

Project focuses on Bahraini dialects

Bahraini Arabic has 14 dialects, which varies from village to village

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Sitrawi, Muharraqi and Riffayan dialects are set to hit the limelight as two professors at the University of Bahrain are all set to launch the "Bahrain Thesaurus" project by the second half of the current year.

According to language experts, Bahraini Arabic has 14 dialects, which varies from village to village.

The project is being carried out by Dr Dana Abdullah Abdulrahim, the Director of English Language Centre at the University and Dr Latifa Shamsan Youssef, a teaching staff within the English Department.

The project will focus on half a million Arabic words that are commonly in use across the Kingdom.

Speaking to our sister paper Al Ayam, Dr Dana said: "This idea came to my mind while



Dr Dana



Dr Latifa

pursuing my doctoral studies in Canada and I began collecting data for the purpose nearly 12 years ago. I discussed the idea with Dr Latifa, who showed great enthusiasm to move forward and thus the project was born."

"Lot of research is required in the study of linguistics," she said, adding that the project aims at providing an electronic database for the dialect to facilitate further learning and research for linguistic enthusiasts.

She said the project would provide a comprehensive dictionary of Bahraini dialect for

those wishing to learn it.

Dr Shamsan said the project relied on collecting recordings of Bahraini series and talk shows before transcribing them based on methodologies adopted by the New York University team in Abu Dhabi while researching on colloquial dialects in the Arab world.

She said that the project will be available on a website along with search options for specific words and dialects.

A team of students pursuing linguistics courses at the university were hired to transcribe conversations in colloquial dialect through television series, folk stories, talk shows and plays.

Nearly 350 students participated in the process of documenting these conversations for over five years. Programmers and website supervisors are expected to join the project soon.

Stranded expat goes home

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

A blind Indian expat who had been stranded in the Kingdom for the past 15 years yesterday flew home, thanks to the efforts of social workers.

When Harikrishna Eranholi arrived in the Kingdom in 2007 looking for greener pastures he never knew what destiny had in store.

Ten years ago, he incurred some debts that would become a villain in his life in the form of a travel ban.

Worsening the plight, Harikrishna lost his eyesight after suffering glaucoma three years ago. According to social workers, his company cancelled the visa as he suffered from visual impairment as well.

Though Harikrishna attempted to return to India, he was unsuccessful owing to the travel ban. Once he even travelled to the airport, from where he was returned.

All these days of suffering, he was living in a temporary shelter provided by the Kingdom's Sikh community.

Seeing the plight, a group of social workers led by Sudheer Thirunilath, who is the Humanitarian Director Middle East Region of World NRI Council and the County Head Of Pravasi Legal Cell, stepped in to support Harikrishna.

According to Mr Thirunilath, one of the biggest obstacles in



Harikrishna with Mr Thirunilath at Bahrain International Airport before boarding the flight to Calicut, India

his way home was a case filed by a citizen demanding BD3,700 from Harikrishna. "We cleared all nine cases against him, but this was still pending as the complainant did not accept our requests."

Subsequently, Pravasi Legal Cell approached the court with the help of their lawyer, who requested the court to consider the mercy petition filed by him and settle the case after paying BD1,999 before the court. The amount was raised with the support from a group of businessmen in the Kingdom.

"Harikrishna's mother is 74-year-old and suffering from a heart ailment. He has a wife and teenage son eagerly awaiting his return. His family is

under great stress due to the situation considering his visual impairment," Mr Thirunilath told The Daily Tribune.

Harikrishna boarded an Air India flight to Calicut yesterday. The success is the result of efforts put in by the Immigration Authorities, Indian Embassy, World NRI Council, Pravasi Legal Cell and ICRF.

At Bahrain International Airport, Harikrishna thanked Bahraini authorities, Indian Embassy, Sikh community of the Kingdom, social workers Mr Thirunilath, Kerala Pravasi Commission member Subair Kannur along with the management and staff of Shifa Al Jazeera Hospital for providing the timely support and care.

Invitation to attend the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meeting

The Board of Directors of the National Bank of Bahrain B.S.C. (Commercial Registration no. 269) is pleased to invite its shareholders to attend the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday 24th March 2022 at Al Maha Ballroom, Down Town Rotana Hotel, Manama to discuss and resolve the agenda items below. If the quorum is not met, a second meeting will be held on Thursday 31st March 2022, or a third meeting, if required, will be held on Thursday 7th April, 2022 at the same time and place

NBB

For further inquiries related to the meeting, please send an email to our share registrar Bahrain Clear B.S.C:
registry@bahrainclear.com
or contact at:
+973 17108786

First: The Agenda of the Ordinary General Meeting

- To approve the Minutes of the 65th Ordinary General Assembly meeting held on 13 October 2021.
- To discuss Board of Directors' report on the Bank's activities for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
- Hearing the external Auditors' Report on the Bank's financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
- To discuss the Bank's Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
- To accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors' to allocate the profit for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 as follows:
 - Transfer the amount of BD 9,363,947/- (Nine Million Three Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Seven Bahraini Dinars) to the statutory reserve to reach 50% of the issued and paid up share capital.
 - Accept the recommendation of the Board of Directors to issue bonus shares equivalent to one share for every ten shares issued with a nominal value of 100/- fils per share and the total amount of BD 18,727,893.100 (Eighteen Million Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three Bahraini Dinars One Hundred Fils) divided into 187,278,931 (One Hundred Eighty Seven Million Two Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One) shares after obtaining the approval of the Extraordinary General Assembly and the Central Bank of Bahrain.
 - Distribute cash dividends of 20% (20 fils per share), equivalent to BD 37,455,786.100 (Thirty Seven Million Four Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six Bahraini Dinars One Hundred Fils) to be distributed from 6 April 2022 subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain as per the following:

Cum-Dividend Date	27/03/2022
Ex-Dividend Date	28/03/2022
Record Date	29/03/2022
Payment Date	06/04/2022

- Transfer the amount of BD 2,690,250/- (Two Million Six Hundred Ninety Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Bahraini Dinars) for the endowment and donations program.
- Utilise the amount of BD 14,432,876/- (Fourteen Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six Bahraini Dinars) from accumulated retained profit to fund the allocations and distributions detailed above.
- To present the Corporate Governance report of 2021 and to discuss the achieved commitment to the Corporate Governance Code and the requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain as set out in the Annual Report.
- To notify the General Assembly of the transactions carried out during the financial year ended 31st December 2021 with any related parties or with the Bank's major shareholders as referred to in the Corporate Governance Report presented to the Ordinary General Assembly and further described in note 30 of the Financial Statements in line with Article 189 of the Commercial Companies Law.
- To absolve the members of the Board of Directors from legal liability arising from all of their actions for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
- To approve the disbursement of the remuneration to the members of the Board of Directors in the sum of BD 460,000/- (four hundred and sixty thousand Bahraini Dinars) for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.
- To approve the re-appointment of KPMG Fakhro as Auditors of the Bank for the financial year ended 31st December 2022, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain, and to authorize the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
- To discuss any other matters in accordance with Article 207 of the Commercial Companies Law.

Second: The Agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting

- To approve the Minutes of the previous Extraordinary General Meeting held on 24th March 2021.
- Approve the increase in issued and paid-up capital from BD 187,278,930.500 (One Hundred Eighty Seven Million Two Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Bahraini Dinars Five Hundred Fils) divided into 1,872,789,305 (One Billion Eight Hundred Seventy Two Million Seven Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Five) shares to BD 206,006,823.600 (Two Hundred and Six Million Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Three Bahraini Dinars Six Hundred Fils) divided into 2,060,068,236 (Two Billion Sixty Million Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six) shares at a nominal value of 100 (One Hundred) Bahraini Fils per share, subject to obtaining CBB's approval.
- Approving the amendment of paragraph (B) of Article 5 of the Bank's Memorandum of Association and paragraph (B) of Article 5 of the Bank's Articles of Association, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain, to read as follows:

"The value of the issued and paid-up capital is set at the amount of BD 206,006,823.600 (Two Hundred and Six Million Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Three Bahraini Dinars Six Hundred Fils), divided into 2,060,068,236 (Two Billion Sixty Million Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six) shares of a nominal value of 100 (One Hundred fils) per share."
- To approve the necessary amendments of the Bank's Memorandum and Articles of Association to ensure its compliance with the amendments pursuant to the resolutions of the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly held today, by amending and/or restating the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association to include such amendments and all previous amendments in addition to the requirements set out in decree law no. (20) of 2021 amending some of the provisions of the Commercial Companies Law and the Ministerial Resolution no (3) of 2022 amending some provisions of the Executive Regulation of Commercial Companies Law, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain.
- To authorize Mr. Zaid Yusuf Khonji, Head of Legal & Corporate Governance and Mr. Khalid Minwir Al Shammari, Legal Counsel and Board Secretary, to jointly make the necessary amendments to the Memorandum of Association and the Article of Association and restating such pursuant to the above resolutions and to sign the Amended Memorandum and Articles of Association before the Notary Public

Farouk Youssef Khalil Almoayyed
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Important notes for the shareholders:

- The shareholders can receive the annual report from Bahrain Clear Company B.S.C. (Address: Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour gate, Fourth floor, P.O. Box: 3203, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Phone no: +973 17108786, email: registry@bahrainclear.com) starting from (10 March 2022).
- The shareholders may obtain the financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 from the Bahrain Bourse website.
- Any shareholders may obtain a copy of the proxy card from the share registrar of Bahrain Clear B.S.C.
- Any shareholder whose name is registered on the Bank's Shareholder Registrar on the day of the meeting has the right to attend in person or to delegate in writing any person to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, bearing in mind that this proxy is not the Chairman, a member of the Board of Directors, nor one of the Bank's employees.
- In the event where a shareholder is a corporate entity, the proxy who attends the meeting must submit an authorization letter from the shareholder authorizing him to be the representative of the shareholder, and the authorisation must be in writing and stamped by the authorised person in the company and stamped

with the company's seal and submitted at least 24 hours before the date of the meeting at Bahrain Clear B.S.C.

The Power of Attorney (proxy card) must be deposited at least 24 hours before the date of the meeting with Bahrain Clear B.S.C. The Power of can be delivered by hand or by email to registry@bahrainclear.com making sure it is received before the end of the time specified above. It is worth noting that the proxy card presented after the specified dates is not valid for the purposes of the meeting.

For further information, you may contact the Legal Department at the National Bank of Bahrain at: +973 17205779.