

# National Day of the State of Kuwait

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## Prisoners of Conscience

As Kuwait enters into the new millennium, the scars of the scourge of a brutal aggression is far from healed. It has been almost a decade now since the treacherous invasion of 1990, and yet many a mother weeps silently as they join the near and dear ones in waiting expectantly for the return of the brave sons of the soil who have been kidnapped and forcibly taken prisoners in Iraq by the occupation forces.

While commenting on this human tragedy the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross opined that it was sad that even after so many years of involvement, there are still 605 Kuwaitis unaccounted for.

These innocent victims of the humanitarian tragedy are prisoners of conscience.

The State of Kuwait attaches great importance to Security Council Resolutions 686 of 2nd March and 687 of 3rd April 1991 and their provisions. These resolutions call upon Iraq to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in getting all the prisoners of war released.

A Tripartite Commission was formed with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the USA, the UK and France on one side and Iraq on the other side, under the chairmanship of the ICRC.

In the first meeting of the Committee, all participating

members signed a memorandum committing themselves to fully implement the provisions of the Geneva conventions of 1949 as well as the Security Council Resolutions No 686 and 687. They further agreed to submit complete lists of names of POWs and other detainees to facilitate their expeditious release.

Subsequent meeting of the Commission led to an exchange of a number of POWs by both sides. Others were freed during the uprising in Southern Iraq in the wake of tumult there following the Liberation of Kuwait. Of the 6000 Kuwaiti POWs who returned home during this period, 5772 were repatriated by the ICRC while about 500 found their way home on their own.

In April 1991, all members adopted a specific Plan of Action for the repatriation of the mortal remains and the tracing of the POWs still unaccounted for.

Kuwait made strenuous efforts in compiling documentary evidence on the missing people and soon provided through the ICRC, to the Iraqi side, more than 600 individual files on the missing persons. The documents enclosed included eyewitness accounts and official arrest records. On the other hand Iraq made persistent effort to hinder the work of the

### MESSAGE



try, it pursued a policy of fraternity and friendship to all and malice to none. It strongly advocated and nurtured Pan Arabism and strove for unity and cooperation in the Gulf region through the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The invasion of Kuwait will remain a dark spot in the history of the Gulf and the subsequent triumph of truth and justice brought about by the International coalition, of which Bangladesh was a member too, will remain a stern lesson for those who have scant respect for world opinion. Over the years, Kuwait has made great strides in socio-economic development under the sagacious guidance of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and the judicious leadership of His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait. The country now ranks among those which enjoy a very high standard of living, and its economy remains one of the strongest in the world. Democratic freedom with an elected parliament and a free press and social justice are strong features of this welfare state.

On this day of rejoicing, our heart cries in anguish for those brave sons of the soil who are still held in captivity as prisoners of war in Iraq. Kuwait once again urges world conscience to address itself to this humanitarian issue and exert pressure on the ruling regime in Iraq to free them immediately and unconditionally.

Kuwait will continue to support the development activities in this country both through official and private assistance. I am happy to note that the Bangladeshi work force in Kuwait has increased greatly and I take pride in saying that they are contributing their best in the development work in Kuwait.

The continued exchange of visits by officials and leaders of the two countries, the latest being the visit of a high powered Kuwaiti Armed Forces Delegation indicates the value and importance the two countries attach to their bilateral relations.

On this occasion, I wish to extend my best wishes for peace and prosperity of the brotherly people of Bangladesh. I look forward to the continued growth and consolidation of the cooperative relation between our two fraternal countries to our mutual benefit.

Long Live Kuwait and Long Live Kuwait-Bangladesh friendship.

Allah Hafez

Ali Hussain S H Al-Sammak  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kuwait in Bangladesh.

HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Amir of the State of Kuwait

## Kuwait: a Partner in Progress

KUWAIT and Bangladesh are two brotherly countries bound by a common social cultural and religious heritage.

As members of the Islamic Ummah, the two OIC member countries share identical views and perceptions on various international and regional issues.

Both draw their ideological strength from their complete faith in Allah and His religion Islam which have complemented their effort to forge a world order bordering on international legitimacy and a rejection of the principles of using force terrorism and aggression to bring about any change in the status quo which could lead to instability, insecurity and chaos.

Being members of the United Nations, they adhere to the principles of respect of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of a member, State of the United Nations as well as non-interference in the internal affairs of any country.

The commonality of principles and perceptions on various perspectives of historical and international significance as well as certain identical features of statehood have en-

The exchange of visits led to

joined the two nations in a strong bondage of fraternity and friendship which have stood the test of time.

Spanning over a period of about two decades and a half since Kuwait first accorded de jure recognition to Bangladesh on 4th November 1973, relations between Kuwait and Bangladesh have undergone a three-phase evolution.

The first phase was between 1973 to 1975 which saw the establishment of diplomatic relations and a mutual effort to boost it. The state visit to Kuwait by the erstwhile Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in November 1974 laid the groundwork for future Kuwait-Bangladesh cooperation.

The second phase was between 1975-1996 and its was a period of growth and consolidation. President Ziaur Rahman visited and stopped over in Kuwait a number of times during his role as a mediator in the Iraq-Iran war. His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait visited Bangladesh in 1980 marking the high tide in Kuwait-Bangladesh relations.

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Our Warmest felicitations to the Brotherly People and the Government of The State of Kuwait on the occasion of their 39th National Day and 9th Liberation Day



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HH Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah  
Crown Prince and Prime Minister

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## Foreign Policy of Kuwait

THE cardinal principle on which the foreign policy of Kuwait is based has been enunciated by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait when he declared that, "Kuwait lives under the protection of Islam as its religion, Arabism as its homeland, cooperation as its strategic path, tolerance as its motto, fraternity as its guidance, constitution as its modus operandi, justice as its rule, progress as its responsibility and peace as its goal".

The objective of Kuwait's

pursuit of diplomacy is based on a pragmatic and balanced approach and is conducted in accordance with the government's philosophy and the interest of the State. Kuwait adheres to a policy, which is characterised by clarity, straightforward and quiet diplomacy. It strives to strengthen cooperation with all countries on the basis of mutual respect and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States. It advocates the use of peaceful means in resolving all problems between States in accordance with the principles of

right and justice, away from conflicts, sphere of influence and international blocs. At the same time, Kuwait's policy is concerned with the safeguard of her independence and sovereignty and her freedom of political decision. This policy stems from her belief in a common Arab destiny towards the development of relations with its fraternal Arab States. Hence, Kuwait plays a significant role in the progress of the Arab League and its bodies and gives her wholehearted support

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Warmest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of The State of Kuwait on the occasion of their National and Liberation Day



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