



DIPLOMAT
 The Russian invasion is having catastrophic effects on the Ukrainian people

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 National Day | Liberation Day
 Special Supplement Inside...



Looking back with pride, looking forward with hope

As Kuwait celebrates its glorious 62nd anniversary of National Day and the historic 32nd anniversary of Liberation, The Times Kuwait extends its congratulations and felicitations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the Government of the State of Kuwait, and to the honorable people of Kuwait, wishing everyone peace, prosperity and progress.

THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

Celebratory occasions, especially ones as emotionally charged as National Day that commemorates the country's independence, and Liberation Day which celebrates the country's rebirth after seven months of occupation and oppression by Iraqi forces, may not be the right occasion to voice doubt and dismay over how political developments have evolved over the decades since the country gained its independence in 1961.

no occasion more timely than now, to look back with pride on what we have achieved so far, and to look forward with hope for a sustainable and prosperous future.

It is also an apt opportunity to reflect on how far we still need to go before achieving the benefits that democracy, democratic traditions, and inclusiveness brings to the country and its people.

For more than six decades, before attaining independence in 1961, Kuwait was a protectorate of the British Empire, in line with an agreement inked in 1899 between then ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah



and the British government in India, aimed at warding off potential threats to Kuwait's independence from the Ottoman Empire.

In 1961, following discussions between Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the British Chief Political Resident in the Arabian Gulf, Sir George Middleton, it was mutually agreed to abrogate the protectorate status and grant Kuwait full independence on 19 July 1961.

Following independence, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah became Kuwait's first Amir and under his sagacious leadership supported by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Metro Medical Center announces launch of new branch in Fahaheel



Metro Medical Center (MMC), the largest and fastest growing private medical center in the country, is set to launch their fourth branch in Kuwait at Fahaheel on 24 February.

The new 'Super Metro Specialized Medical Center' will offer full-fledged healthcare services in a wide array of medical specializations, and provide patients with access to the latest diagnostic equipment and treatment facilities. As part of a launch-offer, the new medical center is

providing free consultation by doctors; discount of 40 percent on medical procedures; and a full body checkup for KD10, for three months from the inaugural day.

During a press conference held at the Metro Medical Auditorium on 18 February, to announce the launch of the new branch in Fahaheel, Chairman and CEO of Metro Medical Center Group, Mustafa Hamza thanked all media personnel for their presence at the conference, and said. "Nine years ago we set a target of

recruiting 100 doctors in 100 months, and now we are close to this target.

"Also, we are currently providing treatment to over 3,000 patients daily, and have set a target of treating more than 5,000 patients daily in 2023. Over the last eight years and six months we have treated over a million patients in Kuwait, of whom over 70,000 were poor, jobless and needy people who were provided free medical treatment."

He further revealed that MMC planned to open two more branches this year, one in Khaitan

and the other in Jahra. Mr. Hamza concluded the press briefing by saying, "Our aim at MMC is to provide all patients with quality healthcare at affordable prices in a friendly environment and in a compassionate manner."

The higher management who addressed the Press Conference were Mustafa Hamza (Group Chairman & CEO), Ibrahim Kutty P K (Managing Director), Dr. Biji Basheer (Managing Partner), Dr. Ahmed Alalzemi (Management) and Dr. Amir Ahmed (Management).

Team from Manila in Kuwait to discuss employment problems of OFWs

Within the framework of the unofficial efforts made by some office owners and companies recruiting domestic workers, in an attempt to contain the crisis of Filipino workers, and to send them back again to Kuwait, Bassam Al-Shammari, a specialist in domestic worker affairs, revealed that there is a Filipino work team currently visiting the country to discuss and study the most prominent and the most

important reasons for the problems that the Overseas Filipino Workers (domestic workers) suffer from, and as a result, Manila took the decision to temporarily slap a ban on sending them to Kuwait.

Al-Shammari said the team as part of its work tasks, met a group of office owners, and also met some affected and sheltered workers in a building belonging to the embassy, which includes about 300 workers who suffer

from problems with their employers, some of whom are reported absconding after problems arose between the worker and the sponsor and some of them allegedly failed to settle disputes amicably, most notably withholding a passport, complaints about not receiving monthly salaries or end of service, and non-compliance with the terms of the contract concluded between the two parties, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He stressed the need for the three concerned parties — the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower, to sit at the dialogue table and take a decision regarding this crisis, especially since the continuation of the current situation reflects a scourge on Kuwait's reputation regionally and internationally and international human rights organizations.



Kuwait National & Liberation Day



Russian invasion is having catastrophic effects on the Ukrainian people

US Charge d’Affaires James Holtsnider



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

In a media interview on the eve of the first anniversary of the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the United States Chargé d’Affaires in Kuwait, James Holtsnider, denounced the invasion and compared Ukraine’s plight to that of Kuwait in 1990 when it was invaded and occupied by the Iraqi forces.

He went on to add, “This war is having catastrophic effects on the Ukrainian people and on the Russian economy. It has also disrupted food supply chains and food security all over the world. The invasion of Ukraine was a choice made by the Russian President Vladimir Putin, and he can end this situation and respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, but I think, unfortunately, that President Putin is not interested in diplomacy.”

Pointing out that America had provided

and I think we have to thank Kuwait for its principled position that it took in the United Nations. The Kuwaiti government co-sponsored the initial resolution condemning the invasion of Ukraine right after it happened last year, and then continued to sponsor and vote for UN resolutions condemning the unprovoked invasion.

Praising Kuwait’s “leading role in diplomatic and humanitarian activity around the world,” Mr. Holtsnider described the country as an “important diplomatic partner throughout the Arab world,” and added that “Kuwait has a very good reputation as an international mediator. Kuwait also provided humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people, which is not surprising, given that Kuwait is renowned for its humanitarian support all over the world, and I think a lot of Kuwaitis sympathize with the Ukrainian people, given that they too went through such an experience.

Elaborating on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the US diplomat said: “Whatever differences the countries may have, whatever arguments they may have, diplomatic processes are available for talks to settle these issues, and to be able to address them through these talks, but unjustifiable use of force to violate internationally recognized sovereign borders and territories, and unnecessary and irresponsible attacks on millions of people, cannot be accepted.”

Expressing his belief that the sanctions imposed on Russia were working, Mr. Holtsnider said, “The aim of these sanctions is to make it clear to President Putin and the Russian government that this kind of behavior is not tolerated, and at the same time we want to properly protect other countries. So even as we put sanctions in place, we protect those countries that are at risk, particularly those in Africa and South America and parts of Asia, and I think President Joe Biden has been very clear about his desire to impose effective sanctions that also protect vulnerable populations in those countries.

“Sanctions are always complex. First, it takes some time to announce and then it takes longer to implement. But I have to say in my career and personal experience that sanctions have a huge impact, and for example, look at Iran. So, yes, I honestly think that the sanctions have already started to take effect and will continue with the unity of the international community.”

In response to a question about the possibility of an international military intervention, he explained: “We have consistently said that the Ukrainian people are fighting for their freedom and fighting bravely. And I think many people cannot believe that, a year after the invasion, Ukrainians were still able to survive the attacks of President Putin and the government.

“We’ve been very clear that we’re going to continue to provide the Ukrainians with resources so they can defend themselves. President Biden has also been very clear that we don’t have American troops in Ukraine and that these are Ukrainians fighting to defend themselves and their country from a horrible invasion.”

Expanding on Russia’s justification that its invasion of Ukraine was to stop the expansion of NATO towards Russian territory, Mr. Holtsnider said, “This is not an argument we agree with, and the only person who has strengthened and brought NATO closer to Russia recently



is President Putin.” He described the Russian president’s justification as very similar to the arguments made by Saddam Hussein several years ago for his unjustified invasion of Kuwait.

Turning to US-Kuwait relations, Mr. Holtsnider first extended his congratulations to His Highness the Amir, the government and people on the occasion of national holidays, and pointed to the role of the United States of America and the coalition countries in liberating Kuwait and helping Kuwaiti citizens 32 years ago.

He also recalled that around 300 American soldiers sacrificed their lives while participating in the liberation of Kuwait, and that the martyrdom of these soldiers attested to the depth and strength of relations between the two countries as important partners. Pointing to the diversity of areas in which the two countries partnered and cooperated, Mr. Holtsnider indicated that these include, “defense, cyber security, economy, investment, information exchange, trade, and academics, in addition to the large number of students who receive their education in the United States”.

In response to a question about the date of the arrival of the new US ambassador to Kuwait, he said, “The ambassador has been named since last September 2022, and she is an ambassador with great diplomatic experience who served in a number of Arab countries. But the procedures for her appointment took longer as a result of the elections in the US at the end of 2022. She was renamed in January this year and we await her arrival in the near future.”



nearly \$30 billion in assistance to Ukraine, and remain committed to supporting and defending the people of Ukraine, he added, “More than 50 countries met over the past few days within the Ukrainian Defense Contact Group, to talk about their support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, who have been subjected to atrocities for nearly a year. We will also hold talks about Ukraine again this week at the Munich Security Conference and in other meetings to come. There will be a focus and priority on ensuring international unity against Russia’s unprovoked invasion,” said the US diplomat.

He went on to note that “there is cooperation with a wide range of international partners,

“The only countries that support Russia are the same ones that cause problems all over the world, so one of the most disturbing things we’ve seen in recent months is cooperation between Iran and Russia. We’ve seen Iran’s destabilizing behavior in the past and now it is involved in export of weapons to Russia.

Noting that Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and France, Australia, Canada, and the United States are all united in their opposition to what President Putin is doing in Ukraine, Mr. Holtsnider said, “We also share our concerns with our colleagues in Kuwait, especially with regard to troubling developments such as the export of Iranian weapons to Russia.”

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MoI to implement biometric security at ports, borders



technologies are to be employed in the coming months.

Last week, as part of these efforts at enhancing security, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, inspected the implementation of the final stages of the project to develop and establish an integrated central system for biometric verification of people entering and leaving the country. The new scheme will entail the scanning of hand and palm prints, facial and iris image, and electronic signature for all citizens and residents in the country.

The interior minister was also briefed on the various components of the second phase

of the plan to modernize the systems and infrastructure of the ports of the country. This includes a comprehensive modernization of the entry and exit procedures for travelers and vehicles. The authenticity and security features of people and vehicles will be checked at the entry and exit points to control cases of forgery.

Also the vital biometric features of the traveler's will be checked to ascertain whether they are on any local or international prohibited lists, before allowing them to travel. Additionally, the project will also conduct security checks on vehicles at the land borders to verify that they are not included in the lists of stolen and wanted vehicles locally and internationally, before documenting

the movement of the vehicle. Minister Al-Khaled praised the efforts of the employees of the ministry in confronting all types of crime, and its continuous developmental and modernization plans in all its sectors.

On a related note, the MoI also launched an electronic application platform for the Kuwait Visa on a trial basis on 16 February. The platform, which was prepared and launched under the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid, will authenticate workers' entry visas before boarding the plane and entering the country. It will also allow airlines to check the status of the electronic visa, to ensure the validity of the entry visas to the country.

Ministry of Interior (MoI) is testing and implementing various measures that aim to strengthen the safety and security of the country. Several important initiatives involving leading edge

LuLu Hypermarket launches 'LuLu BBQ Nights'



LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region launched the 'LuLu BBQ Nights' promotion that runs from 15 to 21 February across all outlets of the hypermarket.

The promotion features exciting offers and discounts on an array of the finest barbecue products, including prime cut meats, barbecue sauces, BBQ and grilling sets and related accessories, and much more.

As part of the week-long promotion, a live BBQ contest was held at the AlQurain outlet of the hypermarket on 16 February, which saw the participation of over 100 contestants. The

contest included two categories, one involved live barbecuing while the other was barbecuing from home. The contestants were judged on the basis of their skills in marinating, barbecuing and grilling the foods.

Winners of both categories received amazing prizes and gifts, while all participants received consolation prizes. The main sponsor of the BBQ contest was the popular food brand AlYoum, while Americana, Seara, and Sadia food brands were co-sponsors of the event. Winners and participants were presented with their prizes by top management of LuLu Hypermarket

and the main sponsor AlYoum, along with representatives of Americana, Seara, and Sadia. Also dotting the venue were special product exhibitions and food sampling stalls put up by the sponsors and co-sponsors, as well by other food and beverage brands, including Almarai, London Dairy, Red Bull, Naif chicken, khazana, and others.

Adding further liveliness to the BBQ promotion were a line of food-trucks serving various hot and cold foods and beverages. Another highlight of the event was the participation of popular Arab chefs who provided live demonstrations of their

skills while also providing tips and techniques on barbecuing and grilling. Providing entertainment to the event were a play area with toys for the kids, cartoon characters, Light Man and the Tallest Man shows, and instant contests that rewarded winners with gift vouchers, as well as other amusements to keep everyone engaged.

The 'LuLu BBQ Nights' promotion reiterates the hypermarket's continued commitment to provide shoppers with an unrivaled shopping experience, while offering high-quality products from around the world at exceedingly competitive prices.

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Japan-Kuwait relations more than about oil

Japanese Ambassador H.E. Morino Yasunari expressed his keenness to develop bilateral relations with Kuwait beyond oil trade. The ambassador made this comment during a speech he delivered on the occasion of hosting several local media personnel at his residence on the occasion of Japan celebrating the birthday of the country's emperor.

"Japan and Kuwait have a strong friendship, including a friendly relationship between the imperial family and the ruling family in Kuwait," Ambassador Yasunari said, while noting, "Kuwait is an important supplier of oil for Japan, and that Japan

appreciates the role Kuwait plays in stabilizing the global oil market."

The ambassador also pointed out that Japan possesses technologies that can be applied to develop the infrastructure in Kuwait, through cooperation between the Japanese and Kuwaiti experts in areas such as electricity, energy, water, waste management and the environment.

Indicating that he would like to further improve people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, the ambassador said, "I would like to see more Kuwaitis visit Japan for the purpose of tourism. Hence a delegation from the Japan National Tourism Organization will visit Kuwait from

time to time to facilitate cooperation between the Japan National Tourism and Kuwait travel agencies so that interested people in Kuwait will have the necessary information to travel to Japan, stay safe and enjoy a full range of Japanese charms."

He also revealed that while Kuwaiti diplomats and special passport holders do not need a visa to enter Japan, all other Kuwaitis would need a visa, but it took only about a week to obtain a Japanese visa by visiting the embassy.

Noting that the exchange between people in the field of education is also important, the envoy said, "I would like to see more Kuwaiti students studying in Japan. Many Japanese universities have become keener on accepting students from the Middle Eastern and Gulf countries, including Kuwait. It would also be a delight to see if more Kuwaitis learn the Japanese language."

On international relations, the ambassador said: "Japan and Kuwait uphold international peace and prosperity and follow the law among both countries. The law enables both countries to overcome any issues through discussions rather than force. As a member of the United Nations Security Council, Japan will promote



the law, and is willing to cooperate with Kuwait and its laws."

Pointing out that Kuwait is the third country after Saudi Arabia and the UAE in oil supplies to Japan, he also disclosed that there were several Japanese companies operating in the field of oil and water refining in Kuwait and that most of the power plants in Kuwait use Japanese equipment.

Ambassador Yasunari thanked

Kuwaitis for their satisfaction and confidence in Japanese industries and products and wished for this confidence to be continued and strengthened in the future. The ambassador lastly pointed out that the Kuwait Fund for Development is an important partner for Japan and he praised the humanitarian assistance and services provided by the Fund in several parts of the world.



M.A. Yusuf Ali, Chairman & Managing Director of LuLu Group International meets His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2023, Dubai, UAE.

Al Muzaini Exchange honored with the award for the Best Foreign Exchange Provider Kuwait

Al Muzaini Exchange Company honored with the award for the Best Foreign Exchange Provider Kuwait by Business Tabloid for the year 2022 for its distinguished services and advanced achievements in the field of foreign exchange as Al-Muzaini is considered the best exchange company in Kuwait and has proven its leadership in the field of transferring funds abroad and currency conversion. The company has more than 126 branches and more than 25 self-service machines all over Kuwait. It also has close relations with foreign banks and financial institutions and the company was able to build a solid base of clients, both individuals and companies, by providing high quality services, which led to gaining its customers trust.



Commenting on winning this prestigious award, General Manager Mr. Hugh Fernandes said: "This award reflects the ability of Al Muzaini Company to maintain its position as the number one exchange company in

Kuwait since 1942, which represents recognition of the success of the quality of services that we provide to our customers." Fernandes added that innovation and development in the field of financial services is one of the most important pillars of the company's strategy in order to maintain our leading position in the field and stressed that Al-Muzaini always seeks to be proactive in developing services that meet the needs of customers.

Through this honor, Al-Muzaini Company was able to highlight its dedicated and tireless efforts in providing the latest, most distinguished and reliable services in the region. It is noteworthy that the award aims to shed light on the institution that provides the best service to its customers in terms of meeting their foreign currency needs, especially with the rapid technological developments and changes in economic conditions.

Al-Muzaini has recently launched a foreign currency delivery service, which enables the customer to request foreign currencies through the Al-Muzaini application, using the foreign currency delivery service easily, and the order is delivered to any place in Kuwait within a few hours. Al-Muzaini also provides facilities for foreign currency exchange through self-service machines in Kuwait, which makes exchanging foreign currency banknotes an easy process with the possibility of exchanging foreign currencies by visiting any of Al Muzaini branches.



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World Congratulates Kuwait on occasion of the **National & Liberation Days**



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As we celebrate the twin occasions of our country's National and Liberation Days, we also reflect on the wisdom of our founding fathers and the great sacrifices they made to ensure Kuwait remains safe, peaceful and prosperous for future generations.

We are also grateful and thankful for the support from the international community who have always stood by Kuwait's independence and sovereignty. On this occasion I wish to thank all heads of mission in Kuwait for their continued support and cooperation and wish them success in all their endeavours.

Tareq Yousuf Al-Shumaimry
Editor-in-Chief



Tajikistan



On behalf of the people, the Government, the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deanship of the Diplomatic Corps in the State of Kuwait, I would like to extend my sincere felicitations to the Amir of the State of Kuwait His

Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Foreign Minister H.E. Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the brotherly people of Kuwait on the occasions of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of Independence and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

Tajikistan and Kuwait share over 28 years of strong

diplomatic relations based on mutual respect, common understanding of international values and principles. Ever since its independence and liberation, Kuwait has been a cornerstone for peace in the region, thanks to its wise leadership and their remarkably balanced foreign policy.

It should be noted that Kuwait is a model for stability and welfare in the region. It has gained wide international recognition for its balanced foreign policy and its successful mediation diplomacy, for the support Kuwait has been providing humanitarian initiatives and development worldwide. I once again extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people and the State of Kuwait and express our keenness to further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation.

H.E. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda
Dean of Diplomatic Corps,
Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan



Afghanistan



On behalf of the people of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and

His Excellency the Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as to the honorable people of Kuwait, on the auspicious occasion of the 62th anniversary of National Day and the 32th anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

Referring to the strong and brotherly relations between the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the last six decades, I am confident that the future bilateral relations between the two countries will strengthen furthermore.

In this glorious occasion, I pray to Almighty Allah to bless His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince with good health and success and wishing for the brotherly people of Kuwait progress and prosperity.

H.E. Sayed Javed Hashimi
Ambassador of Afghanistan



Albania



On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Albania and on my own behalf it is my distinct pleasure to extend to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the most sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.



As this year marks the 55th 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 strengthen our very good, friendly bilateral relations in

benefit to both countries and people.

On this historic accession of National and Liberation's Day, I wish again to congratulate the 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 Government and the Embassy of Argentina, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to his Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of Independence.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1968, Kuwait and Argentina developed friendly and productive bonds. During Kuwait's darkest days, the Gulf War, Argentina was proud to participate in the great coalition for its liberation.

On the 32nd anniversary of these historic events, I pray for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Kuwait. I also praise its active role as peacekeeper in the region and its valuable contributions to humanitarian aid to alleviate suffering in different parts of the world. I join Kuwaitis joyfully celebrating their freedom and success.

H.E. Claudia Alejandra Zampieri
Ambassador of Argentina

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Armenia



I would like to congratulate the esteemed leadership of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people on the twin occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of Independence Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

These occasions allow us to reflect on the road this State has taken to ensure the creation of

peace, safety, and prosperity to all its citizens and those who live on this land. Ever since its independence and liberation, Kuwait has been a cornerstone for peace in the region, thanks to its wise leaders and their remarkably balanced foreign policy.

Armenia and Kuwait share over 25 years of strong diplomatic relations based on mutual respect, common understanding of values and principles. We are grateful to the leadership of the State of Kuwait for their support and cooperation with the Embassy. We like to place special emphasis and express our appreciation for the welcome and kindness Armenians were met with in Kuwait since the early days of its independence. Today, a thriving Armenian community exists benefiting from the goodness and hospitality this country offers.

I wish the State of Kuwait, its leaders and the friendly people of Kuwait my sincere and heartfelt wishes for good health, success and continued prosperity.

H.E. Sarmen Baghdasarian
Ambassador of Armenia

Kuwait. We also like to thank the Government of Kuwait for their continuous support to the various infrastructure development projects through Kuwait Fund and significant contribution to conduct the Rohingyas case at the International Court of Justice.

The bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Kuwait is very historic in nature. With the passage of time, the relation has been further developed and strengthened by the prudent leadership of His Highness the Amir and visionary leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. In addition to existing cooperation, we are also closely working to identify new areas of mutual cooperation such as food security, health security, climate change, renewable energy, green technology, ICT and digitalization among others, for our mutual benefit.

Bangladesh has emerged as a developing country and aspires to become a developed country by 2041. By 2041, Bangladesh will be Smart Bangladesh with Smart Economy, Smart Citizen, Smart Government and Smart Society. I hope that the State of Kuwait will be a comprehensive development partner of Bangladesh in this exciting new journey that we are embarking on.

On this glorious occasion, once again, I express my warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince and wishing the brotherly people of Kuwait for continued peace, progress, good health and prosperity.

Long live Bangladesh Kuwait friendship.

H.E. Major General Md Ashikuzzaman
Ambassador of Bangladesh

their country. The State of Kuwait has succeeded in building a society with a high level of welfare and stability and I wish Kuwait and its people still more achievements and prosperity. I am privileged to represent here my country - Bulgaria which has six decades of diplomatic relations and close ties with Kuwait. We value our friendship and our accomplishments in bilateral cooperation over the years. Our efforts are focused on intensifying political dialogue and activating contacts between our institution and business circles.

We work on upgrading the documentary basis of our cooperation which includes more than 25 agreements, memorandums of understanding and protocols. We are interested to further promote our cultural relations, educational cooperation and people-to-people contacts. Bulgaria is a well-known destination for the Kuwaitis. Thousands of tourists from Kuwait visit Bulgaria each year.

In 2023 we will celebrate 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Kuwait - an opportunity to give new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the areas of common interest.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my congratulations to the leadership and the people of Kuwait on the National Day and the Day of Liberation and to wish Kuwait continuous advancement and wellbeing.

H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov
Ambassador of Bulgaria



Azerbaijan



I sincerely congratulate the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait, which actively participates in peace-building processes in the region, has also gained appreciation and respect for his extensive humanitarian activities in the world.

In addition to effective bilateral cooperation, Azerbaijan and Kuwait cooperate closely within the framework of international organizations such as the UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, and OPEC+.

I wish that Kuwait achieves its goals and that the relations between the two friendly countries improve further for the benefit of our peoples.

As extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of my country in Kuwait, I will work in this direction and I believe that the successes we have achieved will be sustainable with our joint efforts.

H.E. Emil Karimov
Ambassador of Azerbaijan



Botswana



On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Botswana and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate the government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of her 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

I also wish to extend warm greetings and felicitations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al Sabah on this special occasion. Under the supervision and leadership of their highnesses, Kuwait has achieved high economic growth, peace and prosperity.

Botswana and Kuwait have a long history of friendship and strong diplomatic relations based on mutual respect, shared values and principles of good governance, human rights and the rule of law. The government and people of Botswana are grateful for the generosity of spirit of the government and the kindness of the people of Kuwait for the assistance that Kuwait has, over the years, extended to Botswana.

I hope both countries will in the coming years, strengthen their bilateral relations that will bring prosperity to the peoples of both nations. May I also wish you all a safe and blessed National and Liberation Day.

H.E. Augustine N. Makgonatsothe
Ambassador of Botswana



Belgium



On behalf of His Majesty the King and of the people of Belgium, I wish to extend my deepest and warmest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and to His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and to the Government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of 62nd anniversary of Independence and 32nd commemoration of Liberation of Kuwait.

Belgium and Kuwait have always nourished friendly, cordial and fruitful relations whether in good or difficult circumstances and this will remain so. I would like to express the deep appreciation of the Belgian authorities for the continuous democratic commitments and economic achievements of Kuwait. Both our countries share the same democratic values and are respectful of international rules and regulations. I am confident that in the years to come our bilateral cooperation will remain as strong as ever to the mutual benefit of our respective people and countries.

H.E. Marc Trenteseau
Ambassador of Belgium



Bangladesh



On the auspicious occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I, on behalf of the people and the Government of Bangladesh, and on my own behalf, would like to take the opportunity to extend my warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government of Kuwait and to the brotherly people of the State of Kuwait. On this historic event, we also express our deep homage to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifices for the Liberation of Kuwait.

On this joyous occasion, let me express our sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince for hosting around 270,000 Bangladeshi expatriates in



Bulgaria



I thank The Times - Kuwait for the opportunity to extend through its pages heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the whole leadership of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people on Kuwait's 62nd National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the Liberation.

anniversary of the Liberation.

Throughout this month we have been impressed to see how enthusiastically and unitedly the Kuwaitis mark their key national occasions in a strong expression of pride, devotion and love for



Brazil



On behalf of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and on my own, It is my honor to greet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, alongside the Crown Prince and the Government and People of Kuwait, on the occasion of its 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

Kuwait has built bridges among the countries in its regional sphere and helped needy people around the world to have better living conditions.

Brazil is honored to have supported Kuwait in its war of liberation and to side with it in the international fora, to promote peace, prosperity and stability for the international society. Since their formal establishment in 1968, the bilateral relations have grown smoothly and are set to prosper even more.

H.E. Francisco Mauro Brasil de Holanda
Ambassador of Brazil



Cambodia



On behalf of the People, the Royal Government, the Royal Embassy of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to extend my most heartfelt and warmest congratulations to the Government and People of Kuwait, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of National Day and the 32nd Anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

Based on the warm and cordial relationship between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the State of Kuwait, I firmly believe that our happily existing cooperation, understanding and good bilateral relations will develop for mutual benefits of our two nations and the people.

Therefore, I am confident that under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, both countries will continue to work closely to explore new ways and means to deepen the existing relations in many areas of mutual interests between the two countries in years to come.

May I take this good opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister personal good health, happiness, progress and for more prosperity in this meaningful festive month.

H.E. Sman Manan
Ambassador of Cambodia

Kuwait is very well known and loved for its key role in helping the peace in this region and other places all over the world, and for its unwavering humanitarian efforts worldwide, guided by the wisdom and goodwill of its leaders, and displayed through its wise foreign policies. In this regard Cuba and Kuwait share a long and friendly relations and a common position on several areas of international relations. It is our duty to continue doing all our best to further strengthen these relations in the context of the 50 years of diplomatic relations we will be celebrating next year.

Our relationship is supported through several agreements that will in future allow for bilateral cooperation to be further strengthened and deepened for the benefit of the people of both countries. We also feel proud for having been able to lend our humble support in 2020 by sending a group of nearly 300 doctors and nurses to assist the brother people of Kuwait to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Now we also witness an increase in the number of Kuwaiti people traveling to Cuba as tourists.

Once again I wish all people living under the sky of this beloved country and to its leadership, a happy celebration full of health, joy and continued prosperity.

H.E. José Luis Noriega Sánchez
Ambassador of Cuba



Cyprus



On the auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the National Day and the 32nd Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I wish to extend to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government and the friendly people of Kuwait my warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued peace and constant progress and prosperity in Kuwait and across the region.

I wish to praise Kuwait's balanced foreign policy, its pioneering role in the global humanitarian domain and its continuing efforts to boost stability and security at the regional and international level by promoting the track of diplomacy and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Cyprus and Kuwait are both moderate and like-minded countries that strongly support the primacy of international law in our global system, having both suffered from the painful and traumatic experience of invasion and occupation. Our longstanding ties of friendship are stronger than ever, as exemplified by significant high-level visits during 2022. I would also like to assure you of our willingness and determination to further enhance our bilateral relations for the benefit of our two peoples under the leadership of the newly elected President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Christodoulides.

I have lived in this unique country for nearly two years and have experienced the generosity, kindness and friendship of its people. I feel grateful and fortunate to be here and to join you in this important celebration. I wish you all a happy National Day and a happy Liberation day.

H.E. Michael Mavros
Ambassador of Cyprus

security and wellbeing in which citizens and residents live in harmony and respect.

Kuwait is dedicated to exploring new fields in technology and development. I want to assure that France remains committed to working closely with Kuwait in enhancing our cooperation in those spheres, in which we can bring the French expertise, but also in many other aspects of our bilateral relation.

I am confident that Kuwait, with its youth and under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, will continue its steady march on the path of progress, prosperity and reliability in the region.

On behalf of the French Embassy in Kuwait, I wish happy holidays to everyone.

H.E. Claire Le Flécher
Ambassador of France



Georgia



On behalf of the Government and the People of Georgia, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government, and the

friendly people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of Kuwait National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation Day.

Diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Georgia were established in 1992. We appreciate Kuwait's continuous and firm support of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. During this period, our friendly relations have developed successfully in politics, economics and cultural spheres. Tourist and business activities between our countries are especially developing after the introduction of direct flights from Kuwait to Georgia in 2017. More than 40,000 tourists, students and business people visit Georgia from Kuwait. We hope that further development of relations not only, between our governments but also our people, will help to further develop our relations in the sphere of business, culture and education.

I have been in Kuwait for more than three years now and during all this period, I always feel the warm and friendly attitude from the Government and the people of Kuwait.

Once more, I wish the State of Kuwait, its Leaders and the friendly people of Kuwait my best wishes for good health, success and continued prosperity.

H.E. Konstantin Zhgenti
Ambassador of Georgia



Croatia



On the occasion of Kuwait National Day and Kuwait Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to convey sincere congratulations on behalf of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia and on my behalf.

In this challenging time when countries across the globe are fighting natural disasters and wars neither of our States has been spared, I wish progress and prosperity to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to the citizens. We are in an extraordinary situation that will have a major impact on all people, economics and societies as a whole. It is my deep conviction that together we will succeed in preserving rule of law and enable our citizens to return to their daily lives as soon as possible, and that we will jointly prosper in the future.

H.E. Amir Muharemi
Ambassador of Croatia



Greece



On the occasion of the Independence and Liberation Days of Kuwait, I convey my warmest wishes to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown prince, the government and my beloved people of Kuwait.

Our first contacts go back centuries with the establishment of a settlement on Failaka (Ikarus) Island. The recent successful exhibition under my auspices about the legacy of Alexander the Great gave a new impulse to this old relationship. Greece recognized very early the independence of Kuwait and took part in the international coalition which achieved the liberation of the country. Our bilateral relations are also strong and based on shared values. We will continue deepening and expanding our cooperation in new and promising fields.

H.E. Konstantinos Piperigos
Ambassador of Greece



Cuba



Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on the beautiful occasion of the 62nd anniversary of its National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the Liberation Day.



France



On behalf of the French Republic, I would like to extend my congratulations and warmest wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the National and Liberation days of Kuwait.

It is a great honor for me to share the joys and pleasures of the Kuwaiti people on these holidays. France has been and will always be a friend of Kuwait. Kuwait has always been an example of prosperity and peace in the region. The openness and tolerance of its people made it a land of meeting, coexistence and dialogue, a country of

 **India** 



On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of India and on my own behalf, I convey my warm greetings and felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Amir and Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Government and the friendly people of Kuwait, on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait and 32nd anniversary of its Liberation.

India and Kuwait share historical and close relations. The leadership of both countries attach immense importance to bilateral relations between India and Kuwait. While India is crucial for Kuwait's food security, Kuwait is an important factor in ensuring India's energy security. People-to-people contacts remain the fulcrum of this relationship. The vibrant Indian community, which constitutes the largest expatriate community in Kuwait, is a 'living bridge' between the two countries.

India, with all the advantages and attractiveness of its current growth story, could be a reliable partner in the realization of the 2035 development vision of Kuwait. I am confident that the close, historical and deep ties of friendship will continue to grow and diversify under the guidance of the leadership of our two friendly countries.

I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to the leadership of the State of Kuwait for their continued patronage and support for the welfare of the Indian community in Kuwait. I wish good health, success and continued prosperity to the leadership and the friendly people of Kuwait on this joyous occasion.

H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika
Ambassador-designate of India to Kuwait

 **Indonesia** 



On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, it is my distinct pleasure to extend to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and His Excellency the Foreign Minister

Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the friendly people of Kuwait, congratulations on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

As a nation who fights for independence, Indonesia also felt closely the burning spirit of Kuwait people in commemorating the national day as well as the liberation day. May this spirit also bring both nations to a closer ties and cooperation in contributing to each countries development.

On 28 February 2023, Indonesia and Kuwait also commemorate the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The longstanding relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Kuwait have made our friendship stronger. I am confident that given our good relations, we will always work together for the benefit of our peoples and thereby contribute to the peace, security and prosperity in the region and beyond.

I wish the state of Kuwait, its leaders and the friendly people of Kuwait best wishes and prosperity.

H.E. Ms. Lena Maryana
Ambassador of Indonesia

 **IOM** 



On behalf of the UN migration agency (IOM) in Kuwait, I would like to convey our warmest congratulations to the people and the State of Kuwait on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

The IOM and the State of Kuwait enjoy a strong and fruitful relationship. The Organization has been in the country for almost 30 years and we cherish the solid partnership and cooperation in subjects of mutual interest. We also acknowledge the role that Kuwait plays, under His Highness' leadership, on a global level, as a supporter for humanitarian efforts that are crucial in the time of global emergencies and disasters.

We wish Kuwait and its people continuous development, prosperity and peace.

H.E. Mazen AboulHosn
Chief of Mission
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

 **Kyrgyz Republic** 



On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, on behalf of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic as well as on my own behalf, I have the great honor to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al

Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government and the fraternal people of Kuwait.

The Kyrgyz Republic and the State of Kuwait have always enjoyed brotherly relations and good cooperation. I am confident that the existing bonds of relationship and good cooperation will be further enhanced for the mutual benefits of our two countries.

I take this opportunity to wish that the State of Kuwait continues to grow from strength to strength and face prosperity and success ahead.

H.E. Azamat Karagulov
Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic

 **Italy** 

In my name and on behalf of the Government and people of Italy, I am pleased to extend my warmest and heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the Kuwaiti Government and the friendly people of Kuwait, on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day and the Liberation Day.



The depth of historical and cultural relations that bind the two countries, has developed into a long-term dynamic partnership in various fields, including economic, developmental, investment, political and archaeological fields. The two cooperation agreements in the field of archaeology signed recently between Italy and Kuwait prove once again the strong ties at all levels that bind our two countries.

I wish Kuwait and its people continued stability, peace and prosperity under its wise leadership.

H.E. Carlo Baldocci
Ambassador of Italy

 **Malta** 

On the auspicious occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the National Day and of the 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, it is my great pleasure to extend warmest congratulations on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Malta and on my behalf to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, to the Government, and to the friendly people of the State of Kuwait.



Over the last 50 years Malta and Kuwait have enjoyed excellent relations based on friendship and mutual respect. I am confident that building on the past the long-standing ties will continue to be enhanced in the future on different levels of engagement. Malta values Kuwait's role in the humanitarian field and in maintaining peace and security in the region. As a member of the United Nations Security Council for 2023-2024, Malta will be advocating for dialogue in favor of peace and security and for respecting the agreed principles of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I wish the State of Kuwait and its friendly people lasting peace, continued progress and prosperity.

H.E. Raymond Sarsero
Ambassador of Malta

 **Kazakhstan** 



On behalf of the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the State of Kuwait and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my heartfelt felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, the Government of the State of Kuwait and the friendly

people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the Liberation Day.

It is my pleasure to note that over the last three decades, Kazakhstan and Kuwait have maintained and enjoyed a valuable partnership, developing mutually beneficial political, economic and cultural cooperation.

Taking this favourable opportunity, I would like to extend my best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait good health, success and well-being as well as the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kuwait.

H.E. Azamat Berdibay
Ambassador of Kazakhstan

 **Mexico** 



I am truly privileged and honored to celebrate alongside the friendly nation of the State of Kuwait and its people, the milestone of the 62nd anniversary of Independence Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day celebrations. On this historic occasion, I wish to extend to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the

State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, the Government and people of the State of Kuwait, our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

The people of Mexico and Kuwait have always enjoyed friendly relations and good cooperation. Kuwait can be rightly proud of its achievements since independence. The country has always been an example of stability and economic growth and I wish Kuwait to continue serving as an oasis of peace and welfare in the region. I am confident that the existing bonds of friendship and good cooperation will be further enhanced for the mutual benefits of our two countries.

May I take this opportunity to wish His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait good health, well-being and the friendly Kuwaiti people continued progress and prosperity.

H.E. Miguel Ángel Isidro
Ambassador of Mexico



Mongolia



On behalf of the Government and people of Mongolia and in my own name, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary

of National day and 32nd anniversary of the Liberation day.

Mongolia is proud to be one of the first countries to voice our opposition against the invasion and our support for the Kuwaiti Government and people in 1990. Since then, friendly ties and good cooperation between Mongolia and the State of Kuwait have continuously developed. At this moment, two countries enjoy excellent political relations with mutual trust and confidence in each other. I am confident that this happily existing relation will be further enriched and expanded by cooperation in the fields of culture, trade, investment, and tourism sectors in the years to come.

As Ambassador of Mongolia to the State of Kuwait, I would like to assure my determination to work towards developing and consolidating our bilateral relations for the benefit of our two people. Taking this opportunity, I wish the people and State of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

H.E. SERGELEN Purev
Ambassador of Mongolia



Myanmar



On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad



Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait on the auspicious occasions of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day, which fall on 25 and 26 February respectively. These occasions coincide with the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Kuwait, which will fall on 16 December this year.

Myanmar and Kuwait have long enjoyed strong diplomatic relations and constructive cooperation based on mutual respect and understanding. I am confident that longstanding friendship and cooperation between our two countries will be further consolidated and expanded through increased interactions and concerted efforts between the governments and peoples of Myanmar and Kuwait in the coming years for our common interests.

On these blissful events, I wish good health and success to the leadership and the people of the State of Kuwait and further progress and prosperity as well as lasting peace and stability to the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Dr. Aung Gyaw Thu
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Nepal



as the Government and people of Kuwait.

Nepal and Kuwait are good friends. The bilateral relations between the two countries are marked by goodwill, mutual understanding and cooperation and have been growing from strength to strength over the years. In 2022, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, and both countries are working together for further enhancing the ties in the fields of trade, tourism, employment, and sports among others. On this joyous occasion, I wish for good health and happiness of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and for the continuous peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Durga Prasad Bhandari
Ambassador of Nepal



Peru



Her Excellency Dina Boluarte, to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, her fervent vows for His Highness' personal wellbeing and the prosperity of the State, Government and the people of Kuwait.

Likewise, I express my best wishes to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on the occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the state of Kuwait.

Peru and Kuwait established diplomatic relations in 1975, almost half a century ago. Our friendship and cooperation has been steady and positive. Today, Kuwait can count on Peru's willingness and my personal commitment to promote and enhance our bilateral relations in all fields, from political cooperation in international forums, culture exchanges, economic and investment, to trade and tourism as a means of cooperation between our two nations.

The main framework of our fruitful relations and cooperation is the full coincidence in our approaches regarding the observance of international law, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and unrestricted respect for democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Finally, I wish the friendly people of the State of Kuwait lasting prosperity, success and peace, and my assurances that friendship and cooperation between Peru and Kuwait will broaden and strengthen, for the benefit of the two countries and its people in the coming years.

On a personal note, I express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kuwait and its leadership, for the warm welcome I have received since my arrival to this wonderful country and reaffirm my commitment to work for the benefit and success of the friendly relations between Peru and Kuwait.

H.E. Carlos Velasco Mendiola
Ambassador of Peru



Romania



On behalf of the Government and People of Romania, of the Romanian Embassy in Kuwait, and on my behalf, I have the honor to convey to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, the Government and all the friendly people of Kuwait our best wishes



of health, prosperity, and peace on the anniversary of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

On this glorious occasion, I would like to stress Romania's desire to continue to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between our countries in all areas. In 2023 we are also marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, based on mutual respect and deep understanding of international values and principles. Romania and Kuwait enjoy strong and long-standing ties of friendship and cooperation, being committed to the preservation of international law principles and the promotion of global peace, stability and solidarity. I would also like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the State of Kuwait for their support and cooperation with the Romanian Embassy ever since my arrival here less than two years ago, as well as for their friendship shown to the small Romanian community living in this great country.

Once again, on this special occasion, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all the people of Kuwait for a wonderful celebration.

H.E. Mugurel Stanescu
Ambassador of Romania



Sierra Leone



In observance of the celebrations marking the National Day and Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait on 25th and 26th February 2023, respectively, let me on behalf of His Excellency the President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, the Government and People of the Republic of Sierra Leone and on my own behalf, convey to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf

Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al-Sabah (May Allah continue to protect him), the Government and People of the State of Kuwait, warmest felicitations, prosperity and happiness on the historic and momentous occasion in the calendar of the State of Kuwait.

The Republic of Sierra Leone and the State of Kuwait have enjoyed long-standing bilateral ties. I am delighted to recall that Sierra Leone was also a part of the landmark Liberation of the State of Kuwait. I would like to express my profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of the State of Kuwait for the enormous support that the Republic of Sierra Leone has received in her development trajectory.

It is, therefore, my fervent hope that the cordial relations between our two-sisterly countries will continue to further strengthen for the mutual benefit of our two peoples and countries.

H.E. Haja Ishata Thomas
Ambassador of Sierra Leone



South Africa



On behalf of His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa, as well as staff of the South African Embassy in the State of Kuwait, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait, warm congratulations on the occasion of celebrating the National and Liberation Days.

South Africa-Kuwait relations are cordial, solid and growing at the diplomatic, political, commercial and cultural levels. As the South African Embassy in the State of Kuwait, we

South Africa-Kuwait relations are cordial, solid and growing at the diplomatic, political, commercial and cultural levels. As the South African Embassy in the State of Kuwait, we

will continue to work closely with the Kuwaiti Government and other relevant stakeholders to further strengthen the bilateral relations of the two countries. I ask the Almighty to bless the State of Kuwait, its government and its people.

H.E. Dr. Manelisi GENGE
Ambassador of South Africa



Tanzania



I reiterate best wishes to the leadership; government and the people of the State of Kuwait on this occasion in marking a memorable National Day and pray to the Almighty God for a prosperous Kuwait.

H.E. Said S. Mussa
Ambassador of Tanzania



South Korea



On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea as well as the Embassy and Korean community in Kuwait, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and warmest wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to the government and people of Kuwait on

the auspicious occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Independence Day and 32nd anniversary of the Liberation Day.

I am delighted to note that the friendly ties and close cooperation between our two countries have continuously developed over the past decades. I am confident that such a good relationship will continue to grow to new heights in the years to come. The Republic of Korea has been proud to be a member of the international coalition forces that liberated Kuwait in 1991.

I avail this opportunity to wish the leaders and the people of Kuwait my warm greetings and felicitations coupled with my best wishes for good health, success and continued prosperity.

H.E. Chung, Byung-ha
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea



Spain



On the important occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, let me convey a warm congratulatory message to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, and to the government and people of

Kuwait. I also want to express my appreciation for the highly valuable collaboration between both our friendly nations under the auspices of His Highness, a close relationship which shall continue strengthening in the future for the benefit of both societies.

Our best wishes of happiness and welfare to the Kuwaiti people and to the State of Kuwait on these significant national dates.

H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilar
Ambassador of Spain



Switzerland



On behalf of the people, Government and Embassy of Switzerland to the State of Kuwait, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, to the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to the Government and the friendly people of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of Independence and

32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

I am proud that the friendly people-to-people relations between our two countries date back to the 1930s. Since 1966, a Swiss ambassador has been accredited here and we are constantly working together to make our ties richer and stronger. On these important anniversaries, I wish in particular peace and prosperity to everyone who lives in the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Dr. Tiziano Balmelli
Ambassador of Switzerland

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KUWAIT

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the years. It is my hope that the existing bonds of friendship will be further enhanced for the mutual benefit of both parties. To this end, inter-religious dialogue can build bridges of fraternity and trust among peoples of different faiths.

The Catholic community in Kuwait is eager to play its part in the cultural and religious life of the country so that it can be a model of pluralism and peaceful coexistence in the region.

May the friendly Kuwaiti people continue to enjoy progress and prosperity. I gladly take this opportunity to wish Your Highness good health and the blessings of the Almighty.

H.E. Eugene M. Nugent
Apostolic Nuncio, The Holy See



UN-Habitat



On behalf of UN-Habitat and on my personal behalf I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and to the government and people of Kuwait, on the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day, .

The UN and Kuwait enjoy exceptional cooperation and strong friendship, and Kuwait plays a vital role in supporting the UN-Habitat and its staff, which enable us to carry out our activities and projects in Kuwait and the wider Arab Gulf region.

H.E. Dr. Ameera Alhassan
Head of UN-Habitat GCC Kuwait Office



UNHCR



On behalf of the High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Crown Prince, the Government and the people of Kuwait on the occasions of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of Independence and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day.

Since signing the Office Cooperation agreement 32 years ago, the strategic partnership between Kuwait and UNHCR only grew stronger. Kuwait extended help to more than 10 million refugees through UNHCR in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Sudan, Somalia, and Pakistan, and most recently was among the first responders to the earthquake in Syria and Turkey, showing exemplary humanitarian leadership and commitment.

H.E. Nisreen Rubaian
Representative of UNHCR in Kuwait



Vietnam



As the people of Kuwait are celebrating the 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day, on behalf of the Viet Nam Embassy in Kuwait, I would like to convey my best and warmest wishes to the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the Crown Prince of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the Prime Minister of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; the Parliamentary Speaker, Ahmad Al-Saadoun, along with the people of Kuwait.

The future of Kuwait awaits with great opportunities and I do believe the Kuwaiti people with their wisdom and courage will be able to realize the Vision 2035 Development Plan.

H.E. Thanh Tuan Ngu
Ambassador of Vietnam



United Kingdom



On the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait, I am delighted to offer my best wishes and congratulations to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, to His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and to all those celebrating these special dates in Kuwait and beyond. The United Kingdom has a very strong, historic relationship with Kuwait. But we enjoy much more than just history: looking to the future, the UK is keen to increase further our trade and investment; to boost our close and trusting defence and security relationship; to develop our people-to-people links through more student places and travel; and to elevate our diplomatic relations with the inaugural Strategic Dialogue this year.

The UK values dearly its important relationship with Kuwait and looks forward to another year of close cooperation to our mutual benefit.

H.E. Belinda Lewis
Ambassador of the United Kingdom



Australia



On the occasion of Kuwait's National day and the anniversary of Kuwait's liberation, I would like to extend on behalf of the Government and people of Australia my sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the government, and the people of Kuwait.

Australia and Kuwait enjoy a friendly and cooperative relationship. Our ties are warm and strong, characterised by a 60-year food security partnership, future-focused investment cooperation and a thriving education relationship. We share a commitment to democratic values and the international rules based order. And there are genuine connections between our people, built through education, business and the arts.

During my first six months in Kuwait, my family and I have been warmly welcomed into Kuwait's vibrant community. We are enjoying discovering the many traditions particular to Kuwait, as well as getting to know Kuwaitis from many different backgrounds.

I'd like to wish all people in Kuwait a safe and joyous celebration in 2023, and my very best for the year ahead.

H.E. Melissa Kelly
Australian Ambassador to Kuwait



European Union



On the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of Kuwait National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation, and on behalf of the European Union I would like to congratulate the people of Kuwait and wish them a joyous celebration.

I would also like to avail of this opportunity to extend my greetings to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as to His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Kuwait has built a modern nation state, working as a catalyst for positive change in the region and around the world. I am pleased to see how the EU-Kuwait relations go from strength to strength. Kuwait and the European Union stand together as friends and allies. We know we are stronger together.

I am delighted to see EU-Kuwait relations are on the right track. We have witnessed many productive engagements between the EU and Kuwait including the first visit of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy Josep Borrell to Kuwait last March. Another milestone was the EU adopting a strategic partnership with the Gulf including Kuwait, which aims at expanding cooperation in many key areas. We are planning to build on what has been

achieved with plans to enhance cooperation with Kuwait further. I am looking forward to another year of strong EU-Kuwait relations.

I wish you all a happy National Day and a happy Liberation Day, and all the best for a prosperous future.

H E Gediminas Varanavicius
European Union Charge' d'Affaires in Kuwait



Eswatini



On the joyous occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the National Day and the 32nd anniversary of the Liberation Day of Kuwait, and on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, the Queen Mother and the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini, I have the honour to extend our sincere congratulations and warmest wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and Deputy Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait.

The Kingdom of Eswatini values the cordial bilateral relations that happily exist with the State of Kuwait. I am confident that the close ties of friendship between our two friendly countries will continue to grow from strength to strength.

I wish continued peace, success and prosperity to the State of Kuwait and to our Kuwaiti friends a very happy celebration.

H.E. Nkululeko DLAMINI
Ambassador of Eswatini



Togo



On the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of National Day and the 32nd anniversary of Kuwait's liberation day, it is an honor and pleasure for me to extend on behalf of the Togolese Government, the embassy of the Republic of Togo in the Kuwait, the Togolese people as well as on my own behalf to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the people of Kuwait, our most sincere and heartiest congratulations.

I would like to seize this occasion to congratulate Kuwait for its remarkably balanced foreign policy that makes him stand out as a cornerstone for peace keeping in the region. May Allah continue to bless Kuwait, its government, and people for the humanitarian assistance throughout the world. I would like to thank Kuwait's leadership for their visions that make Kuwait a modern and peaceful country, and for their support and cooperation with the diplomatic missions. My gratitude goes also to all Kuwaitis for their hospitality and friendship. I wish them good health, further growth, prosperity, and everlasting peace.

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H. E. Mohamed Sad OURO SAMA
Ambassador of the Republic of Togo



Turkey



On behalf of the Government, the Embassy and the people of Türkiye and on my own behalf, it is my pleasure to extend sincere greetings and warm wishes to the leadership, Government and people of Kuwait, on the jubilant occasion of Kuwait's 62nd National Day and 32nd Liberation Day.

May Allah give best of health, happiness and long life to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, and His Highness Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait.

The sacrifices the Kuwaiti people made in the name of their

country would forever stand the test of time. It is my earnest hope that the brotherly people of Kuwait will enjoy continued happiness, prosperity and advancement in the future.

I am proud that Türkiye and Kuwait have enjoyed brotherly relationship for centuries. I am certain that these unbreakable ties will continue to grow and gain strength in the years ahead.

This year, our joy of National Day is muted by grief, as we are still reeling from our losses due to devastating earthquakes that stroke Türkiye on the 6th of February. We are grateful to the leadership and the people of Kuwait for sharing our sorrow and standing with us in such a difficult time. With these feelings in mind, I once again congratulate the people of Kuwait on the occasion of national and liberation days.

H.E. Tuba Nur SÖNMEZ
Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye



On the occasion of Kuwait's 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of Liberation Day, I am pleased to convey my sincerest congratulations to the friendly leadership, government and hospitable people of Kuwait.

Representing a country which is now fighting for the right to live, I cannot but hail the heroism of Kuwaitis who

gained victory over invaders 32 years ago. Since Ukraine and Kuwait share similar scenarios of self-defense in liberation wars, we understand that today we mark the resilience and bravery of the Kuwaiti nation.

Ukrainians will also emerge victorious from the battle for freedom, as Kuwait did in 1991. That being said, we heartily thank Kuwait for the unwavering diplomatic and humanitarian support of Ukraine in these dark times. We wish our Kuwaiti friends further progress and prosperity, well-being and a bright future.

H.E. Dr. Oleksandr Balanutsa
Ambassador of Ukraine



On behalf of the People, the Government and the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to the State of Kuwait, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Crown Prince and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad

Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of National Day and 32nd anniversary of the Independent Day of the State of Kuwait.

Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait as well as His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Kuwait has achieved great prosperity over the years, especially the capacity to be the center of humanitarian initiatives world-wide, support dialogue for unity among GCC states, and peace, stability and development globally.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir and other leaders of the State of Kuwait for their continued support and cooperation with the Embassy, as well as the Government of the Lao PDR, in contributing to its socio-economic development. I am confident that the friendly relations and cooperation between two countries Laos-Kuwait would be further developed for the benefit of our nations and for peace and stability in the world.

May I take of this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister personal well-being, happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the State of Kuwait.

H.E. Boun INTABANDITH
Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic

Kuwait and Canada: Working together to promote security, stability and prosperity



By H.E. Aliya Mawani
Ambassador of Canada



Brigadier-General Wade Rutland
Commander of Canada's Task Force in the Middle East



Canada



qualified firefighters to Kuwait to combat devastating oil fires and specialists in demining, oil clean-up operations, and wildlife protection to help rehabilitate the environment.

Since Kuwait's liberation, Canada has continued to address persistent security challenges in the region through deployments to peacekeeping and maritime security missions, and has stood ready to respond to new challenges that could profoundly destabilize the region and threaten our friends, including the people of Kuwait.

In response to such a threat, in 2014 both Canada and Kuwait joined the Global Coalition against Daesh, which brought together a total of 85 international partners. The Canadian Armed Forces played an active role in military operations against Daesh, as part of which Canadian fighter, reconnaissance and transport aircraft conducted their missions out of Kuwait, including from Canada's permanent base at Ali Al Salem Air Base, known as Camp Canada.

Following the military defeat of Daesh, the focus of our regional task force, known as Joint Task Force IMPACT, is now on supporting regional partners to counter future threats, whether it be a resurgence of Daesh, or some other menacing force. Led from the Task Force's headquarters in Kuwait, these efforts promote longer term stability across the region, which in turn provides greater security to Kuwait; and this country remains a key defence partner that enables this mission.

As we mark Kuwait's National and Liberation Days, we pay tribute to all of the men and women who played a role in Kuwait's liberation. We recognize the bonds our forces forged serving alongside each other during the Gulf War, the close ties established between our peoples through decades of cooperation, and look forward to a strong and lasting partnership with Kuwait to promote peace and security in the region and around the world.

On this occasion we would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest congratulations to the State of Kuwait on its National & Liberation days.

As Kuwait marks its National and Liberation Days, we take the opportunity to recognize this country as a key defence and security partner for Canada. We see daily that the global security environment is an increasingly complex one, as threats transcend national borders and regional boundaries. Recent history has shown us how the actions of state and non-state actors alike can perpetrate violence, spread disinformation, destroy infrastructure, displace people and disrupt trade.

In the face of these threats, Canada and Kuwait remain important partners, committed to promoting global security and stability, which are the foundation for economic development and prosperity, not only for our two countries, but for the world at large. Like Kuwait, Canada favours a multilateral approach to solving problems and we firmly believe that more can be accomplished together.

This has been a hallmark of Canada-Kuwait cooperation since diplomatic ties were established in 1965, and it is why, 32 years ago, some 4,500 men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces helped to liberate Kuwait from invasion and occupation. Canadians were active in this effort by air, land and sea; guarding allied ships and monitoring maritime traffic, protecting airspace over Kuwait and contributing to air combat missions, enforcing sanctions and establishing a field hospital. After Liberation, Canada sent highly

Looking back with pride, looking forward with hope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

flow of new-found oil wealth, the country developed on economic, social and political domains. Shortly after independence, Kuwait formally applied for membership in the United Nations, and on 14 May, 1963 the United Nations General Assembly welcomed Kuwait as the global organization's 111th Member State.

A few months after independence, Sheikh Abdullah also formed a popular committee to draft a modern constitution for the newly independent nation. A draft constitution was compiled and discussed over several months before eventually being approved on 11 November, 1961. The constitution outlined Kuwait's system of governance as a 'fully independent Arab State with a democratic style of government, where sovereignty rests with the nation, which is the source of power'.

A year later, under the guidance of the new constitution, the first parliamentary elections were held in Kuwait, making the country the first Arab nation in the region to have a constitution, an elected parliament, and a democratic style of governance. In the wake of its new found global recognition following its membership of the United Nations, Kuwait became an important player in the international comity, leveraging its growing surplus oil wealth to become a major foreign-aid donor. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which was founded in 1961, became an active supporter and enabler of development projects throughout the Arab world and beyond.

From the early 1960s to well into the 70s, Kuwait was the most developed country and the largest oil exporter in the region. It was among the first countries in the world to diversify its new found oil wealth by establishing the world's first sovereign wealth fund through the Kuwait Investment Authority.

On the cultural front, theater, art and literature flourished, and the media in Kuwait was described as one of the most free and outspoken in the area, expressing and propounding ideas and ideologies that were until then taboo in much of the region. Liberal ideas and Western attitudes and lifestyle were conspicuously visible in society during this period.

It is to the credit of Kuwait's first Amir, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and to the founding fathers of the nation, who crafted a versatile constitution for the country that Kuwait continues to remain an independent, democratic country committed to the principles enshrined in its constitution. In recognition and honor of the contributions of Sheikh Abdullah and his role in establishing the

country's independence, and in laying the foundation for a strong democratic and constitutional nation, it was decided in 1965 to shift the celebration of Independence Day from 19 July to 25 February, the day of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's accession in 1950.

The discovery of oil in 1939 and its first export in 1947 changed the fortunes and future of Kuwait. From the 1960s well into the 1980s, Kuwait experienced a period of oil-driven prosperity that allowed the country to fashion a 'cradle-to-grave' welfare state that catered to every need of citizens, pampering them with lavish subsidies and offering free childcare, education, health, housing and job security to them. The immense oil wealth also propelled major public-work programs that transformed the landscape of the country and allowed Kuwaitis to enjoy a modern and unprecedented standard of living. The new infrastructure construction projects and developments also attracted a large influx of foreign workers mainly from Egypt, India and Palestine.

During this period, Kuwait was recognized in the region and beyond as an epitome of progress and development and a pioneer in the cultural renaissance of the Arab world. The democratic and liberal environment in the country also allowed Kuwait to become an ideal crucible for testing out various political thoughts and ideologies that were prevailing in the region then, including pan-Arabism and socialism. This much is history.

In Kuwait we have all the accoutrements of a functioning democracy — a magnificent and iconic parliament building, a quadrennial election exercise that in recent decades have been held with almost clock-work precision every four years; we have universal suffrage among citizens, even though women gained this right relatively late and are still testing the political waters. Kuwait also enjoys a generally unfettered media space, with an entire street frontage lined with newspaper offices that jostle with each other to report on the latest political, economic, social and cultural events unfolding in the country.

We also have a vociferous and contentious parliament that constantly monitors, evaluates and censures the government over its functioning or for not functioning. Lawmakers are also constitutionally allowed to challenge the executive through grilling and no-confidence motions that could bring down the government.

The parliamentary proceedings are broadcast live, and, as in most democracies, the parliamentary debates in Kuwait often evoke passionate and captious discussions in the public sphere; though in recent years these live broadcasts have conveyed more entertainment than information to the public.

A saga of oil and development

The late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the ceremony of exporting the first Kuwaiti oil shipment on 30th of June, 1946



One turn of a silver wheel on the morning of 30 June 1946, by the then ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, was what it took to initiate the first shipment of oil from Kuwait.

The wheel turning event, witnessed by a large contingent of Kuwait Oil Company officials and other dignitaries, released a valve that sent the first shipment of nearly 10,000 tons of crude oil flowing through an offshore oil pipeline to the 'British Fusilier', an oil tanker waiting out at sea. It was this fateful shipment on that day 77 years ago which sealed the emergence of Kuwait as a major global oil producer and exporter, a status the country has proudly maintained through the years since then.

Nearly a decade earlier, in December 1934, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, signed an agreement with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) — formed through a deal between Gulf Oil Corporation (presently Chevron Oil) and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (presently British Petroleum) — to explore for oil in the country.

Preliminary drilling operations during the 1936-38 period revealed that the land was rich in oil wealth, and in 1938 KOC hit paydirt with the discovery of a huge reservoir of oil in the Burgan Field in southeastern Kuwait. However, further prospecting and oil drilling were suspended with the outbreak of World War II. Following the end of



the Second World War and increasing demand for oil, Kuwait began resuming oil drilling activities.

The discovery of oil propelled Kuwait from an insignificant patch of desert land at the northern tip of the Arabian Gulf, into a country of significance in the region and on the international stage. Starting in the early 1950s a spate of mega construction activities took place in the country with Kuwait building several public utilities, including new roads and hospitals, as well as implementing new developments and reforming local administration.

The High Executive Committee was formed in 1954, and the Supreme Council and the Organizational Authority in 1956; local government councils such as the Education Council, City Council and Health Council were also formed during this period.

In 1959 Kuwait also took steps to enact laws and establish systems such as the Naturalization Law in 1959, the Kuwaiti Currency Law, and the Passports Law and the Organization of Government Departments in 1960. During this period, discussions on full independence for the country began to be voiced, and calls for abrogating the protectorate status with Great Britain and transforming Kuwait into a sovereign nation gathered momentum under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who had been the chairman of the country's first council in 1938, realized that the protectorate agreement was no longer appropriate in the wake of rapid social, political, and economic changes that were taking place in the country, as well as regionally and across the wider world.

There was also a growing consensus among the people against remaining restricted by the Anglo-Kuwaiti protectorate agreement that had been signed in 1899. The protectorate agreement was signed by Kuwait's then ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah and the British government in India, to ward off threats to Kuwait's independence from the Ottoman Empire. In line with this thinking, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, expressed his desire to the British government to replace the old protectorate agreement with a new friendship agreement.

The British government accepted Kuwait's demand and diplomatic notes were exchanged between Sir William Luce, the British Political Resident in the Arabian Gulf, and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. On 19 June, 1961 Kuwait was granted full independence.

A draft constitution was approved on 11 November 1961, outlining Kuwait's system of governance as a "fully independent Arab State with a democratic style of government,

where sovereignty rests with the nation, which is the source of power". A few months after independence, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, gave instructions for the formation of a popular committee to draft a modern constitution for independent Kuwait.

Under the terms of the newly drafted constitution, Kuwait held its first parliamentary elections in 1963, becoming the first Arab state in the region to establish a constitution and parliament. Government departments were restructured so as to enable implementing the overall development plan. Most of the cabinet members were chosen from among the elected members of the national assembly which comprised fifty members.

In the two decades following independence, Kuwait emerged as the most developed country in the region. Kuwait became the first country in the world to set up a sovereign wealth fund with the establishment in 1959 of the Kuwait Investment Board (KIB) in London to invest surplus oil revenue and reduce Kuwait's reliance on a single finite resource. In the wake of independence, the KIB evolved into the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in 1965 and later into its current form as the Kuwait Investment Authority in 1982.



In the 1970s and for over a decade Kuwait scored highest of all Arab countries on the Human Development Index, and Kuwait University, which was founded in 1966, gained attention for its academic quality and intellectual freedom that it attracted students from around neighboring countries.

On the cultural front, Kuwait's theater industry was held in high esteem throughout the Arab world and considered a pioneer in introducing innovative and experimental ideas and techniques on stage. Meanwhile, the media in the country was reputed to be among the freest in the Middle East, openly criticizing and questioning prevailing social, political and religious mores. Kuwait was also home to a literary renaissance with the country's magazine, Al Arabi, first published in 1958 going on to become the most popular Arabic magazine in the Middle-East.

Looking around today, one can only wonder why Kuwait remains only a pale shadow of its former glorious days.

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Ala Carte Menu

- From 12:30pm to 10 pm

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KUWAIT

25-26 february
National Day Liberation Day

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The House Hotel Al Khiran Kuwait's newest landmark

- *The House Hotel Al Khiran: Kuwait's newest and only getaway destination that is rolling out celebrations of world cuisines and gastronomic community connections*
- *Feasts for taste buds, events with a spectacular view from the Infinity pool & 'bleisure' activities*



The first lifestyle boutique hotel in Kuwait, The House Hotel Al Khiran, hosted an event with a curated culinary experience bringing together the creative community for a glimpse of the upcoming summer activities in the city's newest summer getaway destination.

The hotel overlooks all Khiran's chalets area through the Infinity poolside – Kuwait's newest trendy event place – and aspires to become the go-to place for gastronomic, sports, health and wellness community events, weekend brunches and theme nights. On February 25th and 26th the property launches its "Spanish Nights" with special cuisine and live entertainment – in what is going to be the first of many such get-togethers celebrating different cultures through food travels in Fusions – the hotel's upscale casual restaurant.

In Ramadan, Fusions will be hosting iftars and suhoors with Mediterranean fine-dining cuisine, live music after dawn in addition to a post meal lounging with sheesha next to the pool on the 1st floor. The team at The House is bringing the restaurant's international cuisine curated by Michelin-starred Chef Jaume Puigdemolas closer to the Al Khiran community with its recently launched catering services for the Neighbourhood around.

The House Hotel Al Khiran has 46 suites, an Infinity pool overlooking Al Khiran's resort, a women-only pool for gym sessions, Social and Business Hub as well as a modern gym. For



guests with retail appetite, the adjacent Outlet mall offers an opportunity to shop, an experience that is to expand with the area's add-on of another flagship mall located 5-minutes away that is expected to open in the summer. When the mall opens in the summer, it will transform Al Khiran from a summer destination to year-round destination for Kuwaitis, Gulf citizens and residents.

With the property's monthly business meet-ups, The House destination aims to become a meeting Hub for the businesses in the area seeking to expand their footprint and to share

know-how with an extended network of guests and partners.

The House Hotel Al Khiran embraces local talent and empowers creativity through curated events. Here, the most memorable experiences will happen around the curated spaces that encourage social interactions between guests with activities hosted in the Business Hub or by the Infinity pool with yoga for women events, health and wellness classes, kids movie nights and much more.

The House Hotel is one of the projects of Al-Raghad and Al-Manar Real Estate Company

in cooperation with Kerten Hospitality. Kerten Hospitality has a portfolio of 12 lifestyle brands (Cloud7 Hotel, Cloud7 Residence, The House Residence, Ouspace and Food and beverage brands such as Nakhati and Food Souk and a footprint of 50 projects globally.



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Printed in: Al Khat Printing Press Co.





A dreamland named LAPLAND



By Nourah Khan
Exclusive to
The Times Kuwait

Lapland... As a child whenever the name Lapland cropped up in stories and movies about Santa Claus and Christmas, I thought it was a fantasy world destination.

Growing up as a precocious child, I used to seek logic in everything I heard or read, and often sought to question the stories I was told. So it was impossible for me to believe in the existence of a village in a faraway land named Lapland, where Santa Claus and his elves lived preparing Christmas presents for all the children around the world.

When I grew up and realized that this place was not a creation of childhood fantasy fiction and that it actually existed on the map, I felt a strong desire to visit it someday. I also discovered very early on that I had a deep passion for traveling, and that I could forgo the luxury watches or haute couture handbags from the likes of Hermes or Chanel, in order to save up for a trip that satisfied my inner passion.

Over the years, my passion for travel led me to visit more than 57 countries around the world, but sadly my 'dream destination' of Lapland was not on that list. And, it was not from the want of planning such a trip. Every year I would plan and promise myself that before the end of the year I would see the famed Northern Lights from my polar destination. But invariably something else would always crop up, my plans would change, and I would end up visiting some other place.

The repeated failure to make it to my dreamland frustrated and disappointed me to no end. My last such failed attempt was in 2019, when I even booked tickets to Finland and reserved hotel rooms there, well in advance of my planned trip in February 2020. But then came the COVID-19 global pandemic that brought an abrupt halt to everyone's travel plans, and once again disrupted my travel plans and dashed my hopes of seeing the dazzling Northern Lights.

After spending more an year cocooned at home due to travel restrictions, when countries began opening up for travel, Finland was the first place that I thought of to visit. And, although a partial ban was still imposed on the country in 2022, I managed to get the necessary tickets and hotel reservations in Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

Living in temperatures that could occasionally dip to more than minus 27 degrees C was something I had not experienced before, and my mom was understandably very worried about the type of clothes I would wear to withstand a cold that she had never experienced in her lifetime.

I reassured her that I had equipped myself well and had all the necessary warm clothes I needed for such weather. During the pandemic period, I used to spend my time shopping online and buying various winter-proof clothes and shoes that were not available in the local shopping centers in Kuwait, so I was well prepared to meet the freezing weather in Lapland.

And this was how my dream finally came true. I arrived

in Helsinki, and from there I booked a plane to Rovaniemi, which is the main regional center of Lapland, the largest and northernmost region of Finland. I had made sure in my trip plans that this would be a totally different experience from what I have had on my usual trips abroad.

To begin with, I insisted that my stay be inside a glass igloo, despite the high price of the experience, especially since I chose it in a very luxurious hotel. The price per night in the glass igloo amounts to about 1200 euros or around KD400 per night, and I stayed four nights in this glass igloo. But it was worth that price as on my second night of stay, the alarm bell rang at two o'clock in the morning, and I woke up feeling panic and fear. I thought there was a fire, but actually the alarm bell was to alert hotel guests to the appearance of the Northern Lights over the roofs of the igloo.

It was a very great feeling watching the Northern Lights, or aurora borealis as it is scientifically referred to. I felt like I was in a beautiful dream. Seeing this green color dancing in the sky was something indescribable. It lasted for several minutes and then disappeared. That night I was unable to take pictures. I did not carry a professional camera with me, but only a mobile camera. It was too fleeting an experience, and I wanted more of it.

The Arctic Circle crosses Lapland, so unique polar phenomena such as the midnight sun and polar night can be viewed in Lapland. Despite the aurora borealis being visible from Lapland, no one can guarantee you this viewing during your visit, because it is an unpredictable natural phenomenon. I was lucky that I got to witness this phenomena, even if momentarily, on my second night there.

After a desperate search and questioning of staff and visitors staying in the hotel, I heard about a team called the 'Northern Lights Hunters' who specialize in making long-distance trips across Lapland to track any sign of the appearance of the Northern Lights.

I decided to go through the experience with a number of hotel guests of different nationalities. We booked a trip with one of the fishermen and set out late at night with the temperature well below zero centigrade. After setting out in the darkness over the snowbound landscape for over four hours, we finally reached a spot where we then waited in the freezing cold. We were warned not to try to light the place, not even by using our mobile phones, because this could affect the viewing opportunities.

And then, my dream once again came true... The nice thing about the second viewing was that I was able to document my experience of watching the aurora, as the team leader had



professional cameras, through which he photographed us with the aurora. Yes, I know that I am lucky because I got to see the Northern Lights twice in one visit, and others may travel several times without having this opportunity even once.

Even though the trip to Lapland was not devoid of other special experiences, such as riding a sleigh pulled by reindeers, or riding a sleigh pulled by the famous husky dogs, I focused on the experience of watching the Northern Lights because it was the most important part of my visit to the country.

I also cannot forget my personal meeting with Santa Claus, even though he was wearing a nose muzzle and a glass barrier separated me from him. The separation was because, being an elderly person, and a global icon at that, there was a high chance of him being exposed to the disease from all the visitors. Anyway, I was very happy when the Finnish Santa Claus said that he knows my country, Kuwait, very well.

For once, I did not have to tell him that Kuwait is a country located near the United Arab Emirates, which is what usually happens when I visit far off places. He said that he knows about Kuwait, and had heard about the invasion, and he also knew about the Kuwait Towers. Santa Claus also promised me that he would visit Kuwait during the next year, after the end of the Coronavirus, to distribute Christmas gifts to children in Kuwait.

Here are some of the most important activities that you should not miss when you are in Lapland:

- Snowy Trails, a 10km Husky Safari from Rovaniemi, which will cost around 150 to 200 euros per person
- Visit the Korouoma Canyon Frozen Waterfalls
- Snowmobile and Ice Fishing Experience (160 euros per person)
- Visit to the Reindeer and Husky Farm (120 euros per person)
- Hunting Northern Lights with Lappish Barbecue from Rovaniemi (100 euros per person)
- Lapland Reindeer Safari from Rovaniemi (110 euros per person)
- Santa Claus Village visit (70 euros per person)
- Visit Ranua Zoo (80 euros per person)
- Visit Arctic Snow Hotel: (120 euros per person)
- Try the Finnish Sauna and Snow Swimming (150 euros per person)

Preparing for a visit to Lapland in winter also involves special clothing that includes:

- Insulated boots with a good grip
- Insulated jacket (preferably waterproof too)
- Waterproof or snow proof trousers
- Thermal underwear and base layers
- Warm woolen or fleece jumper
- Warm gloves, scarf and hat
- Thin thermal gloves (ideal as a base layer under snowmobile gloves).
- Warm woolen socks.

Noura Khan, a Kuwaiti national, holds a degree in law from Kuwait University and has worked as a journalist prior to taking up a position in the government. In 2018 she started blogging on travel and has visited more than 57 countries since. She has more than 54K followers and her blog post @nourajtraveller is well appreciated for content and travel information. Noura writes exclusively for The Times Kuwait on her travel visits.





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