

Local

# KUWAIT MARKS A MILESTONE: FOUNDATION LAID FOR ABDULLAH AL-SALEM UNIVERSITY

AASU TO HELP KUWAIT BECOME A DIVERSIFIED AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY



KUWAIT: Dr Hamad Al-Adwani announcing the laying of foundation stone for Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU). — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Prof Moudi A Al-Humoud speaks on the occasion.



Dignitaries during the event.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Marking a significant milestone in Kuwait's higher education sector, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Research Dr Hamad Al-Adwani on Thursday announced the laying of the foundation stone for Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU).

Addressing a press conference, Dr Al-Adwani stated that the opening of the new public university of Abdullah Al-Salem (AASU) is a historic event. Officially announcing the laying of the foundation stone of AASU, he also said that the first batch of students will be admitted in the beginning of the academic year 2023-2024 next September.

He pointed out that the opening of Abdullah Al-Salem University is a significant achievement as it is one of the pillars of the government's work program to become a strategic partner in the higher

education sector in Kuwait along with other educational institutions in order to prepare qualified and skilled citizens to contribute to the labor market.

Adwani affirmed political leaders' keenness in opening new educational horizons to contribute effectively to the implementation of the country's development plan in all its aspects, explaining that AASU to be a fourth generation university as its academic programs integrate with scientific research centers in the field of creativity as well as digitization and artificial intelligence fields, especially in the field of modern medicine and in the field of hydrocarbon and renewable energy research.

Prof Moudi A Al-Humoud, chairperson of the Founding Administrative Board of Abdullah Al-Salem University, said, "AASU comes as a complementary link to the educational system in Kuwait," noting that the board is studying the needs of the



labor market and the requirements of various economic sectors in country to provide qualified manpower in accordance with Kuwait's Vision 2035.

The university aims to transfer the Kuwait economy from a single-resource to a diversified and knowledge-based economy that keeps pace with the renewed and rapidly developing world of digitization, she said. "The establishment of a university

with these specifications is not an easy task and cannot be completed in a short span of time as the implementation will take several levels", she added.

"There will be nine research centers. The centers will be for cybersecurity, digital transformation, data science, artificial intelligence research, resources, energy and sustainability, advanced science and engineering, marine and coastal research, finance, and risk management, research in entrepreneurship and innovation, health and wellbeing and inventive learning center," she added.

Four faculties were named and three of them will be in the first stage. They are: the faculty of management and entrepreneurship, computing systems, and engineering and energy. The last faculty it will be for Medicine and Health Sciences. She revealed that the university to be located in Shuwaikh initially and then it will branch into other areas of Kuwait later.

## 'SPECULATIVE HORIZONS' BUILDS LINKS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND AUSTRALIA

By Ghadeer Ghloom

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti and Australian street photographers came together to celebrate their works at an exhibition titled 'the Speculative Horizons' organized by the Australian Embassy in collaboration with Polestar and Contemporary Art Platform (CAP). The exhibition was inaugurated on Wednesday displaying works of cross-cultural street photography. The exhibition will last for two weeks until Feb 22. With great enthusiasm and joy, Kuwaiti and Australian artists joined hands to display their works and share their talents and experiences in photography.

At the opening of the exhibition, Gallery Coordinator Lillian Mascarenhas said that this exhibition is the outcome of a collaboration between Australian and Kuwait-based street photographers where the artists share their ideas and techniques in photography. They will also conduct symposium in the presence of the Australian photographer Dr Kristian Haggblom, Dr Saad Al-Sharrah and many others on Saturday (Feb 11) where lectures, talks and workshops. There will also be a photo walk in Friday Market which will be held in order to learn more about photography.

Highlighting the purpose of the 'Speculative Horizons' exhibition, higher education course director, Dr Kristian Haggblom told Kuwait Times: "The exhibition is an exchange program initiative and we hope that this will help us in the future in moving forward to creating a dialogue between Kuwait and Australia through photography."

In approval and encouragement of this event, the Australian Ambassador Melissa Kelly expressed her pride and satisfaction about the collaboration between Australian and Kuwaiti street photographers. She told Kuwait Times: "It is wonderful to see creatives from both Australia and Kuwait come together in a beautifully coherent exhibition that explores people and place, and multiculturalism and identity." She also said that the 'Speculative Horizons' exhibition is a statement of the talented creatives across both countries and underscores the importance of connection and exchange between the thriving arts communities across continents.



KUWAIT: (From left) Eman Al-Shawaf and Australian Ambassador Mellisa Kelly.



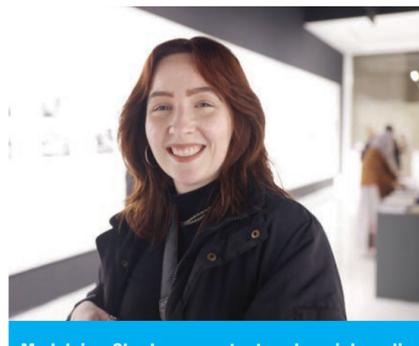
Kuwaiti artist Mariam Al-Ghanim at 'Speculative Horizons' exhibition. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



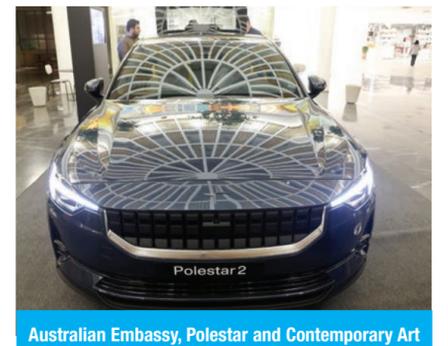
Australian Ambassador Mellisa Kelly.



Kuwaiti artist Deema Al-Ghunaim.



Madeleine Sherburn, content and social media manager of 'Speculative Horizons' project.



Australian Embassy, Polestar and Contemporary Art Platform are the sponsors of 'the Speculative Horizons' exhibition.

Both Australian and Kuwait are largely urbanized societies with multicultural communities. She praised and congratulated both of Dr Saad Al-Sharrah and Dr Kristian Haggblom for making the exhibition a success. She also congratulated all the photographers who are part of 'Speculative Horizons'. To further show her support to the exhibition, she said that the Australian Embassy is very proud to be able to play a role in supporting this initiative and that it is hoping for many more such programs between Kuwait and Australia.

The exhibition created a link between Australians

and Kuwaitis as it introduced two cultures to each other through photography. Australian Artist Madeleine Sherburn, who is also the content and social media manager for this project told Kuwait Times, "With this exhibition, I have got to know more of the community here in Kuwait and getting to really see what is involved in their project and what photography can be like across the two countries." Holding this exhibition gave Sherburn and other Australians an opportunity to learn more about Kuwaiti culture and vice versa.

Additionally, Kuwaiti Artist Eman Al-Shawaf

shared her thoughts about the importance of the exhibition. She told Kuwait Times, "This exhibition is important because there haven't been enough local exhibitions that speak about photography. Photography has always been in the culture but to look at it as an art is something new and much-needed. So, creatives are craving for exhibitions that happen around this topic." Al-Shawaf also added that 'Speculative Horizons' offered a wonderful opportunity for her and other artists to exhibit. "It was an open call that offers everybody a chance to participate."

## AS SPRING ARRIVES, 'NUWAIR', 'MALVA' BLOOM EVERYWHERE

**KUWAIT:** With spring falling early this year in Kuwait, Nuwair and Malva flowers are now beginning to blossom out everywhere in the country, adorning streets, roads and even the desert in a naturally-shaped eye-catching image that brings serenity, joy and delight.

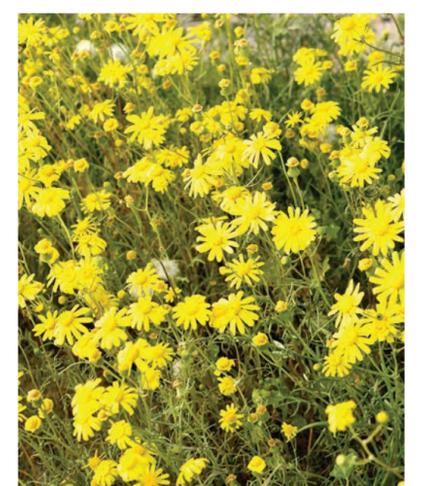
Speaking to KUNA on Nuwair-growing in Kuwait, Dr Sara Al-Ateeqi, a voluntary environment protection team member, said the fact that Nuwair and Malva flowers are now widespread in all Kuwaiti areas actually gives a feeling of calmness and pleasure thanks to their bright yellow and green colors. Nuwair, in fact, is a group of yellow, orange and white spring plants and called Nuwair since it looks like the sun in view of its brilliance and splendor, she said, adding that its name differs from one species to another and even according to the time it grows up. Blossoming out in desert and along roads during winter and spring, Nuwair is locally renowned as "Al-Hanwa", "Al-Houthan", "Al-Zamlouk", "Al-Marar", "Al-Adheed" and "Al-Hambzan", Al-Ateeqi elaborated. With regards to Malva, she said it does not belong to the species of

Nuwair. Rather, it is a totally different plant that thrives during the months of January and February.

For his part, Ouda Al-Bathali, a researcher, said that Hamlouq is widespread during this period of the year, with its flowers blooming at sunrise but closing at sunset. Al-Zamlouq is a pure Kuwaiti word that literally means "early" since this species in particular is the first plant to bloom immediately following rainfall, he added. Al-Houthan is a species of flowers that contains five round petals that are fragmented into three parts, Al-Bathali pointed out. — KUNA



Seasonal plants bring serenity, joy and delight.



Nuwair flowers beginning to blossom across Kuwait. —KUNA photos



Purple Nuwair flowers