

Saudi pumps over 17% of global desalinated water

Saudi Arabia is pumping more than 17 per cent of the world's total desalinated water production and is in the process of expanding its output, a newspaper in the Gulf Kingdom reported on Saturday.

The country currently has 27 major water desalination plants, pumping nearly 2.8 million cubic metres per day, accounting for around 17.4 per cent of the world's total output, Aljazira said, quoting Fuhaid Al Sharif, governor of Saudi Arabia's general corporation for water desalination.

He said the Kingdom, the world's dominant oil power, is planning to invite bids to build another giant desalination unit with an output capacity of 550,000 cubic metres to supply nearly 400,000 cubic metres to the western town of Madina and nearby areas. The rest will be supplied to the industrial port of Yanbu while the project will also produce 1,700 MW of electricity.