

business

Exploit technological advancements: Telecom Authority tells 'Aregnet'

TRA participates AREGNET meeting, hands over the chairmanship to Tunisia



The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) delegates during the 17th annual meeting of Arab Regulatory Network (AREGNET) in Tunisia

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has called on to exploit advancements in technology that are available industry-wide to capitalise on the "major technological changes occurring around us."

Shaikh Nasser Bin Mohamed

Al Khalifa, the Acting General Director of TRA, told the 17th annual meeting of Arab Regulatory Network (AREGNET) that the world of technology is rapidly changing, particularly in telecom.

"How we communicate has made leaps and bounds since the days where all we had were voice calls," Shaikh Nasser told

the meeting in Tunisia adding: "This means we have opportunities that are exploitable industry-wide."

Shaikh Nasser, who headed TRA delegation, urged the forum to look forward to advancements in "Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Digital Currencies and 5G mobile networks" occurring around.

On the last day, TRA handed over its chairmanship to Tunisia's National Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications.

TRA chaired the expert group meeting, during which regulators from the Arab region reviewed various joint projects and working groups.

TRA also hosted a series of workshops and meetings as

part of its activities in AREGNET during April 2019. The meetings shed light on new projects on the economic effects of over-the-top (OTT) application, emergency communications in the Arab region, utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the telecommunications and ICT sectors and the new generation of mobile network (5G).

NBB implements Personal Data Protection law



All NBB ATMs feature PDPL consent screen

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National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) said it has become the first bank in the Kingdom to comply with the new Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) which came into effect on 1st August 2019.

Under the PDPL, organisations are required to obtain the consent of their customers to communicate with them. NBB said it's using its ATM network to obtain customers' consent.

Additional features, NBB said, will be deployed to manage personal data more easily during next year.

Commenting, Subah A. Latif AlZayani, Head of Retail at NBB, said that the bank is "mindful of the importance of compliance with the laws and regulations aimed at safeguarding customer information."

Sudan received half of \$3bn promised by Saudi, UAE

Reuters | Abu Dhabi

Sudan has received half of \$3 billion in aid promised by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in April and expects the remainder to be paid by the end of next year, Sudan's finance minister said late on Monday.

The Gulf countries agreed the aid package soon after former president Omar al-Bashir was ousted, throwing a lifeline to Sudan's new military leaders at the time.

Finance Minister Ibrahim Elbadawi said Saudi Arabia and



Finance Minister Ibrahim Elbadawi. (Courtesy of Dabanga)

the UAE had deposited \$500 million in the Sudanese central bank, while \$1 billion worth of petroleum products, wheat and agricultural production inputs had been received.

Long lines for bread and fuel are a recurring feature of Sudan's economic crisis.

"I met with the ambassadors of the kingdom and of the UAE, and we agreed on a programmed schedule that will God willing take us to the end of 2020, to finish off the rest of the grant," Elbadawi said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of an event in Abu Dhabi,

where Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok is visiting after traveling to Riyadh earlier in the week.

Sudan's new prime minister was accompanied on his visit to the Gulf by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the transitional sovereign council, and other senior officials.

Last month, Elbadawi announced a nine-month economic rescue plan aimed at curbing rampant inflation while ensuring supplies of basic goods, which would keep bread and petrol subsidies in place until at least June 2020.

Russia forecasts oil price at \$50



Energy Minister Alexander Novak

Moscow

Russia, one of the world's biggest energy producers, is basing its economic forecasting on an oil price of \$50 per barrel, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said yesterday.

"We believe that in the medium term, oil prices will be around \$50," Novak said in an interview with Rossiya 24 state television, adding this was a "conservative scenario".

"Our forecast of (Russia's) socio-economic development is based on this price," he said.

The forecast is below the current market price for oil which has been volatile as worries about supply have been counterbalanced by concerns over a slowing world economy.

Yesterday WTI, the US benchmark, traded at around

\$52 while its European counterpart, Brent, stood at just over \$58.

Russia's budget for the current year was based on a price of around \$42 per barrel, the lowest in about a decade, according to Bloomberg.

Export of oil and natural gas are two major sources of revenue for Russia which has, however, been trying to diversify the economy.

Russia has been cooperating with OPEC, of which it is not a member, to limit production with a view to engineering an oil price rebound after sharp drops seen in 2014-2015.

In mid-September energy markets briefly soared following attacks on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, but dropped off again amid unease about the global economic outlook.

Sony's PlayStation 5 launch set for late 2020

● A major new feature of the updated console would be its immersive controller

● The new controller will offer "haptic feedback"

● Another feature will be "adaptive triggers"



Picture courtesy of bgr

troller to reimagine how the sense of touch can add to that immersion," said Jim Ryan, president and chief executive of Sony Interactive Entertainment.

The new controller will offer "haptic feedback" that brings players closer to the action of games.

"With haptics, you truly feel a broader range of feedback, so crashing into a wall in a race car feels much different than making a tackle on the football field," Ryan said.

"You can even get a sense for a variety of textures when running through fields of grass or plodding through mud."

Another feature will be "adaptive triggers" incorporated into controls "so that you feel the tactile sensation of drawing a bow and arrow or accelerating

an off-road vehicle through rocky terrain," he added.

Sony, which leads the console segment, announced the move as more gamers move away from these boxes to streaming games powered by the internet cloud on a variety of devices.

Google, Apple and others have launched game subscriptions which compete with Sony's PlayStation Now cloud video game service.

According to NPD Group, a market research firm, 73 percent of Americans ages two and older play video games, an increase of six percentage points since June 2018.

Mobile remains the most popular gaming platform, with mobile gaming appealing to gamers across all consumer segments, the NPD survey showed.

San Francisco

Sony said yesterday its next-generation PlayStation 5 console, with new immersive features giving players the tactile experience of virtual worlds, would launch for the 2020 holi-

day season.

The Japanese electronics firm, which had teased its new console earlier this year, said a major new feature of the updated console would be its immersive controller.

"One of our goals with the next generation is to deepen the feeling of immersion when you play games, and we had the opportunity with our new con-