

Mega transportation projects 'set to serve channels for economic growth'

Transportation sector third biggest contributor to state budget, says minister

TDT | Manama
Thamer Taifoor

Bahrain is planning a number of key projects to improve its transportation network in the near future, Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed has said.

This includes the King Hamad Causeway, which is the second

causeway to connect Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, the Bahrain Light Rail Network (LRT) and the expansion of Bahrain International Airport, he pointed out.

The minister stated this during the monthly majlis hosted by the Bahrain Businesswomen Society.

Mr Ahmed revealed that the transportation sector is the third biggest contributor to the state budget following the oil sector

and customs.

He said the total revenues from the sector is currently BD55 million annually and is expected to grow to BD65 m.

"The contribution of the transportation sector to the gross national income is 5.8 per cent with a growth rate of 4.7pc this year. The sector provides jobs to 3.5pc of the total Bahraini workforce.

"No economy can succeed without an integrated transportation in terms of air, sea and land transport. Our Kingdom has taken great strides in this regard," the minister commented, while reviewing the ministry's main projects and development strategies with the attendees.

"Today, Bahrain has strong transportation links with its GCC neighbours through the land ports connecting us to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd Causeway, in addition to the under construction 40km-long King Hamad Causeway, and through the Khalifa Bin Salman Port and



The ministry is working steadily to implement the vision of HM the King by implementing the largest infrastructure development project, which is the expansion of the airport, increasing its capacity to annually accommodate 14 million passengers.

MR AHMED

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The minister also spoke about the LRT project and the King Hamad Causeway project, which will also connect the island to other GCC countries through a modern railway.

Mr Ahmed briefed the attendees on the ministry's efforts to attract investments in the vital sector of transportation, underscoring that organising the Bahrain International Airshow biennially, under the patronage of HM the King.

"It is one of the fastest growing events in the aviation sector. The show will be held from November 14 to 16 this year. Leading aircraft manufacturers from the US, Russia and other countries are expected to participate in the show, in addition to leading regional companies from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. More than 110 aircraft will be displayed in the event."



Bahrain Metro project is one of the key projects planned by the Ministry of Transportation.

55
million Bahraini dinars is the annual contribution of the transport sector to the State's budget.

Initiative to boost entrepreneurial skills among Bahraini youth launched

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Harpreet Kaur

As part of the Manama Entrepreneurship Week (MEW), a Youth Entrepreneurial Development Initiative has been launched to enhance the capabilities of Bahraini youth and to guide and inspire them towards their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The MEW events being held under the patronage of Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Governor of the Capital Governorate, will commence today and run until October 25.

Speaking to Tribune, Mohammed Al Haddad, co-founder of the initiative, said, "It aims to expand the capabilities of Bahrain youth and enable them to achieve and develop their entrepreneur's aspirations. Collaborating with MEW provides synergistic benefits for the initiative, as it's a platform for promoting entrepreneurship and youth empowerment in



Each participant is assigned to a mentor, who is a business leader and influencer in the community. The mentorship is for one year and aims towards supporting the participants in attaining their aspirations.

MR AL HADDAD

the Kingdom.

"Each participant is assigned to a mentor, who is a business leader and influencer in the community. The mentorship is for one year and aims towards supporting the participants in attaining their aspirations.

"The organising committee will be evaluating the progress of each participant through evaluation reports and sessions each quarter during the year.

"The selection criteria for the participants is that they have to be a resident of Bahrain, age between 18 and 25, where we made one exception for a participant who's 15 years old due to his exceptional profile.

"Participants should be eager and ambitious towards developing themselves especially in entrepreneurship sphere and contributing to the Bahraini community."

Supporting visually-impaired



Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa yesterday patronised a march in support of the visually-impaired people. Themed "Supporting the Blind", the march was held on Al Fateh Coast, near Marina Club, in which the members of the Friendship Society for the Blind participated. The governor stressed the importance of supporting people with special needs and physical disabilities to help them achieve aspirations and promote their integration into society.

Drug seller loses plea as court upholds sentence

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Ali Tarif

The High Appeals Court has upheld the ten year's imprisonment issued against a Bangladeshi national convicted

of peddling drugs.

The defendant was arrested through a special operation after an undercover agent offered to buy drugs from him, according to court details.

He is said to have accepted

BD70 from the officer in plain clothes to sell marijuana to him. The latter was arrested near his house in East Riffa and 40-grams of marijuana was seized from him.

He will be deported once he serves his jail time.

One year jail for cop attacker

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Ali Tarif

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a 29-year-old man to one year in prison for attacking two police officers.

The police officers were alerted by the defendant's sister following a brawl at their house.

"When we arrived we saw that he was bleeding. He was holding a knife.

"He immediately pounced on us. Though we used pepper

He immediately pounced on us. Though we used pepper spray, we initially failed to control him.

VICTIM

spray, we initially failed to control him," one of the victims revealed to prosecutors.

The 29-year-old man was held guilty of assaulting on-duty police officers.

Civil Defence dealt with 212 incidents last summer

Manama

The Civil Defence Directorate dealt with a total of 212 incidents during last summer, it is learnt.

Public Relations and Awareness officer Captain Ahmed Mohammed Jassim unveiled the statistics as he took part in the weekly programme "Al Amn", which is aired on Bahrain Radio.

He pointed out that most incidents resulted from electrical short circuits, neglect



The Civil Defence has also carried out many successful rescue operations during the last summer.

and recklessness, urging the owners of houses and shops to hire specialised workers to avert such incidents.

Captain Ahmed Mohammed Jassim said that the General Directorate of Civil Defence is ready to provide all required information and knowhow to ensure safety standards.

He stressed the need to avoid keeping gas cylinders inside houses or companies and strictly follow the rules regarding the use of gas cylinders.