

National Day of the State of Kuwait



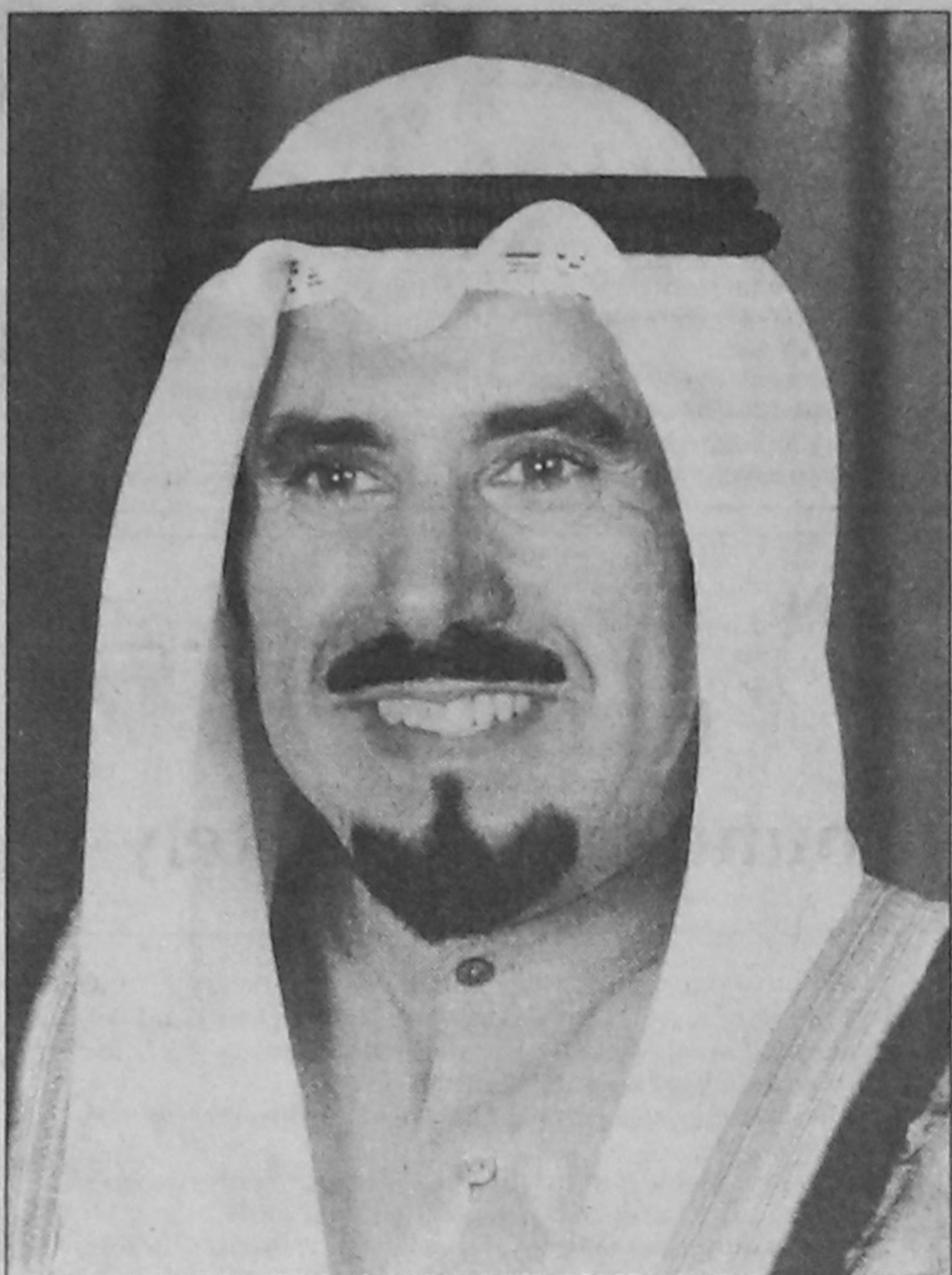
The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2001

KUWAIT AT A GLANCE

Official name	: Dawlat Al-Kuwait
Location	: North East corner of the Arabian Gulf, between Latitude 28 and 30 North and Longitudes 46 and 48 East.
Area	: 17818 sq km (6,969 sq miles)
Border	: Saudi Arabia on the South and South West; Iraq on the North and West.
Population	: 18,10,000 approximately
Religion	: Islam
Language	: Arabic with English as a second language
Life Expectancy	: 74.6 years
Rate of Literacy	: 40%
Currency	: Kuwaiti Dinar (KD 1 = Tk 170.00)
Year of independence	: Although Kuwait has been an independent entity for two centuries, it earned international recognition as a sovereign State in June 1961.
First Ruler	: His Highness Sheikh Sabah-I Bin Jaber (1756-1762)
Present Ruler	: His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (1978 -)
Crown Prince and Prime Minister	: His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
National Flag	: Four coloured flag. The colours are derived from a poem by Safiy Al-Deen Al-Hil. The green stands for the greenery, the white for peace, the red for the martyrs and the black for oil wealth.
National Emblem	: A falcon with outspread wings embracing a dhow sailing on blue and white waves symbolises Kuwait's maritime tradition.
National Anthem	: 'Kuwait, my country' was composed by poet Meshari Al-Adwani.
The National Salute	: The first 6 bars of the National Anthem.
The National Day	: 25th February
Liberation Day	: 26th February
Seasons	: 4 seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn
Climate	: The weather of Kuwait is characterised by long, hot and dry summers and short, cold and occasionally wet winters.



HHI Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Amir of State of Kuwait



HHI Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah
Crown Prince and Prime Minister 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 enjoined the two nations in a strong bond 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 it 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-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait visited Bangladesh

in 1980 marking the high tide in Kuwait-Bangladesh ties.

The exchange of visits led to long term economic cooperation particularly in the agricultural and power sector. The friendship stood the test of time during the brutal invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The Government of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and the brotherly people of Bangladesh committed total support to the just cause of Kuwait. The 1991 visit to Bangladesh by His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait was a strong reflection of the close and fraternal relations between the two countries. The visit was not only follow up of the visit made earlier by Begum Khaleda Zia when she was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, but also a demonstration of the profound appreciation of the Kuwaiti people for the principled stand taken by Bangladesh during the ordeal faced by Kuwait as a result of the treacherous aggression as well as the importance and value that Kuwait attaches to its relations with Bangladesh. The visit led to the expansion of economic and other forms of cooperation. Kuwait pledged a loan of US \$200 million to help in financing the infra-structural development projects of the Bangladesh government particularly in energy sector.

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

The impetus to Kuwait-Bangladesh ties was given further boost through Kuwaiti involve-

ment as a development partner of Bangladesh which spans over two decades.

Kuwaiti participation in the Bangladeshi development effort is effected through three different mediums. These are:

1. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED);
2. Kuwait Joint Relief Committee (KJRC);
3. Popular Committee of Kuwait;
4. Islamic World Committee;
5. The Revival of Islamic Heritage Society;

All Kuwaiti official assistance is channelled through KFAED which has provided fifteen long term soft loans to Bangladesh amounting to KD. 74,005 million which is equivalent to US \$244,219 million.

Kuwait Fund's operation in Bangladesh began in June 1975. The first project financed by the Fund carried a value of KD 6.376

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MESSAGE

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh
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. We in Kuwait deeply appreciate the continued support of our Bangladeshi brothers on this human tragedy. 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.

Dear Friends,
Over the years, Kuwait has made great strides in socio-economic development under the sagacious guidance of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and the judicious leadership of His Highness Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait. The country which has been selected as the Arab Cultural Capital for the year 2001, now ranks among those, which enjoy a very high standard of living, and its currency 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 self-governed state.

It is a matter of great pride for every Kuwaiti that the farsighted and sagacious leadership of the State of Kuwait, exploited the gift of Allah not only for the welfare of its people but also for the development of many friendly countries. As enshrined in the Holy Quran, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, ensured that the wealth of Kuwait be shared by its other less fortunate brotherly countries. In light of the Amiri desire, many Arab, Asian, European and African countries benefited from the benevolent policy of Kuwait. Bangladesh is one of those brotherly countries whose friendship the people of Kuwait value and cherish. History as well as the unfolding events of the present is a testimony to this special bond between our two countries.

As members of the Islamic Ummah, our two countries share a common perception and outlook on matters of international and regional interest. The seeds of this fruitful relationship were sown in the early 70s when the two established diplomatic relations. The understanding and the cooperative ventures between the two countries serve as the pillars on which the foundation of a strong relationship has been laid and consolidated over the years under the pragmatic and farsighted leadership of our two countries.

The friendship between the two peoples and the countries stood the test of time particularly during Kuwait's ordeal as a consequence of a treacherous aggression. Kuwait's strength in repulsing this aggression emanated partly from the consistent and resolute stance of its friends like Bangladesh who stood by international legitimacy.

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 fruitful visit of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina to Kuwait indicate 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 relations between our two fraternal countries to our mutual benefit.

Long Live Kuwait and Long Live Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship
Allah Hafiz

Ali Hussain SH
Al-Sammak,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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



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AL ISLAM OVERSEAS

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



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