

Works Minister opens Wali Al Ahad Highway to public

DT News Network
Manama

Works Minister yesterday opened the newly revamped 2.6km long Wali Al Ahad Highway, costing about BD1,969,265 that links Riffa to Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway and Hamad Town.

The highway which attracts a traffic of around 80,000 vehicles daily also features a number of important facilities and institutions on both sides.

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf inaugurated the highway in the presence of many top officials.

"The biggest challenge the Ministry faced during the project was the transfer and protection of services, especially nearby high voltage ground cables, given that no alternative road was available to absorb traffic," the Minister said as



Works Minister launches Wali Al Ahad Highway

he declared the project open. Works comprised of expanding the highway to three lanes in each direction, revamping all intersections, re-constructing highway infrastructure, constructing brick pavements, implementing a stormwater

drainage network, refurbishing lighting and signage, and protecting existing services.

The launch was held in the presence of Works Affairs Undersecretary Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Roads Planning & Design Director

Kadhim Abdul Latif, Roads Projects & Maintenance Director Sayyed Bader Alawi, Acting Communications Director Mahmoud Abdul Rahim, a number of engineers from the Ministry, General Manager of the Southern

Governorate Police Directorate Brigadier-General Hamad bin Ali Hwail Al Mari, Director of Operations & Traffic Control of the Traffic General Directorate Lieutenant Adel Al Dossari, Chairman of Southern Area Municipal Council

Ahmed Al Ansari and Chief of Public Relations & Marketing at the Military Hospital Adel Slaibekkh.

The Minister also thanked the Governor of the Southern Province Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa.

Cybersecurity gets priority

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More than 50 cybersecurity experts converged on Bahrain for the second edition of Cyber Security workshop which shed light on the Kingdom's efforts to develop a vibrant cybersecurity ecosystem.

"This workshop is expected to create a foundation for interaction between the industry and academia to attract the best minds into the field of cyber security so that we stay one step ahead of the scale and pace of the threat we face" Mohamed Al Qaed, Chief Executive of Information & eGovernment Authority of Kingdom of Bahrain said in his inaugural address.

Cyber Security, Al Qaed told the participants, is a key initiative in the Fourth National Telecommunications Plan that sets out the Government's strategic plan and general policy for the telecommunications sector in Bahrain. "The effort is to safeguarding the Critical National Infrastructure, establishing a legislative and regulatory framework, developing a vibrant cybersecurity ecosystem," he stressed highlighting the National Cyber Security Strategy.

The strategy, Al Qaed said, is



Prof. Mazin Jumaah

developed based on the directives and guidance of His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak AlKhalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information & Communication Technology, Deputy Prime Minister, and the support of His Excellency Minister of Interior Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa.

The two-day event on Cyber Security Assurance Management managed and sponsored by the Royal University for Women in its campus in West Riffa, was held in collaboration with West Virginia University.

More than 17 private sector agencies



Mohamed Al Qaed

and governmental entities attended the event, which is now in its second edition. Royal University for Women President Prof. Mazin Jumaah, Khalid Al Dossary, the representative of Directors and a member of the Board of Trustees of the University, and the President of the University of Bahrain, Professor Riyadh Hamzah as well as numbers of experts in cybersecurity were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Mazin Jumaah stressed that the workshop is one of the fruits of the strategic partnership efforts of the Royal University for Women with West Virginia University.

Ideal working environment top priority, says Al Doseri

DT News Network
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Bahrain is committed to creating an ideal working environment for workers and ensuring sustainability for future generations by continuing the process of comprehensive development and Labour market reforms, stressed Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah bin Faisal bin Jabur Al Doseri yesterday.

The Kingdom "assures the rights to free choice of employment, equitable and equal remuneration, enjoyment of leave and allowances and safe working conditions", said Al Doseri wishing all the workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain more success and prosperity on the occasion of International Workers' Day, which falls on May 1 of each year.

Kingdom, Al Doseri said, provides an integrated system to protect the rights of the worker and the employer alike citing Kingdom's accession to the International Covenant regarding civil, political, economic and cultural rights and ILO fundamental Conventions and Bahrain's advanced legislation to protect workers' rights, including Labour Law 36 of 2012.

"The Constitution and the Bahraini law prohibit all forms

of discrimination in working environment," Al Doseri said citing Article 16 (b) which prohibits "discrimination in wages on the basis of race, origin, language, religion or creed".

He further stressed that efforts to ensure workers' right were not limited to legislation but also include policies and programmes aimed at improving the standards of living, such as the project to improve national private sector workers' wages.

"Recognising the importance of civil society associations and organisations, Bahrain has provided broad space for trade unions to act by promulgating Decree- Law 33 of 2002 on the Trade Unions Law and its amendments which paved the way for trade union pluralism," the Minister stressed.

The Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs also stressed the importance of Bahraini workers in building the country's economy and the policies including 'flexible work permit'.

He affirmed that the Kingdom is continuing the process of comprehensive development and awakening under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The significance

The International Labour Day commemorates the protest by workers on 1st May, 1886, in the United States of America when labour union in the USA

went on strike, demanding 8-hours work days for labourers. This eventually led to the establishment of 8-hour work days in many countries.



Cyber Security Conference