

Preparations under way to launch broadband auction

BEIRUT: The project to launch an auction for broadband Internet licenses is being prepared, said the executive director of the telecommunication regulatory committee Kamal Shehadeh on Friday. Shehadeh spoke during the Fifth Middle East Network Operators Group meeting (MENOG 5) held at the Movenpick Hotel in Beirut. He said that the committee was dedicated to providing national and international broadband services in Lebanon in order to make the country a leader in broadband technology. Shehadeh also said that Lebanon should adopt the sixth version of the Internet protocol because the fourth version it was currently adopting would no longer be useful in 2011 and 2012. He added that there was "no escape" from adopting the sixth version and that the Lebanese government, the Telecommunication Ministry and Internet providers should be responsible for executing the change. Shehadeh then said the committee would support the government during this step and stressed that collaboration was necessary for the project to succeed. – *The Daily Star*