

49th National Day and 19th Liberation Day of KUWAIT



H H Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Amir of Kuwait

Kuwait Fund in Bangladesh-2010

KUWAIT Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is an important financial Body that channels all official Kuwaiti loans and grants to Bangladesh.

The loans that KFAED provides to Bangladesh are soft term loans carrying about three percent interest to cover administrative and related expenses.

Kuwait Fund has always been sympathetic to the requests made by the Bangladesh Government for financing some key development projects throughout Bangladesh.

The main thrust of the Fund's activities in Bangladesh is to assist in the development of the infrastructure in Bangladesh.

With this objective in mind, KFAED has targeted the development priorities of the Bangladesh Government in three key sectors.

These sectors are Power and Energy, Communications and Agriculture.

So far, Kuwait Fund provided loans to Bangladesh for Twenty One projects of which eleven are in the Energy and Power Sector, eight are in the Communications sector and two are in the Agriculture sector.

The Fund has provided approximately US Dollar 480.05 million to Bangladesh over a three decade period. Of these Twenty Projects, Fourteen have been completed while six are still on going.

A breakdown of the projects funded by KFAED is given below:

1. Power supply for Irrigation schemes Stage-1 project
2. Manu River Project
3. East West Electrical Interconnector project
4. East West Electrical Interconnector project
5. Eight Rural Areas Electrification project
6. Deep Tube wells (North Western Region)
7. Ashuganj Thermal Power
8. The North West Tube well

9. Four Rural Areas Electrification project
10. Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong road
11. Rural Electrification Project in Nilphamari District
12. Rural Electrification Project in Shariatpur District
13. Shaikarpur and Doarika Bridges and Access Roads
14. Shahji Bazar Power Station Project
15. Greater Rajshahi Power Transmission and Distribution Project
16. Greater Chittagong Power Transmission and Distribution Development project-III
17. Bridge Project
18. Sylhet-Jakenshipur Road
19. The Three Bridges Project
20. Third Karnaphuli Bridge Project
21. Shikal Baha Power Project

Kuwait Fund has also provided fund for conducting feasibility study on Rampura-Maghbazar Flyover.

Kuwait has also agreed to finance the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Construction to improve inter-regional connectivity.

Besides, a number of other projects, like setting up of a Medical College and Hospital, are under consideration of KFAED.

Kuwait Fund is committed to bring about a qualitative change in the socio-economic life of the people of Bangladesh through the implementation of several vital projects in different sections. The Fund predicts that once all the projects are completed, Bangladesh will make tremendous stride in economic development as result of a better communication network. On a broader plane, it will lead to greater regional trade and economic interaction.

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is proud to be a partner of Bangladesh in its march to development and progress.

Basic facts about Kuwait

Official Name	: State of Kuwait
Location	: North West corner of the Arabian Gulf, between Latitude 28.45° and 30.05° North of the equator and between Longitudes 46.30° and 48.30° East of Greenwich
Area	: 17,820 sq.km. (6,960 sq.miles)
Boundary	: The Borders' length is about 685 km of which 195 km are sea border. It is bounded by Saudi Arabia on the South and South West and by Iraq on the North and West
Land boundaries	: Total 462 km
Topography	: Mostly flat, sandy desert. The northern part of the country is characterised with the presence of many dispersed hills within while the southern part of the country is generally flat
Population	: 3,399,637 (2008 estimate)
Ethnic Groups	: Kuwaiti: 45%, other Arabs: 35%, South Asian: 9%, Iranian: 4%, others: 7%
Religions	: Muslim 85%, others 15%
Rate of Literacy	: 93.3%
Capital	: Kuwait City
Government Type	: Constitutional hereditary Emirate
Administrative Division	: 6 governorates
Legislative Branch	: Unicameral National Assembly consisting 50 seats. Members are elected by popular vote to serve four year terms
Economy	: Open market economy with proved crude oil reserves of about 96 billion barrels
GDP growth	: 6.8%
Exports	: Oil and oil refined products, fertiliser
Imports	: Food, clothings, manufactured goods,
Coastline	: 499 km
Maritime claims	: Territorial, Sea: 12 nm
Natural resources	: petroleum, shrimp, natural gas
Currency	: Kuwaiti Dinar (KD 1= US \$ 3.50)
Year of independence	: Although Kuwait has been an independent entity for two centuries, it earned International Recognition as a sovereign State in June 1961.
Constitution	: Approved and promulgated in November 11, 1962
First Ruler	: His Highness Sheikh Sabah-1 Bin Jaber (1756-1762)
Present Ruler	: His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (2006-)
Crown Prince	: His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Prime Minister	: H. H. Sheikh Naser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber 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.
Ports	: There are 4 ports: Mina Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah, Mina Al-Zoor, Mina Shuaiba
Islands	: There are 9 Islands: Warna, Bubiyan, Miskan, Failaka, Auhha, Umm Al-Naml, Kubbar, Qaruh and Umm Al-Maradim
Territorial Waters	: 5625 sq.km.
Flora and Fauna	: 400 species of wild plants and flowers grow in Kuwait. There are 20 species of native birds. Although many of the desert rabbits, wolves and gazelles have long become extinct, yet rodents, Lizards and other animals still survive.
Main Occupation	: Pearl Diving and fishing have been replaced with Trading and business enterprises.
Main industry	: Oil refining and processig industry and petro chemical industry.
Touristic Enterprises	: The waterfront, the Yacht Club, the Swimming Complea, Kuwait Towers, Entertainment City, The Musical Fountain, Ice Skating Rink, Sea Clubs, Recreational Parks and the Sea Beaches.

Message

Dear friends,
Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatallah wa barakatuh

On this glorious occasion of the 49th National Day and the 19th Liberation Day, I would like to extend my heartiest greetings to the government and the people of friendly Bangladesh.

The existing friendly bonds of the warm fraternal relations between the State of Kuwait and the People's Republic of Bangladesh have their roots in shared principles and values embedded in the history and social customs and traditions of our two countries.

The impetus to this strong binding is based on the people to people interaction which dates back to the 17th century when Arab traders frequently visited the eastern part of Bengal to promote trade and commerce.

Long before the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1974, Kuwait had extended assistance to the calamity affected people of this region in 1970. The opening of embassies by the two countries in the early 70s served as a strong momentum to the beginning of a new era of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

The strength of this friendship is further reflected in the numerous exchange of high level visits starting with the visit to Dhaka by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as a member of the OIC delegation. The subsequent visit to Kuwait by late President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the same year laid the foundation of the cooperative relation between the two countries. The recent visit to Kuwait by Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wazed has taken this friendly ties to new heights.

This bilateral cooperation and understanding, nurtured under the successive sagacious leadership of Kuwait and Bangladesh, irrespective of the political divide, has further been

expanded and consolidated through a number of bilateral agreements concluded between the two countries in various fields, particularly in the field of infrastructural development of Bangladesh, poverty alleviation and defence.

Dear friends,

It is a matter of great pride for all of us to see the great strides made by Bangladesh in various fields in its march to progress. Kuwait is a proud partner in this effort.

Kuwaiti assistance to Bangladesh is provided through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The assistance has been in three major sectors of energy and rural electrification, communications and agriculture. Kuwait has provided soft term loans totalling US\$ 380 million to Bangladesh for twenty different projects.

Private Kuwaiti NGOs continue to participate in various poverty alleviation and welfare oriented programmes in Bangladesh. Alongside the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, these NGOs have carried out extensive post Sidr and Aila relief and rehabilitation work in the affected areas.

Dear friends,

I would like to take this opportunity in conveying the appreciation of the government and the people of Kuwait to the Bangladeshi expatriate community in Kuwait for their commendable hard work and sincerity in the discharge of their responsibilities. The present strength of 250000 Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait can be boosted further with the recruitment of more skilled and semi-skilled manpower from here in future.

Dear friends,

It is worth mentioning here that both Kuwait and Bangladesh share identical views and principles on matters of regional and international interest. Our two friendly countries strongly believe in the principles of

respect of territorial integrity of all countries and non-interference in the internal affairs of any country. Both the countries strongly adhere to the principle of using diplomacy and negotiations in resolving amicably all issues of contentious nature. As members of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Countries, our two friendly countries share common perspectives and goals in the pursuit of international peace and security in the changed world order. The strategic location of Kuwait in the Arabian Gulf region enables it to play an important role in securing peace and stability in the Middle East just as the strategic location of Bangladesh as a bridge between South and South East Asia puts it in a good stead to help achieve peace and economic prosperity in this region.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity in conveying my profound gratitude to the government and the friendly people of Bangladesh for their wonderful hospitality and understanding.

May Allah bless our two countries.



Abdullatif Al Mawash
Ambassador of Kuwait to Bangladesh

City of Kuwait



Dreams are the inspiration to fly. Freedom, the wings to fly.

Kuwait Airways celebrates the National Day of the State of Kuwait at all its destinations worldwide.



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