

Strategic projects to boost fish farming

Bahrain steps up efforts to ensure food security and self-sufficiency

- Works Ministry committed to raising local production of fish
- Part of initiatives to fulfil royal directives to develop industry
- Modern laboratories needed in the fish farming process set up

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The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is moving forward with fish farming projects.

Minister Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf affirmed the ministry's strategy and initiatives aimed at raising the local production of fish and ensuring food security and self-sufficiency.

This comes as Khalaf visited the National Aquaculture Centre in Ras Hayyan with the Undersecretary of the Agricultural Sector and Marine Resources, Dr Hussein Jaafar Makki.

The fish farming projects are considered a promising industry that will contribute to raising the production capacity of fish food in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Minister Khalaf said that the Ministry's interest in achieving food security stems from the royal directive of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during the opening of the second session of the fifth legislative term of the Shura and Representatives Councils in October 2019, where His Majesty directed to develop strategic projects for national food production.

He pointed out that the Ministry, represented by the Agency for Agriculture and Marine Resources, put forward a number of initiatives in order to achieve



Minister Khalaf, second from right, with other officials during his visit to the National Aquaculture Centre

the strategy, including creating the infrastructure for this economic activity.

Infrastructure pillars

Minister Khalaf said: "One of the most prominent infrastructure pillars for this activity is the use of modern technologies that will overcome some obstacles and prepare the laboratories needed by the fish farming process, and this is what the Ministry has been able to undertake."

He stressed that his visit to the National Aquaculture Centre was aimed at monitoring the progress of the comprehensive maintenance operations that took place at the National Center for Mariculture, which included the main fish production hatcheries.

The Minister was briefed on

the development to increase production efficiency in the National Center for Mariculture, which aims to produce 20 million fingerlings by 2025.

He said: "The agency's officials were directed to study the deepening and expansion of the marine channels leading to the water pumping station at the National Aquaculture Centre, which is the main tributary of the farming operations, in addition to making use of the sea lakes adjacent to the culture center and an area of four hectares of sea for the cultivation of fish and algae."

The Undersecretary of the Agricultural Sector and Marine Resources Undersecretary, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh, said that Minister Khalaf was briefed during this visit on the

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ENG. ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF, WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTER

experiences of producing nano-algae, which is a qualitative leap for the cultivation of this type of algae.

He explained: "Nano-algae is important in the production of young fish, as it contains high percentages of plant proteins compared to other algae, such as chlorella."

He added: "We are working on completing the second phase of settlement of land for fish farms, which will provide 70,000 square metres and contribute to increasing fish production in the wild areas of the Kingdom."

"During the visit, the Minister was also informed on the success of producing protein powder from locally available sources, in order to be a mainstay for the fish feed industry and reduce dependence on importing raw materials from abroad."



20 million

The National Aquaculture Centre aims to produce this volume of fingerlings by 2025

Works on Arad Commercial Complex in full swing

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The construction works on the Arad Commercial Complex project have hit 30 per cent completion rate.

It is carried out in cooperation with Ramez Trading and Shopping Company, and is expected to be completed in 2023.

Ahmed Al Maqhawhi, a representative of the seventh district in Muharraq, said that the

project, which costs BD6 million on an area of about 12,000 square metres, will provide job opportunities for citizens and residents.

It will house shops, restaurants and cafes, and the first floor will have a hypermarket selling foodstuffs and clothes, in addition to recreational spaces.

A meeting will be held after the Eid Al Adha holidays that will bring together Muharraq

Municipal Council and Ramez representatives, and they will discuss many projects as well as shops that will be placed inside the complex.

Al Maqhawhi said that Arad enjoys the lion's share of the infrastructure development work for the interior regions during the period between 2019 and 2022, according to the plan of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban

Planning, at a cost of about BD2.1 million.

The population of Arad is 28,000, making it one of the most inclusive areas for residents, and it is witnessing a steady urban development the past few years.

It is a vital city located adjacent to Bahrain International Airport, in addition to its proximity to the port of the capital Manama.

Saudi leadership congratulated on Hajj pilgrimage success



Speaker Zainal



Minister Shaikh Khalid

- Providing safety and security for pilgrims

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Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal sent congratulatory cables to Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, on the success of the Hajj pilgrimage.

The Speaker extended sincere congratulations on the tremendous efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in serving the pilgrims and ensuring good and successful organisation of the Hajj pilgrimage which was held this year amid exceptional circumstances due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

She also praised the efforts of Saudi Arabia in caring for the pilgrims to ensure they

perform their rituals in the best way.

Speaker Zainal sent similar cables to the Saudi Shura Council Chairman Shaikh Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Shaikh and Saudi Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HRH Prince Sultan bin Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the High Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs, also commended the efforts of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in serving the pilgrims and providing them with all facilities to perform their Hajj rituals easily and comfortably despite the pandemic.

The Minister praised the successful organisation of the Hajj pilgrimage as the outcome of synergised efforts of all institutions and authorities in Saudi Arabia to ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims and care for them at all levels.

National plan for Bahraini employment discussed



Minister Humaidan



MP Bu Hamoud

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Support to the employment and integration of Bahraini citizens in private sector establishments through legislation was discussed yesterday.

This came as the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Jamil bin Muhammad Ali Humaidan, met with MP Mohammed Khalifa Bu Hamoud in his office at the Ministry.

They reviewed legislation and laws aimed at sustaining the development of the labour market in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Humaidan briefed the lawmaker on the details of the national plan for the labour market for the years 2021-2023, which was approved by the Cabinet headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and included several axes that would achieve

sustainable growth and stability.

He stressed that the plan aims to create more qualitative opportunities for citizens to make them the best choice for employment.

The Minister discussed steps to organise technical and vocational training and enhance the contributions of the private sector as the main engine of economic growth.

MP Bu Hamoud assured Humaidan that the legislative authority supports all projects and initiatives aimed at developing national human resources and enhancing employment opportunities in a way that contributes to achieving national goals.

The lawmaker praised the efforts made by all concerned parties in preparing the national plan for the labour market, stressing the Shura Council's support for such initiatives that receive a positive response from citizens and reflect the government's keenness to increase the pace of employment in the labour market.

Inspectors on the move to ensure health protocols are strictly followed



The Health Ministry's Public Health Department team is stepping up inspection visits to restaurants as part of national efforts to ensure that facilities comply with health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The inspectors are carrying out checks in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority. On Tuesday, six restaurants were ordered to be closed for a week after being found to have violated the precautionary measures listed under the Orange Alert Level. Necessary measures were taken to refer their cases to the legal authorities.