

Kuwait's crude exports to Japan jump 27% in Jan

KUWAIT: Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan in January surged 26.8 percent from a year earlier to 8.45 million barrels, or 272,000 barrels per day (bpd), for the second straight monthly expansion, government data showed Tuesday. As Japan's third-biggest oil provider, Kuwait supplied 10 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, compared with 7.9 percent in the same month of last year, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil in January edged up 0.3 percent year-on-year to 2.72 million bpd, up for the first time in three months. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 94.4 percent of the total, up 2.6 percentage points from the year before. By country, Saudi Arabia remained in the top spot, with imports from the kingdom growing 6.4 percent from a year earlier to 1.20 million bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 931,000 bpd, up 13.2 percent. Qatar ranked fourth with 125,000 bpd and the US fifth with 71,000 bpd, respectively. Japan is the world's-third biggest oil consumer after China and the US.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's oil barrel went down 29 cents to settle \$83.11 per barrel in Monday's trading as opposed to \$83.40 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday. In the global market, the Brent crude went down 71 cents to settle \$82.45 per barrel, the same with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down 64 cents to settle \$75.68 pb. —KUNA

Kuwait calls for Arab customs union

CAIRO: Director-General of Kuwait Customs, Suleiman Al-Fahad, urged Arab countries to collaborate in the customs field on Tuesday. The remarks came following the 43rd meeting of chiefs of customs authorities in the Arab states. Fahad, who led the country's delegation, said the step was necessary to fully implement the Arab free zone agreement. He added that he envisioned Kuwait facilitating the establishment of an Arab customs union.

During his speech, Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, Ali Al-Malki, said there should be further cooperation among Arab states in all fields. He specifically singled out the economic sector, as the Arab region is faced with an "unprecedented" global economic crisis.

The slow economic growth and potentially ensuing recession is the most dangerous threat Arab countries must prepare for, said Malki. He



Director-General of Kuwait Customs Suleiman Al-Fahad



CAIRO: Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs Ali Al-Malki (center) speaks at the meeting. —KUNA photos

warned that the global economy is expected to lose \$4 trillion by 2026 due to the recession. Customs authorities, he said, are the first line of defense tasked with protecting countries from such threat.

Fahad said the meeting focused on boosting customs cooperation between the Gulf and the Arab states and following up on the Arab free zone deal. He urged Arab countries to join the customs cooperation deal

which came into effect last August, with seven states as signatories. The meeting also discussed other topics such as the mechanism of unifying customs tariff and the Arab transit transport deal. —KUNA

National holidays celebrated in GCC countries

KUWAIT: Kuwait Embassies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman celebrated the 62nd National Day and 32nd Liberation Day. The Embassy in Riyadh hosted a reception at the Cultural Palace in the Diplomatic Quarter.

The celebration was attended by the Undersecretary of Riyadh Region's Principality Dr Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudairy and Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi. A number of economic, cultural, academic personalities and media celebrities were also in attendance. Budaiwi congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as the people of Kuwait on the occasion.

He appreciated Kuwait's support of the efforts of the GCC Secretariat. Charge D'Affaires of Kuwait Embassy Minister Saud Al-Harbi sent his greetings to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince on the occasion. He noted that the national days are a reminder of the noble and heroic sacrifices offered by our fathers and ancestors, as well as the supportive stances of neighboring countries, on top of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

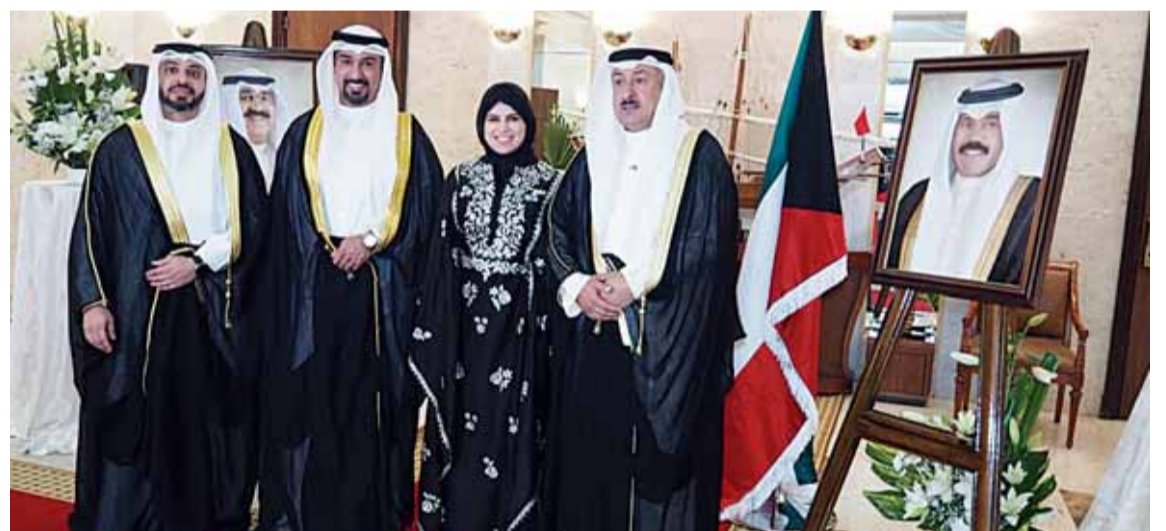
Harbi voiced hope for more progress and prosperity for both countries under their wise leaderships. In Muscat, Kuwait Ambassador to Oman Dr Mohammad Al-Hajeri hosted a reception at Al Bustan Palace. The event was attended by Taimur bin Assad bin Tariq al-Said as a guest of honor and a number of Omani officials and heads of diplomatic missions based in the Sultanate. —KUNA



Kuwait Embassy in Saudi Arabia celebrates national holidays. —KUNA photos



Kuwait Embassy in Oman celebrates the national holidays.



The Kuwait Embassy in Senegal celebrates the national holidays. —KUNA photos

Embassies across the world mark national holidays

KUWAIT: Kuwait Embassies in Iran, Sudan, Mauritania, Senegal and Mongolia have celebrated the country's 62nd National Day and 32nd Liberation Day. A festive mood prevailed in Kuwait Embassy in Iran on the occasion of the holidays. The celebration saw a large gathering of local and international diplomats.

Attributing the large turnout to Kuwait's "amicable" relations with the international community, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran Bader Al-Munaikh took the opportunity to highlight his country's "historic" ties with the Islamic Republic. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Baqri, who was among the attendees, congratulated Kuwaitis on the joyous occasion. He said bilateral ties continue to make palpable progress.

In Khartoum, Ambassador Dr Fahad Al-Thaferiy hosted a reception, which was attended by Sudanese Acting Minister of Education Mahmoud Siral-Khatim Al-Houri and dozens of representatives from the political, economic, cultural, academic and media sectors. He reaffirmed Kuwait's readiness to help Sudan overcome the difficulties the country is facing in its current transitional stage and reach a political settlement through dialogue.

Al-Houri appreciated Kuwait's contributions to the economic development in Sudan and its limitless support to the relief efforts during times of hardship. He expressed best wishes for Kuwait, congratulating



The Kuwait Embassy in Mongolia celebrates the national holidays.

the leadership, government and people on the country's national holidays.

In Nouakchott, Ambassador to Mauritania Ebdah Al-Dousary hosted a reception attended by a high-level government delegation, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Salem Ould Merzoug and Minister of Economic Affairs Ousmane Mamoudou Kane. Heads of diplomatic missions based in Nouakchott as well as leaders of the Mauritanian political parties and representatives of the civil society were also in attendance.

In Dakar, Ambassador to Senegal Adel Abdulkarim Al-Amir hosted a reception. Similarly, Kuwait's Envoy to Mongolia Mohammad Faisal Al-Mutairi hosted a celebration attended by Mongolian government officials, parliamentarians and public figures. Both ambassadors congratulated the political leadership, the government and people of Kuwait on the dear national occasion, voicing hope for more progress and prosperity. —KUNA



Scan & Subscribe
KD 20 a year

For Individuals Only



Scan Now

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf



Tel: 24833199 Ext:220