

Local

Birth of Kuwait's constitution: A defining moment for the country

Kuwait celebrates constitution's 60th anniversary on Friday

KUWAIT: The Constitution of the State of Kuwait marks its 60th anniversary on Friday amidst pride of what the constitution has contributed to democracy in the Gulf nation. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait's 11th Amir, ratified the constitution on November 11, 1962, a defining moment in the political history of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti people remember with pride the historic democratic stages that Kuwait went through, beginning with the constitutional document in 1938 until the birth of the constitution in 1962, the "most important document" of Kuwait. The constitution triggered transformational change for a modern state built upon institutions, organizing relationship between the ruler and people, documenting civil rights of citizens and their right to express themselves, while setting foundations for freedom, equality and justice.

The late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem had expressed desire to build a solid parliamentary system based on democratic principles and see the contributions of the public to the constitution. He signed a law on August 26, 1961 regarding the bylaw of the transitional period and holding elections for the Constituent Assembly with a mandate of wording the constitution. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem inaugurated the Constituent Assembly in January 1962 and told the members that they have a daunting task of placing foundation of the ruling system of the nation. Members of the assembly elected Abdullatif Mohammad Al-Ghanem as Speaker and Dr Ahmad Al-Khateeb as deputy speaker. The sixth session saw election of the Constitution Committee, consisting of speaker Al-

Ghanem, late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah who was Interior Minister and also served as committee chairman, MP Humoud Al-Zaid Al-Khaled who was Minister of Justice, Yaqoub Yusuf Al-Humaidhi and Saud Abdulaziz Al-Abdulrazzaq. The committee tabled the final draft of the constitution and was unanimously approved on November 3, 1962. The Assembly then referred the draft constitution to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem who ratified it on November 11, 1962.

The constitution consists of 182 Articles in five Parts: the First about the State and System of Government, Second about Fundamental Constituents of Kuwait Society, Third about Public Rights and Duties, Fourth about Authorities and Fifth about General and Transitional Provisions. The first parliamentary elections were held in January 1963 and were the beginning of the real political practices under the constitution. The democratic march in Kuwait was marred with some crises. The parliament was suspended twice in 1976 and 1986. Late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah formed a committee on February 10, 1981 to consider amending the constitution.

The 35-member committee held 18 meetings and discussed 13 government proposals. The committee ended its meetings on June 22, 1980. The constitution was the shield that helped the country confront domestic and external crises, foremost the Iraqi invasion in 1990, when the Kuwaitis united under their legitimate leadership. Following the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah formed a new government with a mandate of reconstruction, and in October 1992,



President of the Constituent Assembly hands over Kuwaiti Constitution to HH the Amir.

the parliamentary life resumed. Late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had always reiterated commitment to the constitution and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah reiterated this pledge. The parliament was dissolved on

August 2, 2022 in a bid to correct the political scene following the tension that marred the nation, therefore the political leadership sought their constitutional authorities to safeguard stability and security of Kuwait. — KUNA

'Dal Talks' sheds light on successful Kuwaiti youths

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: The International Law Student Society at the Kuwait University hosted the sixth edition of Dal Talks Conference on Thursday in the presence of prominent Kuwaiti personalities to share with the attendees their personal experiences and stories to inspire those who pursue the same projects in the future.

Minister of Commerce Mazin Al-Nahedh, one of the main speakers, told Kuwait Times that the aim of supporting the Kuwaiti youth entrepreneurs is to help them establish successful businesses in all fields. This will be a great initiative for the future as a key employment tool for the next generation instead of solely relying on government jobs.

"We seek to provide the Kuwaiti youth entrepreneurs a convenient business environment for establishing businesses, giving them easier procedures to obtain licenses and providing them with full support with regards to allocating lands or suitable places to establish all kinds of businesses," Al-Nahedh added.

"Dal Talks is a seminar that focuses on spreading the importance of giving back to the community. And that's why we picked certain members from the youth who have added something to the society, be it in the field of economy, business or in social life. In this talk we had four important characters of the Kuwaiti Youth Society that we found inspirational," Fadia Taleb Al-Refai, Vice President



Asrar Al-Ansari

of the Kuwait International Law Student Society told Kuwait Times.

Khalid Al-Otaibi, Talabat Founder, stressed that he wants to help the Kuwaiti youth to grow their small businesses and develop them, adding "These youth are the future of our country. There is a constant hesitation or fear among our community to join the private sector in view of the stability the public sector provides to them. Therefore, we are supporting the youth to join the private sector," he added.

Tarek Adeeab Al-Othman, head of the committee of Dal Talks, said, "Dal Talks is a non-profit talk conference that aims to shed light on Kuwaiti youths who had made big achievements but didn't get an opportunity to share with the local community. Therefore we organized this talk for the sixth year in a row to give them our full support and share their experiences with other entrepreneurs and attendees."

Asrar Al-Ansari, writer and media representative, pointed out that she participated in this talk in order to be a part of the inspirational process this talk gives to the attendees and students. Omar Al-Othman, business entrepreneur, said he is one of the speakers of the conference, still he thinks that it is important to take advantage of the great information he can get from other speakers. Regarding the main challenges the Kuwaiti youth is facing, Al-Othman said, "The global market is undergoing some significant changes currently in terms of laws and events and no one has any control over it."



(From left) Fadia Taleb Al-Refai and Minister of Commerce Mazin Al-Nahedh



(From left) Khalid Al-Otaibi, Omar Al-Othman and Abdulaziz Al-Rashed

UN Information Center delegation visits Kuwait Times

KUWAIT: A top delegation from the United Nations Information Center consisting of the Center's Director Margo Helou, Executive and Knowledge Associate representative of the secretary general at UN and resident coordinator in Kuwait, Asmae Aitssi

and Public Information Assistant Hala Al-Feghali visited Kuwait Times offices on Thursday.

The delegation was received by Kuwait Times Managing Editor Mustafa Qamhiya and reporter Majd Othman. The two sides discussed ways to

improve cooperation between the UN Media Center, Kuwait Times and Kuwait News, in addition to the emerging trends in media industry across the region and the globe. Qamhiya took the visiting delegation on a tour of Kuwait Times offices.



KUWAIT: Mustafa Qamhiya and Majd Othman with Margo Helou, Asmae Aitssi and Hala Al-Feghali at Kuwait Times' diwaniya during their visit to Kuwait Times offices.



KUWAIT: Mustafa Qamhiya with Margo Helou and Asmae Aitssi at Kuwait Times editorial office.



KUWAIT: Mustafa Qamhiya and Majd Othman with Margo Helou, Asmae Aitssi and Hala Feghali during a tour of Kuwait Times' printing press.



KUWAIT: Margo Helou, Asmae Aitssi and Hala Al-Feghali with Mustafa Qamhiya and Majd Othman in front of a graffiti at Kuwait Times' premises.

Italy in Kuwait this November

KUWAIT: Italy is pleased to be this year the Country Guest of Honour at the 45th edition of the Kuwait International Book Fair in Mishref, starting from 16 until 26 November. Over ten Italian publishing houses have decided to exhibit their books at the beautiful Italian booth created for the occasion on the premises of the Fairground with the Italian Trade Agency (ICE), the Institute of Foreign Commerce. We will exhibit not only Italian literature and Italian encyclopedias, but also books for children and teenagers and books for learning the Italian language.

Books on the beauties of Italy and on the skills and excellences that are all Italian and already known by many in Kuwait: art, design, furniture, cars, engines, football, fashion, food, photography, just to name a few. All in a journey through our Country and its extraordinary nature. We expect visitors to the Fair to come to see our booth and participate in the lectures that we have organized every day at the Fair on Italy and the protagonists of writing in our Country. The detailed schedule will be provided directly by the organizers in these days, but there will be more than 15 beautiful occasions for meeting and stimulation and discussion.

On Thursday 17th November, the day after the inauguration of the Book Fair, an important Concert of Opera Arias of the most important Italian classical works will be held at the Salmiya Theater, Abdullhusein Abdulreda (at 7.00 pm): an hour of "Bel Canto d'Italia" Recital, to bring the public even closer to the extraordinary nature of the Italian language. During these 10 days, at the Kuwait National Library, we will also hold free Italian language classes for children and adults, through the agreement the Embassy made with "TALK", a very successful Italian language provider in Kuwait. Numerous restaurants of the main Hotels in Kuwait will celebrate these important events, by preparing special menus of the Italian gastronomic tradition.

— Ambassador Carlo Baldocci