

Local

KPC 2040 strategy 'ambitious'

Final communiqué outlines measures to reduce CO2 emissions

DOHA: Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Dr Saad Al-Barrak said Tuesday that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's (KPC) 2040 strategy program is robust and ambitious about energy transition and carbon emission reduction. Addressing a ministerial debate of the 12th Arab Energy Conference in Doha, the minister, who doubles as Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, said the region's countries are serious about the issue of renewable and clean energy, boasting that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the UAE, Jordan, and Algeria are leading this transition.

Al-Barrak, also KPC's Board Chairman, said the Middle East and North Africa countries, though rich in oil and gas resources, have boosted their renewable energy capabilities to 57 percent between 2022 and 2023. Pointing out attempts to reduce reliance on oil as a source of energy, the minister wondered about the insistence on depriving many people and countries, mostly developing countries, of being the source of an economy that can take them within 30 years to come to a life where they can enjoy welfare, security, and stability.

He added that Africa needs around \$25 billion annually for investment in energy until 2030, noting that many African people and others are still without access to electricity. Bahraini Minister of Oil and Environment Mohammad bin Daina said that the energy transition is not meant to serve the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change but to serve people. He added that fuel is a basic part of some countries' economies and incomes, so it should be maintained and consumed in a balanced way.

For his part, the Director-General of the Arab Planning Institute, Abdullah Al-Shami, said that there are many challenges pertinent to energy, including steady growth in the question of cities and demand for housing that consumes



Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Dr Saad Al-Barrak

29 percent of oil and gas. He added that oil-exporting countries, which are mostly in the Middle East, are locked in several problems, including high oil production costs, a lack of necessary oil technology, and low foreign investment. The 12th Arab Energy Conference kicked off in Doha on Monday, with the participation of many officials, including Kuwait's oil minister.

Reducing CO2 emissions

Meanwhile, the 12th Arab Energy Conference, organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Doha over the past two days, recommended tapping into the carbon resources of the member states while protecting the environment. The energy ministers of the OPEC member states agreed on a final communiqué that outlined steps for leveraging clean energy to reduce carbon dioxide CO2 emissions in a bid to reach carbon neutral emissions by 2050. They highlighted the need to integrate the efforts to develop the energy sector, protect the environment, and achieve sustainable development into the developmental policies of OPEC members.

The development plans need to en-



Energy ministers of the OPEC pose for a group photo. — KUNA

sure balanced use of natural resources, diversification of the resources of the economy, and prioritizing environmental protection, the communiqué noted. The conferees agreed to work together to deepen the concept of sustainable development in the oil industry through the acquisition of the latest technologies related to energy efficiency and clean fuels. Regarding fossil fuels, they affirmed that they would continue to be the main source of energy for decades despite the ongoing efforts to promote renewable energies, according to the communiqué.

The ministers called for increasing investment in the oil and gas industry to avoid possible instability in the energy market and prioritizing the role of nuclear energy, as one of the most reliable

energies, in the national strategies of the OPEC member states. They also asserted the importance of upgrading and increasing the efficacy of the oil refineries as an initial step towards the production of environmentally friendly oil by-products. They called for expanding the production of hydrogen to build more competitive economies and strengthening cooperation among the petrochemical companies of the OPEC member states.

The conference recommended drawing the energy policy in a way that could ensure rationalization of consumption and diversification of the sources of energy without affecting economic development policies. It underscored the role of strategic partnerships among the government and private sector companies as a main

catalyst for economic development based on carbon cycling. It also highlighted the need to employ the latest technologies and applications of the fourth industrial revolution, including artificial intelligence, to increase the operating capacity of the oil and gas sector.

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr Saad Al-Barrak, took part in the two-day conference, chaired by Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs and Managing Director and CEO of Qatar Energy, Eng. Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, with OPEC's Secretary-General Haitham Al-Ghais attending. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled to host the 13th OPEC conference in 2027. — KUNA

Kuwait, UN tackle human trafficking and smuggling

KUWAIT: The National Standing Committee on the implementation of the national strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants represented by the Ministry of Justice signs a declaration of intent with the United Nations Office on drugs and crime for the GCC region, and holds its eighth meeting.

The undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Hashim Al-Qallaf, deputy chairman of the committee, and after coordinating the visions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed a declaration of intent with the United Nations Office on drugs and crime for the GCC region, where the delegation of the office is headed by Judge Dr Hatem Ali. This cooperation aims to move forward in strengthening the frameworks of future partnership between the two parties in the field of combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. This is based on the keenness of the National Standing Committee on the implementation of the national strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, chaired by His Excellency the minister of justice and the minister of State for Housing Affairs, to implement the national strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, especially the third axis related to building partnerships and internal, regional and international cooperation.

He stressed that this cooperation comes in implementation of the vision of the state of Kuwait in strengthening cooperation frameworks and building partnerships with



Kuwait, UN representatives sign agreement preventing human trafficking and immigrant smuggling. — KUNA

international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations and its various organs, and that this co-operation is the first building block towards expanding the horizons of future cooperation in this important field.

He also pointed out that Kuwait spares no efforts to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through many mechanisms. Kuwait issued Law No. 91 of 2013 on combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, followed by the adoption by the Council of ministers in 2018 of the national strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and directed the establishment of a standing committee to implement it.

The committee issued in 2019, the national referral system for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, which includes several stages beginning with the identification of victims document them, then refer them to the competent authorities for investigation, initiate a public lawsuit to punish the perpetrators according to deterrent provisions, and finally reintegration or voluntary return.

Deputy FM meets UN representative to Iraq



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday met with Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Iraq, Claudi Cordon. Sheikh Jarrah and Cordon discussed ways of cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), a foreign ministry statement said. — KUNA



AUK students at Kuwait Times Editorial Department.

AUK students tour Kuwait Times and Kuwait News

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: American University of Kuwait students from different disciplines visited Kuwait Times and Kuwait News to dive into the world of journalism. Whether they are majoring in engineering, psychology or English, the possibilities in the field of journalism are endless if one has the passion and potential. Sheetal Swamy from the Alumni Department at AUK organized this trip with Kuwait Times to give students a taste of real-life journalism and meet real journalists for an eye-opening experience, showcasing how limitless the potential of journalism truly is.

Kuwait Times and Kuwait News video reporter and content creator Dhoha Al-Isaa took the students on a tour around the newspaper's multiple departments to learn about the role of each department in bringing news to the world. The students were also given a brief



AUK students take pictures of their precious keepsake.

on Kuwait Times' 62-year history, and every student received their own copy of Kuwait Times' first edition. From the newsroom to the meeting room to the archives room where Kuwait Times keeps its priceless historical documents for the past 62 years, Issa took the students to the press, artistic co-working space and ultimately the studio. One-to-one interviews with students were hosted in the studio to be shared on Kuwait Times' social media platforms.



Group picture of Kuwait Times team with AUK students. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Dhoha Al-Isaa introduces AUK students to the work behind the scenes at Kuwait Times.



AUK students looking through the archives.