

Bahrain set for first virtual mall

CONSUMERS in Bahrain could soon be able to buy and sell goods on their phones through a virtual mall.

Batelco yesterday announced plans to set up the online facility, which will be similar to eBay.

It will be available as an "app" on smartphones and other smart devices and will benefit consumers and businesses, said Batelco Bahrain chief execu-

By MANDEEP SINGH

tive Rashid Abdulla.

"This first for Bahrain will be an online superstore, where marketers from across the country can come on board and do business," he told the GDN.

"We have already started talking to businesses and there is a lot of interest."

Mr Abdulla was speaking on the sidelines of an event to launch the Batelco Ideas Centre, at the company's

Hamala headquarters.

"Basically, the app will be used to display and sell anything," he said.

"It could be services, goods or products.

"Anyone can register online and be ready to go. It's that simple."

The service has been primarily targeted at small businesses who cannot afford to set up a shop or a store.

"It can also be used by individuals who will have to reg-

ister before they are ready to go," said Mr Abdulla.

"It will work on much the same way as e-bay does, without the restrictions or limitations that come with e-bay."

Mr Abdulla said the service would initially be available for businesses and people in Bahrain.

"However, as time passes and when it becomes popular, we can develop it further and offer it to people outside the country," he said.

After being tested, the service is expected to go online



■ Mr Abdulla

early next year.

"Feedback from merchants will be taken and the market place will be developed all the time depending on needs," said Mr Abdulla.

He also revealed plans to offer "apps" from the Android Market and Apple's App Store, along with those from

other platforms, to users.

"This is a technology-driven initiative and we want to capitalise on the latest trends," added Mr Abdulla.

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Restructuring bid - Page 17

Warrant issued for witnesses in booby trap trial

By NOOR ZAHRA

A WARRANT has been issued for three policemen who are supposed to appear as witnesses in the trial of a man accused of planting a booby-trapped replica of the old GCC (Pearl) Roundabout.

The object exploded when officers approached it, injuring one of them in the process.

Three officers were supposed to appear as witnesses yesterday, but failed to show up for a second time - prompting the High Criminal Court to issue a warrant so they attend the next hearing.

The 21-year-old Bahraini defendant allegedly planted the homemade device near Sitra Police Station on April 15.

He has gone on trial for attempted murder, possessing explosives and detonating an explosive device in a terrorist act designed to spread fear.

He is the only suspect charged in the case and has pleaded not guilty.

However, prosecutors claim he earlier admitted to have built the model, with his friends, for use in rallies and demonstrations.

He said one of his friends told him he could make a homemade explosive to put inside the model to kill policemen, according to court documents.

They allegedly put it together in an abandoned building. The case was adjourned to December 9 for the witnesses to testify.



■ Steelmark Mideast donated BD500 to Sneha centre for children with special needs to celebrate Children's Day. Managing director Vinod Das presented a cheque to Nalini Vipin, president of the Indian Ladies Association, which runs the centre. Royal Court adviser Shaikh Ali bin Abdulla Al Khalifa attended the ceremony and commended the facility. "I believe that any business activity is obliged to fulfil social obligations," said Mr Das. Above, Ms Vipin, third from left, receives the donation from Mr Das, second from right, in the presence of Shaikh Ali, third from right, and other officials.

Major show of solidarity with Palestinians today

PEOPLE are being urged to show up at the Palestinian Embassy in Zinj today to register their protest over the Israeli assault on Gaza, which has reportedly killed as many as 65 people - including women and children - since last Wednesday.

Hamas said at least 11 Palestinian civilians, including four children and four women, were killed yesterday in an Israeli air strike on a Gaza apartment building, the highest death toll in a single incident in five days of fighting.

Reports suggest hundreds of rockets fired from Gaza since Wednesday have killed three civilians and wounded dozens of others.

The Israeli assault on the Palestinian territory is its toughest in nearly four years and follows the targeted killing of Hamas military chief Ahmed Jaabari on Wednesday.

There are fears that it could stage another incursion into Gaza similar to one in 2008-2009, which left some 1,400 Palestinians dead - compared to just 13 Israelis.

People of all nationalities are now being asked to show up at the Palestinian Embassy in Bahrain

to register their solidarity with the Palestinian people.

"We are planning this as a stand-up event for Gaza and Palestine," said event co-ordinator Rami Rasheed.

"This is not a rally and not a protest. We only want people to come and register their presence."

The embassy will accept visitors from 5.30pm. However, police have refused a request filed by multiple political societies to hold a rally in support of Gaza today.

The Capital Governorate police said in a statement that the proposed march to United Nations (UN) House, in Manama, under the slogan "Save Gaza" contravenes a ban on rallies imposed by the Interior Ministry.

It said the application was rejected for security reasons.

"They (political societies) could stand together in solidarity with Gaza at their headquarters," it added.

For more information on the embassy event, contact Mr Rasheed on 39354125.

Bombing agony continues - 16-17

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