

Local

Australia working to reduce trade barriers with Kuwait: Ambassador

'Kuwait, Australia to mark 50th anniversary of establishment of relations in 2024'

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Australian Embassy to Kuwait held a press roundtable on Monday to discuss diplomatic relations between the two countries. "Australia and Kuwait enjoy a friendly and cooperative relationship. Our ties are warm and strong, characterized by a 60-year food security partnership, future-focused investment cooperation and people-to-people links fostered by a thriving education relationship," Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait Melissa Kelly said.

The ambassador said she is looking forward to working on reducing trade barriers in commercially relevant sectors, improving connections between business people in both countries and encouraging new investment in Australia. "The volume of two-way merchandise trade exchange between Kuwait and Australia is estimated at around 800 million Australian dollars, while Kuwait's investments in Australia are estimated at over 12 billion Australian dollars."

Kelly affirmed her keenness to also build cooperation on climate technology and renewable energy, with more technology-focused research collaboration, bringing the food security partnership into the future, as well as building cultural collaboration between the two countries, including bringing the best creative Australian artists to Kuwait.

Kelly indicated there will be an increased tempo of high-level visits between Australia and Kuwait at both official and ministerial levels. "As we move towards

the 50th anniversary of Australia and Kuwait's bilateral relations, which we will celebrate in 2024, more in-person meetings will only serve to multiply the opportunities that already exist to build relations," she said. The ambassador stated she looks forward to progressing the Australia-Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement that has been under negotiations for a long time, assuring that the benefits can be huge.

Meanwhile, Kelly expressed pride to be the first woman Australia has appointed as ambassador to Kuwait, noting that this reflects the high priority Australia places on gender equality and its belief that diversity in leadership makes for stronger teams. "I am motivated and inspired by the women I have met in Kuwait from a variety of sectors, making incredible contributions to the country. I met women who work in business, government and civil societies; I was impressed and influenced. We are going on a journey in gender equality in Australia as well, so I wanted to link with women here to address and learn from each other," she said.

On the education level, Kelly revealed that there are 2,000 Kuwaiti graduates from Australia, and cur-



Melissa Kelly



KUWAIT: Australian Ambassador Melissa Kelly addresses the press conference on Tuesday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

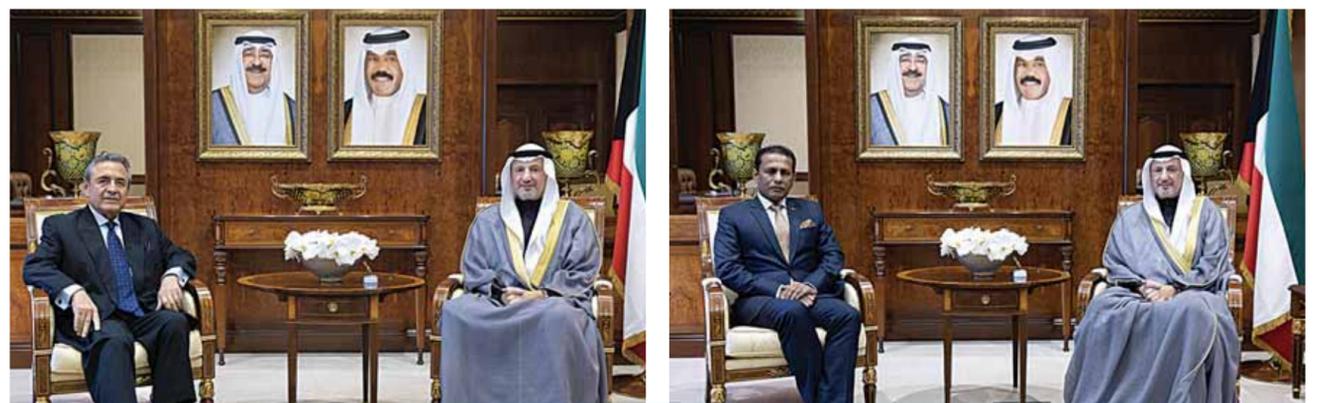
rently, 700 students are enrolled in Australian institutions. Regarding visas, she pointed out the Australian eVisa is processed online. "It is quick and easy - you have to fill a form and submit your biometrics. People should try to plan for their travel two months earlier."

On health, she said that there is joint research on diabetes with Dasman Diabetes Institute, going on for years, to benefit people of Kuwait who suffer from diabetes. Regarding live sheep exports, Kelly

said in 2022, the Australian government committed to phasing out the export of live sheep from Australia by sea. Implementation of the phase-out will happen in the current term of the government, which is set to end in 2025 as new elections will be held at that time. "I am very proud of the role Australia has played in ensuring the food security of Kuwait over a long period, and I want to support the continuation of this relationship," Kelly assured.

Kuwait FM receives credentials of Peru, Sri Lanka envoys

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday credentials of Peru's Ambassador to the country Carlos Manuel Alfredo Velasco Mendiola. During the reception, the minister wished success to the new envoy in his mission, and further prosperity and progress to the distinguished ties between the two countries. Latest developments in Peru were also discussed. Sheikh Salem then received credentials of Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Kuwait Kaandeepan Balasubramaniam. During the reception, the minister wished success to the new envoy in his mission, and further prosperity and progress to the distinguished ties between the two countries. Latest developments in Sri Lanka were also discussed. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Peru's Ambassador to the country Carlos Manuel Alfredo Velasco Mendiola (left) and Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Kuwait Kaandeepan Balasubramaniam on Tuesday. —KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister discusses with the Omani ambassador



Deputy Foreign Minister discusses with the Qatari ambassador

Deputy FM meets Omani, Qatari ambassadors

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi met Tuesday, with the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Kuwait, Dr Saleh Al-Kharousi, where they discussed aspects of the distinguished brotherly relations. Al-Otaibi also met with the Ambassador of the state of Qatar to Kuwait Ali Al Mahmoud, where they discussed a number of aspects of brotherly relations. —KUNA

Culture Council to participate in Cairo Book Fair

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) will participate in the 54th round of the Cairo International Book Fair presented by the General Egyptian Book Organization. The fair will kick off its activi-

871 housing units get electricity connection

KUWAIT: Vice director for execution affairs at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare Rashed Al-Enezi said that 871 new residential units in the south Abdullah Al-Mubarak project were provided with electricity connection with a voltage of 132 KV. 23 substations will provide the electricity supply to these units and the connection was given before the completion of the contractual date.

"This work comes in line with the Foundation's plan to deliver electricity to existing projects and plots owned by citizens. The project was completed following extensive effort and coordination with the Electricity and Water Ministry to supply electricity to these plots to help the citizens who live there," Al-Enezi said.

"The authority will complete the operation of 47



substations which will feed electricity lines in 1,673 plots coinciding with the delivery of power by the Ministry of Electricity and Water to the two main substations (A & D). The work of the remaining stations will be completed before their contractual date on June 14, 2023," he added.

Al-Enezi appreciated the efforts of specialists in the ministry and the exemplary cooperation they extended during the execution of the project.

Farwaniya store closed for violation; 7 notices issued

KUWAIT: The audit and municipality service administration has concluded an inspection campaign in Farwaniya which resulted in the suspension of a store and issuance of seven notices for violations.

Acting vice director of the administration in Farwaniya governorate, Nasser Al-Rashidi said: "The violations consisted of adding an advertisement without a license, non-compliance with the requirements on the basis of which the license was issued, not displaying the license at a prominent place and employing workers with expired health certificate. The officials issued six warnings as well."

Al-Rashidi called on shopowners to abide by the requirements and regulations stipulated by the municipality to avoid violations and penalties that sometimes lead to administrative closure.

ties on Wednesday.

The exhibition titled "Together We Read, Think, Innovate," will continue until Feb 6, said NCCAL in a statement. Salah Jaheen, Egyptian poet and playwright, will be the exhibition's featured personality and Kamel Kilani, prominent Egyptian children's book author, was selected to be the featured personality for the children's book exhibition. "Our participation in the exhibition comes to showcase Kuwait's culture and its keenness to support Arabic culture and benefit readers and researchers through cultural publications and scientific studies.



The Cairo International Book Fair is considered one of the largest and most important Arabic book exhibitions regionally and globally," said NCCAL.

The council will participate in two sections of the exhibition: The first will be located in the main hall, and the second will be designated for selling the council's periodic publications such as, "Almasrah Alalami," "Aalam Elfikr," "Aalam Almarifah," "Al-Arabi" magazine, "Al-Arabi Al-Sagheer" magazine, as well as publications related to research and planning and the special traditional series "From the Arab Heritage". —KUNA

MoH, pharmacist society to update regulations

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry is working with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society to update the laws regulating the pharmacy profession and the circulation of medicines, said Dr Buthayna Al-Mudhaf, under-secretary for general health affairs at the ministry.

The updates are meant to empower Kuwaiti pharmacists and raise industry standards, said Al-Mudhaf while attending an awards ceremony organized by the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society for pharmacists participating in scientific conferences.

The Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society has reportedly been requesting an update to the laws regulating pharmacists since at least October 2021 in order to match the profession's widening scope of work, a trend seen not only in Kuwait but across the world. The society has been in talks with the health ministry to make the necessary changes.

Showcasing the talents of Kuwaiti pharmacists, Dr Ali Hadi, general secretary of the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society, said they recently participated in the Saudi International Pharmaceutical Sciences Meeting and Workshops (SIPHA) held in Saudi Arabia earlier this month. The conference discussed the role of pharmacy in economic diversification, the sharing of scientific technologies and the development of laboratory research in the pharmaceutical sector.

He added that Kuwait University pharmacy students who presented their research at SIPHA were ranked among the top ten participating Arab universities.

"The participation of pharmacists in scientific conferences is a cause for pride because of their achievements in exceptional scientific research," said Head of the society Abdullah Al-Enezi.

Pharmacists have also recently attended, said Hadi, the Dubai International Pharmaceuticals and Technologies Conference and Exhibition (DUPHAT), a leading educational and networking platform for the sector in the Middle East and North Africa region. Al-Enezi said the society will continuously support pharmacists in all aspects to ensure high quality.