States in all spheres not only

for their mutual benefit but also

for the whole Arab nation.

meeting in January 1987.

tioning here that Kuwait was

the first Gulf country to have

diplomatic relations with the

erstwhile Soviet Union, in the

cold war era, when many coun-

tries maintained a wary dis-

conduct of its relations with

other countries, based on coop-

continuity, is not a mere c. in-

eration, understanding and

cidence or a passing phase that

might be altered with a change

of faces in the government.

This candid approach in the

tance from the socialist bloc.

## Prisoners of Conscience

Continued from page 8 The meetings of the technical sub-Committee were by and large futile due to Iraqi intransigence and uncooperative atti-

Although, Iraq has provided scanty details on only 126 POWs nevertheless it has admitted to the taking of POWs and their eventual transfer to Iraqi Jails. Despite conceding this fact, they have still refused to disclose any further information on the missing persons. Incidentally, even the Saudis have failed to make any headway in this regard. This Iraqi ploy is nothing new.

They did the same thing with regard to the Iranian POWs who were captured during the Iran-Iraq war. It is easy to fool some of the people some of the time but not all the people all the time. The propaganda machin-ery of the hostile regime in Iraq has failed to comprehend this fact and that is why Iraq stands alone today when it shuts its eyes to this humanitarian

A breakdown of the number of prisoners of different nationalities still held by Iraq is appended below:

Nationality

再

Number of Prisoners

Bahraini

Lebanese

Egyptian

Saudi

Government and the Brotherly

People of

The State of Kuwait

on their

National and Liberation Day

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highlight the issue of these Prisoners of Conscience in each and every international and regional forum, it calls upon all peace loving friendly countries to exert strong pressure on the regime in Iraq to release all Kuwaiti and third country nationals who are still languish-While Kuwait continues to ing in Iraqi jails. This is one of the pre-requisites of UNSC Resolution 687 to which Iraq Our Warmest Greetings to the has to comply with sincerity

Continued from page 8 to the Palestinian cause, which is at the core of Arab cause. Kuwait is an ardent advocate

of Pan Arabism and its policy and interest in the Arab world is motivated by its strong adherence to the principles of Arab nationalism. Indeed, for Kuwait, Arab solidarity is not an outfit to be put on and off to suit its interest. It is blood in the veins, a candle in the heart, heritage passed by forefathers, ambitions and security, language and religion, history and geography, air and water, an undiluted and a never ending inter-twine interest. Kuwait always has a throbbing heart for the concerns of the Arab nation. Its hands are always extended towards them. It is an active and vocal member of the Arab League and plays a leading role in promoting economic prosperity in the region through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Being a Gulf State, Kuwait played a pivotal role in bringing about the unification of the Gulf Emirates. The formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a brainchild of His In thness the Amir of Kuwait, was perhaps one of the most important landmark of Kuwait's foreign policy. The idea of floating such a regional forum emanates from a common perception and outlook on regional and other matters by the Gulf States. His Highness the Amir of Kuwait conceived such a forum to promote cooperation and co-ordination amongst the member

Foreign Policy of Kuwait

Rather, it is a philosophy felt

deeply by the government and is

based on self-confidence and

On the Islamic level, Kuwait mutual trust between the citiardently believes that the zens and the government of progress of the Islamic Ummah Kuwait. is linked with the cooperation Kuwait aspires to a new apand co-existence of the Muslims proach in International Relations moulded by a New World in a spirit of tolerance and fraternity. Since the dawn of Order, which is based on international legitimacy and a rejec-Kuwait's independence, this tion of the principles of using country exerted strenuous efforts, particularly under force, terrorism and aggression Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Alto alter the status quo. Jaber al-Sabah, the architect of Kuwait's foreign policy, who worked under the sagacious

Kuwait strongly advocates the continued role of the United Nations in ensuring internaguidance of His Highness the tional peace and security Amir and the prudent leader-Kuwait calls for international ship of His Highness the Crown cooperation to protect human-Prince and Prime Minister, to ity, individuals and groups from the dangers of ethnic, fulfil Kuwait's strong commitment to the welfare and racial and State terrorism and progress of the Islamic Ummah. all forms of concomi ant This was aptly reflected when it threats and blackmails.

hosted the 5th OIC Summit Kuwait's strong adherence to what it regards as the basic On the International plane, principles of her external pol-Kuwait's foreign relations have icy has been put to severe tests always been balanced and based on a number of occasions. on openness. It is worth men-The brutal invasion of

Kuwait in August 1990 is a case in point. Despite the concomirecognised and established tant brutality and terror unleashed by the aggressor, Kuwait did not compromise its principles and honour. His Highness the Amir had once said in October 1985 that "our decision will remain free and we will not yield to black mail, terrorism and emotionalism This assertion held true five years later during the invasion by Iraq. It was due to the pragmatic leadership and foresight of the rulers of Kuwait that the

brutal aggression was countered. Despite this brutal invasion, Kuwait has no malice towards the Iraqi people in general. Kuwait shares their anguish and pain. However, it agrees with the widely held belief that it is only the ruling clique in Iraq which is responsible not only for the intolerable suffering of the brotherly people of Iraq but also for the breach of peace and stability of the Gulf region.

Kuwait has strong conviction that World peace in general and regional peace, stability and prosperity can only come through a rational approach to divisive issues which could be and should be resolve amicably

through discussions. In this aspect, it has tremendous faith on the United Nations and its principles and charters, as a means of sustaining international legitimacy, peace and security of all the countries. Therefore, it is no mere co-incidence that Kuwait shares the belief of all peace loving countries that the compliance of all concerned countries, to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council with regard to the aggression on Kuwait in 1990, will usher in a new era of peaceful cooperation and coexistence, stability and security and progress and emancipation in the Arab Gulf Region.

Our Heartiest Felicitations to the Government and the Friendly People of The State of Kuwait on the occasion of their 39th National Day



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## Kuwait: a Partner in Progress

Continued from page 8 loan of US \$200 million to help in financing the infrastructural development projects of the Bangladesh government

and seriousness to merit any

consideration of the lifting of

sanctions by the apex World

particularly in energy sector. These mutually harbored reciprocal sentiments were aptly demonstrated once again when Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, on being appointed Foreign Minister in June 1996, visited Kuwait first, initiating a diplomatic move to foster closer ties with the Muslim

The impetus to Kuwait-Bangla ties was given fur her boost through Kuwaiti involvement as a development partner of Bangladesh which spans over two decades.

Kuwaiti participation in the Bangladeshi development effort is effected through five different mediums. These are: (1) Kuwait Fund for Arab Development Economic

(KFAED): (2) Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC): (3) Popular Committee of

Kuwait: (4) Islamic World Committee: (5) The Society for the Re-

vival of Islamic Heritage; All Kuwaiti Official assistance is channeled through KFAED which has provided thirteen long term soft loans to Bangladesh amounting to KD 73,984 million which is equivalent to US Dollar 244,177 mil-

A sectoral allocation of this assistance effected through KFAED, is stated below:

Sector No. of Loan 2 (two) Agriculture Transport & 2 (two) Communication Electricity TOTAL 13 (thirteen)

Further, in 1980, on a directive from the Amir, Kuwait maintained a deposit of US Dollar 100 million with Bangladesh Bank. In the same year, Kuwait gifted to Bangladesh a Boeing aircraft to help the national carrier of Bangladesh to expand its fleet. Kuwait is presently financing. the construction of two bridges in Shikarpur and Doarika to connect Barisal with the capital city as well as to improve the socio-economic condition of the South-Western part of Bangladesh, and, a road connecting Dhaka with Jafflong through Sylhet.

As Bangladesh stood on the threshold of a new millennium, Kuwait pledged an additional loan of US Dollar 125 million to Bangladesh late last year for implementing 4 new projects in energy and transportation sectors. The projects are:

1. Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project; 2. Construction of Dopdopiya Bridge on Barisal-Patu-

3. Construction of Sangu Bridge on Chittagong-Ban-

Equ. Amount in Dollar Amount in KD 6,919 mision 22,833 million 13,150 million 43.395 million

177,920 million 53,915 million 244,147 million 73,984 million

4. Expansion of Dhaka-Joydevpur Railway Line; Most non-government assistance come through the Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC) which is a conglomerate of several Kuwaiti Islamic Charitable Organisations including the Kuwait Zakat House which implements all the projects of the Ministry of Awqaf and Reli-gious Affairs. KJRC's network of operation extends to fortythree districts of Bangladesh Besides financing the constructions of mosques and madrashas, KJRC has undertaken a number of projects, which specifically aim at improving the socio-economic life of the most downtrodden segment of the rural society. These

projects are as follows: 1. Housing Projects; 2. Income Generating Programme 3. Safe Water Project

(tubewells) 4. Agriculture programme (distribution of seeds, fertiliz5. Orphan Project; 6. Relief and Rehabilitation

gramme; (Abridged)

7. Medical Assistance Pro-

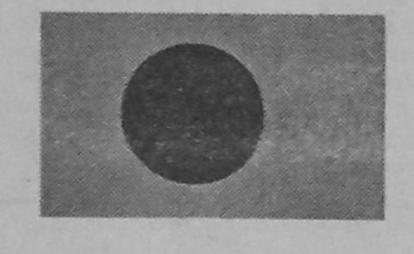
programme:

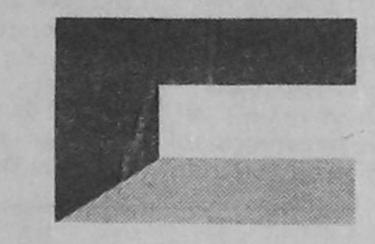
Warmest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of the State of Kuwait on the Occasion of their 39th National Day



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Our Heartiest Felicitations and Warmest Greetings to the Government and the Brotherly People of Kuwait on the Occasion of the 39th

National Day Kuwait

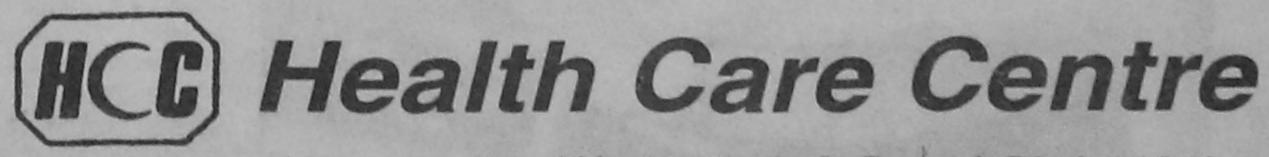


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Warmest felicitations to the Brotherly People and the Government of The State of Kuwait on the occasion of their 39th National Day and 9th Liberation Day





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