

East Sitra City phase 1 completed 28%

Works, Housing minister jointly inspect work progress

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The first phase of construction of East Sitra City, a public housing mega-project in the Kingdom, which was started in 2020 for 1077 housing units, has achieved a 28% completion.

"We expect the current phase to complete during the second half of 2023," said Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, the Minister of Works, and Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi, the Housing and Urban Planning Minister.

They were paying a visit to the city of East Sitra to inspect the work progress.

Reviewing the work progress, the ministers also stressed the need for closer cooperation and coordination in implementing development projects in the Kingdom, especially in the housing sector.

Works Minister said they completed detailed designs for the project awarded earlier this year by the tender board for BD424,000.

The project will have two phases, the first of which aims to link the city to the surrounding road network through two sea bridges, one in the northwest and the other in the southwest. A four-lane road will connect the project to its street.

The first phase includes Sheikh Salman bin Ahmed Al-Fateh Street rehabilitation over



Ministers during the inspection visit

two kilometres.

The second phase includes linking the housing project with the road network by creating a street with three lanes in each direction.

Works Minister said they are currently studying a project to build a sewage water transmission line from the city of East Sitra to Sitra North Sewage Treatment Plant.

The ministry is also working on a project to build a conveyor line for treated sewage water

from Sitra North Sewage Treatment Plant to East Sitra City.

On the work progress, the ministers said they had completed more than 14 kilometres of sewage lines, 4 kilometres of rainwater drainage network lines, more than 2 kilometres of water lines, and the installation of more than 1 kilometre of sidewalks so far.

The general plan of East Sitra includes all educational, health, commercial and social services and facilities, said the Housing

minister.

"Schools, kindergartens, nurseries, 36 bus stops, a gas station, a centre for police and firefighters, main power stations, a water station, 24 parks and play areas are part of the project," said Amna bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi.

The city will also have 13 Houses of worship, a health centre, a social and development centre for children, a ballroom, 16 commercial centres, a post office, and 11 communication towers.



Proposed in 2014 by the Bahraini Ministry of Housing, the project involves land reclamation of 253 to 540 hectares (5.8 million square metres) off the eastern coast of Sitra island. Once completed, the reclaimed islands are estimated to consist of 3,157 housing units, serving more than 20,000 citizens.



The project is part of a concurrent series of 245 million BHD (\$649 million) public housing projects launched in the country in the 2010s, such as the Northern City and East Hidd City.

ANF foils attempt to smuggle heroin to Bahrain: report

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Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Force has foiled an attempt to smuggle heroin to Bahrain at Faisalabad airport, said re-

ports.

The report quoting ANF said officials held a man who had concealed 103 capsules of drugs in his abdomen. No further details are released.

Bahrain, Montenegro to boost ties

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Bahrain and Montenegro have agreed to develop and frame their cooperation on the youth and exchange experiences. Bahrain's Youth and Sports Minister Aymen bin

Tawfeeq Al Moayed and Montenegro's Secretary of State in the Ministry of Sports and Youth Amina Cikotic stressed in a virtual meeting the importance of bilateral relations that has opened up new vistas for wider cooperation.

Focus on Forensic Audit

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The Financial and Administrative Oversight Bureau is expanding the tasks of the Forensic Audit as one of the control tools for protecting public money, said a top official.

The move aims at helping entities in the Kingdom identify and bridge gaps to prevent and avoid violations and abuses, said Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the President of the Financial and Administrative Oversight Bureau.

A forensic audit allows the examination and evaluation of financial information of a firm or an individual for use as evidence in a court of law. It can gather evidence to prosecute a party for fraud, embezzlement or other financial claims.

The bureau in Bahrain has completed 11 such investigations and is currently working on two missions, said Shaikh Ahmed, adding that they are also simultaneously carrying out other regular tasks.

Shaikh Ahmed said the bureau is preparing a plan to follow up on previous reports and communications.

The process is for developing control mechanisms with a deep technical dimension to act as an "alarm" bell. Shaikh Ahmed said they have also formed an internal team to carry out such tasks in 2021.

On the new strategic plan of the Bureau (July 2021 - June 2025), Shaikh Ahmed said it focuses on modernising and developing tools and expanding its coverage of new areas.

The head of the investigative audit team, the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Control, Dr Issa Al-Nuaimi, said they conducted a training programme for "Capacity Building and Enhancement of Skills and Experience in the Field of Investigative Auditing" in cooperation with the international company Kroll.

"About 25 of our employees and relevant authorities benefited from the first phase," he said. Employees, Dr Al-Nuaimi said, had also obtained professional qualifications in this field, such as CFF and CAMS for tracking the tiresome practices of the perpetrators of financial crimes to hide and disguise funds.

Police arrest driver for jumping Red lights in Riffa

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Jumping red lights multiple times in the Riffa area had landed a driver in the dock.

Police said the man drove through several red lights, endangering people's lives and money.

Video clips of his adventure also went viral on social media platforms.

The head of the Traffic Prosecution said Public Prosecution is pursuing legal actions against the suspect.

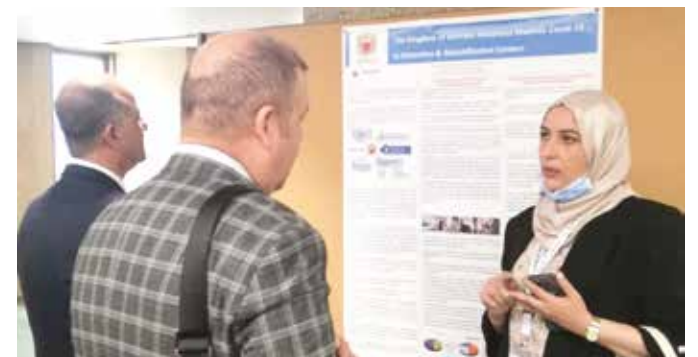
The man, police said, confessed to his crime when prosecutors confronted him with clips of his on-road reckless-



ness. The man is in provisional detention pending further action.



Interior Ministry Undersecretary Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa met United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todd. The meeting was on the sideline of a road safety meeting at the UN headquarters. The undersecretary expressed his appreciation to the UN envoy for the awareness initiatives and ongoing support to UN road safety meetings to improve global road safety. He stressed the importance of expanding the circle of the exchange of expertise and using modern methods to enhance traffic safety.



Interior Ministry's Health and Social Affairs Directorate has participated in the First World Conference on Health in Detention. The delegation was headed by Lt-Col Fatima Omar Abdulghfar. The conference aimed to provide health care professionals, managers working in detention settings, and academics to share their experiences, challenges, lessons learnt and research, and to mutually promote a whole government stewardship approach to health in detention.

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