

business

Solar energy to power Waqf

Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza inaugurates first solar project in a government building at Jaffriya Waqf building in Seef

● Solar energy to power 535 government buildings in the Kingdom

● Power generated from each solar plate amounts to 300 watts

● Installation is expected to save BD700 per month

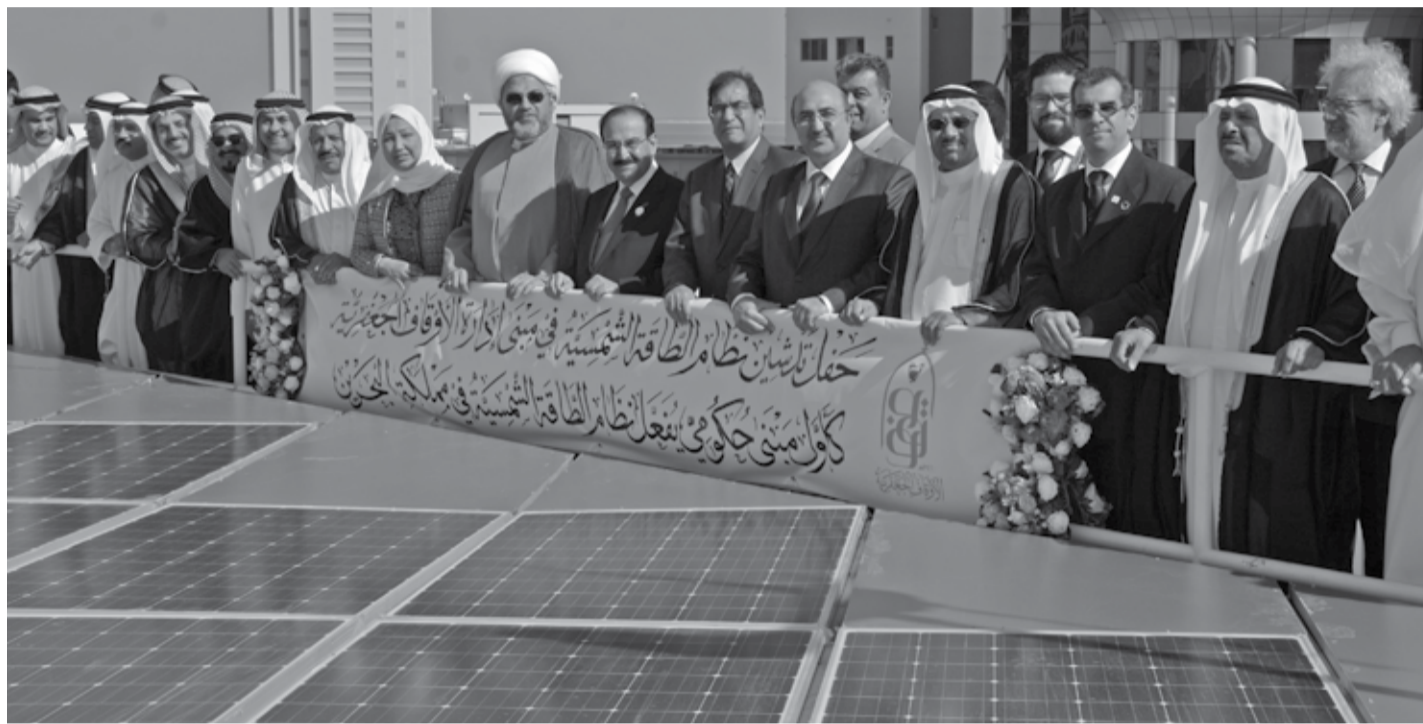
● Efforts on way to harness wind energy using wind turbines

● Pilot projects cover houses of worship, religious establishments and its properties including mosques, mukhtas and investment properties

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The first of the 535 government buildings in the Kingdom, identified to receive solar power, has received its solar roof, with Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza inaugurating the system installed at Jaffriya Waqf Building in Seef.

"This is a unique initiative in line with the government's directives in this field," said Dr Mirza adding: "The government is keen to encourage investment in renewable energies such as solar and wind energy."



Dr Mirza with officials during the inauguration ceremony of the solar system installed at Jaffriya Waqf Building in Seef

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DR ABDULHUSSAIN MIRZA

"We are seeking to expand the use of wind energy, especially since Bahrain launched last April the first wind atlas, which is a tangible indicator of the national plan for renewable energy and energy efficiency."

The minister pointed out that the Jaffriya Endowments Directorate is one of the first institutions in the nucleus of the modern state, which was founded in 1928.

Dr Mirza congratulated the Directorate employees under the chairmanship of Sheikh Mohsen Al Asfour for the achievement.

The inauguration also falls in conjunction with the celebrations of Bahrain's National Day

and the Accession Day of His Majesty King Hamad on December 16 and 17. The minister congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the modern Bahraini state in 1783 AD, and the 47th anniversary of its accession to the United Nations as a full member as well as the 19th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to power.

Dr Mirza said the initiative

encourages the use of clean energy, diversifying its sources and seeks to improve energy efficiency for the overall sustainable development of Bahrain.

Sheikh Mohsen Al-Asfour said the establishment of the Sustainable Energy Unit in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promotes investment in renewable energies such as solar energy.

Other approved projects

The Directorate has approved the implementation of pilot projects in the houses of worship, religious establishments and its properties including mosques, mukhtas and investment properties.

The project would be implemented at the Sheikh Abdullah Mosque in the village of Al-Daih and Al-Kuwailiya Mosque in the village of Buri. It has also been launched at the ma'atam of Maatam bin Shabib in the northern region of Al-Sahla.

90 Kilowatts per day

The project involves installing 300 solar power panels in the building, including 232 fixed plates and 68 mobile plates. Power generated from each plate would be 300 watts, and a total of 90 kilowatts of production capacity per day, which is 900 units per day.

The installation is expected to save BD700 per month with the capital and the cost of installation will be recovered in four and a half years time.

Harnessing wind energy

Efforts are also on way to harness wind energy using wind turbines. "Ten turbines have been installed as the first batch, producing 1,200 watts per turbine, and we will double them in the near future after ensuring their feasibility and success in terms of ensuring generation and production," said Al Asfour.

"Continuous and round-the-clock availability of tropical wind in most periods due to the proximity of the building to the seafront is an asset."

Al Asfour said the government has been working with Fab Lab to build a specialized centre for all alternative energy issues and promote them in our communities and manufacture what is possible.

Al Hawaj opens "Niche Garden Perfume"

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Under the patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Thajba bint Salman Al Khalifa, "Al Hawaj" Group opened its luxurious boutique, the "Niche Garden Perfume Boutique" at the Avenues Mall.

Present at the ceremony held on 2 December 2018 were Cecile Longe, Ambassador of the Republic of France, members of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society, wives of Ambassadors and Diplomats and invited guests.

Abdul Wahab Al-Hawaj, congratulating the wise leadership on the National Day celebrations and Bahraini women on Women's Day, said, "The group will donate a percentage of the boutique opening day proceeds to the Royal Charity Foundation."

Sheikha Thajba toured the boutique and expressed her admiration for the international brands, praising the quality, precision and sophistication of the products displayed.



In pictures, scenes from the opening ceremony