

Bahrain-Serbia parliamentary co-operation reviewed

Belgrade

Speaker Fawzia Zainal affirmed that the international Parliamentary community nowadays is especially required to take an effective and influential stance to protect maritime navigation in the Arabian Gulf region and countries around the world to protect the global

economy.

This came as the Speaker met the President of Serbian Parliament Maja Gojkovic on the sidelines of participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s 141st meeting held in Serbia Republic, in presence of the Shura Council's Second Deputy President Jameela Salman and MP Fatima Abbas.



Ms Zainal

Ms Zainal stressed the importance of holding accountable any country that assaults international navigation and violates international laws and conventions on maritime safety, in order to preserve global security and peace.

She reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to protect sea navigation with sisterly and friendly countries.

The Speaker pointed out Bahrain's keenness under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, on boosting security and stability around the world, and supporting the promotion of the culture of peace, tolerance and coexistence.

She cited the Kingdom's established culture, laws and measures at all levels and areas that reflect

Bahrain's cohesive society bonds and pioneering position in the realm of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

During the meeting, the two sides explored ways of bolstering the parliamentary co-operation, co-ordination at international platforms, and furthering the friendship ties between Bahrain and Serbia.

Launch of national broadband network 'ushers in new Internet technology era'

Launch in line with the Fourth National Telecommunications Plan

Abhitab Kumar
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom's National Broadband Network (BNET) was officially launched at a high level press conference held at the Capital Club yesterday.

The launch was announced by Batelco Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, in the presence of the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Kamal Ahmed, BNET CEO Mohamed Bubashait, CEO's of OLO's (Other Licensed Operators) and members of Bahrain's media.

During the event, the BNET logo, which will soon be rolled out to all customer touch points, was revealed.

The launch event follows on from the announcement of Batelco's legal separation into two independent entities, which was announced at an earlier press conference held in May.

As part of the legal separation, a new executive structure was implemented and new CEOs were appointed for both Batelco and BNET.

Independent buildings and departments were also allocated for each entity, in line with the nature of the companies' work.

In line with the requirements of the 4th National Telecommunications Plan approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2016, BNET will provide broadband network services to all licensed operators including Batelco, whereas, Batelco will focus solely on retail and corpo-



Mr Ahmed, Shaikh Abdulla, Mr Bubashait and other dignitaries at the cake-cutting ceremony.



Mr Ahmed delivers his speech at the launch.

rate operations.

Mr Ahmed expressed his pleasure at the launch event by saying, "I would like to thank the team involved in the implementation of this successful project, which contributed towards turning the vision of the National Telecommunications plan into a reality, and is being witnessed today during this event. This project is a major leap for the services provided by telecommunications companies, where all customers will be able to benefit from high-speed Internet services from all telecom providers."

During the event, Mr Mohamed Bubashait, CEO of BNET gave a detailed presentation



The newly-revealed logo of BNET.

about the company's vision and functions as well as its strategy for managing the national network's infrastructure.

The presentation also included a detailed explanation of the

operational model and work mechanism that the company will follow to achieve its objectives.

Also revealed was BNET's new logo, designed to symbolise both the national network and the Kingdom while being distinguishable from Batelco.

Shaikh Abdulla stated that he was very pleased to announce the launch of BNET which is a key part of the Fourth National Telecommunication Plan (NTP4) to develop the growth and economic diversification of the telecommunication sector, including rolling out a fibre optic network to 100 per cent of all businesses and 95pc of all households across the Kingdom.



This project is a major leap for the services provided by telecommunications companies, where all customers will be able to benefit from high-speed Internet services from all telecom providers.

MR AHMED

"The restructure of Batelco is now complete with independent management teams and human resources in place. BNET's teams are now working on the imple-

mentation of its strategic plans which focus on the development of the fibre optic network across Bahrain and the provision of high-speed Internet services for OLO's on a fair and competitive basis.

"The company will continue to complete the separation process as required in line with the Government's strategy and future vision for the telecommunications sector."

"This step is part of a series of initiatives aimed to enhance Bahrain's position as a strategic investment destination, a regional ICT hub and a major contributor to upgrading the Kingdom's telecommunications services," he concluded.

Majlis Fakhre Bahrain to hold seminar on renowned Urdu poet

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A two-day national seminar dedicated to an unsung hero of Urdu poetry and journalism, Pt Harichand Akhtar, will be held at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad on 30th and 31st of October, 2019.

The seminar is being organised by Majlis Fakhre Bahrain a literary and cultural society patronised by Shakeel Ahmed Sabrahdi, Chairman Shakeel Group of Companies, a well-known businessman in Bahrain, and IDEA Communication in collaboration with



Pt Harichand Akhtar

MANUU.

Around 35 academics of re-

puted institutions and Hindi-Urdu scholars are expected to participate and present their research papers.

Three renowned figures will also be honoured for their contributions in promotion of Urdu and national integration.

The seminar is part of an annual series of felicitating Indian literary figures.

Lovers of Urdu and Hindi poetry will come together in February 2020 to celebrate Pt Harichand Akhtar at an International Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira (poetry recital session) in Bahrain organised by Majlis Fakhre Bahrain.

Delegation visit to the UK



Adeb Ahmed, managing director of Twenty 14 Holdings, was part of the high-level business delegation, which visited the United Kingdom. Above, Mr Adeb at the 10 Downing Street, and, right, Mr Adeb holding talks with the UK Minister of Investment, Graham Stuart.