

# Water and electricity projects worth \$1.53b

They are aimed at upgrading power supply systems across Bahrain and sustaining economic growth

● Deputy Prime Minister chairs Ministerial Committee meeting

● EWA planning and implementing various strategic projects

TDT | Manama

More than \$1.53 billion worth projects have been implemented in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the past decade, and more are underway, to boost the water and electricity services.

This was emphasised by Deputy Prime Minister and Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects Chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa as he chaired the Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects meeting.

Shaikh Khalid said Bahrain's positive and rapid economic growth has been accompanied by a strong drive to provide high-standard infrastructure



The ongoing East Hidd water transmission networks project

through strategic projects, especially in the electricity and water areas.

The government's belief in the importance of electricity and water as sources of energy, and the backbone of services for various sectors, prompted it to instruct EWA to plan and implement quality projects.

EWA Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak briefed the meeting on the projects to develop the electricity and water networks.

Shaikh Khalid thanked Al Mubarak and EWA Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa and the personnel for their efforts to implement the government's programme for the 2019-2022 related to the development of electricity and water networks.

The programme is aimed at securing a supportive environment for sustainable development, enhancing the readiness of energy and water infrastructure, and raising the efficiency and sustainability of the services provided.

Shaikh Khalid said the EWA projects also aim to ensure that

energy reaches all regions of the Kingdom and that it is regularly and sustainably supplied with this vital service to meet the current and future needs of the residential, investment, commercial, industrial and other sectors.

"We have the right to be proud of the EWA high completion rates of 78% as an average of implementing its projects within the current government programme until May," he said.

Projects reviewed during the meeting include the 400 kV Electricity Transmission Network

Development Project at a cost of \$740 million (Completed).

Others include the following: A 220-kV electricity transmission network development project (Phase 1) at a cost of \$200 million (96% completed).

It is scheduled to be completed in 2021 and aims to develop the 220- and 66-kV electrical transmission network to meet the growing demand for electricity and the transmission of electrical energy generated from power plants to industrial, commercial and residential centers

in Bahrain.

The 220- and 66-kilovolt electricity transmission network development project for housing projects - (Phase Two) at a cost of \$200 million (52% completed).

The construction of electricity transmission stations for Al Ramli housing project at a cost of \$50 million (55% completed).

The infrastructure development project on Hawar Islands at a cost of \$193 million (40% completed). It aims to provide Hawar Islands region with the electricity it needs for future urban development and all vital facilities on the islands.

The project to construct a water distribution station for the Ramli housing project at a cost of \$30 million. The project is 30% completed and is expected to be finished in 2023.

The project to develop water transmission networks in Salman Town, Khalifa Town and East Hidd at a cost of \$70 million. Started in 2021, it is expected to be completed in 2023. It is currently 30% completed.

The project to develop a water transmission network (Busaiteen and Juffair) at a cost of \$50 million. It was completed in 2020.

## Private sector's unity key to GCC economic growth: Nass



Nass with officials of GCC chambers and federations of chambers

TDT | Manama

Unifying efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council private sector and aligning them to the vision of their leaders are important to reinforce regional and international economic standing and competitiveness and enable the GCC to withstand threats and fluctuations.

This was emphasised by Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) chairman Sameer Nass yesterday during a keynote address at the 131st board meeting of the Union of Arab Chambers in Dubai.

Nass, also chairman of the Bahrain Chamber Chairman of the Federation of GCC Chambers, stressed the vital role of the private sector in shaping GCC's common economic decisions and laying the foundation of the region's economic integration in translation to the GCC leaders' aspiration.

He also underlined the importance of achieving food security for the region and launching the GCC common

market.

The event was attended by GCC's Secretary General Dr Nayef Al Hajraf and the chairmen of GCC member chambers and federations of chambers, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Federation of GCC Chambers Dr Saud Al Meshari.

Commencing the meeting, Dr Al Hajraf stressed on the importance of consolidating efforts and focusing on achieving long-term strategic goals that serve the aspiration of the GCC member states of achieving economic integration such as the GCC common market, customs union, and the GCC railway as endorsed by the leaders during the late Summit of Sultan Qaboos and Shaikh Sabah held in Al Ula, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dr Al Hajraf underlined the importance of encouraging and supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as they constitute a key component of the economy of the region and contribute to enhancing the region's economic diversity and vigour.

## Woman on trial for marrying three men

TDT | Manama

An Arab woman, in her 30s, is standing trial for getting married to three men, all of whom were friends, simultaneously, the High Criminal Court heard.

The woman managed to deceive the three friends, who believed that she was single and convinced them to get married to her.

According to court files, all the three victims paid a dowry worth a combined total of BD4,500, and the woman embezzled the money.

The woman was able to fool them after she forged her personal information providing a different identity to each victim. She stayed with her first victim for four months, during which she tied the knot with the second victim.

The woman told the Public Prosecution that she was a divorcee when she married each one of them, but such allegations were deemed untrue following investigation.

## Largest central solar energy system project deal signed

● It will provide clean energy for The Bahrain Mall

TDT | Manama

Majid Al Futtaim Company and Yellow Door Energy Company signed an agreement virtually to install the largest central solar energy system with a maximum production capacity of 6.2 megawatts to provide clean energy for The Bahrain Mall.

It is under the patronage of Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) President Dr Abdulhussein bin Ali Mirza.

The event was attended by Chief Sustainability Officer at Majid Al Futtaim Holding Ibrahim Al Zu'bi, Carrefour Bahrain Director at Majid Al Futtaim Retail Jerome Eckel, Chief Commercial Officer at Yellow Door Energy Rory McCarthy, CIO of Economic Development



An artist's impression of the project

Board Mahmood Al Aradi and a number of experts from the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) and representatives of Majid Al Futtaim, Carrefour Bahrain and Yellow Door Energy.

It is considered a pioneering project and a great initiative for the private sector to support the national efforts to imple-

ment the National Renewable Energy Plan by encouraging the use of clean energy and reduce electricity consumption costs, in addition to reducing the carbon footprint of buildings and major commercial facilities, thus contributing in achieving national goals related to renewable and sustainable energy resources.

## RBAF participates in 25th meeting of GCC Air Armed Forces



Commander of the Royal Bahrain Air Force (RBAF) Air Vice-Marshal Shaikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Khalifa participated virtually in the 25th GCC Air Force and Air Defense Commanders of the Armed Forces. The meeting reviewed a number of topics related to joint military action among the GCC states regarding the air force and air defense, and ways to enhance military cooperation.