

1 outgoing flights were affected. A Gulf Air official in Mumbai said there was a "delay in departure" but would not elaborate. "We are trying to ensure that all the

said there was complete chaos at the airport when the take-off was aborted. "The passengers also panicked for a while, but were later informed there had been a problem with the take-off."

■ Dr Pitroda, left, receives a copy of the Gulf Who's Who Directory from Mr Sunny Kulathakal, managing editor of the directory and member of BIS, in New Delhi

Unite the day

of people turned out for the festival, featuring children, clowns, traditional dancing and competi-

tion, scheduled to begin, started at 5.30pm. Municipal Councillor M. Alkhalifa said it was the start of a series of festivals by the council to cele-

brate the day. The event was held last Tuesday in the Isa Town Promenade Walkway, Isa Town. A fireworks display attracted people to celebrate the day and unity," he said. "It is an opportunity for all Bahrainis."



■ Drummers perform at the Isa Town festival. Top, MP Dr Salah Ali Abdul Rahman, third from left, and other dignitaries at the event.

Information and Mobile Services

safety and with the aim to improve telecommunications services, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has issued a request for the registration of mobile service providers' details.

Mobile service providers are required to provide their Mobile Service Provider (MSP) details to their personal information by their passport, CPR, or Smart Card.

The deadline for registration is on 31st December 2008. Prepaid mobile lines will be affected.

Mobile customers to contact their service providers and where they can register.

For more information, call Zain on 80014000



(TRA) to ensure existing

Cable damage slows down Batelco Net link

DAMAGE to international cables carrying Internet services may cause disruptions for some Batelco customers.

"Our engineers have observed failure on three international cables between Alexandria, Egypt and Palermo, Italy," Batelco general manager media and government relations Ahmed Al Janahi said. "Up to 60 per cent of our Internet uplinks are down in addition to a number of international leased lines for corporate customers and a few telephony circuits."

Internet services will still be available, but at slower speeds during peak hours.

■ Carnival planned

THE National Day and Accession Day celebrations will continue this weekend with the fourth annual Al Bander Hotel and Resort and Batelco Carnival Fair. The event on Friday is being held under the patronage of the Information Ministry and starts at 9am at the resort in Sitra. A day of activities for adults and children will include fireworks, go-karts, a laser show and performances by the Dabdoob band and a traditional Bahraini band. There will also be magic shows, fire shows, a Bahrain bikers show, stilt-walkers, henna and face painting, clowns, food stalls and a performance by the Public Security Band. Entry is free and all are wel-

come. Contact 17701201 (extension 347 or 348) for more information.

■ Procession talks

MUNICIPALITIES and Agriculture Minister Dr Juma Al Ka'abi received head of Husseinia Processions Authority Hussein Al Alawai and the 2nd Ashoora Project's high organising committee members who explained the project's programmes and activities.

■ Staff to be honoured

A TOTAL of 124 outstanding Bahraini workers and employees from the public and private sectors will be honoured in a cere-

mony at the Crowne Plaza on Thursday, announced Labour Ministry Under-Secretary Shaikh Abdurrahman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

Distinguished companies, prominent businessmen and sponsors of recruitment exhibitions will also be honoured at the event, organised by the Labour Ministry under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad.

■ Credentials presented

DR Nasser Al Balooshi presented his credentials to Pope Benedict XVI as extraordinary, plenipotentiary and non-resident Ambassador of Bahrain to the Vatican. He conveyed His Majesty's greetings to the Pope and invited him to visit Bahrain.

New group to bolster India ties

AN organisation set up to enhance ties between India and Bahrain will be officially launched by Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa tonight.

The Bahrain-India Society (BIS) is a non-profit organisation set up by a group of Bahraini and Indian businessmen and community leaders.

Indian Ambassador Balkrishna Shetty is the society's patron and it currently has 61 members, including the board of directors.

Among those at tonight's launch at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa, will be guest of honour and telecom pioneer Dr Sam Pitroda.

He is chairman and chief executive officer of World-Tel Ltd, an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) initiative.

Dr Pitroda will speak on India's knowledge initiatives.

"The society is confident to take the cordial and friendly relationship between our two countries to new heights at all levels," said chairman Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

"We are natural partners and we hope the new society will become an effective channel in creating even greater understanding between the two nations."

Mr Shetty said the new society would strengthen the time-honoured relationship between India and Bahrain.

"Thousands of Bahrainis have been visiting India over the years for education, health and tourism purposes," he said.

"The new society will take this relationship to new heights."

The inaugural ceremony will be attended by Shura Council chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh, ministers and Bahraini and Indian community and business leaders.



■ Shaikh Khalid



■ Mr Al Shoa'la



■ Mr Shetty

