

**Embassy of India
Kuwait

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Kuwait's sun-driven production powers 16m gas cylinders a year

Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) has announced that Kuwait is now producing 16 million gas cylinders annually using solar energy through the Umm Al-Aish and Shuaiba plants, which have a combined production capacity of seven megawatts without using electricity from the national power grid. This is considered to be a significant move towards using solar energy to generate electricity in order to reduce reliance on electricity loads. This step is in line with the strategic plan of the country to reduce carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The project is described as a vital part of the ongoing effort to reduce reliance on conventional energy and limit environmental impact.

KPC boosts local spending to over 44% in the previous year

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries have increased their spending on materials, services, projects and other items sourced from the local private sector - reaching more than 44% over the past year. This increase reflects the focus of KPC on maximizing local oil sector activities by relying more on local suppliers and contractors. This approach is in line with the major strategy of KPC which emphasizes several key pillars - most notably, expanding the role of the local private sector in supplying materials, executing contracting and engineering works, and providing support services to meet the demands of oil projects. In some subsidiaries, local contribution levels have reached up to 30 percent.

Duqm Refinery to boost capacity to 270,000 bpd within two years

In a bid to strengthen cooperation and partnership for the largest joint project between two Gulf states in the field of refineries and petrochemicals, the management of Duqm Refinery - owned by Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and the Omani OQ Oil Group - intends to increase the refining capacity of Duqm from 255,000 to 270,000 barrels per day in the next two years. The management is considering increasing capacity without the need for investment or financing, given the strong demand for Duqm Refinery products as its products are clean and high-quality like diesel, jet fuel, naphtha, liquefied petroleum gas, sulfur and petroleum coke.

Kuwait fast-tracks new cities buildout

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has made progress in implementing major housing city projects, confirming its work based on approved timetables through the acceleration of work in various major housing city contracts. The number of public buildings under construction as of April reached 217. These buildings include 92 in Mutlaa City, 74 in the Affordable Housing Project, 31 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Project, 17 in Sabah Al-

Ahmad City, and one each in Jaber AlAhmad, Saad Al-Abdullah and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak. It was also ascertained that two supervisory contracts were signed to provide consultancy services and supervise the construction, completion and maintenance of public buildings in residential suburbs N1, N3, N2 and N4 in the Mutlaa City project.

Talks held on Google's investment

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications Affairs met with Ms Ruth Porat, President and Chief Investment Officer at Alphabet Inc. (Google), during her visit to Kuwait. The meeting aimed to strengthen their strategic partnership, focusing on technology and digital investment collaboration to enhance digital integration in government agencies. This initiative supports Kuwait's development vision, "New Kuwait 2035." Key attendees included Shaima Al-Terkait, Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), Abdulrahman Al-Thehaiban, Managing Director at Google Cloud MENA, Salim Eid, Head of Government Affairs at Google MENA and Martin Roski, Senior Director of Government Affairs at Google.

Public-private partnerships powering Kuwait's growth

Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment has expressed the need to strengthen all aspects of partnerships between the public and private sectors in order to achieve economic development in the country. PPP projects are a key pillar in realizing Kuwait Vision 2035 and the country's broader development objectives, contributing to the creation of sustainable value for the national economy. Kuwait's PPP model offers promising opportunities, particularly in the energy, infrastructure, logistics, and healthcare sectors. She pointed out that such partnerships can play a vital role in diversifying Kuwait's economy by fostering cooperation in sectors such as renewable energy, technology, and tourism – opening new avenues for growth, generating job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, and enhancing Kuwait's regional competitiveness.

Kuwait, Microsoft accelerate digital future

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications Affairs said its Ministry is committed to accelerating digital integration and enhancing government innovation by implementing the terms of its strategic partnership with Microsoft. During a high-level meeting with Microsoft's Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Judson Bezek-Althoff, the Minister said that Kuwait is making steady progress toward building an integrated digital system capable of keeping pace with global developments, enhancing the quality of government services, and creating an environment conducive to innovation and investment. One of the most important gains of this partnership is the empowerment of national competencies through specialized training programs in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and advanced technologies, consolidating the role of Kuwaiti cadres in leading the transformation towards a competitive and sustainable digital economy.

Kuwaiti Commerce and Interior Ministries ink MoU to combat money laundering

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism General Department at the Ministry of Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. Various officials from both ministries attended the signing ceremony. The objectives of the MoU are to facilitate the exchange of information and data, improve integration in regulatory processes, and enhance the efficiency of managing reports and suspected cases.

New Public Debt Law aims to boost financing and liquidity

The Undersecretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Finance has highlighted the core objectives of the newly issued Public Debt Law as 'Financing and Liquidity', highlighting its role in providing the State with diversified financial resources, both locally and internationally, to support development projects. The law is designed to strengthen domestic financial markets, stimulate the banking sector, and reflect the State's capacity to borrow responsibly. Access to liquidity will enhance the financial reserves of the country, helping it to meet obligations amid evolving global economic conditions. The Public Debt Law will play a pivotal role in advancing numerous development initiatives, ultimately driving economic growth and supporting Kuwait's vision of becoming a regional financial hub.

Plan underway to upgrade Kuwaiti ports

As part of the ongoing development efforts in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, a plan is being implemented to improve Kuwaiti ports, thereby, boosting the national economy. The development of the ports will contribute to increasing the volume of maritime trade, particularly in the lead-up to the completion of the Mubarak Port project. The projects are aimed at boosting the economy and enhancing port infrastructure and include a 20 percent increase in the capacity of Shuwaikh Port by next year, along with the expansion of storage areas at Shuaiba Port until the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port is completed.

Larsen & Toubro bids low for Kuwait oil contract

India's Larsen & Toubro has submitted the lowest bid for a contract tendered by state-owned downstream oil company Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC). The project scope covers engineering, supply, installation and commissioning assistance required to replace the regenerator in fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit 86 at the Mina Al-Ahmadi (MAA) refinery. Larsen & Toubro submitted a bid of KD9,810,000 (\$31.9m). The only other bidder was South Korea's YuhanTech Company, which submitted a bid of KD10,478,000. The Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery was previously upgraded and integrated with Kuwait's Mina Abdulla (MAB) refinery as part of the \$16bn Clean Fuels Project (CFP).

Petrofac bids low for Kuwait oil contract

UK-based engineering company Petrofac has submitted the lowest bid on an oil project focused on the installation of a separation gathering centre (SGC), known as SGC-2, in the eastern region of Kuwait referred to as EK-2. The scope also includes crude debottlenecking work. The project has an estimated value of KD207m (\$670.2m). The client on the project is state-owned upstream operator Kuwait Oil Company. When the project was originally tendered in June 2024, many companies were prequalified to bid, but Only Larsen & Toubro and Petrofac ultimately submitted bids.

Kuwait seeks firms for 500MW solar project

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy (MEWRE) through the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has invited interested firms to prequalify for a contract to develop zone two of the third phase of its Al-Dibdibah power and Al-Shagaya renewable energy project. The zone two solar photovoltaic (PV) project will have a net capacity of 500MW, about half the capacity of the zone one project. The Al-Dibdibah Power and Shagaya Renewable Energy Phase 3 Zone 2 project is located within the administrative boundary of Kuwait's Jahra Governorate, west of Kuwait City. MEWRE and KAPP expect utility developers to submit their statements of qualifications by 24 July 2025. The selected developer or developer consortium will design, finance, construct, maintain and transfer the 500MW solar independent power project (IPP). It will sign a 30-year power-purchase agreement with MEWRE, and export the output to Kuwait's national electricity grid and transmission network.

With regards,

(Davinder Punj)
Second Secretary (Commerce)