



An aerial view of Dasman Palace circa 1930. Kuwait's wall can be seen in the background.



This picture taken in 1924 shows Kuwait pearl diving boats in April prepared for the start of the pearl diving season in mid-May.

# Life in Kuwait in the Thirties

By Mahmoud Zakaria

The sounds of crashing waves, chainsaws, hammers, porters, boats coming and going, carpenters, blacksmiths and workers was the daily soundtrack of the coast of Kuwait in the 1930s, which did not stop except when the call for noon prayer was made.

The coast of Kuwait was the lifeblood of a quiet city on the shores of the Gulf. In the thirties, there was no oil, no high-rise buildings and no luxury cars - nothing except the sea. The sea is the key word here; the economy of the country depended on the sea. The sight of boats and men coming and going brought the heart of the city to life. Divers, sailors, merchants and craftsmen were heroes.

The old gates stood as if they were challenging time. Everyone passed through them until their doors were closed in the evening at an appointed time. Wherever one looked, one could find large numbers of donkeys carrying water in goatskins on their backs in the narrow streets, announcing the arrival of water, for which everyone waited.



Sheikh Mubarak Kiosk, one of the most important historical places in Kuwait, founded in 1897 by the seventh ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (1840-1915).