

Improve competitiveness of telecom sector: HRH CP

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa yesterday stressed the need for telecommunications companies to prioritise service, product and infrastructure development to improve the sector's competitiveness.

This came as the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister received yesterday the newly appointed Chairman of the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco), Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, at Gudaibiya Palace.

Highlighting the major role played by the sector in the economy, HRH CP underlined the ef-



HRH Crown Prince during his meeting yesterday with Batelco Chairman at the Gudaibiya Palace

fectiveness of the Kingdom's advanced regulatory framework.

"The work of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Telecom-

munications and Transport has been instrumental in ensuring that Bahrain's telecoms sector remains an example of international best practice," Prince

Salman told Shaikh Abdulla.

Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Board member of Batelco, also attended the meeting.



BDF Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa visiting a BDF unit, as part of an inspection visit to various unit to ensure the units combat and administrative readiness.



Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa with Director-General of King Fahad Causeway Organisation Fahad Mohammad Al Dawood yesterday. The meeting discussed most important projects of the organisations in the coming years, including increasing the capacity of the procedures areas, fee gates on both sides and green lanes for trucks on Bahrain's side. The Minister highlighted the importance to tackle traffic jams that occur on the causeway and the need to harness modern technology, including the solar energy.

Bahrain-UK for stronger ties



Shaikh Khalid and Alistair Burt during a meeting in London

SDG: Bahrain's progress hailed

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Bahrain's keenness to strengthen international cooperation with the UN and specialised agencies in the field of Sustainable Development Goals was praised yesterday by the UN officials.

This came as the Cabinet Affairs Minister Mohamed Ibrahim Al Mutawa met with Liu Zhenmin the United Nation (UN)'s Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in the presence of Housing Minister Bassim Al Hamer.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the presentation of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Report, at the UN Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)'s High-Level



The Cabinet Affairs Minister with UN's Liu Zhenmin during a meeting

Policy Forum in New York.

The UN official praised Bahrain's first voluntary report on its progress in this field, stressing the keenness of the Council to provide all the assistance and expertise to Bahrain in any way that would achieve further

progress in for Bahrain's goals in the field of SDGs. Separately, the minister also held meeting UN Under-secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Maimuna Mohammed Sharif.

TDT | London

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the strong historic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom.

The minister, currently on a visit to the United Kingdom, was holding a meeting with the Minister of State for the Middle East at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Alistair Burt.

Shaikh Khalid commended the significant role played by the United Kingdom in countering terrorism in all its forms and highlighted the importance of the British Naval Support Facility in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region in general.

The minister also stressed the importance of continued cooperation between international partners to protect stability and security for a safer environment for all.

Burt affirmed the keenness of the United Kingdom to develop its strong historical relations with Bahrain at all levels to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The two sides also discussed other issues of the region.

Joint Working Group

Separately, the Bahraini-British Joint Working Group held its meeting yesterday under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Alistair Burt.

The meeting discussed the progress of relations between

the two kingdoms and means of enhancing them and underscored the importance of the Bahraini-British Joint Working Group's meeting in pushing forward joint action.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the occasion between the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the United Kingdom represented by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

Present at the meeting were the Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, Kamal Ahmed, Public Security Chief, Major General Tariq Al-Hassan and a number of senior officials

More housing project on way in the Kingdom with private sector, says Housing Minister

TDT | New York

More housing projects will be launched in the kingdom in association with the private sector, said Housing Minister, Bassim Al-Hamar.

Speaking while participating in a panel discussion held within the Ministerial Meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, the minister also said that the ministry had signed a cooperation document with the UN Development

Programme to revise Bahrain's housing policy and develop an effective, efficient and sustainable housing and land sector in line with new economic realities.

The meeting held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council was on the sidelines of the kingdom's presentation of its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Housing Minister during UN-Habitat's panel discussion in New York, yesterday

Themed 'Together for Inclusive Cities and Safe Human Settlements', the panel discussion was organised by the UN-Habitat to follow up on member countries' efforts to implement SDGs.

Al-Hamar stressed Housing Ministry's interest in implementing the 11th sustainable development goal (SDGs) highlighting the construction of Salman Town, Khalifa Town, East Hidd Town, East Sitra Town and the Al-Ramli.