

'Investment for more prosperous future'

Shaikh Salman hails strategic projects across various fields to enhance financial sustainability and economic stability

● Creation of five new cities for residential, logistics and tourism hub

● 25km, four-lane King Hamad Bridge will link Bahrain and Saudi Arabia

● 109km metro system to contribute to Kingdom's plans to achieve net zero

● Building 'Sports City', a complex that will house largest sports stadium

● Setting up biggest 'Conference City' in Middle East and 'Tourist City'

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(Continuation from Page 1)

The package of new mega projects represents one of Bahrain's most significant ever injections of capital investment to enhance financial sustainability and economic stability as the Kingdom is well on its way out of the pandemic.

The Economic Recovery Plan comprises 22 signature projects across key sectors, including telecoms, tourism, education, housing, manufacturing, health and youth and sports.

Among the most prominent projects is the creation of five cities situated on newly constructed islands, increasing Bahrain's total land area by more than 60%.

The new cities are Fasht Al Jarim, Suhaila Island, Fasht Al



An artist's impression of the strategic projects



King Hamad Bridge

Adham, Bahrain Bay and Hawar Islands.

Fasht Al Jarim, the largest city, will span 183km2 providing a residential, logistics, and tourism hub that will house a new airport.

The new 25km, four-lane King Hamad Causeway will facilitate cross border trade and travel with Saudi Arabia and the wider GCC, and strengthen political, strategic, economic, and cultural ties.

Within Bahrain, a new metro system will offer travel choice, reduce congestion, and contribute to the Kingdom's plans to achieve net zero.

The metro network of over 109 kms will connect all major

population hubs in the country. The 20-station first phase of the metro will run from Bahrain International Airport to the residential and commercial area of Seef, linking both to Manama and the Diplomatic Area.

Transport connectivity will be complemented by technology investment in land and sea fiber optics, connecting all regions of the Kingdom and enhancing competitiveness.

Next generation cloud-computing services will be supported by significant investment in several new data centre projects.

The building of "Sports City", a complex that will house the largest sports stadium in Bahrain and a multi-purpose indoor



“The launch of this initiative is in line with the Economic Vision 2030, a comprehensive strategy for the Kingdom's economic development which aims to enhance the standards of living of all people, both the Bahraini citizens and foreign residents.”

- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH KHALID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA



“Bahrain is emerging from the pandemic with a bold ambition that looks beyond economic recovery to a more prosperous future ... the Strategic Projects Plan is an investment not only in Bahrain's physical infrastructure but in the future prosperity of the people.”

- SHAIKH SALMAN BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA, FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY MINISTER

sports arena making the Kingdom a centre for events, leisure, and sport.

Additionally, the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre will be the largest "Conference City" in the Middle East and "Tourist City", a series of resorts in the southwest of Bahrain, will enhance the Kingdom's status as a global visitor destination.

The new projects announced under the Strategic Projects Plan will build upon the Kingdom's 2015 infrastructure plan that delivered the new Bahrain International Airport terminal, ALBA's Line 6 expansion project, and the AB-4 Pipeline.

Bold ambition

Following the announcement of the new multi-year development projects' details, Finance



The Bahrain Metro will contribute to achieving net-zero emissions.

and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said: "Bahrain is emerging from the pandemic with a

bold ambition that looks beyond economic recovery to a more prosperous future.

"This transformative investment will raise education and lifestyle opportunities for young people and provide quality healthcare, homes, and career paths for them as the progress into adulthood.

"New and existing industries will be stimulated and private sector growth in the tourism and entertainment sectors will be driven forward by infrastructure and telecommunications investment, with connectivity both within the Kingdom and overseas elevated for the efficient movement of goods, services, and people.

"The Strategic Projects Plan is an investment not only in Bahrain's physical infrastructure but in the future prosperity of the Kingdom's people."

AMH launches Workplace Wellness Campaign in style



From left, Tovey, Ambassador Drummond and Al Mannai

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A Workplace Wellness Campaign was launched by American Mission Hospital (AMH) for companies in Bahrain, at an in-person ceremony, held yesterday at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Saleh bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, the Advisor to His Majesty the King for Youth and Sports Affairs, reviewed the process of 'wellness assessments' with the hospital staff.

The British Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Roderick Drummond, who also attended the event said that Bahrain companies will ben-

efit from these health assessments for staff.

He said he had undergone the assessment himself, and stressed on the importance of workplace wellness.

"We do a lot of work at the embassy encouraging our teams to tap into the different tools available from the health-care sector, to take charge of their own individual health," Ambassador Drummond said.

"Launched in association with Soza Health, UK, AMH will deliver these wellness assessments which will help promote preventive health," said Julia Tovey, the Group CEO of AMH.

iGA discusses ICT cooperation with Pakistan counterpart

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) held a second video conference with its Pakistan counterpart, which discussed cooperation opportunities in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

They reviewed the decisions of the first meeting, with both parties expressing their willingness for further cooperation.

A presentation was made

showcasing the iGA's deployment of advanced services and systems, in line with directives from the Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology (SCICT), chaired by Deputy Prime Minister HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa and supported by the Minister of Interior Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The presentation covered the iGA's key objectives, which align with the Kingdom's high-level strategies, as detailed in the

2019-2022 Government Action Plan and the Fiscal Balance Program.

The iGA highlighted the most notable eServices it offers to citizens, residents, and businesses, including the eKey, the National Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul), and the Government Notifications Service.

Major projects led by the iGA include improvements to ID card services, the digital transformation of judicial services, the BENAYAT platform, and more.

More than 587 eServices are currently being provided via the National Portal, bahrain.bh and self-service kiosks, in cooperation with public and private entities.

They are also available via the eGovernment Apps Store, bahrain.bh/apps, which offers over 20 apps including the eTraffic, GovEmployee, and Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) apps. This is in addition to the services of the Government Services Contact Center on 80008001.

Embassy offers continued support for Filipino detainees

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The Philippine Embassy has resumed the conduct of jail visitations of Filipinos currently detained in Bahrain as part of its efforts to ensure their well-being.

Embassy officials made a virtual call with female detainees at the Isa Town Female Remand and Detention Centre and the Isa Town Female Rehabilitation and Correctional Centre on 16 November, as well as a personal jail visit at the Jau Male Inmates Rehabilitation and Correctional Centre on 17 November.



Embassy officials visit the Reformation and Rehabilitation Directorate

The visit at Jau Prison was the first since the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic after prison authorities relaxed restrictions of personal visits due to the overall improving

situation in the Kingdom. The embassy officials' last visit at Jau Prison was in January 2020.

The seven Filipino male detainees expressed joy for having the opportunity to once again

personally meet with them.

To uplift their spirits, the officials brought refreshments and provided cash assistance to each detainee.

They expressed their appreciation to the embassy for the visit, and assured them of the fair treatment they receive from prison officials.

In the virtual call with 11 female detainees, the embassy reassured them that it will continue to provide them assistance in dealing with their respective cases, and in updating their families of their condition.