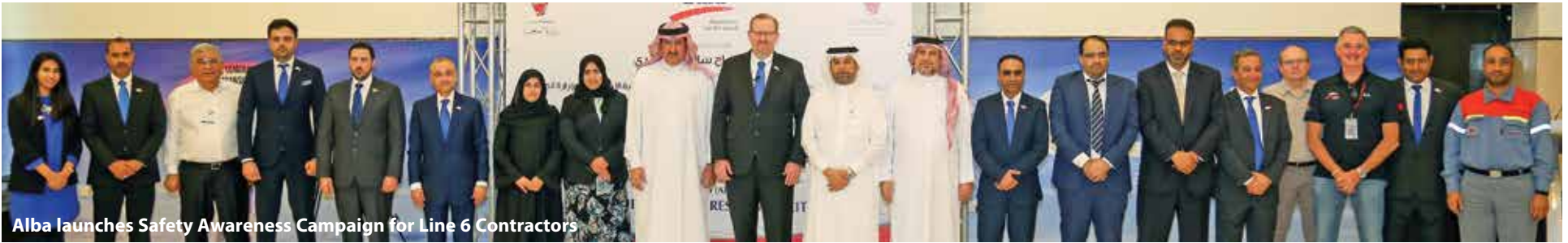


Alba launches Line 6 safety awareness campaign



Alba launches Safety Awareness Campaign for Line 6 Contractors

Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) launched a new safety awareness campaign "My Health ... My Responsibility" yesterday targeting Line 6

Contractors at the Alba Oasis Hall.

Organised by Alba and in partnership with the Ministry of Health, this two-day event was held under the patronage

of the Undersecretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Subah bin Salem AlDoseri. The campaign was inaugurated by Alba's Chief Executive Officer,

Tim Murray in the presence of Alba Executives, Directors, and Managers as well as Line 6 Contractors' Officials, in addition to representatives from both ministries.

This tailored campaign aims to improve the contractors' awareness towards safety and health during the summer months especially heat stress and dehydration. This

event features a number of presentations delivered by speakers from Alba, Ministry of Health as well as Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Oil, gas key to future energy: Aramco boss

Istanbul

Oil and gas will remain central to the world's supply of energy for decades to come, despite a surge of interest in renewables, the chief executive of giant producer Saudi Aramco Amin Nasser said yesterday.

Oil major bosses and energy ministers are meeting at the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, with the outlook clouded by low crude oil prices and exacerbated by the drive towards renewables which have driven down investment to record lows.

Nasser stressed the need to ramp up investment in underlining the continuing energy importance of oil and gas.

"Financial investors are shying away from making much needed investment," he said, warning that without higher investment levels "energy transition and energy security may be fatally



Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser compromised."

Meanwhile, the decision announced last week by Volvo to phase out petrol-only cars from 2019 in favour of electric has also sent ripples of concern around the industry.

The chief of the Saudi Arabian energy giant said that there is "widespread agreement" that even as the world moves to greater use of renewables over fossil fuels,

"petroleum will continue to be the heart of the energy mix."

He said that while "expectations for alternatives are through the roof" history shows that energy transitions to different sources tend to be "long and complex processes".

"The renewables still have major challenges, they do not compete with oil. It takes a long time for new fuels to seize market share," he said, noting

that electric cars would also still need time to take off.

With the global economy forecast to grow sharply as populations increase, he said it is a "mistaken assumption that alternatives will be rapidly deployed".

"Rising demand for all sources of energy -- with oil and gas at the heart of the mix -- will be the reality for decades to come," he said.

Nasser said that despite the clear importance of oil and gas in the future energy mix, the outlook was harmed by the tens of billions lost in deferred and cancelled investment since the current spate of low oil prices began.

The downturn has blown a major hole in the budgets of key OPEC and non-OPEC producers reliant on robust oil prices for healthy finances.

"New discoveries are also on a major downward trend," Nasser added. (AFP)

Qatar Petroleum and Total to launch joint venture

Doha

State-owned Qatar Petroleum and French energy giant Total will formally launch a 25-year joint venture to develop the Al Shaheen oil field this week, the companies said yesterday.

The North Oil Company, to be launched today, will be made up of a 70 per cent stake from QP and a 30 per cent stake from Total, which is taking over operations from Maersk Oil, according to a statement released by Qatar Petroleum.

The site it will develop is located some 80 kilometres (50 miles) off Qatar's northeast

coast and lies over the North Field, one of the world's largest oil and gas fields.

While the contract was announced last year, the launch comes amid the worst crisis to hit Qatar, in years.

Central bank Governor Sheikh Abdullah Bin Saoud al-Thani also told US media at the weekend that Qatar has \$340 billion in reserves to weather the crisis.

The signing of the Total contract also comes amid reports that Saudi Arabia and the UAE may pressure international companies to either do business with them or with Qatar.

Kuwait airline says laptop ban lifted

Kuwait City

Kuwait Airways said Sunday that a ban on laptops and tablets in the cabins of its US-bound flights had been lifted by Washington.

"Now our passengers flying from Kuwait International Airport to in #NY will be able to use all of their personal electronic devices," the emirate's flag carrier said on *Twitter*.

The United States in March barred all electronic

devices larger than a mobile phone in the cabins of direct flights to the US from 10 airports in Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa, only allowing them in hold luggage.

Dubai-based Emirates, Turkish Airways, Qatar Airways and Saudi Arabia's national airline have all said their passengers are now allowed to bring personal electronics on board direct flights to the US.

Gulf Air IT Data Centre achieves tier 3 standard compliance



Gulf Air recently celebrated its newly renovated IT Data Centre achieving tier 3 standard compliance classification. Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer Maher Salman Al Musallam visited the IT Data Centre, formally inaugurating the upgraded facility which allows the airline to ensure that their hosted mission-critical services are continuously available. Commenting on this achievement Gulf Air Director Information Technology Dr. Jassim Haji, said: "Achieving this classification confirms our compliance with best practice and standards as we continually strive to improve the airline's business sustainability, continuity and commitments." Above, Maher Salman Al Musallam (centre) and Dr. Jassim Haji are seen alongside members of Gulf Air's Information Technology Department