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Work on new BD98m bridge to begin in June

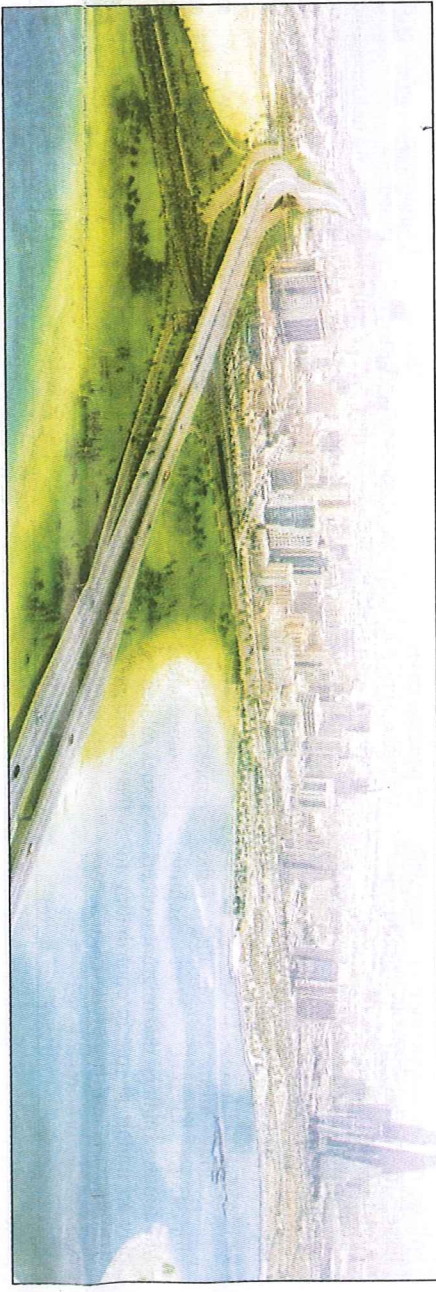
Project to significantly ease traffic congestion

Work on a 2,840 metre bridge connecting Bahrain Bay to the intersection of the Al Fateh and King Faisal highways will begin in June at a cost of BD98 million (\$260 million), Minister of Works Fahmi bin Ali Al Jowdar said yesterday.

Al Jowdar, who signed a letter awarding the contract for the Manama northern bridge yesterday, said the project will be executed by Six-Construct Haji Hassan Group J.V.

The minister added in a statement to our sister newspaper *Al Ayyam* that the project consists of a raised bridge at the intersection of King Faisal Highway and the Al Fateh Highway. He also confirmed the importance of the project, as it will positively impact the flow of traffic in the area and ease congestion, while serving as a boon for the nation's road network and the national economy's competitiveness among GCC countries.

Minister Al Jowdar said the new bridge will be the longest in Bahrain — at a total length of 2,840 metres — and



PROGRESS IN MOTION: An artist's impression of the new 2,840 metre-long Manama northern bridge.

will be the main entrance for the Bahrain Bay area as Manama will be connected to the harbour from the eastern side. He added that the bridge will lead to uninterrupted flow of traffic at the mentioned intersection, and will also serve as an entrance to the Bahrain Financial Harbour from the north side.

The minister further noted that the project is expected to be completed in October 2013 and that works should start in June this year if everything goes as planned.

He added that this project would serve all the investment projects situated in the north of Manama in accordance with the national strategic plan for roads in the Kingdom and in

accordance with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. Bahrain Bay is a multi-billion dollar multipurpose development that will encompass residential, commercial and retail zones, in addition to luxury hotels, a yacht club, office towers, schools and entertainment and leisure venues spread out over seven zones.

