.

May Allah's Bountiful Blessings, be Forever, to all. Allah O Akbar Long Live Kuwait Long Live Team Kuwait Long Live Caring Kuwait.

**H.E. PROFESSOR DR. SHAMIR ALLY**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of GUYANA, South America

## INDIA



If the spirit of Nationalism and a commitment to the Ideals and Vision of a nation are important yardsticks of the pride and self-esteem of a people, Kuwait stands very tall among the community of Nations. In the one year I have been in Kuwait, I am a witness to this deep emotional attachment to their Nation among the Kuwaiti people.

As this friendly country of India celebrates its National and Liberation Days this month, it gives me a great joy in partaking in their moment of honor. It is also an occasion to laud the noble and wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, and congratulate the Government and the people. Further, as the main representative of the largest expatriate community in Kuwait, it is my moral responsibility to convey our collective gratitude to Kuwait for its warm friendship and hospitality. May the State of Kuwait continue to prosper and succeed in its efforts to bring peace, security and stability to the region.

**H.E. K. JEEVA SAGAR**  
Ambassador of India

## INDONESIA



I am honored to convey the warmest congratulations from the Government and the people of Indonesia to the Government and the people of Kuwait celebrating the auspicious occasion of the National Day and Liberation Day. It is encouraging to see that the Indonesia-Kuwait relations have been progressing in a friendly, mutually supportive and reassuring climate for more than 50 years. Both countries have been promoting cooperation in priority areas such as trade, tourism, investment and skilled-professional labor recruitment. We have lent support to each other to maintain peace, stability and development in the region and the world, through the International Organizations, particularly, both countries have been elected as the Non-Permanent Member to the UN Security Council with mutual support during the election. As we have seen over the years, maintaining friendship and productive cooperation with Kuwait is and will remain a long-standing policy of the Indonesian Government. There will be no shortage of topics to explore and concrete objectives to pursue. Allow me to also express our best wishes for good health, happiness and personal wellbeing to the Amir H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah and the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. May Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala always protect and fulfill the thriving land and the friendly Kuwaiti brothers and sisters in Kuwait, inshaAllah.

**H.E. GANTOSORI TANJUNG**  
Charge D'Affaires of Indonesia

## ITALY

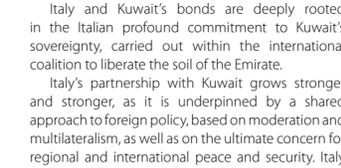


I would like to forward the sincere congratulations of all Italian people on the occasion of Kuwait's Independence and Liberation Days. Italy offers the State of Kuwait its best wishes for success, well-being and prosperity. Kuwait can be rightly proud of its achievements since independence, being an example of stability, progress and economic growth in a tension-ridden region.

Italy and Kuwait's bonds are deeply rooted in the Italian profound commitment to Kuwait's sovereignty, carried out within the international coalition to liberate the soil of the Emirate. Italy's partnership with Kuwait grows stronger and stronger, as it is underpinned by a shared approach to foreign policy, based on moderation and multilateralism, as well as on the ultimate concern for regional and international peace and security. Italy highly values Kuwait's status as international leader in the field humanitarian assistance and diplomatic mediation. Italy enjoys a mutually beneficial cooperation with Kuwait in many fields and is fully committed to widen the scope of friendship and collaboration towards the achievement of greater goals in the economic, political, defense, social and cultural spheres. As a tribute to Kuwait's National and Liberation Days celebrations, the Italian Embassy, in collaboration with Kuwait Airways, organized a folkloric musical and flag waving show performed by "Gruppo Storico di Fivizzano", recreating the festive atmosphere of the Renaissance. Allow me to reiterate my wishes for Kuwait to continue its patriotic march towards a prosperous future, under the wise guidance of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

**H.E. ALI ABBAS, MBS**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

## MALTA



On behalf of the Republic of Malta and its people, we are truly privileged and honored to celebrate alongside the friendly nation of the State of Kuwait and its people, the momentous milestone of the 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day celebrations. On this historic occasion, the Embassy of the Republic of Malta wishes to extend to His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. We pray that His Highness continues to enjoy good health and that the people of Kuwait continue to be blessed with enduring peace, prosperity and happiness under the strong leadership and wisdom of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait. Testament to this Kuwait's resolute peace mediation efforts in the Gulf region and its recent admission to the United Nations Security Council.

**H.E. PATRICK COLE**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Malta

## MEXICO

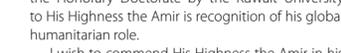


I have the honor to extend my sincere felicitation and best wishes to His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the Kuwait, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, wishing the friendly people of Kuwait to be blessed with peace, prosperity and happiness under the wise leadership of His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Crown Prince.

I greatly appreciate the strong historical ties as well as long-lasting friendship between the State of Kuwait and Mexico and hope they will be further enhanced and become ever stronger for the mutual benefit of the two friendly nations.

**H.E. MIGUEL ANGEL ISIDRO**  
Ambassador of Mexico

## KENYA



I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, the people and the Government of Kuwait on the occasion of the 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day. Under the exemplary leadership of His Highness the Amir, Kuwait remains an oasis of peace, political stability and economic growth. I further wish to convey my congratulations to His Highness the Amir on the 13th Anniversary of his ascension to power. His Highness the Amir's outstanding leadership in spearheading the international humanitarian work has led to the award by the United Nations as a leader of humanitarian work. The award is a testimony of the Amir's outstanding act of kindness and generosity in humanitarian work for humanity. The award of the Honorary Doctorate by the Kuwait University to His Highness the Amir is recognition of his global humanitarian role. I wish to commend His Highness the Amir in his continuous mediation efforts in bringing peaceful resolutions to the various conflicts in the region. This is a confirmation of his leadership of tolerance, dialogue and peaceful conflict resolutions in bringing peace in the region. I wish His Highness success in his relentless efforts in peace mediation in the region. I wish His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait long life, good health and lasting prosperity on the occasion of the 58th National and 28th Liberation Anniversary.

**H.E. ALI ABBAS, MBS**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

## MEXICO



I have the honor to extend my sincere felicitation and best wishes to His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the Kuwait, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, wishing the friendly people of Kuwait to be blessed with peace, prosperity and happiness under the wise leadership of His Highness Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Crown Prince.

**H.E. MIGUEL ANGEL ISIDRO**  
Ambassador of Mexico

## MYANMAR



On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kuwait, I am so pleased and greatly honoured to extend the felicitations and best wishes on the occasions of National Day and Liberation Day 2019 of the State of Kuwait. Taking this opportunity, allow me to extend to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy-

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah our heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes on this auspicious occasions. It is gracious anniversary period to be overwhelmingly celebrated in this country which is now peaceful, prosperous and successful and is taking a prominent leading role in international arena as well under the leadership of His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In this connection, I would like to reiterate Myanmar's support the State of Kuwait's non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. Myanmar is looking forward to further strengthening bilateral ties with the State of Kuwait for mutual benefit of our two countries and its peoples.

**MR. KYAW NYUNT LWIN**  
Charge D'Affaires of the Embassy of Myanmar

## NETHERLANDS



Congrats! Every country is celebrating a national day and does this in its own manner. Some are organizing religious events, others military parades or solemn gatherings memorizing a glorious past. Different from that, both Kuwait and Holland are taking national days rather light, with Kuwait and Holland are taking activities especially for the younger generation. In Holland we all hang out our flags, we organize pop-festivals for the youngsters and the kids take joy in selling their old toys on the pavement. After three years in Kuwait I see every year more abundantly show of flags and lights on the Kuwaiti houses, and I see the new generation of Kuwaitis having fun with their water pistols. Maybe sometime annoying, but let them enjoy: we all were young! Of course, we should for very good reasons congratulate Kuwait for being a country of freedom and tolerance, a beacon in the region. Furthermore, as ambassador of the Netherlands I like to underline how grateful I am for the excellent relations between our two peace loving countries. Both our countries are blessed with wise leadership: we in Holland by King Willem Alexander and my Kuwaiti friends by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad. I wish all people in Kuwait, citizens as well as residents, splendid national day celebrations!

**H.E. FRANS POTUYT**  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)



On the occasion of Kuwait's 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day it is my distinct pleasure and honor to convey the most sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the friendly people of Kuwait.

**H.E. FRANCISCO RIVAROLA**  
Ambassador of Peru

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah our heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes on this auspicious occasions. It is gracious anniversary period to be overwhelmingly celebrated in this country which is now peaceful, prosperous and successful and is taking a prominent leading role in international arena as well under the leadership of His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In this connection, I would like to reiterate Myanmar's support the State of Kuwait's non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. Myanmar is looking forward to further strengthening bilateral ties with the State of Kuwait for mutual benefit of our two countries and its peoples.

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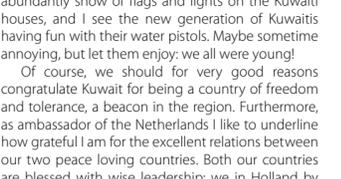
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**H.E. FRANCISCO RIVAROLA**  
Ambassador of Peru

I would especially like to extend my wishes of good health and wellbeing to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been successfully leading the State since 2006. I am pleased that the Kuwait government and people are achieving the great successes in the works of ensuring the country safety and stability, social unity and harmony and also developing many fields such as economy, military, education and culture under the wise leadership of His Highness. Kuwait is respected by many world countries as they maintain their foreign policy based on the main principles such as respecting the objectives of the UN Charter, non-intervention and to settle the disputes between the countries in a peaceful way. As a result, Kuwait occupies the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2018-2019. I am appreciated His Highness Amir is doing his best to unite the GCC Countries and strengthen the Arab common actions and develop the relations with the world peace-loving countries and he meditates the conflict between the regional and international countries through peaceful dialogue. In particular, His Highness Amir bestowed upon the title of "Humanitarian leader" and designated Kuwait as an "International Humanitarian Center" awarded by supplying the humanitarian supports to the countries in facing the natural disasters. On the occasion of this bright holiday I wish continuous progress, prosperity and peace to the friendly people of Kuwait and I believe that the relations of the friendship and cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait will continue to further develop towards mutual prosperity for the benefit of two countries and people.

**H.E. JU MYONG CHOL**  
Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

I would especially like to extend my wishes of good health and wellbeing to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been successfully leading the State since 2006. I am pleased that the Kuwait government and people are achieving the great successes in the works of ensuring the country safety and stability, social unity and harmony and also developing many fields such as economy, military, education and culture under the wise leadership of His Highness. Kuwait is respected by many world countries as they maintain their foreign policy based on the main principles such as respecting the objectives of the UN Charter, non-intervention and to settle the disputes between the countries in a peaceful way. As a result, Kuwait occupies the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for 2018-2019. I am appreciated His Highness Amir is doing his best to unite the GCC Countries and strengthen the Arab common actions and develop the relations with the world peace-loving countries and he meditates the conflict between the regional and international countries through peaceful dialogue. In particular, His Highness Amir bestowed upon the title of "Humanitarian leader" and designated Kuwait as an "International Humanitarian Center" awarded by supplying the humanitarian supports to the countries in facing the natural disasters. On the occasion of this bright holiday I wish continuous progress, prosperity and peace to the friendly people of Kuwait and I believe that the relations of the friendship and cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait will continue to further develop towards mutual prosperity for the benefit of two countries and people.

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**H.E. FRANCISCO RIVAROLA**  
Ambassador of Peru

## PERU



On behalf of the Government and the People of Peru, and on my own behalf, I have the honor to convey our congratulations to H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait and its people on the 58th anniversary of Liberation. I would like to express the commitment of Peru to keep engaging with Kuwait in to new initiatives for the development and to promote mutual cooperation. Besides bilateral relationship, Peru and Kuwait have been working shoulder to shoulder in the Security Council in order to defend peace and security, especially in the Middle East. On this pleasant occasion, I am certain that the Kuwaiti people, under the guidance of H.H. the Amir, will have a bright future filled with local and international achievements.

**H.E. FRANCISCO RIVAROLA**  
Ambassador of Peru

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**POLAND**

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Poland, it is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate the people and the leadership of the State of Kuwait as they celebrate the 58th national Day and the 28th Liberation day.

No one can deny the role of the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as the pillar of Kuwaiti diplomacy in the region and the main reason for its steadfast friendly relations with the governments and nations of both the region as well as the world. So I would love to take this opportunity to present my sincere greetings to H.H.



the Emir on his 13th Anniversary of his assumption of power, and wishing him health and success in performing his mission for the prosperity of the State and its People. The relationship between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Poland go back to the days of

Independence of Kuwait. Poland was one of the first countries to recognize Kuwait as an independent State. The cooperation between both countries can best be seen in recent years through their combined efforts to fight for peace and stability in the region as well as all over the world, being non-permanent members in the United Nations Security Council for the term 2018-2019. In this spirit of cooperation, I wish His Highness the Amir personally the Kuwaiti Government and the glorious people of the State of Kuwait on this graceful occasion, my best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity.

**H.E. PAWEŁ LECHOWICZ**  
Ambassador of Poland

**ROMANIA**



It gives me distinct pleasure to convey, both in my capacity as Ambassador of Romania and currently representing European Union's Council Presidency in Kuwait, to His Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, my

sincere congratulations, warmest wishes of good health, happiness and success, and to the high authorities of the State of Kuwait, as well. I extend my best wishes of peace and prosperity to the friendly Kuwaiti people. I would like to praise the work of H.H. Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Humanitarian Leader. Romania fully supports the role of Kuwait as mediator in the region, with a view to promoting peace and stability. I avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Kuwait for its effective work as nonpermanent member of the United Nations' Security Council and wish Kuwait success in 2019 in this important international endeavor.

**H.E. DANIEL TANASE**  
Ambassador of Romania

**SERBIA**



As the State of Kuwait is celebrating its 58th Anniversary of independence as well 28th Liberation Day, I would like to take this opportunity, on this auspicious occasion, to congratulate the State of Kuwait and its great and proud people and

wish them a peaceful and prosperous future under extremely wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait. Representing friendly leadership and people of Serbia, I would like to express my sincerest feeling and proudness with very good relations in all fields, deep mutual respects, understanding and traditional long-lasting friendship established since independence of Kuwait. The peoples of the two countries share same aspiration for independence, freedom and peace. Both nations have been struggling very hard to achieve these noble goals.

Using this auspicious occasion to refer about the role and contribution of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait with H.H. Crown Prince and leadership of the country in establishing better regional and international relations, as well decent life to Kuwaiti people, I have the pleasure to express my sincere appreciation and special congratulations for being humanitarian leader on the world scale and Kuwait as a humanitarian world center.

People of Kuwait can be proud of their country's generosity, and its friends, which happily include Serbian people too, who are sharing those feelings and happiness on foundation of friendship and continuous strongly growing relationship.

**H.E. VLADIMIR KOHUT**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**



On behalf of the people and government of the Slovak Republic, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasions of Kuwait's 58th Independence and 28th Liberation Days, and to offer the people of Kuwait best

wishes for success, well-being and prosperity. Kuwait can be rightly proud of its achievements since independence. The country has always been an example of stability and economic growth. I wish Kuwait to continue serving as an oasis of peace and welfare in the region.

It is great to see how much pleasure Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti are celebrating together not only the independence but also the liberation of the prosperous State of Kuwait. I had the honor to transmit to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the heartfelt congratulations of the H.E. Mr. Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic on this special occasion.

Let me finally conclude my message of greetings by extending again my best wishes for the continued progress and development of Kuwait. May I take this opportunity to renew my best for good health, success and personal wellbeing to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his Government and friendly people of Kuwait. Long live the spirit of 25th and 26th February.

**H.E. IGOR HAJDUSEK**  
Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

**SOUTH AFRICA**



On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa, and the Staff of the South African Embassy in the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to convey to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State

of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait warmest greetings and sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 58th National Day and the 28th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

South Africa values the good bilateral relations with Kuwait that based on shared values and a joint commitment to a better life for the peoples of South Africa and Kuwait and a better and peaceful world for all. This commitment continues to be practically demonstrated in High Highness, the Amir's continued commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to distressed communities and countries in conflict globally, especially in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Furthermore, Kuwait continues to play a constructive role in the GCC, the Middle East and the United Nations Security Council to promote conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of conflicts, the rule of international law and multilateralism. It is a good coincidence of history that South Africa and Kuwait are serving together as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to advance our joint commitment to international peace, security and development.

We wish His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait good health, peace and prosperity.

**H.E. MZOLISA BONA**  
Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

**TAJKISTAN**



On behalf of the Tajikistan people and on my own behalf, I extend sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of Kuwait's independence and 28th Liberation Day to the Kuwaiti Nation on the occasion of this beautiful and meaningful days, I wish all

Kuwaitis around the world endless success, peace, security, unity, concord and prosperity. Tajikistan and Kuwait have already entered the third decade of developing friendly and constructive bilateral relations. I am confident that the bonds that exist between our two countries and their people will continue advancing mutually beneficial political, economic and cultural cooperation. We reiterate our determination to promote comprehensive relations between Tajikistan and Kuwait, open up even more opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between our states and citizens in a number of fields, including economics, politics, security, science, education, as well as culture and tourism.

I offer congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Government and the glorious people of the State of Kuwait on national day. Please accept my best wishes and the assurances of my highest consideration.

**H.E. ZUBAYDULLO N. ZUBAYDOV**  
Ambassador of Tajikistan

**THAILAND**



On the auspicious occasion of the 58th anniversary of the National Day and the 28th anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I have the honor to extend heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to the State of Kuwait

and her people. Kuwait has made a remarkable advancement domestically and internationally over the past years. I am confident that the Kuwaiti people will enjoy the continued progress and prosperity under the leadership and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Kingdom of Thailand and the State of Kuwait have solid and cordial ties for over 56 years. I believe that our bilateral cooperation and relations will continue to be further strengthened for the mutual benefits of our countries and peoples in the years to come.

**H.E. DUSIT MANAPAN**  
Ambassador of Thailand



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February 25  
26 **Kuwait National Day & Liberation Day**

Special Supplement

**TURKEY**

On the occasion of Kuwait's 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day, it is my privilege and honor to convey on behalf of the government and people of Turkey the most sincere congratulations to the leadership, government and people of Kuwait. May the State of Kuwait and its people continue to be blessed with peace and prosperity, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The relations between Turkey and Kuwait stand on very strong historical, cultural and traditional base. I am glad to see the excellent pace of development of the relations between our countries, under the leadership of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey, and His Highness the Amir.

We regard Kuwait as invaluable partner, not only in our bilateral relations, but also in global humanitarian and peace efforts.

Being proud to serve as Turkish Ambassador in Kuwait, I affirm the keenness of my government to further strengthen our friendship and cooperation in all fields possible, for the benefit of both countries. I take this opportunity to extend to His Highness the Amir my very best wishes for personal health and happiness, as well as for the continued wellbeing and progress of the fraternal people of Kuwait.

**H.E. AYŞE HİLAL SAYAN KOYTAK**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

**UKRAINE**

I would like to express my congratulations on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of Kuwait's independence and 27th Liberation Day to the Kuwaiti Nation. I would especially like to extend my best wishes of good health and wellbeing to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber As-Sabah, who has been successfully leading the State since 2006.

The National Day of Kuwait is a double holiday for the Kuwaitis. From one side, it is a joyful event as it is the celebration of independence gained in 1961. It is a big pride for any nation in the world to be independent from foreign protectorates. On the other hand, this holiday reminds every citizen of Kuwait about both tragic events of foreign occupation and the happiness of liberation.

On the occasion of this bright holiday I wish long lasting prosperity, success and peace to the friendly people of Kuwait.

**H.E. VOLODYMYR TOLKACH**  
Ambassador of Ukraine

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to all the people of the State of Kuwait on the National and Liberation Day holidays. The United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait have always stood shoulder to shoulder

in facing common threats. We are proud to have contributed to safeguarding and restoring Kuwait's sovereignty and independence in 1961 and again in 1991. As we mark this year the 120th Anniversary of our bilateral Treaty of Friendship we can look with confidence to deepening and broadening our co-operation to face future challenges together.

**H.E. MICHAEL DAVENPORT**  
Ambassador of the United Kingdom

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

On behalf of the entire U.S. Embassy staff, I warmly congratulate the Government and people of Kuwait on the 58th anniversary of independence and the 28th anniversary of liberation. Alf Mabrook! The United States is proud to have contributed to the liberation of Kuwait; as the recently-passed President George H.W. Bush said at the time, this was a matter of high principle for the United States. We remain just as proud today to be a partner in a close, strategic, and growing bilateral relationship that is making our peoples more secure and our countries more prosperous. Together, the United States and Kuwait are contributing to the security of this region. We also congratulate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the 13th anniversary of his accession as ruler of the State of Kuwait. We wish Kuwait continued peace and prosperity under his leadership and look forward to continuing the close and mutually beneficial partnership between our two countries.

Our commitment to this partnership is embodied in the US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue launched in October 2016 that is setting the stage for the next 25 years of relations. We look forward to holding the next Dialogue here in Kuwait very soon; it will lead to expanded cooperation in security, the

economy, and many other areas. We applaud Kuwait for its constructive role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. The United States appreciates its close, mutually beneficial relations with Kuwait, as one of the world's main contributors to stability and one of the world's most generous humanitarian donors.

We look forward in the coming year to expanding our already strong and productive partnership to address issues fundamental to international peace and security. Eid Tahrir Wa Eid Watani Sa'eed (Happy Liberation and National Days).

**H.E. LAWRENCE R. SILVERMAN**  
Ambassador of the United States of America

**UZBEKISTAN**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and on my own personal behalf, it gives me immense pleasure and joy to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah

Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on the glorious occasion of the 58th National Day and 28th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Uzbekistan's strong and friendly relations with Kuwait, which is based on shared values and interests reinforced by mutual trust and respect. Uzbekistan looks forward to further consolidating and enhancing bilateral ties in all fields with Kuwait for the mutual benefit of our two countries and its people.

**H.E. BAKHROMJON ALOEV**  
Ambassador of Uzbekistan

# Happy National and Liberation Days

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**Kuwait Leadership**

# Engaging constructively for future of region and world

**E**nd of World War II in 1945 led to unprecedented changes around the world in social, economic and political arenas. In the Fifties, across Asia, Africa and elsewhere the political field was rife with liberation movements calling for freedom and independence from colonial powers. Decolonization which began during this period and continued throughout the 1960s saw the emergence of many new nations across the globe.

Kuwait was no exception to this international trend and on 19 June, 1961, Kuwaiti Amir, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and the resident British diplomat signed an agreement that granted Kuwait full independence. The new accord rescinded Kuwait's protectorate status with Britain, which had been in place since 1899, and replaced it with an agreement of friendship.

By the end of 1962, the Kuwaiti constitution was established and the first election to the National Assembly was held soon after. Subsequently, Kuwait joined the comity of nations,

by becoming a member of the Arab League and the United Nations, and soon began its journey to a modern developed country.

This triumphant march to growth, development and prosperity for the country and people was guided by the wise leadership of the country's rulers. Here we look at some of the achievements made during more than five decades of independence under different amirs.

**Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1950-1965)**

During Sheikh Abdullah's reign, oil production boomed in Kuwait as did its prosperity and the country witnessed a spree of construction projects. At the heart of Sheikh Abdullah's policies, lay the determination to ensure the welfare of Kuwait and its people. While his predecessors had maintained Kuwait's international and political position, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah established the country's pillars of authority by founding the legal and constitutional institutions



that enhanced its independence and further promoted democracy and progress.

During his reign, free education became possible for all. Schools were furnished with modern equipment and labs, and meals and uniforms were provided. Furthermore, teaching colleges and institutes for the differently-abled were also established. Citizens and residents were given free healthcare. Pharmacies, centers for maternity and infant healthcare and the Al-Sabah hospital were set up. Kuwait's largest desalination station and a power plant were constructed. Low-income housing was built and

pensions were provided for widows, orphans and the elderly.

Following independence and joining of the Arab League and the United Nations, Kuwait was at the forefront of Arab causes and took an active role in the social and economic development of Arab countries, as well as other developing nations in Asia and Africa.

During Sheikh Abdullah's reign, the first cabinet was formed. After independence general elections were held to choose 20 members to form the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution. In January 1963, elections were held to choose the first National

Assembly after Independence.

Many assemblies have since followed, and the democratic legacy of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem continues unabated to this day.

**Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (1965-1977)**

Following in the footsteps of his ancestors, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem helped Kuwait continue to grow in all fields, including science, health, housing and economics. Prior to his ascension, he served as the president of the police department from 1953 to 1959, President of the public health department from 1959 to 1961, Deputy Prime Minister and

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## Kuwait Leadership

Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1962 to 1963, and Prime Minister from 1963 to 1965. He was appointed as Crown Prince on October 29, 1962.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem established many schools and the University of Kuwait, as well as a number of hospitals. He also laid the foundations for many national industries, that helped ensure manufacturing base in the country. In addition, he was greatly concerned with the provision of housing, particularly for low-income and less-privileged families.

### Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (1977-2006)

Sheikh Jaber came to power on December 31, 1977. He led the country wisely, using his experience in financial matters to benefit his country especially on matters regarding the organization of Kuwait's internal and external financial affairs. Effective foreign relations made him able to best serve the interests of Arab and Islamic nations.

Sheikh Jaber was a strong advocate of Arab unity and fully supported political and economic powers in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. He played an important role in the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the first historic summit of the organization was held in the United Arab Emirates in 1981. The Fifth Islamic Conference, which was held in Kuwait under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber in 1987 saw the amir elected as Chairman of the Conference. During his tenure, he contributed greatly to the strength of the organization by promoting its work and ambitions at the international level. He also drew up many of the rules upon which it is established.

In 1990, following the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber worked closely with fellow Arab countries and other allies to ensure Kuwait's liberation from its aggressors. After the liberation of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber led the efforts to reconstruct the country and remove the physical and mental scars of the invasion from Kuwait and its people. In this, he was remarkably successful and the regeneration of Kuwait began after a relatively short time and surprising many in the international community who had predicted a long and arduous come back, especially given the torching of over 700 oil wells which were seen as the country's main source of income.

### Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (15-29 January, 2006)

Ailing health prevented Sheikh Saad from continuing his duties as Amir and after a few days in office he abdicated his authority in favor of Sheikh Sabah and continued as Father Amir. But during his more than four decades of service to the nation in different roles, Sheikh Saad was a formidable force in creating a secure, safe Kuwait, one that upheld the rights of citizens especially during his time as Minister of interior. Sheikh Saad became the Crown Prince in 1978 and in terms of foreign affairs, contributed greatly to the establishment of the GCC. On the domestic front, he promoted the social and economic development of the country, ensuring that Kuwaiti society was amongst the most advanced in the world. Sheikh Saad played a major role in liberating Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's regime, and was therefore a popular and much loved figure among all Kuwaitis. Although he had to face many problems as a result of the aggressive invasion of Kuwait, he always performed his roles as Crown Prince and Prime Minister effectively and with a genuine desire for the welfare of the Kuwaiti people.

### Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (January 2006)

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad was unanimously proclaimed as Amir of the State of Kuwait on 29 January, 2006. Prior to this he was the Prime Minister from 13 July, 2003 and before that he held the post of Foreign Minister for over four decades.

Since his appointment as Foreign Minister on 28 January, 1963, for around forty years, His Highness's name and image have been inextricably linked to that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although he has occupied a number of other positions, it is for his work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his considerable experience in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy that he is most renowned for.

In his first speech before the United Nations as head of Kuwait's delegation His Highness expressed Kuwait's aims as a responsible member of the world body. He stated: "Kuwait's participation in international activities clearly indicates that our independence and our membership of the UN are not an end by themselves, but are rather a means by which Kuwait can share responsibility in improving the lives of

the people in our country and in other countries." His Highness believes strongly in tolerance, diversity and the necessity of cultural integration, not cultural conflict. His Highness Sabah Al Ahmad was instrumental in obtaining international support for Kuwait after it was aggressively invaded, which resulted in the Security Council issuing decision N 678 on 29 November, 1990. Despite the challenges he has faced, His Highness has proved time and time again his immense ability in the twin fields of Kuwait's Domestic and Foreign Affairs.

Today H H the Amir has put Kuwait on the world stage after being bestowed with the title as Humanitarian Leader of the World. Widely respected and admired for his policies of peace, and humanitarian gestures, H H Has been a beacon of peace, compassion

### The Constitution

Kuwait has a written constitution which combines aspects of both presidential and parliamentary systems of government. It was approved on 11 November, 1962 by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The Constitution has 183 articles under five key sections:

- Part I The State and System of Government
- Part II Fundamental Constituents of Kuwaiti Society
- Part III Public Rights and Duties

- Part IV Powers
- Chapter III The National Assembly
- Chapter IV The Executive Power
- Section II Financial Affairs
- Section III Military affairs
- Chapter V The Judicial Power
- Part V General and Transitional Provisions

### The Council of Ministers

Executive power rests with the Amir and is exercised through his ministers who form the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet). This Council comprises of 15 or 16 ministers. The Amir appoints the Council of Ministers on the recommendations of the Prime Minister.

### The National Assembly

Legislative authority is vested in the Amir and the National Assembly (Majlis Al-Umma). The Assembly is composed of 50 members who are elected for a term of four years. They represent a wide spectrum of political groupings: Liberals, Democrats, Independents and Islamic Groups. Legislation can be initiated by Amiri decree, his ministers or by the Assembly. No bill can become a law in Kuwait unless it is authorized by the Assembly.

## What Being Kuwaiti Means to Me...

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

My journey as a young adult in Kuwait has been eclectic, to say the least. Over the past 4 years I have made more career changes than one can possibly imagine. I attribute this to the fact that I'm a millennial and my 20s are for exploration. Over the past 4 years, I have worked in the private sector, public sector and in international organizations. All of these powerful, reputable institutions – housed under one roof, Kuwait.

Kuwait is a world of opportunities. I am constantly blindsided by the sheer amount of variety that exists here in terms of activities, interests and career opportunities. Some of you may feel differently, some of you may feel that opportunities to advance are only

extended to certain individuals. I beg to differ. Kuwait is a nation for those who persevere, work hard and offer real value. I believe that wholeheartedly and that's what makes me proud to be Kuwaiti, knowing that all my efforts and hard work is being poured into this nation that has given me so much – a nation that will never stop giving.

**Nourah Al-Oseimi is a 26-year-old Kuwaiti who holds a Master's degree in Business Administration. Nourah has worked in different places such as the Central Bank of Kuwait and the United Nations. She serves as a freelance contributing writer to the Times Kuwait – Newsmagazine. Her column – Essentially Kuwaiti – will feature an in-depth look on exceptional young Kuwaitis and their efforts towards the realization of a New Kuwait.**

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occasion of Kuwait's  
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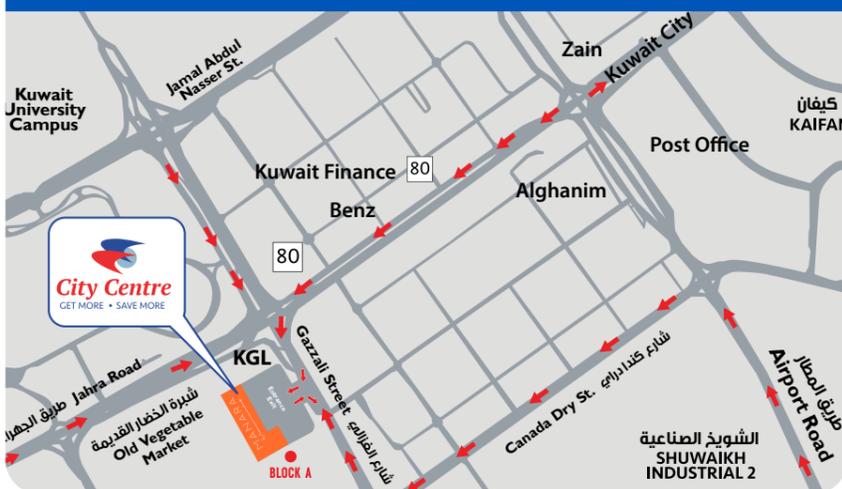
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