

Future shines bright for Bahrain

Dr Mirza inaugurates second solar panels factory in the Kingdom

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Dr Abdul Hussain Mirza, the President of Sustainable Energy Authority, opened Solartec Green Energy Factory, the second of its kind for solar panels in the Kingdom.

The 2 million dinar factory, built on four thousand square meters, can produce 80,000 solar panels annually.

The production capacity is also equivalent to 25 Megawatts of clean solar energy annually.

"This will have a positive impact on encouraging the use of clean and contribute to creating professional and specialised job opportunities," said Dr Mirza.

In his inaugural speech, Dr Mirza outlined the achievements of Bahrain in solar energy production, after the endorsement of the national renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, in January 2017.

"Such achievements were possible thanks to the cooperation of private and public sectors under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister."



Dr Mirza with other officials during the inauguration



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DR ABDUL HUSSAIN MIRZA, THE PRESIDENT OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

"Bahrain is determined to raise the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix to 5% by the year 2025 and 10% by 2035," said Dr Mirza. The SEA presi-

dent also revealed that the Kingdom had achieved 70% of the first target for 2025.

For his part, Rabie Abdullah, CEO of Solartec Factory, thanked the leadership and expressed his appreciation to Dr Mirza and Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, for their continuous support.

Solartec also said that its manufacturing plant in the Kingdom functions using its solar farm, ensuring a minimal carbon footprint and within stringent European Union standards for legal and health & safety requirements.

According to the company's website, the American Mission Hospital A'ali (1MW) is one of its projects.

Solar One, inaugurated in 2017, was the first solar panel manufacturer in the Kingdom. The factory had an initial production capacity of 60,000 solar panels, or 15 MW of power, a year at the time of opening. Solar One is now operating as a full-on project developer, adding an EPC arm to the company in mid-2017. The company said it had served over 100 clients in 5 countries.

Solar One also claims to have contributed over 2 MW of clean energy to Bahrain's energy mix.



The world has installed 68 GW of solar PV power plants in just 2 years (2012 & 2013), almost the same as it installed in the previous 40 years combined

Many renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro and biomass are mainly derived from solar energy. Therefore, solar acts as a mother of most energy sources.



By 2050, International Energy Agency (IEA) says that the solar will be world's single largest source of electricity, supplying close to 30% of total. That's up from 1% currently.

Albert Einstein was the first scientist who got the Nobel Prize for his work on photo-voltaic effect.

NPRA to collect BD5 visa endorsement fee during the approval

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Starting this Sunday, the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs will collect a BD5 visa endorsement fee while processing an application.

As of now, the NPRA collects the visa fees from an arriving traveller at the port of entry.

"The new decision will save the travellers time and ease the procedures for entering the country," said NPRA in a statement.

The authority also said



the move is not valid for visas issued before Sunday.

2,481 students benefit Education Ministry's talent project

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A total of 2,481 students benefited from a programme for outstanding and talented students by the Bahrain Ministry of Education Special Education Directorate.

Dr Suad Al-Sayed Ibrahim Jaafar, the head of the Department of Special Education, said the project reached students from 27 primary and preparatory schools using a digital platform.

The directorate said it conducted 261 enrichment activities, 171 virtual events, and 69 training workshops for teachers through the platform.

During a survey held among parents, 98.2% of the respondent confirmed that the study materi-



A student participating in the programme

als were appropriate.

Around 65% of the parents confirmed that the materials do not constitute a burden on their children.

The survey also found that 68% of the respondents preferred the digital platform, while 19% ministry's educational portal.

A survey among students who took part found that 90% of the students are interested in continuing the programme.

Around 75% said the project helped them develop their skills, while 76% said the mentoring session boosted their confidence level.

Around 74% of students found the science lessons helpful, while 83% said they enjoyed all the activities.