

Construction work: Right on target!

Progress of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City project moving according to timetable

● AGU is working with its contractors to develop alternative plans and complete the project on time

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Despite the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, construction work at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City is progressing according to the timetable so that the project will be completed by December next year.

It is expected to be operational by the beginning of 2022.

This was confirmed by Arabian Gulf University (AGU) president Dr Khaled Abdul Rahman Al Ohaly who said that while the pandemic has affected the progress of the project, the university is working with its contractors to develop alternative plans to complete the project on time.

He explained that the project cut advanced stages that represent more than 40% of the completion period.

It includes preparations for the next phase such as offering

269

The Academic Medical Centre will offer 269 inpatient beds, 12 birthing rooms and 11 operating theatres.



Works at the site in progress

tenders for the provision of medical devices and furnitures.

The construction work will be implemented in four phases.

The first phase includes the implementation of electricity, water and sewage networks, and fire-fighting, irrigation and rain-water drainage networks, that is in addition to the construction of internal roads and installation of street lighting.

The second phase will be the construction of a main power plant to supply the city with electricity, while the third and fourth phases will include the construction of a sewage plant and the development of the roads networks surrounding and leading to the city.

The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City is a new major healthcare development being built for the AGU in the Southern Governorate.

It was a grant from the late

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who instructed to construct the SR1 billion worth medical city in Bahrain as a gift from the people of Saudi Arabia to the people of Bahrain.

The development aims to become a benchmark for excellence in healthcare and education in the Gulf region.

It will be a multiple phased, mixed use development, comprising an Academic Medical Centre, an innovative teaching hospital built in two phases, a state-of-the-art Medical University Campus with Research and Conference Facilities, on-site accommodation for both staff and students, and other communal facilities to create a self-sustained campus.

The design concept was to create a supportive environment for healing and learning.

Phase 1, the Academic Medical Centre, will offer 269 in-

patient beds, 12 birthing rooms and 11 operating theatres as well as high-quality diagnostic and treatment services in four primary specialties; medicine,

surgery, women's and children's healthcare.

The completion of the development will see the capacity of the hospital increased to over

500 beds, with an academic school, a research facility, medical hotel, rehabilitation hospital and on-site accommodation for students and staff.



An artist's impression of the project

“King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City will be one of the rare green buildings in Bahrain that has environmentally friendly health specifications and high standards in compliance with LEED Gold specifications to provide high-level medical services in a healthy environment.”

ARABIAN GULF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
DR KHALED ABDUL RAHMAN AL OHALY

Sakhir convention center's construction work in full swing

● The venue will host international conferences, exhibitions and other events

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The overall construction work on the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center project in Sakhir is 11% completed, while the percentage of work on the foundations is about 80%.

The foundations of the exhibition halls, central foyer and service buildings have been completed and the concrete work for the upper floors has reached various stages.

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Esam bin Abdullah Khalaf and Industry, Trade and Tourism



Minister Khalaf and Minister Al Zayani being briefed on the project

Minister and Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority Board of Directors chairman Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani yesterday visited the project where they were briefed on the latest developments.

“The project represents a unique architectural addition and is coherent with the Bahrain International Circuit in a way that enhances tourism in Bahrain,” Minister Khalaf said. “It will be a major boost in

attracting international events that will support investments and the economy in Bahrain in a way that serves the Kingdom and enhances its status locally, regionally, continentally and globally.

“The project will place the Kingdom of Bahrain at the forefront of distinguished countries in this field because of its high specifications that are commensurate with global requirements, which will have a significant positive impact in promoting the Kingdom of Bahrain in line with its Vision 2030.”

Al Zayani said that the project would constitute a remarkable model for hosting international conferences, exhibitions and events thanks to its advanced infrastructure equipped with the latest technology and services and in accordance with the highest international standards in the field of exhibition industry.

“It is a catalyst for many sectors to meet the needs of tourism in order to diversify sources of income and achieve the wise visions of His Majesty the King,” he said.

Auction to sell taxi operating cards to individuals

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The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications is preparing to launch the first auction to sell taxi operating cards to individuals.

This step comes in the Ministry's endeavour to develop and regulate the activities of the taxi sector for individuals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and based on the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the Ministry's Land Transport Affairs with Mazad Company BSC to regulate the circulation of taxi licenses.

On this occasion, Land Transport Affairs Assistant Undersecretary Nada Dean said: “This initiative is a preliminary step to strengthening the role of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to regulate the taxi sector by organising the process of trading taxi operating cards for individuals through an electronic auction through a single trading platform.

“This would contribute to organising the trading process and making it more transparent to everyone, as well as giving the opportunity to the licensee wishing to sell his operational card through electronic platforms.”

Draft of state budget referred to House of Representatives

● BD530 million to fund government projects in two years

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The government referred the draft state budget for the fiscal years 2021-2022 to the House of Representatives.

A BD530 million budget will fund government projects in two years, while BD880 million is earmarked as direct government support to citizens.

The draft budget includes an estimate of expected oil revenues of about BD2.9 billion for the next two fiscal years, in addition to non-oil revenues of BD1.1 billion, and returns from “added value” of BD700 million.

Estimated expenditures amount to about BD3.5 billion

for each fiscal year, of which BD65 million are for projects every fiscal year, while the rest are included in the item “recurring expenditures”.

As for the total deficit, according to government estimates, it is expected to reach BD2.4 billion for the two fiscal years.

The budget to support the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) in 2021 is about BD48 million. The Authority is expected to achieve the desired balance between its revenues and expenditures in 2022, as part of the fiscal balance program.