BARCELONA: Officials of Zain Kuwait and Huawei pose for a group photo.

The concept of 4.5G marks the mobile industry’s perceptible advancement. Today’s deflections are largely based on standards and patents that are still under development. The transition to 4.5G is being considered a stepping stone to fully-featured 5G Generation (15G) services expected commercially in 2020, capable of supporting 1,000 gigabits per second bandwidth capacity of which Currently, a number of pilots are already under way in China, Japan, and South Korea. In the past, operators have typically sought to implement commercial 4.5G services within the next three years based on technology standards developed on the global level.

Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO said, “Over the years, Zain has remained at the forefront of mobile innovation partnering with leading innovators in the ICT field to push the boundaries of what is possible for our customers. Our strategic partnership with Huawei has seen a successful track record of implementing state-of-the-art technologies across our footprint and we look forward to the future in strengthing our networks even better, faster and more seamlessly mobile digital experiences.”

Omar Al-Omar, Zain Kuwait CEO said, “Our decision to cooperate with Huawei in the piloting of, and eventual roll-out of 4.5G services, will ensure that Zain Kuwait remains at the forefront of technology, providing our customers with a superior telecom experience.”

Zain has made substantial investments over the last three years in harmonising the speed and capacity of our mobile broadband services, and we look forward to the future in strengthening our networks even better, faster and more seamlessly mobile digital experience.”

Bill Gates, still world’s richest man: Forbes

NEW YORK: Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates lost his spot as the world’s richest man, a rank he held 16 of the past 21 years, Forbes magazine said yesterday. The Microsoft co-founder’s fortune increased 3.2 billion since last year to $79.2 billion, the business magazine said, despite a 3.1 billion gift of Microsoft shares to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in November.

Microsoft tycoon Carlos Slim held onto second place thanks to his $77.1 billion, ahead of American investor Warren Buffett, with $72.2 billion. Jeff Bezos of Amazon, who last year was the biggest gainer of the Forbes list, fell this year, up $3.5 billion from last year’s $75.3 billion.

In fourth was Amancio Ortega, founder of the Inditex fashion group that includes Zara clothing retail shops. He counted $64.5 billion from his Berkshire Hathaway.

The number of billionaires is growing, with 1,892 on the list this year, up from 1,770 the year before, according to Forbes. They are worth a combined $8.6 trillion, up 13% from last year, and the list included 23 Americans.

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