

Metro accelerating towards reality

First phase works begin in key areas, says ministry



Picture for representation only

● 20 stations in 29 kilometers

● First phase will be linked to King Hamad station

● Project to be completed in four stages

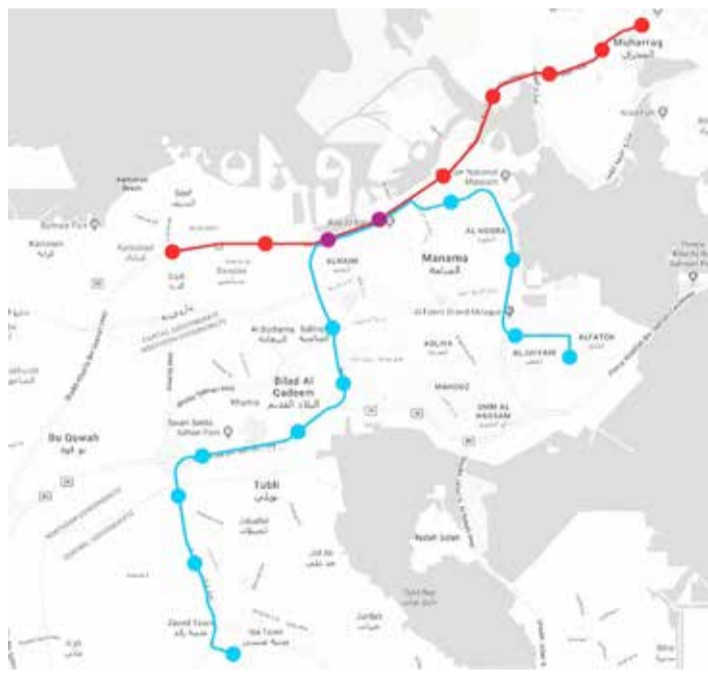
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TDT | Manama

If things are to progress as planned, the long-cherished dream of the Metro will soon become a reality in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communication said that works are progressing to bring the project to fruition, which will also be a part of the 2,117km GCC Railway connecting key cities in each of the six Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

Yesterday, officials from the Ministry of Transportation confirmed that the first phase of the project, encompassing 20 stations over 29 kilometers, will be linked to the King Hamad International Passenger Station through an 8 km line with four stops. The project has already commenced in key locations such as Muharraq, King Faisal Street, Juffair, the Diplomatic Area, Seef District, Salmaniya, Adhari, and Isa Town.

The first line will connect the Airport to the Seef District, while the other line will connect



The project has already commenced in key areas such as Muharraq, King Faisal Street, Juffair, the Diplomatic Area, Seef District, Salmaniya, Adhari, and Isa Town.

The timing of this development coincides with the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc and the announcement of GCC railway project. The project is expected to greatly enhance trade exchange within the GCC, improve travel connectivity for citizens and residents, and make a significant contribution to supporting investments and fostering economic integration among the GCC nations. The planned railway system will span a distance of 2,117 kilometers, stretching from Kuwait in the north and traversing through all the GCC states until reaching Oman in the south. The trains will be powered by diesel engines, allowing them to achieve a speed of 220 km/h.

Juffair to the educational area in Isa Town.

Upon completion, the state-

of-the-art Metro System, fully automated and driverless, will comprise a 109km long network.



Picture for representation

Reportedly, the first stage of the four-stage project has been awarded to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). According to DMRC, they have signed BEML (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) for the \$2 billion project.

Ministry officials yesterday further revealed that the project, in collaboration with the private sector, will have a 35-year concession contract for designing, building, financing, operating, and maintaining the first phase of the Bahrain Metro.

The developments came in response to a parliamentary question by MP Munir Sorour. The ministry's reply also mentioned the upcoming launch of a tender to appoint the primary developer after receiving final approvals. It is worth knowing that the King Hamad Bridge project, connecting Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, will feature four lanes for cars and two lanes for trains.

To acquire 24 lands

The statement further announced that an expropriation decision for 24 lands to lay tracks would be issued shortly,

clarifying that only a section of these lands will be acquired as the project does not require a large area.

However, the final cost of the project will depend on the bidding from the participating companies in the tender.

Additionally, the ministry stated that an alliance of seven internationally renowned companies, including financiers, consultants, contractors, suppliers, and train operators, are involved in the project.

13 km, 9 stops

Meanwhile, DMRC has announced its plan to construct four metro lines for the Bahrain Metro in two phases. Furthermore, two interchanges, namely Bab al Bahrain and al Farooq metro junctions, will be included.

As per DMRC's announcement, the initial metro line will connect Bahrain International Airport to Seef Mall. This route will run alongside Airport Road and the King Faisal Highway, covering a distance of 13 kilometers with nine stops. The second metro line will cater to

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The metro will have the capacity to carry 43,000 passengers per hour

The length of phase one is 29km and it will include 20 stations which will operate through two lines, where the first line will be connecting Airport to Seef District, while the other line will connect Juffair to educational area in Isa Town.

commuters traveling between Juffair and Isa town, spanning a length of 15.6 kilometers and encompassing 11 stops, providing convenient access to various areas including Salmaniya, Zinj, and Tubli, among others.

The ministry also mentioned that phase two of the project will link the King Hamad International Passenger Station in the Ramli area with the Sports City and Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre in the Sakhr area, totaling 18 km in length and featuring five stops.

LMRA, NPRA and Police conduct joint inspection campaign in Capital Governorate

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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) yesterday took legal action against several in the Capital Governorate for non-compliance with labour and residency laws.

The campaign was carried out in coordination with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) of the Ministry of Interior and the Capital Governorate Police Directorate.



The LMRA emphasised its commitment to tackling such violations through a comprehensive and ongoing inspection plan, in close collaboration with relevant government entities.

As part of their ongoing efforts, the LMRA encourages the public to report any illegal labour practices or violations on the LMRA's official website, www.lmra.gov.bh, or by contacting the Authority's call center at 17506055.



Health Minister Dr Jalila bint Al-Sayed Jawad Hasan, Minister of Health, yesterday met with Dr Ahmed bin Salem Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, on the sidelines of the 76th session of the World Health Assembly, held in Geneva. The minister commended the role played by the regional office