

Local

Zour refinery to propel growth of Kuwait's oil sector, economy

Refinery's petroleum products have been sent to 18 countries worldwide



KUWAIT: Participants pose for a photo during the Ministry of Oil seminar on Al-Zour refinery. — KUNA photos



Al-Zour refinery is one of the largest oil refineries in the world.

KUWAIT: Al-Zour refinery is one of the largest projects in the oil sector and a key pillar of Kuwait Petroleum Company's strategy for 2040, given the large and pivotal role assigned to it in shaping the future of the oil industry in the country, the Ministry of Oil said Monday.

The Director of Public Relations and Media at the Ministry of Oil Sheikhha Tamader Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, explained at a seminar organized by the ministry that the refinery enhances Kuwait's exports of high-quality oil derivatives that meet international specifications.

She added that the refinery guarantees a safe and stable supply of clean fuel supplies to power plants in Kuwait. The completion of construction operations of the refinery will make it one of the largest refineries in the world, with a capacity of 615,000 barrels per day.

She said that the refinery will provide the industry with great flexibility because it is designed to process various types of Kuwaiti crude oil.

Head of the planning team at the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) Abdullah Al-Kandari said that the refinery will allow Kuwait to become self-sufficient and reduce

sulfur oxide emissions from power plants. The project will also enhance Kuwait's ability to refine heavy oil and produce high-quality petroleum products that meet the standards required in the global market. The refinery will also help create new job opportunities for Kuwaitis. Kandari added that the refinery contains the largest group of desulfurization units in the world, which purify residual oil to produce high-quality diesel with a very low sulfur content.

68 oil shipments

The refinery has had to get some petroleum products from KNPC to accel-

erate initial operations. It has also begun a trial run of a crude oil distillation unit as of May 11. The unit has already refined 2.5 million barrels of crude oil, thus securing an important and major stock of petroleum products which contributes to the smooth operation of the rest of the units.

The total production capacity of the Zour refinery increased to 410,000 barrels per day since the successful operation of the mini refinery in March 2023, said Kandari. Also in March 2023, the ministry received an oil carrier in preparation for exporting the first shipments of sulfur from the refinery. Work is cur-

rently underway to equip the third mini refinery for the pre-operation stage.

Senior Planning Engineer at KIPIC Rawaa Bouftain, said that the products of the refinery have been sent to 18 countries around the world through 68 oil shipments.

Bouftain stressed the importance of the human capital as a pillar of the oil industry and its renaissance in Kuwait and one of the most important elements of KPC's strategy for 2040. She pointed out that the Zour refinery has provided many career opportunities for national cadres, with Kuwaitization rates reaching 95 per cent.

News in Brief

872 fire force members to get Military Duty Medal

KUWAIT: Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah gave instructions to take the necessary administrative action to grant more than 872 military personnel in the Kuwait Fire Force of various ranks the Military Duty Medal of different grades after they fulfilled requirements for this purpose. The Army Command said instructions of Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, who is also First Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, to grant this medal comes out of the political leadership's care for the affairs of the fire force members and its keenness to raise their morale and achieve justice and equality among them. — KUNA

Labor support approved for freelancers

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah submitted a request to the Cabinet to pay national labor support allowances to local freelancers and citizens running micro-enterprises. The decision was made to support local entrepreneurs, the authority said in a statement Sunday, noting that applicants must be at least 21 years of age.

End-of-year exams going smoothly: MoE

KUWAIT: Procedures adopted by the education ministry to prevent cheating during end of year exams for high school and middle school students are going according to plan, the ministry said Monday. The official spokesman of the Ministry of Education, Ahmad Al-Wahaida, said in a press statement on Monday that the leadership and officials of the ministry are following up the situation on the ground on a daily basis to ensure the regulations against cheating are strictly followed. Reports from the exam committees are being submitted directly to the minister daily. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Emil Karimov (left) and Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi cut the cake during the ceremony. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Ambassadors and officials were among those who attended the celebration of the 105th Independence Day of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan Embassy celebrates 105th Independence Day

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Azerbaijan held a reception on Sunday at Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmed Hall to mark the 105th Independence Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the sidelines of the event, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Mansour Al-Otaibi said the two countries aspire to develop and strengthen relations in all fields.

"Relations are developing and there is a desire on the part of the two countries to develop and improve them. Azerbaijan is a Muslim country and a country presiding over the Non-Aligned Summit. In March, Azerbaijan hosted a significant summit-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group, which was attended by the minister of foreign affairs. We have several agreements and diplomatic relations that began in 1994 after Azerbaijan emerged from the Soviet Union," he said.

Azeri Ambassador Emil Karimov said: "Azerbaijan is one of the ancient countries in the world with a rich history, culture and cuisine. Today,



Emil Karimov



Mansour Al-Otaibi

Azerbaijan is the leading country in the Caucasus." He noted that the first years of independence were very difficult and there was chaos, economic crisis, bad social situation and civil war, but this changed with the efforts of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev.

Karimov said Azerbaijan-Kuwait relations was founded during the first meeting between Heydar Aliyev and Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the OIC summit in Casablanca in 1994. Then the two leaders met in Copenhagen in 1995 and New York in 1996. "We have close and friendly relations with Kuwait, especially in the agriculture sector, light industry and education. We have big potential in the tourism sector. Last year, more than 22,000 Kuwaiti tourists visited



Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Emil Karimov is seen with Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi at the event.

Azerbaijan. We are very proud that Kuwaiti people like visiting Azerbaijan," he added.

The Azerbaijani ambassador said direct flights are operated by Azerbaijan Airlines, Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways between the two countries, with the flight duration being less than two hours, inviting guests to visit and enjoy Azerbaijan.

KUNA, ANSA renew media cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Italian News Agency (ANSA) renewed on Monday a media cooperation agreement between the two sides. KUNA Director-General Dr Fatima Al-Salem and ANSA Commissioner Director Stefano D'Alessandri signed the agreement via video conference in the presence of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Qahtani and Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Carlo Balducci.

Dr Salem praised the distinguished

ties between Kuwait and Italy, stressing joint keenness to strengthen them in various fields, including the media in all its aspects. She stressed KUNA's keenness to build a wide network of relations with ANSA in anticipation of an advanced future for the media sector and innovative means that advance it, while preserving its mission, values and goals.

Balducci affirmed that this agreement expresses the common desire to enhance understanding and mutual media cooperation, especially in the field of communication, information and exchange of journalistic and technical expertise between the two parties. The two agencies signed their first cooperation agreements in 1994, which were renewed in 2008 and 2015. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KUNA Director-General Dr Fatima Al-Salem and Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Carlo Balducci on the sidelines of signing the agreement. — KUNA photos



Kuwaiti and Italian officials are seen during their meeting.