



Staff reporter

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday underscored the need for a united stance of the Muslim Ummah to protect its rights against the backdrop of the ongoing crisis in Palestine. The Prime Minister came up with the remark when Deputy Chief of Staff of Kuwait Armed Forces Lt Gen Khaled Mohammed Al-Kheder met her at her office (PMO).

PM's press secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhury briefed reporters after the meeting.

He said the Prime Minister mentioned that the relation between the two brotherly nations of Bangladesh and Kuwait is very good, and stressed the importance of strengthening it further. In this connection, the Prime Minister recalled that in 1974 the then Kuwait Emir had come to Bangladesh and taken Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with him to attend the OIC summit.

After the visit of the then Kuwait Emir, the relation between Bangladesh and Kuwait started getting stronger day by day, she added.

Sheikh Hasina also recalled the assistance of Kuwait during her government's first term (1996-2001) when the foreign reserve of the country was low. At that time, she said, Kuwait had provided US\$ 200 million to Bangladesh.

Turning to the training of army personnel, Hasina said the Kuwait Armed Forces members can receive education and training from different renowned institutions of Bangladesh.

She also mentioned that the two countries need to increase bilateral tours of their armed forces. "With this, the relation between the armed forces of the two brotherly countries will get stronger," Hasina said.

Deputy Chief of Staff of Kuwait Armed Forces Lt Gen Khaled Mohammed Al-Kheder said

Bangladesh is very popular name in Kuwait as its armed forces personnel helped the country a lot sweep out the mines after the Gulf War and his country is grateful to Bangladesh for that. He also said the armed forces personnel who are now in Kuwait are working very efficiently and skillfully. "We're very much happy in this regard," Al-Kheder said.

He also said the army forces personnel will remain in his country as long as it is deemed necessary.

Kuwait Ambassador in Bangladesh Ali Ahmed Ebrahim was present at the meeting.