

Batelco, Maldives' Dhiraagu join hands for cyber security

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Batelco and Dhiraagu, the first Maldivian telecommunications company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday to provide cyber security services in the Maldives.

The deal was signed during a meeting of the President of the Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and a delegation from the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) led by Board of Directors Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Accordingly, Beyon Cyber, one of Batelco's recently launched digital companies, will provide cyber security services in the Republic of Maldives.



The deal signing

Dhiraagu is a digital services provider in the Maldives, providing integrated services for mobile, internet and data and their relationship with Bateco

dates back to 2013.

The meeting reviewed various topics on digital transformation and opportunities for cooperation.

Batelco's Chairman expressed keenness to consolidate relations between the two friendly countries, especially in telecommunications.

BTEA promoting Bahrain, Maldives as joint destination

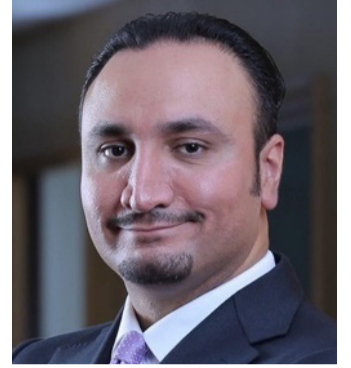
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The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) is collaborating with European Tour operators for promoting Bahrain and Maldives as joint destinations.

The announcement was made on the sidelines of the official visit of the President of the Republic of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, to the Kingdom.

BTEA's CEO, Dr Nasser Qaedi stated that the Authority is working with fourteen European holiday operators to develop joint destination packages through the national carrier Gulf Air for European travellers to Bahrain and the Maldives.

Dr Qaedi said these packages come as part of the wider BTEA project to promote the



Dr Nasser Qaedi

Bahraini tourism sector in international markets through active cooperation with the private sector.

Target countries for these packages include the UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The packages will include flights as well as accommodation.

Bahrain Institute of Pearls and Gemstones



First Lady of the Maldives Fajna Ahmed yesterday visited Bahrain Institute of Pearls and Gemstones "Danat" along with Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Injaz Bahrain and member of the Supreme Council for Women. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Bahrain and Maldives. Noura Jamsheer, the CEO of "Danat", gave a special presentation on the institute and its role in reviving the pearl sector of Bahrain and Bahraini pearling heritage spanning more than five thousand years.

Tamcon hails Flexi permit cancellation, says decision a boon to national economy



Mohammed Al Hammadi, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamcon

Abdullah Al Abbasi, the CEO of Tamcon

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The decision to scrap Flexi work permits by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, was hailed yesterday by the Tamcon, a leading Bahrain-based grade AA civil and building construction company.

Tamcon board also welcomed the decision to revoke infrastructure cost recovery fees associated with the issue of building permits and the decision to develop investment solutions for infrastructure in new areas.

"These decisions will have positive and direct repercussions on the national economy, which contribute to boosting economic development to achieve further success and prosperity at various levels under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa," said Mohammed Al Hamma-

di, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tamcon, and Abdullah Al Abbasi, the CEO of Tamcon, in a joint statement.

They pointed out that His Highness' vision is to build a strong national economy capable of facing the challenges and changes witnessed by global economy, recalling the historical position of 'The Bahrain Team' in overcoming the pandemic and recovering through a package of development projects in various fields and sectors.

"This affirms the sound approach of His Highness that enhances the prosperity of the country in accordance with the comprehensive development process established by His Majesty the King.

Al Abbasi and Al Hammadi called on all to unite to implement the decisions to meet the objectives of the economic sector and continue Bahrain's development process.

BNET wins 2022 ME Technology Excellence Award

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Bahrain Network (BNET), the national telecommunications infrastructure company, announced winning the 2022 Middle East Technology Excellence Award in the Telecom Infrastructure category organised by the Institute of Middle East Excellence Award for technological innovation in the Middle East region.

The award is for companies that have implemented the most innovative and successful technological initiatives and projects that provide digital solutions, services and strategies that promote business and build modern standards of governance and institutional excellence for the region's future in accordance with international standards.

The award was the outcome



The award ceremony

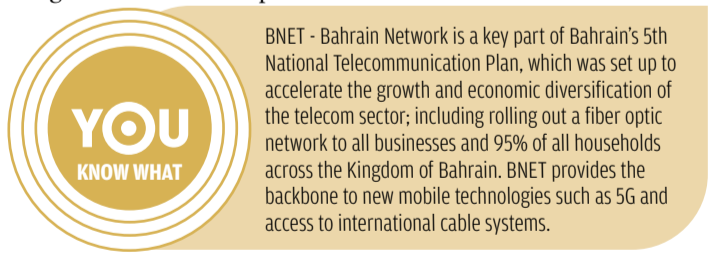
of BNET's efforts to achieve the separation project from Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco). The project included the separation of Information Technology, finance, broadband services, staff and data separation.

BNET Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Jaber Aldoseri, said: "We were pleased to receive

the award, which confirms the Kingdom of Bahrain's position

as a leading destination in the ICT sector in the Middle East and North Africa and crowns our efforts in developing and maintaining the Kingdom's fibre optic infrastructure."

BNET CEO further commended the support of the Transportation and Telecommunications Minister, BNET Chairman, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Batelco Chairman, Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and staff from both organisations.



BNET - Bahrain Network is a key part of Bahrain's 5th National Telecommunication Plan, which was set up to accelerate the growth and economic diversification of the telecom sector; including rolling out a fiber optic network to all businesses and 95% of all households across the Kingdom of Bahrain. BNET provides the backbone to new mobile technologies such as 5G and access to international cable systems.

India's RBI to soon commence pilot project of digital rupee

Reuters | Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India will soon commence limited pilot launches of a central bank-backed digital rupee for specific use cases, it said in a concept paper released on Friday.

The RBI has been exploring the pros and cons of a central bank digital currency for some time and is working towards a strategy to implement it in a



A man walks behind the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) logo inside its headquarters in Mumbai, India

phased manner, it said.

Use cases are being examined for an e-rupee in a way that there is minimal or no disruption to the financial system, the RBI added. In February, the Indian government had said that a digital rupee will be launched during the course of this financial year. "It is the responsibility of central bank to provide its citizens with a risk free central

bank digital money which will provide the users the same experience of dealing in currency in digital form, without any risks associated with private cryptocurrencies," the RBI said.

The bank also indicated that it may consider both retail and wholesale digital currency, saying there is merit in both.

In its wholesale form, a digital currency could make settle-

ment systems more efficient and secure, said RBI, while a retail e-rupee would offer safer means of digital payment for citizens.

The digital rupee seeks to replicate the features of cash and hence would not pay out interest, unlike bank deposits. It would also provide "reasonable anonymity for small value transactions akin to anonymity associated with physical cash,"

the RBI said.

The RBI could consider a "token-based" retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) since they are comparable to cash, while a wholesale CBDC could be "account-based."

Further, the e-rupee could be issued via banks as intermediaries, the RBI said. The central bank remains open to different technology options, it added.