

Local

Kuwait celebrates thirteenth anniversary of Amir's reign

Amir's wisdom stems from a decades-long commitment to serving in various spheres

KUWAIT: Kuwait celebrates the 13-year anniversary of the ascendency of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah today as he continues his responsible leadership of this nation and its people. It all started when His Highness Sheikh Sabah stood in parliament to be sworn in as the 15th Amir and ruler of Kuwait amid huge local support from the public and local officials.

The fourth child of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, his wisdom and intelligence stems from a decades-long commitment to serving in the social, political and diplomatic spheres following extensive travel and tutelage at Al-Mubarakiya School; Kuwait's first formal educational establishment named after the late ruler, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah's initial foray into public office came in 1954, when he was appointed member in the supreme executive committee tasked with the role of the regulation of government interests and bodies. A year later, he was handed the role of director of the department of social and labor affairs, where he was instrumental in several factors, namely regulating the relationship between employer and employee.

Upon the expansion of his role to include director of the publications department in 1957, Sheikh Sabah demonstrated a commitment to reviving old books and manuscripts and tasked a committee with writing the first book detailing the history of Kuwait. Kuwaiti journalism, regarded one of the most transparent in the Middle East, continues to thrive thanks to His Highness, who was behind the publications' law, which remains in use until this day, albeit some minor amendments.

As Kuwait declared its independence in 1961, he was appointed member of the Kuwaiti constitution's founding council. This was followed by his addition to the first official cabinet, where he assumed the role of minister of guidance in 1962. Only one year later, he began a journey as minister of foreign affairs, where he remained the top man responsible for delivering Kuwait's diplomacy to the world for 40 years.

On May 11, 1963, during the first year of Sheikh Sabah's time in office as minister, Kuwait became a member of the United Nations. Diplomatically, he was involved in Kuwait-hosted talks in 1966 between warring parties in Yemen, Egypt and Saudi Arabia aimed at putting an end to the Yemeni civil war. When the relationship deteriorated between South and North Yemen, with both involved in border clashes, Sheikh Sabah visited the two countries (at the time) helping forge a peace agreement in 1972. He also successfully mediated an agreement of diplomatic principles between Oman and South Yemen, which was followed by a joint announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations from Kuwait in 1984.

Throughout his tenure, the then minister assumed a balanced foreign policy that enabled Kuwait to overcome some difficult periods such as the Iraq-Iran War of 1980 and its repercussions on the internal and external security and stability of his country. He also forged a strong relationship with countries around the world, particularly the five permanent member nations

Amir receives congratulations from Crown Prince, state officials

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a letter of congratulations from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated His Highness the Amir on the 13th anniversary of his reign. His Highness the Crown Prince also hailed His Highness the Amir's great efforts nationwide, which produced major achievements and successes thanks to His Highness the Amir's farsightedness, political and diplomatic wisdom. His Highness the Crown Prince also prayed to Allah Almighty to bring back such a precious occasion with grace and blessings, wishing His Highness the Amir perpetual good health and well-being. His Highness the Crown Prince also wished Kuwait further progress and prosperity, and long-lasting safety and security under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir the 'Humanitarian Leader'.

In return, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of thanks to His Highness the Crown Prince, expressing his utmost appreciation and gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince's genuine sentiments and good wishes on the 13th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's reign. His Highness the Amir wished His Highness the Crown Prince perpetual good health and well-being. His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait and perpetuate the grace of security and safety on the nation, wishing everyone best of luck in serving the country and contributing to elevating its status. His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the Kuwaiti people's efforts toward the country's development, and attain their desired and ambitious goals of further progress and prosperity for the nation.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh received a congratulatory letter from His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Kuwait National Guard's Chairman, marking the 13th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's accession to power. In the letter, Sheikh Salem Al-Ali commended His Highness the Amir's great achievements and sincere efforts over the last 13 years, wishing His Highness good health and well-being. His Highness the Amir replied by thanking Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and the National Guard for their good sentiments and sincere congratulations, wishing the dear nation everlasting security and stability as well as more progress and prosperity.

Also yesterday, Kuwait's top lawmaker Marzouq



KUWAIT: In this file photo, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah swears in as the 15th Amir and ruler of Kuwait at the National Assembly. —KUNA

of the United Nations Security Council. These strong ties culminated in the emergence of a 35-nation coalition that helped liberate Kuwait from invasion by Iraq in 1991 as a result of a Security Council resolution that paved the way for a military offensive against the occupying forces.

Alongside his role as foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah was handed numerous roles due to his wise policies and diplomatic proficiency, namely acting information minister (1971-1975), deputy prime minister (1978), acting information minister (1982), deputy prime minister (1985-1992) and first deputy prime minister and foreign minister (1992). In 2001, he was tasked with forming the Kuwaiti cabinet in the place of the then Crown Prince and Prime Minister the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, who was suffering from a medical condition.

Two years later, Sheikh Sabah became prime minister upon Amiri decree. It is during his time as prime minister that his ability to guide domestic policy came to light. The prime minister adopted a comprehensive development-based vision focused particularly on economic growth through support of the private sector and entrepreneurship amongst the youth. On the economic spectrum, a tour in Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, at the head of a business delegation in 2004 resulted in the joint signature of 10 mega deals and projects. He remained premier until 2006 when a cabinet session passed a motion appointing him Amir of Kuwait.

Over the 12 years under his reign, Kuwait has witnessed widespread development concentrated on a number of mega projects like Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City - the first fully-developed by the private sector. His

Highness the Amir made comments urging nationals to stand together in the face of challenges and threats, namely the June 2015 terrorist attack on Al-Sadeq Mosque, which martyred 26 people and resulted in the injury of 200 more. Shortly after the suicide attack, His Highness took it upon himself to visit the location in person unannounced, where he uttered the renowned paternal words: "Those are my children". While leading thousands of Kuwaitis who came to attend the mass funerals for the victims, His Highness urged "the Kuwaiti family to stand together united through troubles and strife in tackling violence and fundamentalist rhetoric that aims to undermine the other."

On the scale of his foreign policy, Kuwait over recent years had pioneering role in the global humanitarian field thanks to his wise policies. Kuwait hosted three pledging conferences for international governments and organizations, co-chaired a similar event in London and attended another European Union-organized event in Brussels. The Kuwait-hosted donors conferences raised a total of \$7.5 billion from attending nations, while Kuwait handed out a total \$1.6 billion across all five gatherings as support for the victims of the Syrian conflict.

The endeavors overseen by His Highness earned him the unprecedented title of 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait, the title of 'Humanitarian Centre', both granted by the United Nations. In February 2018, Kuwait also hosted a pledging conference dedicated to efforts aimed at rebuilding cities and towns in Iraq reclaimed from the so-called Islamic State group. These efforts have been commended worldwide and have transformed from a unilateral effort to a global initiative, receiving the full backing of the United States and the European Union. —KUNA

Al-Ghanem extended his 'heartiest congratulations' to His Highness the Amir. "Alongside the Kuwaiti people, I sincerely congratulate you on the 13th anniversary of your ascendency," Ghanem wrote in a letter he sent to His Highness the Amir. He said Kuwait's parliamentarians are 'infinitely proud' of His Highness the Amir's astute leadership, which has helped propel the Gulf state to unprecedented levels of development. "I wish you good health, happiness and success as you lead the nation on the path towards prosperity," Kuwait's chief lawmaker wrote. In response to Ghanem's kind words, His Highness the Amir thanked him for the warm sentiments, wishing the country perpetual growth and wellbeing.

Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received a congratulatory message from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who said that he is proud of His Highness the Amir's blessed career which saw the establishment of development and renaissance characteristics, together with creditable accomplishments both at home and abroad. He attributed all these achievements to the shrewd leadership of His Highness the Amir, which contributed to achieving national development and fulfilling the nation's hopes and ambitions. He also appreciated His Highness the Amir's great efforts in the alleviation of affected people around the globe, which earned His Highness the Amir the Humanitarian Leader title and Kuwait the Humanitarian Center title, as well as his role in the promotion of culture of peace and tolerance. In return, His Highness the Amir sent His Highness the Amir a letter thanking him for his good wishes and sincere sentiments, and appreciating everyone's efforts to serve the country and achieve national development.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir received a letter of congratulations from His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad congratulated His Highness the Amir on the 13th anniversary of his reign, praying to Allah Almighty to bring back such a precious occasion with grace and blessings. Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad wished His Highness the Amir perpetual good health and well-being, as well as further progress, prosperity, and security to Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad expressed his utmost appreciation and pride of His Highness the Amir's 13-year reign, which was devoted entirely to serving Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people. His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad also renewed his pledge of allegiance to His Highness the Amir, reiterating his keenness on serving the nation and contributing to its development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

In return, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of thanks to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad,

Officials heap praises on Amir on joyous occasion



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: Some 13 years after the ascendency of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, officials from across Kuwait's political spectrum made statements yesterday marking the joyous occasion. Kuwaitis from all walks of life share a "very special and transparent" relationship with His Highness the Amir, the Gulf state's top lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said in a statement. Celebrating the reign of His Highness the Amir conjures up the fact that his infinite wisdom makes him a strategic leader and a guarantor of security, Ghanem added. "We as Kuwaitis are cognizant of the herculean efforts His Highness the Amir is exerting to protect the country in a region rife with peril," Kuwait's chief lawmaker went on to say.

His Highness the Amir is among "a special breed of leaders" whose accomplishments speak for themselves, the Deputy Chief of Kuwait's National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said. He spoke of His Highness the Amir's illustrious political career, in which he proudly devoted himself to the well-being of the nation, citing sincerity and altruism as among his innumerable virtues. His shrewd leadership has propelled His Highness the Amir to global prominence, being the first head of state to be honored by the United Nations, the official pointed out, in reference to his UN-bestowed moniker of 'Humanitarian Leader.'

Offering his congratulations as well, Kuwait's Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri said the anniversary of His Highness the Amir's ascendency is tantamount to a national holiday. As the Kuwaiti flag flutters under the sky to mark the occasion today, Jabri, who is also minister of state for youth affairs, said it was a gesture of gratitude for His Highness the Amir's unwavering resolve to lead the country on a path towards prosperity.

Meanwhile, Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said that His Highness the Amir is the 'safety valve' for the Arab region during crises and unrest. He added in a press release that His Highness the Amir has reinforced peace virtues in Kuwait, sought by international and regional organizations and countries to be enlightened by the wisdom of His Highness to end conflicts and quell wars. He added that His Highness the Amir will be remembered for playing a great role in readjustment of inter-Arab disputes, reconciliation and bolstering unity among Arab countries.

KUNA's chief stressed that His Highness the Amir's diplomatic efforts and humanitarian initiatives contribute to his great goal to elevate Kuwait's standing and credibility in the international arena, adding that His Highness the Amir spared no effort to show the bright and modern face of Kuwait. "No one denies the great influence exerted by the humanitarian diplomacy that was laid down by His Highness the Amir," he said, referring to UN honoring of His Highness as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a center of humanitarian action. He praised His Highness the Amir's remarkable contributions to the development and progress of Kuwait, adding that His Highness the Amir exerted all possible efforts in serving Kuwait, and worked very hard to turn it into a more advanced country that would meet the aspirations of its people, and offer them a decent life. Moreover, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij hailed the wise leadership of His Highness, and his keenness on transforming Kuwait into an international financial and commercial center through diversifying the sources of income and exploiting Kuwait's resources, noting to Kuwait 2035 vision, which reflects his keenness on the future of the homeland and its generations.

In the meantime, Ambassador of Armenia to Kuwait Sarmen Baghdasarian said he had been personally following up with the development in the state of Kuwait and the substantial shift on diplomatic relations achieved by His Highness the Amir's efforts. Further, Ambassador Baghdasarian extended his heartiest congratulations, expressing deep appreciation for the opportunity to work in Kuwait and benefit from His Highness the Amir's political experience and diplomatic wisdom.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

expressing his sincere appreciation and gratitude to his genuine sentiments and good wishes on the 13th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's reign. His Highness the Amir wished His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad everlasting good health and well-being. His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait and perpetuate the grace of security and safety on the nation, wishing everyone best of luck in serving the country and contributing to elevating its status. His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah Almighty to bless the Kuwaiti people's efforts toward the country's development, and attain their desired and ambitious goals of further progress and prosperity for the nation.

Moreover, First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness the Amir on the 13th anniversary of his ascendency. "I extend my heartiest congratulations to you 13 years after your reign began," the Kuwaiti minister wrote in a letter he sent to His Highness the Amir, saying the whole nation is proud of his 'immeasurable achievements.' The Kuwaiti defense minister went on to wish the nation 'success and development' with His Highness the Amir at the helm. In response to the minister's encouraging words, His Highness the Amir thanked him for the warm sentiments, wishing the country perpetual development and wellbeing. —KUNA