

Qatar eyes water desalination plant expansion

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Qatar is aiming to build up its water reserves so they can meet the country's needs for a week in an emergency.

Existing desalinated water reserves can last only one-and-a-half days in an emergency, officials have said.

The country hopes to be ready with the increased capacity in about two years, according to Ali Saif Al Malki, the head of water networks at the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) in comments published by Qatar daily Gulf Times.

New reservoirs are being built to help achieve the strategic goal, he said in comments translated from Arabic daily Al Sharq.

He added that a seventh water desalination plant would soon go on line to increase production to to 325 million gallons per day.

Increased production would take care of the fast growing demand for water from both residential as well as industrial users, the paper reported.

He said the water distribution networks in the country would be expanded to link upcoming industrial and commercial areas to them.