

# HRH Prince Salman inaugurates water and power plant

## Al Dur phase 2 set to start operations

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday inaugurated Al Dur phase 2 Independent Water and Power plant.

Located at Al Dur and managed 100% by the private sector, Al Dur phase 2 generates 1,000 MW of electricity and processes 25 million gallons of water per day, increasing capacity by 24% and 15%, respectively.

During the visit, HRH Prince Salman noted that the investment in and the development of the Kingdom's water and electricity infrastructure, in partnership with the private sector, supports ongoing housing, development and investment initiatives.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Eng. Al Mubarak, Shaikh Nawaf, and a number of senior officials and Ambassadors.

His Royal Highness highlighted Bahrain's commitment to continue to develop water and energy projects, alongside supporting infrastructure projects through innovative developmental initiatives. Thus creating new opportunities for citizens as key members of Team Bahrain whilst also enhancing service delivery excellence.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was briefed on Al Dur phase 2 operation's, which is an extension of phase 1 inaugurated by HM the King, before touring the facilities.

He expressed his appreciation to the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs (EWA), the CEO of EWA, Shaikh Nawaf bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, and the



HRH Prince Salman is being briefed on Al Dur phase 2 operation

Ministry's employees for their significant contribution to sustainability in the sector.

EWA Minister Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak commended His Majes-

ty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to ensure citizens remain at the heart of ongoing development initiatives, before commending His Royal Highness's support for water and



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electricity service quality.

Minister Al Mubarak highlighted that the Al Dur 2 plant development is being implemented through a public - private contract (IWPP), which governs the establishment, ownership and operations in accordance with the BOO system to meet future energy and water demands.

## HRH Prince Salman values COVID frontliners' key role

### Two exceptional steps of promotion in civil service announced

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and

Prime Minister, highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's continued appreciation for first responders in combatting COVID-19 to safeguard the health of all in the Kingdom.

HRH Prince Salman directed the granting of two additional promotional steps in the civil service or their equivalent for first responders in Bahrain.

His Royal Highness com-

mended the vital role played by first responders, and their patriotic contributions to the Kingdom's successes and achievements throughout these unprecedented times.

He extended his gratitude to those who have placed the well-being of the entire country at the forefront of all their efforts, safeguarding the health of citizens and residents.

## Financial aid package similar to last year's

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MP Sayed Falah Hashim confirmed that the new financial aid package for the private sector is similar to the second economic-stimulus package the government provided to the Bahrain-based companies last year following the COVID-19 outbreak.

MPs have discussed with the Cabinet providing a special mental and financial support to those who lost their parents.

MP Hashim also revealed that the government's rep-



MP Hashim

the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Prime Minister, discussed with us several items listed on the meeting agenda, including giving much-needed financial and psychological

aids," said MP Hashim.

"We have many children who are facing an unknown future because some of them lost their fathers. In some cases, we have families, whose mothers and fathers demised because of COVID-19. This is a serious situation that everyone has to consider seriously."

When asked if they are expecting a decision on this point any time soon, he replied: "We are expecting our suggestions to be discussed next week during the next Cabinet meeting."

### Speaker receives Pakistani Ambassador



Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal received the newly appointed Pakistan Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammad Ayub. The Speaker congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment, wishing him success in his diplomatic mission to support the march of the strong historical relations between the two friendly countries, praising the bilateral relations strength. The Ambassador expressed his country's appreciation to Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, stressing his country's interest in expanding areas of cooperation between the two countries to serve common interests, especially in the parliamentary field.

### BDF Commander-in-Chief receives US Military Attache



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, received the US Military Attache Colonel John Gondol. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa praised the historical relations between Bahrain and the US, reviewing ways of strengthening them and the development they are witnessing at various levels, especially with regard to military coordination and defense cooperation.

# Boost for economy

Business sector hails HM King's royal directives to extend COVID-19 relief package



Al Amin



Janahi



Bin Hindi

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**We welcome the good government's initiatives to help the Bahraini people during these exceptional times. The citizens are the pillars of progress so it is important to ease the burden on them**

KHALID AL AMIN, BCCI FOOD WEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Praises poured in for His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa following his royal directives to extend a COVID-19 relief package for three more months.

The financial and economic stimulus package worth BD485 is designed to help Bahraini citizens and privately-owned businesses during this time of pandemic.

As part of this extension, the government will pay the salaries of Bahraini private sector employees for three months from June 2021 to August 2021 aside from waiving the monthly fees for businesses hardest hit by the global health crisis.

HM King has directed His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to oversee the implementation of the relief aid.

### Empowering private sector

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) praised HM the King's royal directives, saying that they reflect the keenness of the wise leadership on supporting the private sector and empowering it to overcome the pandemic.

The Chamber underlined the importance of the stimulus package in bolstering the stability of the national economy and putting it on the path to recovery and growth.

It stressed on the need to revise and revamp the national economy to enable it to withstand and overcome current and future challenges and crises.

### Positive outlook

BCCI Food Wealth Committee Chairman Khalid Al Amin said His Majesty's directives to continue supporting the affected people reflect the wise leadership's positive outlook on the Kingdom's economic stability.

"We welcome the good government's initiatives to help the Bahraini people during these exceptional times. The citizens are the pillars of progress so it is important to ease the burden on them," said Al Amin.

### Deep care for citizens

Bahrain Businesswomen Society (BBWS), in a statement, said the royal directives reflect the deep care and great attention of His Majesty King Hamad to support the citizens and the most affected sectors, and take into account their needs.

BBWS President Ahlam Janahi pointed out that the decisions would contribute effectively to revitalising the market and avoiding the effects of the COVID-19 on the Bahraini commercial street, especially in the small and medium enterprises sector, to which most of the soci-



Najebi

ety members belong, and which represents about 98% of the total commercial registrations in Bahrain.

### Significant impact

The Bahrain Businessmen Association (BBA) said the number of support initiatives will have very positive and significant impact on the country and the citizen. BBA president Ahmed Abdullah bin Hindi stressed the importance of the dignified and immediate response of the government.

Bin Hindi said: "Without a doubt, such qualitative initiatives came at the right time, especially with the continuity of previous packages and the severe economic damage COVID-19 has caused to many institutions of the economic sector in the country."

### Frontrunner in development

Seef Real Estate Company Board of Directors Chairman Issa Mohammed Najebi said the new national package of support makes the Kingdom once again a frontrunner in the sustainability aspects of development despite the challenges that the pandemic still poses. Najebi stressed that the flexible policies and the insightful visions of the wise leadership and the government in its balanced handling of the COVID-19 crisis would lead the Kingdom to safety, prosperity and sustainable development.