

**Hariri Honors Kassar in the Grand Serail
in the presence of high-level official and economic leaders:**
Hariri: Kassar dedicated his life to serving his country and raising its name in the world.
Kassar: This honoring ceremony is very dear to my heart as it comes from my country.
Choucair: Kassar's achievements and accomplishments are a pride for Lebanon.

HE Prime Minister. Saad Hariri honored the former President of the Lebanese Economic Organizations, HE Mr. Adnan Kassar, during a ceremony held on the 29th of January 2018, at the the Grand Serail, in the presence of large gathering of officials including former prime ministers, ministers, parliamentarians, Arab and foreign ambassadors, as well as Lebanese Economic Organizations members. This ceremony was held on the occasion of the handover of the Lebanese Economic Organizations chairmanship from Kassar to Mohamed Choucair, Chairman of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon.

In his speech, Hariri said: " Today we are gathered to honor the minister and dear friend Adnan Kassar who dedicated his life to serving his country and raising its name worldwide, through his lifetime career in which he held many high positions in Lebanon, in the Arab world, and internationally." Hariri also stated that Kassar contributed to strengthening the credibility of the Lebanese private sector, highlighting as well Kassar's accompaniment to the legacy of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, and the clear nationalistic marks he made in this legacy.

In his turn, Kassar extended his thanks to Prime Minister Hariri for a truly decent gesture and said that it's a very precious day to his heart, when a special recognition comes from his country, for which he spared no effort serving its economy in all its sectors over many decades. Kassar stated: "Being ennobled today by my country is for me the highest and dearest recognition I've ever received. Having said that, I certainly cannot but express my pride and respect to all foreign leaders who have generously granted me gracious honors for my national, Arab and international role." He added that it's an occasion that embodies his successes and constant dream of a bright future. Kassar addressed his friends and colleagues in the economic organizations, encouraging them to continue cooperation with the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers, and to preserve the national unity above religious differences, above sectarianism, above regional preferences; "a Lebanon for all the Lebanese, for Lebanon first and last."

Choucair pointed out in his speech that “we gather today to honor a man from our country Lebanon, as we highly appreciate his national and international achievements and accomplishments, which are a pride for every Lebanese person.” He also stated that “Adnan Kassar, with his high morals, was able to capture everyone’s heart giving our private sector the strategic dimension in our national economy. What Adnan Kassar has built in terms of values within the work of the Lebanese Economic Organizations will remain an inspirational light for us.” He concluded by saying that the Lebanese economic organizations are proud that Kassar will be a lifetime honorary president of the Lebanese economic organizations.

This honorary ceremony included a documentary film about Kassar’s career path and achievements in all his official and economic positions, on the Lebanese, Arab and international levels, and his achievements in supporting the private sector and economic activities, as well as highlighting his personal character and his strong relationship with his brother Adel.

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