

Alba-Nuwaidrat intersection revamp work in full swing

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Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf has toured the Alba-Nuwaidrat Interchange Revamp Project funded by the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development as part of the Gulf Fund Programme.

The minister said the project is one of the most important strategic projects to develop the roads network in the Kingdom, as the area is witnessing growing commercial and investment activity, together with a number of industrial facilities adjacent to the project.

Traffic is diverted for the construction of flyovers along Alba Roundabout. Once



Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf during a meeting to review the project

completed, the project will ease traffic congestion in the area. The project site currently witnesses a traffic movement of over 100,000 vehicles per day.

The minister called for speeding up the present work pace and complete the remaining work on Nuwaidrat

flyover, the link flyover to King Hamad Highway from Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah Avenue and Avenue 15 (specifically Refinery Avenue), which is to ensure smooth movement. He also stressed the importance of clearing locations once work

is completed, increasing working hours and doubling the number of workers on site.

The minister referred to the directives of the Leadership and the Government and their ongoing follow-up to the progress achieved in this highly important strategic project. He

also expressed the readiness of the Ministerial Committee for Urbanization & Infrastructure, chaired by HH Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, to monitor and detect possible obstacles that could obstruct work progress.

The ministry adopts the strategy of interim launch of the different phases involved in the implementation of the project, where each part is opened for traffic once completed, aiming to ease the traffic congestion. The ministry, for example, opened the right lane for traffic coming from Shaikh Jaber Al Sabah Avenue towards Estiqlal Highway, which contributed to easing traffic congestion and reducing waiting time.

The minister said that 152 pillars were installed along Nuwaidrat Roundabout. Also, all castings in the north and south flyovers were put in place and 97 pillars had been, prior to completing the casting of the 2 flyovers in the upcoming phase, he added.

Airports will see major design changes in future: Expert

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Expanding needs of airports will force many changes to airport design and the design concept of the passenger terminal buildings in particular will see major changes in within a decade, an expert said.

Airports are getting bigger to accommodate the growing needs of passengers and aircrafts, as a result a major overhaul in design will be necessary to keep in line developments, according to Airports Arabia Conference Chairman, Dheya A. Aziz Tawfiqi. He was speaking to DT News on the sidelines of the second edition of the Airports Arabia Conference which concluded yesterday.

Topics including planning, airport design, airport engineering, architecture, baggage handling system,



Dheya A. Aziz Tawfiqi fuelling systems, airport presentations were discussed during the conference. The event was organized by Bahrain Society of Engineers Under the patronage of Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, Minister of Transportation & Telecommunication.

"Passenger terminal buildings at airports will be something that will be changed on a continual basis because of the increasing size of the

aircrafts. The aircrafts these days are bigger than what it used to be, the capacity of the aircrafts are much bigger than what we had 30 to 40 years ago. As a result of this it needs bigger space for landing and passenger disembarking, luggage handling etc."

"Another aspect to note is automation, because of the developments in ICT there are more technology at the airport and the architects must take into consideration such new developments. There are a lot of IT systems available at the airports for handling the baggage and catering to the passengers. So the planning process while designing an airport is very complex now to accommodate the technologies. These things change very quickly, we will see rapid changes in the technology that will again affect the design. Therefore, design must be flexible so that in case there are any changes the design can be altered," he said.

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