

Local



Ambassador of Mongolia Sergelen Purev honors the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ambassador of Mongolia Sergelen Purev with Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Ambassador Samih Hayat and Tajik Ambassador to Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Dr Zubaydullo Zubaydov.



Kuwait and Mongolia mark 50 years of diplomatic ties with grand celebration

Officials discuss economic cooperation, opening direct flights

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Mongolia to Kuwait held a Grand Reception, on Sunday, on "The Proclamation Day" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs, Ambassador Samih Hayat, stated that bilateral relations between Kuwait and Mongolia are longstanding and historic, and continue to grow. He noted that Kuwait began importing chilled meat from Mongolia two months ago, with all products slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law, noting that Kuwait also expects to begin importing live livestock from Mongolia at the start of next year.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation, Ambassador Hayat revealed that preparations are underway to hold the fourth round of political consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries during the first quarter of the coming year. He also announced ongoing efforts to establish a direct air route between Kuwait and Mongolia, to be followed by maritime transport links, highlighting continued coordination with both local and international airlines to bring this project to fruition.

Hayat explained that Kuwait could serve as a hub for re-exporting Mongolian products to other Gulf states,



Mongolian woman welcoming the guests.

given the unified Gulf standards applied to goods especially halal meat which facilitates their entry into regional markets. He emphasized that Kuwaiti-Mongolian cooperation is not limited to food security, but extends to broader fields including cybersecurity and other sectors expected to see expanded collaboration in the near future.

During his opening remarks, Ambassador of Mongolia Sergelen Purev, extended his profound gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His High-

ness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince for their wise leadership to develop and strengthen the bilateral relations. The ambassador noted that the chilled lamb meat export from Mongolia to Kuwait commenced in October 2024, and is currently working on beef and live animal exports, and is hopeful that shipments will begin next month.

The government of Mongolia and Kuwait signed an "Air service agreement" in January 2025, and both sides are discussing opening direct flights between the two countries soon, which will then benefit both countries and increase trade, economic cooperation as well as people-to-people ties and exchanges. He also underscored major opportunities for Kuwaiti investment in gold, silver, copper, coal, rare earth elements, oil, and natural gas exploration, renewable energy, and energy infrastructure. Additional areas for collaboration include urban development, construction, smart city systems, and logistics connectivity.

As both countries mark 50 years of diplomatic relations, the Ambassador expressed appreciation for Kuwait's continued support and affirmed its commitment to building an even stronger, more dynamic partnership in the decades ahead. At the end of the reception, the ambassador presented tokens of appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, government officials, and representatives of organizations that supported and cooperated in making the event possible. During the reception, guests enjoyed a special cultural program presented by one of Mongolia's most renowned cultural institutions, the Grand Theatre for National Arts of Mongolia.

The Grand theatre for National Arts performed traditional music and dance, while acclaimed Mongolian opera singer Ayana delivered a world-class performance that added exceptional vibrancy to the evening. The event also featured a showcase of Mongolian traditional and contemporary fashion by designer B Maralmaa, Head Designer of Precious Fashion House of Mongolia. The Embassy of Mongolia announced that the Grand Theatre for National Arts of Mongolia will present a full-length cultural concert on December, 8, 2025 at 19:00 at the American University of Kuwait, offering audiences an opportunity to experience Mongolia's rich artistic heritage in greater depth.



Mongolian dancers

In my view

The enduring influence of Arab liberal thought and its consequences



By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

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Arab intellectuals and many prominent thinkers have long exercised what can be described as intellectual hegemony, shaping public discourse through rigorous analysis—and at times, deconstruction—of societal realities. Their aim has often been to assert authority over ideas and maintain cultural leadership in the region. Many of these figures, however, did not emerge from the everyday realities of their societies; instead, they often operated at a distance, adopting flexible intellectual methods to persuade the public of the validity of their arguments and the sophistication of their worldview.

Leaders of liberal thought have frequently been likened to magicians, drawing attention to their ideas while concealing alternative agendas. The early stages of modern Arab history—marked by struggles to overcome colonial rule and direct foreign domination—revealed the hidden influence of Western models, which replaced overt occupation with subtler forms of control.

From Taha Hussein's call for engagement with European modernity, to Qasim Amin's advocacy for women's liberation and civil equality, Salama Mousa's secular liberal voice, and figures such as Sati al-Husari, Muhammad Kurd, Riyadh al-Sulh, and Bashara al-Khoury, the intellectual trajectory persisted after independence. Later voices, including Naguib Mahfouz, Charles Malik and figures during periods of Arab defeat such as Mohamed Hassanein Heikal and George Tarabishi, continued to shape public perception, often using sophisticated analysis to sustain influence. The pattern extended to Abdullah Al-Aroui, Muhammad Abed Al-Jabri, Ahmad Al-Khatib, and a cohort of Gulf liberals, who carried forward the same intellectual approach.

By the 1980s and beyond, intellectual discourse became more confrontational, with thinkers such as Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Burhan Ghalioun, Nawal El Saadawi, Jaber Asfour and Radwan Al-Sayyid asserting their presence amid turbulent events. In the digital age, Gulf media and contemporary liberals, including Turki al-Hamad, Ahmed Al-Katib, Bilal Fadl, Yassin Al-Haj Saleh, Khalaf Al-Harbi and Mohammed Rumaishi, have revived and repackaged earlier liberal ideas, occupying media platforms and intellectual spaces to influence public thought.

Yet history offers caution. Just as earlier liberalism became a localized tool for Western agendas, modern liberalism risks perpetuating Westernization at the expense of Arab and Islamic cultural roots. The consequences are evident: dependence on Western technology, minimal development in heavy industry, and limited contributions to global knowledge. The emphasis on self-reliance, localized curricula, and independent innovation is often overshadowed by a continued reliance on Western guidance and validation.

As long as intellectual and media leadership remains concentrated among figures promoting dependency on external models, the nation's potential will remain constrained. True progress demands a reassertion of cultural and intellectual sovereignty, grounded in our heritage, language, and resources, rather than continuing to outsource the future to external powers.



Officials and diplomats attend the ceremony.

Burgan Bank concludes month-long initiatives, awareness activities

KUWAIT: Building on its role as a proactive corporate citizen and advocate for health and wellness, Burgan Bank has concluded its month-long November men's health awareness campaign. The Bank's engagement in the annual global Movember movement reflects its broader social responsibility agenda and its continued dedication to promoting healthy lifestyles across Kuwait, supporting the nation's development priorities under Kuwait Vision 2035.

The initiative, which covered key topics including general men's health, diabetes, and prostate cancer, was designed to benefit multiple segments of society, starting with the Bank's employees and their families and extending to the wider community. "In line with Burgan Bank's philosophy, 'Driven by You', our November activities reaffirm our commitment to the health of our employees and members of the Kuwaiti community. We believe that health and risk prevention are essential tools of awareness, and that every step towards promoting health awareness makes a real difference in the lives of individuals and society," commented Hessa Hussein Al-Najadah, Senior Manager – Media Relations and CSR at Burgan Bank.

"Every year, we present innovative and comprehensive programs in cooperation with the best medical centers and hospitals, to provide an integrated experience of education, prevention, and early detection. We are proud of our role as a responsible institution that translates its values into tangible initiatives that posi-



tively impact the lives of community members and place public health among its top priorities."

At the turn of the month, Burgan Bank lit its headquarters in blue to signify its active participation in the global men's health awareness initiative "Movember", which included a series of social media educational videos, prepared in cooperation with doctors at Kuwait Hospital, about diabetes and the importance of adopting a healthy and balanced diet for children, employees, and members of society. The awareness video series also highlighted vital information about prostate cancer early detection and prevention.

In addition, a dedicated awareness video was also published, highlighting the story of a child who began experiencing early symptoms of diabetes, the content showcases his daily journey to inspire other children and to reinforce the importance of the family's commitments to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle. On World Diabetes Day, Burgan Bank organized a one-day on-ground diabetes awareness activation at Souq Al-Mubarakiya – one of Kuwait's most prominent heritage landmarks – in cooperation with Kuwait Hospital, under the slogan "Your Health Matters".

The event included free medical and nutritional checkups and consultations for visitors, provided by the hospital's medical staff, to encourage community members to adopt a healthy and balanced lifestyle. During the event Burgan Bank representatives were keen to spread awareness among the community members about "Let's be Aware" campaign so they can be conscious about their banking rights and responsibilities and to avoid any fraud attempts.

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In addition, Burgan Bank organized a special event for its employees focused on men's health at its headquarters, "Burgan Men's Open Day", which aimed to promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage employees to maintain a balance between their work and personal lives. The awareness event included general medical consultations and awareness sessions, with a particular emphasis on prostate cancer, under the slogan "Driven by You". The event was held in collaboration with a medical team from Amiri Hospital, one of Kuwait's leading hospitals, with which Burgan Bank is proud to partner on such initiatives. Moreover, the Bank hosted a fully equipped mobile clinic to encourage its employees to undergo free screenings in cooperation with IMAGS.

The Men's Open Day saw the participation of Kuwaiti small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in various aspects of men's health and well-being, such as agriculture and landscaping, healthy nutrition, specialized medical centers, and medical clinics. The initiatives spanning the month of November are part of Burgan Bank's ongoing commitment to supporting its employees' and the community's health and well-being, in addition to its year-round health initiatives. These efforts reaffirm the Bank's dedicated efforts to foster a healthy and balanced work environment and uphold its responsibility as a certified Great Place to Work. It further cements the Bank's commitment to fulfilling its mission of being an employer of choice and an active contributor to community's comprehensive sustainable development.

