



Stage set for first Bahraini woman 'on the moon'

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 TDT | Manama

The decision to join the Artemis Accords, which seeks to put a woman on the moon by 2024, has been accepted by Bahrain's Shura Council, and with this action, Bahrain is paving the way for the first Bahraini woman conquering space.

The Artemis Accords, a non-binding multilateral agreement signed by the US and other states, were introduced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 2020 with the goal of sending people back to the moon by 2025.

Saudi astronauts are earth-bound



Barnawi and Al Qarni onboard ISS
 Jeddah

Saudi astronauts Rayyanah Barnawi and Ali Al Qarni have departed from the International Space Station (ISS) yesterday, marking the end of a history-book-making mission.

Shortly after 7pm UAE time, the two astronauts undocked from ISS and began a 12-hour ride back to Earth, with a splashdown off the coast of Florida expected today at 7.10am.

The day previously, Barnawi - who became the first Arab woman to go on a space mission when she launched with her colleague Al Qarni on a trip to the orbital outpost last Monday - said "every story comes to an end."

'Time is now'

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US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday the "time is now" for Turkey to drop its objections to Sweden joining Nato, but said the Biden administration also believed that Turkey should be provided with upgraded F-16 fighters "as soon as possible."

HM King hails SCE role to protect environment

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the role and programmes of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE) to protect the environment and wildlife in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

HM the King was speaking as he received yesterday at Safriya Palace his Personal Representative, President of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

His Majesty also praised the efforts of the government bodies and their cooperation with SCE,



HM the King receives HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad

wishing them every success.

During the meeting, which was attended by a number of

senior officials, HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad presented a briefing to HM the King on the

kingdom's plan to handle the rise in sea level in the region.

He expressed utmost thanks

and appreciation to HM King Hamad for his directives and support to the efforts of SCE.

Bahrain to boost energy efficiency

HRH Prince Salman inaugurates Al-Dur 2 Phase 2 Independent Water and Power Project

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to developing energy production projects in partnership with the private sector and in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he inaugurated yesterday the Al-Dur 2 Phase 2 Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP). A number of senior officials were also in attendance.

He toured the facility and was briefed on the operations of the Al-Dur 2 Phase 2 project, an extension of Al-Dur Phase 1, which was inaugurated by HM the King.

Al-Dur 2 Phase 2 Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP) is the first production station in the Kingdom connected to the high-voltage electricity transmission network of 400 KV. The station cost more than



HRH Prince Salman with senior officials at the event

\$1 billion and was established in partnership with companies from Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Japan.

The IWPP generates 1,500 MW of electricity and processes 50 million gallons of desalinated water daily. This increases the Kingdom's overall production capacity to 5,044 MW of electricity and 204 million gallons of desalinated water daily.

Development projects

His Royal Highness noted the



importance of development projects that provide quality services to Bahraini citizens and create world-class electricity and water infrastructure.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the Kingdom's commitment to enhancing energy efficiency and expanding electricity and water production capacity in conjunction with programmes and priorities that consolidate

development.

He highlighted the Kingdom's dedication to ensuring development infrastructure projects align with the latest international standards that support climate change mitigation efforts.

His Royal Highness stressed the Kingdom's commitment to adopt innovative programmes that are high quality, meet efficiency standards, and contribute to the Kingdom's wide-ranging development goals and future energy-saving ambitions.

EWA role

HRH Prince Salman lauded EWA's significant role and efforts to bolster the electricity and water sector and ensure its sustainability to meet growing demand and achieve its far-reaching aspirations.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the efforts of those leading the pro-

ject and wished them continued success in achieving their goals.

Commitment

The President of the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), HE Kamal bin Ahmed Mohamed, affirmed that the Authority and its workforce are committed to achieving the comprehensive development goals set by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness.

HE Kamal bin Ahmed also affirmed EWA's commitment to its partnership with the private sector, ensuring the continuation of energy programmes and plans that contribute to energy sustainability.

He highlighted the importance of meeting the growing demand for electricity and water consumption considering the Kingdom's industrial, commercial, and urban expansion.



"The Kingdom is committed to enhancing energy efficiency and expanding electricity and water production capacity in conjunction with programmes and priorities that consolidate development."

- HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

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