

Finance Minister highlights technological initiatives at key meeting

TDT | Manama

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, attended a meeting with the Ministers and Governors of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters in Washington, DC.

Held under the banner of "Technology and its Potential to Transform MENAP Economies," the meeting discussed how tech-

nological advancements are reshaping the global economy, and ways through which the region can capitalise on their benefits.

During the meeting, Shaikh Salman noted that promoting the development and deployment of emerging-technologies is of paramount importance to achieving long-term development goals.

In this regard, Shaikh Salman spoke of Bahrain's extensive digital transformation that continues to enhance public sector efficiency, and provide promising



Shaikh Salman speaks the ministerial meeting held in Washington, DC.

investment opportunities.

He also spoke of Bahrain's efforts in adapting to technology advances, which include the launch of a regulatory sandbox for Fintech companies, the introduction of a 5G network, and strengthening the digital infrastructure to promote cloud computing.

Shaikh Salman went on to review key strategic technological initiatives, which include the national suggestions and complaints system 'Tawasul', an electronic communication

platform that delivers citizens' suggestions to various government entities; Sijilat, an online commercial registration system that simplifies business registration processes; and Benayat, a new streamlined process for issuing building permits.

Shaikh Salman concluded by highlighting the essential role multilateral agencies play in the proliferation of emerging technologies, and underlined the importance of bridging the digital divide between all countries.

Support to SMEs stressed

Industry Minister highlights the Kingdom's initiatives to promote entrepreneurship

Manama

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed Al Zayani, delivered the opening speech at the Ministerial Meeting of Countries of Emerging Institutions, which was held on the sidelines of the World Entrepreneurship Congress yesterday.

The event was organised by the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) and the World Bank Group.

The minister welcomed all 48 delegations attending the World Entrepreneurship Congress.

He reviewed Bahrain's government diligent endeavour to support the emerging, small and medium enterprises sector that has witnessed a significant increase in contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He thanked the initiatives adopted by the government, led by HRH the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the support of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to develop this vital sector.

The minister touched on Bah-



Mr Al Zayani delivers the opening speech at the ministerial meeting.

rain's experience in supporting emerging institutions by the formation of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council, in addition to the adoption of a strategic plan aimed at raising the contribution to GDP, increasing exports and creating new employment opportunities.

He noted Bahrain's eagerness to be a centre of emerging projects through the constant development of legislation and laws on providing a stimulating investment environment.

Separately, Mr Al Zayani met Polish Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Enterprise and Technology Tadeusz Kosciński.

He briefed the Polish official

48
delegations representing various countries and institutions are attending the World Entrepreneurship Congress.

on the sector of entrepreneurship in the Kingdom and the Government's efforts to draw-up strategies aimed to develop entrepreneurship and provide the require facilities. The minister stressed the im-

portance of expanding co-operation and bolstering co-ordination to develop the sector of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), promote entrepreneurship programmes and exchange expertise.

Mr Al Zayani also held discussions with US Small Business Administrator David Glaccum, Malaysian Entrepreneurship Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof, Nigerian Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Aisha Abubakar, Maldivian Minister of State for Economic Development Mohamed Iyad Hameed and Nepalese Minister of Industry, Trade and Supplies Matrika Prasad Yadav.

Sacked employee reinstated by court order

TDT | Manama

The Court of Cassation yesterday ordered a rights institution to reinstate a Bahraini employee who was arbitrarily fired when the administration of the establishment was changed.

According to the plaintiff's lawyer, Dr Mohammed Abu-Hussain, the man worked as a part-timer at the institution for fifteen months back in the years 2013, 2014.

On August 17, 2014, the Secretary General of the institution appointed the man as a full-time employee due to his excellent performance. The decision was implemented on September 1 of the same year.

Dr AbuHussain explained that his client was given the choice by the officials at the institution to "either return to his part-time job or leave the establishment".

The lawyer said this happened eight months after the man was assigned his new job and shortly after the Secretary General, who hired the man as a full-time employee, had retired.

The administration also informed the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) that the man was sacked as the head of the institution didn't approve his employment.

The man then filed a lawsuit at the Civil Court demanding the revocation of the administration's decision to fire him

from the institution and to pay him BD100 as temporary civil compensation.

The man lost the case as his employment wasn't approved by the president of the institution.

However, he appealed against the verdict on the pretext that he had worked for eight consecutive months as a full-time employee before the administration decided to sack him.

The court mentioned in its verdict that despite the absence of an approval on the appellant's employment from the institution's president, the latter's decision to sack the employee eight months later revokes his right of cancelling the employment.

The court ordered to reinstate the man as a full-time employee at the institution and to reject his other demands, including the financial compensation.

”
The court ordered to reinstate the man as a full-time employee at the institution and to reject his other demands, including the financial compensation.

DR ABUHUSSAIN

'Drug addict' acquitted after 'unconstitutional arrest'

TDT | Manama

A defendant was acquitted by the Minor Criminal Court of possessing and abusing narcotics, despite his blood and urine tests showed traces of drugs.

This was revealed yesterday by the defendant's lawyer Omair Salah, who pleaded for the release of his client, claiming that the nature of his arrest was against the Kingdom's Constitution.

The details of the case show that the suspects were stopped by a police patrol vehicle and were asked for their identities.

The officer said both men

”
The officer arrested my client without obtaining any order from the Public Prosecution, in violation of the Constitution.

MR SALAH

were in an "abnormal" state, and that they were high on a carburettor cleaner spray commonly known as "Stop".

Both men were arrested and the results of their blood and urine tests came out positive for abusing drugs.

On July 6 last year, the Public

Prosecution accused the defendant of possessing and abusing narcotics (Clonazepam and Diazepam), as shown in his blood and urine samples. However, Mr Salah questioned the arrest procedures, stating that they're breaching the Kingdom's constitution.

The lawyer told the judges that the officer arrested his client without obtaining any order from the Public Prosecution, in violation of Article 19/b of the Constitution, which stipulates that "a person cannot be arrested, detained, imprisoned or searched, or his place of residence specified or his freedom

of residence or movement restricted, except under the provision of the law and under judicial supervision".

Mr Salah also referred to the "Stop" spray as a regular substance that is used by automobile garages and mechanics, adding that it's not listed as a narcotic or prohibited substance criminalising its consumption.

The court ordered to acquit the defendant for the invalidation of the arrest and inspection procedures, and also for taking the sample of the defendant's blood and urine without obtaining the permission of the Public Prosecution.

TRA to launch registration for domain names in Arabic

TDT | Manama

In an effort to promote the Arabic electronic content, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), in co-operation with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), has worked to obtain the necessary permissions to manage the Internationalised Domain Name in Arabic equivalent to the existing English domain (.bh).

"The Arabic language is the fastest growing on the Internet in terms of content. Arabic is also the fifth language in the world in terms of the number of speakers which is very important and reflects TRA's keenness to provide a national domain promoting the development of websites with Arabic content," said TRA Acting



Shaikh Nasser bin Mohamed

General Director Shaikh Nasser bin Mohamed Al Khalifa.

"This initiative is the result of Ministerial Resolution No. 11 of 2018 which was published in the Official Gazette on the 18th of October 2018, stating that TRA is the official authority responsible for managing domain name operations in the Kingdom, and also the recently issued Royal Decree No 33 of 2019 stating that TRA is the government authority responsible for registering domain names and levying collectible fees," he added.

Suspects released in court bribe case

TDT | Manama

The Lower Criminal Court yesterday ordered to release two defendants, a court employee and his sister who is a lawyer, on guarantee of their place of residence.

The siblings were arrested

red-handed last February while receiving part of a BD50,000 bribe to release an inmate, according to prosecutors.

As reported by Tribune earlier, the defendants received the bribe to allegedly facilitate a convict's release from jail.

Their arrest came after the Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security Directorate within the Interior Ministry, received a tip-off.

A trap was set to arrest the suspects and sources informed that the amount of the bribe is

believed to be BD50,000.

Sources also confirmed that the employee at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments had been recently promoted to the post of an acting supervisor at the Civil Court and that he oddly disappeared on the day of his arrest.