

Kuwait Foreign Minister praises prosperous and continuously progressing bilateral cooperation between two countries

Kuwait PM receives visiting South African Minister of Int'l Relations and Cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, April 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the visiting South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor on Thursday.

During the encounter, held in the presence of Kuwait's Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah, His Highness the prime minister was handed a letter from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah met with the visiting South African

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor on Thursday.

The two sides discussed strengthening their countries' close and solid bilateral relations and reviewed all aspects of close cooperation, particularly on the economic, trade and investment spectrums.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on recent developments on the regional and international fronts. Both were in mutual agreement on all the matters discussed.

They also discussed cooperation on efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and finding a solution to crises affecting the region.

For his part, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmad praised the prosperous and continuously progressing bilateral cooperation

China keen to boost ties with Kuwait, says senior official

KUWAIT CITY, April 3, (KUNA): China is eager to develop and promote cooperation with Kuwait on all levels, a senior Chinese official said on Friday.

This can be done through resuming mutual high-level visits and boosting cooperation in economy, trade, energy and investment, as well as on people-to-people and cultural bases, the official said after talks with Kuwait's Ambassador to China.

Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Politburo member Yang Jiechi and Kuwaiti Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat discussed historical strategic bilateral relations, existing between the two countries, for more than 50 years.

He added, "China looks strategically at relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council, and is ready to continue strengthening

(this) cooperation."

The Chinese official went on to praise the wisdom, sophistication and balance of Kuwait's foreign policy, led by its leadership, and its efforts to consolidate the foundations of peace and stability in the region, according to a Kuwait Embassy statement.

For his part, Ambassador Hayat said the bilateral talks focused on strengthening cooperation, adding that both share a common aspiration to elevate

this cooperation to a wider scope, in line with the directions of their leaderships.

He noted to cooperation in the "political, economic, commercial, investment, cultural, scientific and academic" domains.

Kuwait is greatly interested in developing friendly relations with Beijing, which have achieved positive results over the years, he added, hoping this would be "mutually beneficial" to both countries.

between the two friendly countries.

Meanwhile, minister Pandor expressed her aspirations for the continuation of this cooperation,

praising the wisdom and balance of Kuwait's foreign policy and the efforts it makes to consolidate the foundations of regional peace and

security.

The talks were rounded off with the signing of an agreement to establish a joint committee for the

development and consolidation of

bilateral relations in all fields and at various levels.

MEW seeks approval for smart meters project's second phase

KUWAIT CITY, April 3: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the ministry had addressed the Ministry of Finance and the Fatwa and Legislation Department to obtain the necessary approvals regarding the tender for the second phase of the project of smart electricity and water meters, reports Al-Rai daily.

They said, "The second phase will include the supply and installation of 200,000 electricity meters and 300,000 water meters, which is the number that was included in the tender for smart water meters and was canceled".

The sources indicated that the ministry represented by the team overseeing the tender has gained considerable experience in preparing documents for the tender, which will be put forward for participation in preparing the tender for the first phase.

They revealed that the meters of the first phase will be allocated to the investment and commercial sectors, and will be distributed to all governorates, indicating that the ministry aims to supply 800,000 electricity meters in several stages to cover all sectors in the future.

On a different note, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has agreed to the ministry's request to put up three tenders to the companies

classified with CAPT. These include a tender for the supply of longitudinal connections to a monoblock oil cable, a tender for maintenance work of the secondary transfer stations for Ahmadi Governorate, and a tender for the replacement of 132 kV circuit breakers and their accessories at the Shuyukh power and water distillation plant.

According to sources, the three tenders come within the framework of the ministry's annual program to conduct the necessary maintenance for its facilities in order to develop, modernize and raise its efficiency to bear the loads, especially during the summer season when the demand for electricity increases due to the high temperature.

In addition, the ministry obtained a direct contract to repair three transmission stations in Sabah Al-Ahmad marine area for a total amount of KD 720,000 for a period of eight months as part of its plan to modernize, develop and raise the efficiency of the main stations responsible for transmitting electrical energy from the production stations to the secondary transfer stations.

Also, the ministry's personnel administration sector transferred excellent work bonuses to the accounts of 38 employees who had previously filed their grievances about the bonuses.

Kuwait's Deputy FM takes part in Arab-Japanese political dialogue

Arab League calls for boosting cooperation with Japan

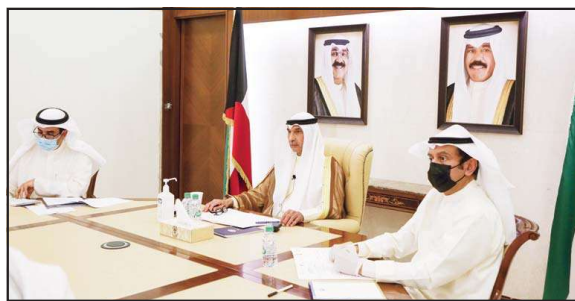
KUWAIT CITY, April 3, (KUNA): Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafaeri, on Thursday, headed the Kuwaiti delegation in the second online session of the ministerial meeting for the Arab-Japanese political dialogue.

The session witnessed the participation of Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Abul Gheit and representatives of Arab states.

During his speech and regarding the coronavirus situation that the world is going through, Ambassador Al-Dhafaeri praised the effective contributions of the Arab countries and Japan through the global initiative (COVAX) aimed at enabling countries around the world to obtain safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Al-Dhafaeri also shed light on the historical and deep-rooted ties between Kuwait and Japan, hailing the bilateral relations between the two countries, which involved important and fruitful cooperation.

Furthermore, he noted that the total volume of trade exchange between Kuwait and Japan in the last two years 2019-2020 reached more than USD three billion, adding that Kuwait was ranked third among



KUNA photo
Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafaeri heading Kuwaiti delegation.

oil-exporting countries to Japan, as Kuwaiti oil exports to Japan in 2019-2020 amounted in value to nearly USD 11.3 billion.

On the other hand, Ambassador Al-Dhafaeri stressed the Arab countries appreciate the humanitarian and assistance provided by Japan to the region states, expressing the Arabs' keenness to upgrade these relations.

Regarding the Palestinian cause, Al-

Dhafaeri reaffirmed Kuwait's position on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of June 4, 1967.

He also affirmed that Kuwait is keen to reach political solutions to the crises in Yemen, Syria and Libya, through dialogue based on International legitimacy decisions and references in this regard.

The Kuwaiti delegation included

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Office of the Deputy Minister Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Arab Nation Affairs Counselor Nasser Al-Qahtani.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmed Abul Gheit affirmed the need to boost Arab-Japanese cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields, especially that Japan is the third top trade partner to Arab countries in the world.

The statement was made during the opening of the second session of the Arab-Japanese political ministerial dialogue, held through video conference on Thursday.

Trade exchange between the two sides reached about USD 108 billion in 2019, he said. He added that there is a triple partnership between the league, Japan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) since 2019 to execute cultural and development programs and projects.

The partnership aims to benefit from Japan's advanced technologies and experience, especially in developing the information technology's infrastructure at the league's General Secretariat.



KUNA photo
China's Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office Yang Jiechi and Kuwaiti Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat.

Secure technologies are the future for effective governments, and the future is now



Pastora Valero,
Senior Vice President, Cisco Systems, Inc.

It is clear by any metric that the world has changed forever. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are systemic. They have changed how we work, how we live, how we do business and the needs and expectations of citizens around the globe.

Before the pandemic, governments were already seeing a growing demand for digital services to securely service their people. But with Covid-19, the public sector had no choice but to digitize at remarkable speed.

In Kuwait and globally, we have seen an unprecedented digital acceleration as governments had to adjust quickly to continue legislating, educating, caring, and delivering services securely and virtually.

We must applaud the efforts of the Kuwaiti government to keep the country afloat throughout the crisis, maintaining business continuity and responding to health and economic challenges, and serving citizens.

As 'Cisco's Executive Country Sponsor for Kuwait, 'I'm pleased to see how our people, partners and technologies are helping the Kuwaiti government through its digital transformation journey. Whether it is roads, transport, healthcare, or education, we are engaged in numerous projects supporting 'Kuwait's digital efforts.

And as the Kuwaiti government and governments globally are preparing for recovery and re-imagining service delivery, there are a number of takeaways that stand out for me.

First, security and trust have become more important than ever, as well as the need for a robust digital infrastructure. No doubt, the expansion of telehealth, distance learning, and remote work has expanded the attack surface exponentially.

We have seen increasingly sophisticated cyber-attacks on homes, businesses, governments, and critical infrastructures such as hospitals, water, or electricity supply. Citizens expect and rely on their governments to prioritize security - from personal safety to the security

of all these technologies transforming their lives.

And at Cisco, we are laser-focused on making sure we protect users working from anywhere, at any time, on any device—embedding security into everything that we do as well as data privacy and protection. That means a trusted process, trusted systems, and trusted services. Second, governments are facing growing pressures to innovate through multi-cloud environments with digital applications that truly know no boundaries. 'It's no longer a question of whether to move to the cloud, but instead 'it's what services can be deployed more efficiently via cloud versus traditional IT.

And as Cisco, we are enabling organizations to take the best of both on-premises and public cloud environments in a hybrid environment and make them work as one. Our multi-cloud strategy enables governments to launch more digital applications for citizens in a seamless & secure way.

And finally, digital skills become the key enabler to ensure no one is left behind. Governments have long understood the need to bridge the digital divide and provide opportunities to all citizens to learn new digital skills and secure their future. COVID-19 has speeded up that necessity.

As businesses, we know we also have a role to play. Our Cisco Networking Academy is a prime example of our dedication to power an inclusive digital future for all, irrespective of age, gender, or geography. The Networking Academy program is a giant virtual classroom where people from all origins and background can, today, learn the skills 'they'll need tomorrow. Since the program was introduced in the Middle East and Africa region, 1,632,500 students have participated in the Cisco Networking Academy, and 12.6 million globally.

In Kuwait, we have equipped more than 2,600 Kuwaiti students with IT skills through our Cisco Networking Academy, and 28 per cent of them are girls and women. And we do this in partnership with Kuwait University, Kuwait Technical College, and the American University of Kuwait, to name just a few.

As countries start recovering from the pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to build a better, more equitable and inclusive future for everyone. Powering an inclusive future for all is going to take all of us. If we can come together—business, governments, academia—we can leave the world better than we found it.

That is why I'm pleased to take part in the 8th E-Government Conference to discuss these important issues on 30 March, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, represented by Her Excellency Dr Rana Al-Fares, Minister of Public Works, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology.

At Cisco, we remain fully committed to support 'Kuwait's digital transformation strategy and help to build long-term capabilities that meet 'governments' evolving expectations and the changing needs of citizens and businesses.

Company awarded tens of customers with cash prizes and smart devices

'Score with Zain' campaign crowns Fatimah Al Kandari with Mercedes A35 AMG Grand Prize

Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, concluded its interactive promotional campaign 'Score with Zain', through which the company announced Fatimah Adel Al Kandari as the winner of the Mercedes A35 AMG Grand Prize. Throughout the campaign, Zain awarded tens of customers with weekly cash prizes and valuable smart devices.

'Score with Zain' is one of the company's biggest interactive campaigns launched exclusively for Zain customers. The campaign comes as part of Zain's continuous efforts to offer its customers the latest innovative solutions in the world of Value-Added Services. The company is always keen on offering the best and most advanced services to its customer base, which makes up the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait.

The campaign, which Zain organizes in collaboration with ITG Group, offered unique daily content via SMS, which tested the general knowledge of subscribers for a chance to win a weekly cash prize of KD 300 and valuable smart devices. In addition, 'Score



with Zain' featured the Mercedes A35 AMG Grand Prize which Zain awarded at the end of the campaign.

Zain continuously works on improving all its services to continue its tireless efforts towards adopting the latest and most advanced solutions, with the aim of maintaining its leadership position in the Kuwaiti market. The company affirms its promise to always offer a variety of services and solutions to meet the personal and professional needs of

Kuwait's largest family of subscribers.

Zain strives to offer customers the latest services and solutions in the world of Value-Added Services, all with the aim of surpassing customers' expectations. The company will continue to lead the Kuwaiti telecom sector by launching unprecedented services, products, and solutions in addition to value added services geared at maintaining its leading position in the country.