

# Changing the way we walk

Modern walkways with mist cooling system, sports equipment and other facilities on the way

● Works ministry completed over 20 walkway projects in various governorates

● Plans progressing for rubberised walkways

TDT | Manama

The Works Ministry is paying special attention for the comprehensive development of walkways and associated facilities in the Kingdom, said Works Minister.

Minister Essam Khalaf said the projects are being implemented in line with the Kingdom's vision 2030 launched by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa in October 2008.

Works Ministry has undertaken projects in seafronts, central parks and in all governorates of the Kingdom, Khalaf said adding that the ministry is also introducing solar energy in many of the projects.

The ministry, he said, is developing "walkways" by integrating modern cooling systems as well as other facilities to convert it into sporting facilities providing citizens with a safe environment to practice various activities.

As of now, the ministry has completed over 20 walkway projects in various governorates of the Kingdom, some of which being seafront projects and large



A walkway project

parks with walking tracks.

"Work is also progressing to developing rubberised walkways and enhance the green area by planting shade trees and environment-friendly trees," an AlAyam report quoting the minister as saying.

"Initiatives are also on way to add more sports equipment, children games and public facilities along the walkways," the minister said.

Introduction of cooling and mist spraying equipment and wireless internet services on walkways are also part of the plan.

The ministry, Khalaf said, is also mulling joining hands with the private sector in

the development of these projects.

Solar cooling and lighting systems

On the walkway projects in the Muharraq area, the minister said the Busesiteen coast walkway is a first of its kind in the development of waterfronts. "The project works on clean renewable energy, includes about 80 devices for exercise and physical activities, as well as other entertainment

facilities."

The Busesiteen coast walkway, which has a length of over 2 km, includes a public square, green spaces, family restrooms, recreational facilities, restaurants, other services, and parking for more than 400 cars. Its opening will coincide with the construction of a 3 km road in the Al Sayah area to reach the walkway with one lane in each direction. The project, minister said, will enhance domestic tourism and provide a new space for Bahraini families.

"The ministry is working on a cooling system that works by spraying mist," Khalaf said.

"This cooling system has been implemented in the walkway of Arad fort, which has an area of 50 thousand square meters located near the Seef complex in Muharraq, Muharraq,

is also distinguished by the large Khalifa Walkway project, the Busesiteen Housing Walkway which is 600 meters long, and the Doha Arad Walkway.

"A diving walkway has also been established and has a length of 600 meters and is located between Sheikh Issa Bridge and Sheikh Hamad Bridge. The Monastery and Samaheej walkway has also been established and is located on Muharraq Ring Road and have sports and games area, palm trees, and umbrellas. On Walkways adjacent to the village of Galali, opposite the island of Dilmunia, sports equipment and lights that operate on solar energy have been installed."

Sea fronts projects

The capital has several walk-

ways projects, the minister said, which includes the Tubli Walkway that directly overlooks the Tubli Bay. "The project extends over an area of 4,657 square meters, with a length of about 400 meters in its first phase."

The Sitra Bridge walkway is one of the other projects that overlooks the sea directly. "It is located along the Sitra Bridge overlooking the sea with a length of 2000 meters and includes green areas, palms and various trees in addition to two areas for children's games and sports for adults."

Saud Al-Faisal Walkway is one of the modern projects in the capital and is located in the north of the Juffair area. Ma'ameer Walkway, which is 720 square meters in length, includes green surfaces, palms and various trees in addition to a children's play area and public facilities.

**The ministry is working on a cooling system that works by spraying mist**

ESSAM KHALAF



Pictures courtesy of AlAyam

## When Venus, Moon break social distancing norms!

TDT | Manama

Experts say we are having a great season for planet-spotting, with most of the planets in the solar system putting up rare shows before naked eyes.

Our region today morning provided planet hunters one such rare instance of the Venus and Moon getting together, or as we say, "breaking social distancing norms" that too before naked eyes! How dare, isn't it? Yet, that happened!

Astronomers call these events conjunctions. In astronomy, a conjunction occurs when any



Picture courtesy of Forbes

two astronomical objects (such as asteroids, moons, planets, and stars) appear to be close together in the sky, as observed from Earth.

Although the moon and Venus appear close together on the sky's dome, they are not truly close together in space. At the time that the moon swings by Venus, the moon will be very close to its average distance from Earth (238,855 miles or 384,400 km). The close encounter of the

dynamic duo but was visible to naked eyes, thanks to Venus, also known as the "evening star, for being the third brightest object in the sky after the sun and moon.

Experts say Sharp-eyed people could pick up Venus in a daytime sky, as the moon is there to assist them. The trick is to find the moon first and then Venus.

According to Majed Abu Zahra, Chairman of the Saudi Astronomical Society, the phenom-

enon in which Venus reigned as the brilliant "morning star" was observable from most Arab countries.

"The moon and Venus are the second and third brightest objects in the sky after the sun, so they are seen even after the sky becomes bright," an AlAyam report quoted Abu Zahra as saying in an interview with Al Arabiya.

He explained: "Using binoculars, we can see the arched line separating the illuminated and

dark side of the moon and the three-dimensional view of the moon's topography."

"When you observe Venus through a telescope, it's possible to see its disk illuminated 50.1 per cent thanks to the sunlight at this time of the year.

"However, due to the movement of the planet in its smaller orbit around the sun, during the coming months, the disk of the Venus will get smaller as its distance from the Earth increase. This will be accompanied by a gradual increase in the Sunlight illuminating the disk until it reaches its full moon phase and returns to the evening sky in late March of 2021," he added.

Explaining further, he said, "Venus is often known to people as the evening star" when it is seen at the evening sky, and as the "morning star in the morning sky."

Ancient people, he said, believed for a long time that the morning star and the evening star were two different bodies, so they called them "Phospho-



**whenever you see the moon and Venus together in the morning sky, the moon is always waning while Venus is always waxing. The converse is also true: whenever you see the moon with Venus in the evening sky, the moon is always waxing while Venus is always waning. That's because the moon orbits Earth whereas Venus orbits the sun.**

rous" and "Hesperus", but Pythagoras realised 500 years before that the two are the same. And Venus is likely to be the first planet known in this way because of its brightness and relatively rapid movement."

