

Local

Kuwait inaugurates massive causeway to free trade zone



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and senior officials attend the inauguration of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway. — Photos by Amiri Diwan and Yasser Al-Zayyat



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's motorcade drives along the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway.

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday inaugurated one of the world's longest causeways, linking the oil-rich Gulf state's capital to an uninhabited border region set to become a major free trade hub. The 36-kilometre (22-mile) bridge connects Kuwait City to the northern desert area of Subbiya, where Kuwait aims to create the 'Silk City' project linking the Gulf to central Asia and Europe.

The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway, named after late ruler Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, spans 36 kilometers (22 miles), three-quarters of it over water. It cuts the driving time between Kuwait City and Subbiya, close to both Iraq and Iran, from 90 minutes to less than half an hour. Investment in the Silk City project is expected to top \$100 billion, and a 5,000-megawatt power plant has already been built in Subbiya.

The \$3.6 billion causeway, designed by Paris-based engineering and consulting group Systra, took five years to build. The work was carried out by a consortium led by South Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company along with Kuwait's Combined Group Contracting Company.

The opening ceremony was attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah along with South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, and the leader of the French Senate Gerard Larcher. Lee Nak-yeon said the causeway would establish Kuwait as an international trade center. — AFP



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's motorcade drives along the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's motorcade drives along the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway.



(From left) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attend the ceremony.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah officially inaugurates the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway.



Vehicles drive along the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway following its inauguration yesterday.



The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway seen after its inauguration yesterday.