

## **SR6 billion worth of drainage projects come under microscope**

JEDDAH: Specialist teams are reviewing the execution of sanitary and storm-water drainage projects in Jeddah and the SR6 billion contracts for the work, a source told Okaz/Saudi Gazette.

Teams from the General Auditing Bureau and the Control and Investigation Board are making this urgent move in the aftermath of the disaster caused by Wednesday's rain, the source said.

Teams from both organizations have started their field work, with the help of specialist engineers, to scrutinize contracts signed by the ministries of Water and Electricity and Municipal and Rural Affairs, the source said.

Engineers and specialists confirmed that in 2005, a contractor received two projects totaling SR4 billion for executing networks in Jeddah and was to have finished them in 2008, but the projects have not been completed, according to the source.

In the last three years, officials have signed drainage-related contracts worth SR6 billion, the source added.

The General Auditing Bureau will send teams to check ongoing projects and others that were executed outside of specifications stipulated in contracts, the source said.

A GAB report issued earlier disclosed that the state treasury had lost millions of riyals in public funds, in addition to the loss of time, since the beginning of work on sanitary drainage projects in northern and central Jeddah because those in charge have not completed the projects.

A contract for more than SR1 billion formed the first stage of the overall sanitary-drainage projects, the report said.

In its report, GAB confirmed that the contractor had achieved a low rate of progress in the projects with delays reaching a total of 26 months during the first 10 months of the contract.