

**Embassy of India
Kuwait**

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Kuwait's Central Bank keeps interest rates 'unchanged' amid Fed rate cut

In response to US Federal Reserve's recent decision to reduce interest rates by 25 basis points, the Central Bank of Kuwait has chosen to keep its interest rates unchanged, citing a careful assessment of the country's economic and financial landscape. Central Bank has stated that its decision to maintain its rates is reached after a detailed review of local and international economic conditions, geopolitical developments and their potential effects on global economy. The CBK emphasized that the current economic stability in Kuwait, bolstered by robust monetary and financial conditions, justifies the decision. The Bank stressed the strength of the Kuwaiti banking sector remains resilient due to the Central Bank's prudent regulatory measures and effective lending practices. CBK's efforts were recently recognized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also.

Kuwait opens commercial offers for rail project

Kuwait's Central Agency for Public Tenders has invited five companies, bidding for studying and designing of Kuwait's railway network, to attend a financial bid opening meeting for the planned Kuwait National Rail Road (KNRR) project. Companies were SYSTRA (Turkey), China Railway (China), PROYAPI (Turkey), SENER (Spain), and JFA Engenharia (Portugal). The lowest accepted bid was submitted by Turkey's PROYAPI with a price of KD2.475m (\$8m), which is less than half the price of KD6.774m submitted by China Railway Company. The other two bidders Spain's Sener quoted KD8.822m and France's Systra KD9.739m. A fifth offer from JFA Engenharia (Portugal) was not accepted. The railway network project is also an integral part of the GCC's railway total network of 2,177 KM from Kuwait to Oman, covering 574 KM in Kuwait and is expected to be implemented in three phases.

Kuwait considers oil investments in Brazil and Namibia

Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), an upstream operator, is analysing basin data for potential investments in Brazil and Namibia and is considering investing in assets in both countries. Kuwaitis see the most potential in the Campos Basin in Rio de Janeiro and the pre-salt area in the Santos Basin. The Santos Basin concentrates over 70% of Brazil's Petrobras' oil and gas production. KUFPEC plans major international oil and gas acquisitions that would increase its exposure to both exploration and production assets in foreign countries but primary targets will be production assets that are operated by large international oil companies (IOCs). KUFPEC has tendered several consultancy contracts in recent months and in October 2024 it tendered a contract for the provision of management infrastructure to increase efficiency and boost performance. Separately on 8 October KUFPEC awarded a consultancy contract worth KD145,000/- (US\$470,000) to UK-

headquartered Ernst & Young and scope of contract covered a feasibility study and consultancy services to evaluate quantitative risks.

KPC awards KD 839,000 consulting contract for petroleum zone study

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has announced the awarding of a contract for the preparation of a detailed consulting study for the petroleum industrial zone. The contract, valued at KD 839,000, will span a period of 12 months. Also, KPC announced in the official gazette Kuwait AlYom the launch of a special auction for the licensing of areas designated for providing banking services in the oil sector complex. The auction will be held from November 10 to December 26.

Markaz revenues KD 14.92 million for 9M 2024

Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' has reported its financial results for 9M 2024 with total revenues of KD14.92 million with an increase of 6.25% as compared to 2023. Net Profit attributable to shareholders of Markaz was KD 3.35 million for 9M 2024, compared to KD 0.71 million in 2023. Markaz has reported that assets under management till Sept 2024 amount to KD1.39 billion, an increase of 19.84%, compared to KD 1.16 for same period of 2023.

SAB okays KD 173m deal for Doha West Power Plant's modernization

The State Audit Bureau (SAB) recently approved the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy's contract for the tender to develop and modernize steam boilers, control systems for thermal units, and auxiliary systems at the Doha West Power Generation and Water Distillation Plant, at a value of KD173.180 million. The bureau approved the ministry's contract with the winning company under the condition that the latter adheres to the terms, requirements, and technical specifications outlined in the tender. The company is also required to provide a letter guaranteeing the supply of spare parts for 15 years, starting from the date the last unit becomes operational.

Kuwait & US discuss expanding energy co-op

The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) hosted an economic delegation from the United States. The purpose of the visit was to discuss ways to strengthen the economic ties between the two nations, present the available opportunities in the oil, gas, and renewable energy sectors, and build commercial partnerships. During the event Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) presented a detailed overview of the most important investment opportunities available to foreign companies and incentives the country offers to foreign investors. Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy shared Kuwait's vision for renewable energy and highlighted the projects undertaken. Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority outlined its system and reviewed the projects available to foreign companies under the public-private partnership system. KCCI affirmed that the visit highlights the importance of building and strengthening relations in the field of energy and enhancing bilateral cooperation to achieve shared goals.

Weatherford of US wins contracts in Kuwait

Weatherford International, a US-based multi-national oilfield service company won contract from Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). Weatherford is currently active in 75 countries globally has 19,000 staff working in 330 operating locations. Scope of contract includes a Managed Pressure Drilling (MPD) services focusing on improving operational efficiency, enhancing safety, accelerating well-delivery timelines and reducing costs by deploying Victus Intelligent MPD system. Victus, known for its automation and precision, enables safer and faster drilling by providing precise pressure control and real-time data integration to optimize well conditions in complex drilling environments. This advanced technology is set to support KOC's goals for enhanced safety, speed, and cost efficiency in well delivery. Weatherford claims that this agreement underscore its commitment to delivering cutting-edge technologies and dependable service, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in the Middle-East.

KNPC aims to boost profits with strategic spending cuts

Following a decline in the profits of local government oil companies in 2023-24, KNPC plans to reduce spending on refinery operations. It aims to save USD 650 million in 2024-25 which is expected to have a positive impact on the company's profits. KNPC is working to expand the production capacity of the Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries in order to reach a refining capacity of 800,000 barrels per day by 2025. The efforts exerted by KNPC have resulted in a daily refining rate exceeding 98 percent, with a production rate of 786,000 barrels per day. It has also been reported that KNPC's Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company (KAFCO) had a highly successful year in 2023-24, selling over 1.081 billion liters of jet fuel recording an increase of 144 million liters compared to the 2023. KAFCO has been selected to supply fuel to Sabiha Airport in Turkey and Colombo Airport in Sri Lanka.

KPC to go for 95% Kuwaitization by 2028

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has asked its subsidiaries to designate 2025 as the year for recruiting citizens in a bid to achieve the target Kuwaitization rate of 95% in the oil sector by 2028. Till first quarter of 2024, the current percentage of Kuwaitis employed recorded in the oil sector is 91%. It has also been reported that there will be more flexibility in the testing process for citizens applying for jobs in oil companies. Sources said majority of the specializations in the oil industry jobs that will be filled next year will be for those who hold a bachelor's degree in Geology and Petroleum Engineering; and those who have completed a two-year diploma program in certain technical specializations like mechanical power transmission, chemical industries, and petroleum exploration and production.

With regards,

(Davinder Punj)
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