

# SMC occupancy rate within normal levels: Dr Al Ansari

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The COVID-19 pandemic has not stressed the capacity of Salmaniya Medical Complex, said a top official.

Government Hospitals Chief Executive Dr Ahmed Al Ansari, in a statement, said that the occupancy rates of the Salmaniya are within the normal limits.

The hospital, he said, is now experiencing an occupancy rate of 70% to 80%.

The Chief Executive also thanked the tremendous efforts of the medical team for keeping the rates well within the normal limits.

Dr Al Ansari said the capacity expansion is helping SMC



to provide the highest level of service amid the outbreak of the deadly pandemic.

The BD 120,000 expansion project of the Emergency Department at SMC provided 50 beds with medical equipment each to zone A and zone B of the hospital.

Zone A is for emergency cases, while Zone B is for taking care of suspected COVID-19 infection cases.

Zone B also have 14 beds set aside for dialysis patients.

The hospital also has six beds in the intensive care zone with an ambulance entrance for ur-



Dr Ahmed Al Ansari

gent cases.

Radiology devices, ventilators, electronic pressure gauges, vital signs monitoring devices, health information system and communications devices are also in place as part of the project.

## Customs win BV award for COVID-19 safety standards



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Customs Affairs announced winning an award by Bureau Veritas for maintaining COVID-19 preventive measures in line with international medical standards.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the President of Customs Affairs, received the award from Zulfikar Haider, CEO of BV in Bahrain. Numan Munawar, the Director of Systems Documentation Services, was present.

## Works Minister visits BD78 million Tubli wastewater expansion project



Works Minister Essam Khalaf during a visit to the Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion project



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Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, has inspected the BD78 million Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion

project to review its progress.

The project, funded jointly by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as part of the Gulf Development Programme, is now in its Phase 4 development.

It aims at boosting the performance of the Tubli Wastewa-

ter Plant and the production of treated water for irrigation and agriculture.

Upon completion, the project will enhance the average daily flow capacity by 200,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day to 400,000 cubic metres/day.

The ministry, Essam Khalaf said, is also implementing another project in parallel with the Tubli Wastewater Plant Expansion.

The project includes the construction of laboratories, workshop, and an administration and

the Sanitation Affairs Directorate.

The Saudi Fund for Development is funding the project, the minister said.

The minister also said that the Government of Bahrain would fund the operation and mainte-

nance of the old and new plant for ten years.

The Works Ministry Undersecretary, Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Khayyat, and Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitation, Ibrahim Hassan Al-Hawaj, were present during the visit.

## EWA rolls out video communication service

● The service handled 28,000 video calls during the trial period

● Electricity and Water Authority also opens a service for hard-of-hearing people

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Electricity and Water Authority announced launching a new set of visual services for subscribers to overcome the challenges posed by the deadly coronavirus pandemic. The services, using Skiplino, open a direct visual link with EWA employers, bypassing service centres.

The services also cater to those who are hard-of-hearing. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, and Shaikh Nawwaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the CEO of EWA, inaugurated the



EWA Minister and CEO during the inauguration of the services

new services.

EWA, the minister said, is one of the first governmental agencies to launch a visual communication service for subscribers.

"The move follows the digitisation plan the authority is rolling out, including for insurance payment through the e-government portal.

Shaikh Nawwaf said the new services allow subscribers to book an appointment through the Skiplino app available both for Apple and Android. Sheikh Nawwaf added: "Upon booking a service, an employee from the concerned department will contact the subscriber visually using the app to complete

the transactions." "The service experienced great success during its trial period by making 28 thousand video calls through our virtual branch during the first quarter of the year."

"This year, EWA call centre processed 268,110 calls according to the performance indicators approved by the authority," Sheikh Nawwaf said. The service for deaf and mute people allows them to communicate visually through the number 33267444 without prior appointment.

The minister and the CEO further affirmed that the Electricity and Water Authority plans to launch more new electronic services in the future.



Alfonso A. Ver, Ambassador of Philippines, holding an online session with Filipino nationals at Jaw and Asri correctional facilities. Ambassador Ver gave assured continued support to Filipino nationals in prison.

## Philippines embassy announces Kalayaan online fair

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The Embassy of the Philippines in Manama announced holding an exclusive preview and opportunity to shop at an online fair.

The fair, dubbed 'Habi Kalayaan online fair', is organised by the International Bazaar Foundation in cooperation



Log on to [www.shophabifair.com](http://www.shophabifair.com) from 00:00H on 10 June 2021 until 23:59H on 11 June 2021 to access the online fair.

with the HABI Textile Council of the Philippines.

The fair, the embassy said, offers one of a kind pieces, limited edition collections, handwoven treasures and collectables in celebration of Philippine Independence Day.

"It is a showcase of sustainable fashion and other lifestyle products using traditional and contemporary textiles from different parts of the Philippines," the embassy statement said. The embassy welcomes all to join the fair that showcases locally made products and Philippine culture.

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Preview is available from 8 to 9 June.