



KUWAIT: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signs a document to end the British Protectorate Treaty, replacing it with a friendship agreement between the governments of Kuwait and Britain. —KUNA

KUWAIT CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY JUNE 19

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait marks its independence day on June 19, an important date that helped to shape the development of the country. The Kuwaiti people and their late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah realized on June 19, 1961, that the protectorate treaty Kuwait signed with Britain in 1899 was not feasible anymore.

At that time, Kuwait was heading towards independence and the Kuwaitis refused the British protection treaty because it was not honoring their ambition for full freedom, despite recognition that the treaty was crucial when needed. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem realized regional and international circumstances were ripe, and became more convinced in the importance of scrapping the treaty by signing the declaration of independence with Sir George Middleton, Britain's Chief Political Resident in the Gulf. The Protectorate Treaty was replaced by a friendship agreement between the governments of Kuwait and Britain.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, addressing the nation following the signature of the declaration, said: "today we move from one phase of history to another. We turned a page of the past to open a new page, and it is this declaration by which Kuwait gains full independence and complete sovereignty."

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem's desire for independence

was planned long before June 19. Kuwait was in full control of the domestic post service on February 1, 1958, and exactly a year later it took control of external post services. It was in 1959 when the late Amir instructed the wording of the citizenship law. The late Amir ordered the Finance Department to work on issuing a national currency. And on October 19, 1960, Kuwait Monetary Law was issued and national currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, was circulated on April 1, 1961.

Shaping the state

Shaping the state began immediately following the independence. An Amiri Decree was issued defining the flag. Kuwait applied for the membership of the Arab League, which was accepted on July 16, 1961. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem called on August 26, 1961, for holding general elections for a constituent assembly, mandated with writing the constitution. Addressing the first session of the constituent assembly on January 20, 1962, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem said the declaration of independence was a gateway for freedom and dignity. The assembly finalized the constitution in nine months, and the late Amir ratified the 183-article document on November 11, 1962.

The State of Kuwait had witnessed a domestic stability, comprehensive development and establishment of good relations with countries around the world. The independence paved the way for the creation of the state. An Amiri decree was issued on August 19, 1961, establishing the foreign office. The first foreign minister was late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who succeeded Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem following his death.

Kuwait applied for the United Nations membership and became a member on May 14, 1963, when current Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was a foreign minister. It was Abdullah Al-Salem, who ruled Kuwait for 15 years, whose name would always be associated with independence and constitution. His sacrifices for Kuwait will remain engraved in hearts and souls of Kuwaitis. —KUNA

IRAQI PM TO START GULF TRIP

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi will embark on a three-day tour of neighboring Saudi Arabia today, followed by Iran tomorrow and Kuwait on Wednesday. The timing of the tour was previously set and has nothing to do with the recent developments in the Gulf region, he told reporters here on Saturday night. "Iraq's policy is based on keeping our distance from all neighbors and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others in order to avoid polarization. We seek close neighborly ties with all neighbors and have nothing against them. "Iraq will not allow any party to use its territories for any aggressive acts against its neighbors," the Prime Minister affirmed.

He noted that his country shares interest with other neighborly country in such areas as the combat against terrorism. "Iraq sees a stage marked by gains against terrorism for the first time since 2003," he said referring to the liberation of large parts of Iraq from the grip of the so-called Islamic State (IS). He vowed that his government would not allow terrorists back to the country and restore stability and development nationwide thanks to the military preparedness to defeat terrorism.

During his stay in Kuwait, Abadi is scheduled to discuss a range of issues, including the compensations for Kuwait relating to the Iraqi invasion of 1990. The Kuwait leaders agreed to the repeated demands from Iraq to postpone the payment of compensations, he pointed out.

Regarding the plan to convene an international donor conference for Iraq in Kuwait in last August, he said the slump in the oil prices in the recent months forced putting off the conference. He added that his government is trying to revive the suggestion given the current financial difficulties in the country.

On the relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said heralds of improved relations appeared in 2015 when the then Saudi foreign minister Saud Al-Faisal planned to visit Iraq and reopen the Saudi embassy here but he passed away. This will be the first visit to Saudi Arabia by an Iraqi Prime Minister since he took office in September, 2014. —KUNA

KRCS DELIVERS 1,500 FOOD BASKETS TO IRAQIS

IRBIL/RIYADH: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) delivered 1,500 food baskets to displaced Iraqis living in Al-Khazer camp, on the road linking Mosul and Irbil yesterday. The aid is part of the "Kuwait by your side" campaign to aid as many displaced Iraqis as possible, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kanderi said. Meanwhile, camp officials and residents thanked the Kuwaiti government for the continuous aid to ease the suffering of Iraqis who fled their homes in Mosul, due to the ongoing military operations against the so-called Islamic State (IS). Since the beginning of 2017, Kuwait has distributed thousands of tons of food to displaced Iraqis in and out of refugee camps in Irbil, Mosul and Nineveh Governorate.

'Kuwait by your side'

Separately, the 'Kuwait by your side' campaign distributed Saturday 4,000 food baskets in Baydha governorate, Central Yemen, as part of its ongoing relief projects during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Baydha is currently undergoing several problems, including continued violence by armed militias and their control over parts of the governorate, Ahmad Salem Awad, Director-General of Transportation in Baydha, said in his speech at the food distribution ceremony in Al-Zaher directorate. His remarks were available in Riyadh. Abdullah Al-Mousa, Director of financial and administrative affairs in Baydha, expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to all financial backers from Kuwait and members of the 'Kuwait by your side' campaign, valuing their great and genuine efforts in aiding the Yemeni people and society. The 'Kuwait by your side' campaign has implemented a number of food basket projects in a number of Yemeni governorates some days ago, including Hadhramaut, Taiz, and Lahj as part of its permanent relief projects in the Republic. —KUNA

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