

Industrialisation Minister Hussain Kamel. It appears that the ministry's company **Techcorp** was called in to assist a local company which was having problems with building the piers. Kamel said on 30 April that the project would be completed in less time and for less money than originally planned by the client, the Housing & Construction Ministry.

● Correction: London merchant bank **Morgan Grenfell & Company** says the loan it arranged to cover the balance of a \$53 million financing deal not covered by Swedish export credit agency **EKN**, was for \$6.3 million, not £11 million as reported (MEED 9:6:89). Morgan Grenfell was also agent for the \$53 million loan it arranged to finance the supply of switchgear by Zurich-based **ABB Asea Brown Boveri**. The syndication was arranged jointly by the London branches of **Gulf International Bank (GIB)** and **Arab Banking Corporation (ABC)**.

JORDAN

Grid link loans announced

The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social & Economic Development (AFESD) has made an initial agreement to provide a \$35 million loan for the \$170 million project to link the national electricity grid with Egypt. The fund will lend Egypt \$125 million under the same agreement.

The project entails construction of a 300-kilometre 500-kV link between Suez and Aqaba with an 11-kilometre submarine cable from Aqaba to Sinai. It is due to begin in 1990, with completion scheduled for 1993. Several companies have been invited to bid for detailed design and supervision of the project (MEED 9:6:89).

IN BRIEF

● The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has added \$2.4 million to an initial \$5.5 million grant for a private sector development project being carried out in co-operation with the Planning Ministry. The scheme provides computers, accounting and auditing, marketing, advertising and industrial management and engineering services. USAID has also added a further \$2.5 million to a \$5 million Health Ministry family planning programme.

● Government changes have continued with the appointment of five new ministry secretary-generals. Sami Sunnaa goes to the agriculture ministry, Daoud Khalaf to public works and housing, Radi Ibrahim to supply, Safwan Toukan to planning, and Mohammad Smadi to transport and telecommunications. Mansour Ibn Tarif takes Sunnaa's place as director-general of the Agricultural Credit Corporation. Abdullah al-Jazi is to be director-general of the post office and postal savings department, and former agriculture under-secretary Salem al-Lawzi has been appointed an adviser to the prime minister's office. The appointments take effect from 11 June.

● National carrier **Royal Jordanian** will provide local maintenance services for **Air France** A-310 Airbus aircraft.

KUWAIT

Swiss win transmitter contract

The Zurich-based **ABB Asea Brown Boveri** has won a KD 4.4 million (\$14.8 million) contract to expand Kabd radio station for the Information Ministry. The order is for supply, delivery and erection of four 500-kW shortwave transmitters. Completion is due in 20 months.

This is the second extension of Kabd. The first was carried out by BBC Brown Boveri & Company of Switzerland and its West German affiliate — both now part of ABB — under a \$14 million contract awarded in June 1987. This called for installation of two 500-kW transmitters plus associated facilities (MEED 4:7:87). The new transmitters will be installed in the same building. The local portion of the work will be carried out by **BBC Brown Boveri Electrical Company Kuwait**.

The project is part of the ministry's plans to upgrade and extend its radio and television broadcasting facilities. A tender for Kabd's third extension is expected soon; this will involve adding two more transmitters and a turntable antenna.

Prequalification invited for polypropylene plant

Contractors have been invited to prequalify for a contract to build a polypropylene plant for the local **Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC)**. Application forms are available from PIC for KD 100 (\$338), to be returned by 29 July.

The proposed plant will have an annual capacity of 80,000 tonnes a year (t/y) and is expected to cost up to \$140 million, earlier reports said (MEED 13:1:89). The contract will involve engineering, procurement of equipment, erection, construction and maintenance on a lump sum basis of a complete plant for production of polypropylene resin, plus utilities and associated facilities. Work will include the necessary connections to PIC's fertiliser, salt and chlorine plants.

Licence, know-how and basic engineering for the polypropylene unit and propylene purification unit will be provided by the US' **Union Carbide Corporation**.

Contractors wishing to participate should be local companies, or have a local partner or agent registered with the Commerce & Industry Ministry and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The prequalification announcement warns that only a limited number of contractors will be selected to participate in the tender.

The plant will be built in the Shuaiba industrial zone and will take feedstock from Mina al-Ahmadi refinery. It was originally envisaged in 1985 that the plant would produce 62,000 t/y. Its revised capacity is made possible by **Kuwait National Petroleum Company's** decision to go ahead with a 40,000-barrel-a-day revamp of the fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) unit at Mina al-Ahmadi, for which the US' **UOP** has been appointed licensor. Prequalification was

recently announced for an associated methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) unit to be added to the refinery (MEED 10:2:89).

IN BRIEF

● Sweden's **Ericsson** has a letter of intent from the local **Mobile Telephone Systems Company** for a SKr 285 million (\$27 million) contract to supply a mobile telephone system to serve 20,000 subscribers.

LEBANON

● Muslim areas staged general strikes as part of national mourning for the death of Iran's spiritual leader Imam Khomeini, who enjoyed strong support from sections of the Shia community. The mourning ceremonies momentarily overshadowed the continuing conflict between army commander Michel Aoun and Syria.

LIBYA

● A four-person committee has been established to plan the reorganisation of the oil sector (MEED 2:6:89). It is understood to include Ali al-Fatturi, a consultant at Libya's **National Oil Corporation (NOC)**; Mustapha Zuraiq, a former director of the tax department at the petroleum secretariat; Salih Khawaja of NOC's planning department; and Abd al-Samad Dadush of NOC's legal department. The committee is to define the structure of the newly revived secretariat (MEED 24:3:89). It will also study oil service companies, refineries, and marketing and downstream operations. The committee is expected to complete this work by 1 September, the Nicosia weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) says.

● Petroleum Secretary Fawzi al-Shakshuki, arriving in Vienna for an OPEC meeting on 1 June, said the country supports OPEC's quotas, its overall ceiling and the \$18-a-barrel benchmark price. However, Libyan sources at the meeting said Tripoli will strive to maintain quota parity with Kuwait. The two countries are allowed to produce 1.037 million barrels a day (b/d) each in first-half 1989. Shakshuki said another meeting is planned with the five US oil companies whose Libyan assets have been frozen. "We are still negotiating," he said. Studies are under way on an oil discovery made by Romania's **Rompertrol**, he added. "It is a large field, but because of its distance from the mainland, careful preparations have to be made." Libya hopes to supply the 108,000-b/d Zawia refinery, the country's second largest, from the new field.

MOROCCO

Soviet finance breaks ground for M'Jara dam

Ground-breaking is scheduled to start in early July on the M'Jara dam project following the signature of a protocol with Moscow to finance