

The 27th edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch Series crowns “Cogman” & “Luma” as its winners

As part of its on-going efforts to enhance the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Kingdom of Bahrain and support the growth of startups, StartUp Bahrain, the Kingdom's leading national platform for supporting startups, powered by Tamkeen, hosted the 27th edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch.

The event was held in the presence of H.E. Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, H.E. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Chairman of the SME Development Board, H.E. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund “Tamkeen”, Ms. Dalal Al Ghais, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Development Bank Board, and Mr. Waleed Kano, member of Tamkeen's Board of directors.

The Startup Pitch series is held in collaboration with the SMEs Development Board and provides an interactive platform for entrepreneurs to showcase their ventures before a group of experts and



investors, and gain the mentorship and guidance needed to further develop their ideas and enhance their growth and expansion.

The event also showcased a group of innovative startups offering digital and technology-driven solutions across various sectors, including Vibo, a social media platform that enables users to create and share short-form content; Meem AI, an AI-powered platform to streamline operations and enhance communication; Luma, a digital health platform, and Cogman, an AI-powered business management platform.

After the participating

startups presented their projects and were evaluated by the judging panels, the winners were announced with “Cogman” awarded first place and “Luma” awarded second place.

On this occasion, Fahad Al Suwaidi from “Cogman” expressed pride in earning first place, saying:

“This achievement marks a significant milestone in our project's journey and reflects the continuous efforts made by our team to develop an innovative business model that efficiently meets market needs. Our participation in the StartUp Bahrain Pitch competition

also provided us with a valuable platform to showcase our idea to a distinguished group of experts and investors and to benefit from their constructive feedback and guidance, which will support our future growth and expansion plans.”

Second place winner, Bader Mattar from Luma, highlighted that this achievement serves as a strong incentive to continue developing the project and accelerating its growth. He added that participation in the StartUp Bahrain Pitch competition offered a valuable opportunity to showcase the project and demonstrate its potential, while fos-



tering meaningful connections with entrepreneurs, investors and startup ecosystem experts.

The event featured the participation of a group of leading speakers, experts and investors from the entrepreneurship ecosystem, including Nawaf Al Koheji, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Reete.co and keynote speaker at the event; Khalid Saad, founder and Managing Partner of Bunat Ventures; Mahmood Al Saati, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Saturn Consultants; and Laith Al Khalili, Associate Partner at Mumtalakat.

Tamkeen's support for Start-

Up Bahrain aligns with its strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on supporting initiatives with high economic impact, enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector, connecting skills with the needs of the labor market, and adopting innovative approaches to stimulate the growth and expansion of startups, contributing to the Kingdom's sustainable economic development.

For more information about StartUp Bahrain and to participate in future editions of StartUp Bahrain Pitch, follow @startupbahrain on social media.

Shura Council Hails Royal Support for Education

HM King Hamad's Address Highlights Continuity, Digital Learning and Modern Teaching



His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of Shura Council



Shura Council's Services Committee



Shura Council Chairman His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and the Council's Services Committee, chaired by Her Excellency Dr. Jamila Mohammed Redha Al Salman, affirmed the importance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's continued support for Bahrain's education sector as the new 2026/2027 academic year begins.

They said His Majesty's address to students reflects the Kingdom's firm commitment to sustaining education, ensuring continued academic achievement and adopting modern teaching methods.

Al Saleh praised the uninterrupted continuation of education during the previous academic year despite the Iranian attacks on Bahrain, which affected civilian facilities and

vital infrastructure. He said remote learning was activated to safeguard students and staff while ensuring education continued without interruption.

The Services Committee stressed that the education sector's flexibility in responding to exceptional circumstances demonstrated the importance of further developing educational strategies and legislation to keep pace with technological and knowledge-based developments.

Al Saleh highlighted the role of modern systems and the Educational Portal, describing remote learning as an extension of the success achieved through His Majesty's King Hamad Schools of the Future project, launched in 2005. The initiative contributed to digital empowerment and strength-

ened communication between students and teachers.

The Council Chairman also praised the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for measures that protected citizens and residents and maintained educational services.

He welcomed students' return to classrooms, saying it reflects Bahrain's security, stability and national efforts to sustain education.

The Services Committee reaffirmed its commitment to developing education-related legislation, supporting digital transformation and ensuring the legal framework keeps pace with evolving teaching methods and national development needs.

Zeeba Askar Makes CFA History

First Bahraini appointed to represent Middle East associations

TDT | Manama

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, received Zeeba Askar, CEO of the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), following her election as the first Bahraini to serve as Presidents Council Representative (PCR) for the Middle East at the CFA Institute.

The newly established position represents the CFA Institute's associations in the Middle East within its global network. Shaikh Salman affirmed the competitiveness and distinction of Bahraini talent at regional and international levels, stressing



the importance of continued

investment in national expertise and enhancing its representation in international professional institutions and organisations.

He said empowering national professionals contributes to strengthening Bahrain's position as a regional financial and investment centre and supports sustainable economic develop-

ment.

The minister congratulated Askar on her appointment, describing it as a reflection of the competence and expertise of Bahraini professionals, particularly in the financial and investment sectors. He also highlighted Bahrain's continued support for and empowerment of national talent across various fields.

New Health Hub Coming to Salman City

Health centre will feature 14 doctors' clinics, 10 dental clinics and specialised medical departments

Works Minister Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj inspected the construction project of the Hussein Ali Yateem Health Centre in Salman City, as part of the Ministry of Works' ongoing follow-up on projects supporting primary healthcare services across Bahrain's governorates.

During the inspection tour, Minister Al Hawaj reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to completing the project in accordance with the highest technical standards and the requirements of primary healthcare infrastructure.

He said the project aims to support healthcare services provided to citizens and deliver integrated facilities capable of meeting the current and future needs of residential communities.

The minister was briefed on the progress of construction, along



with the centre's various components and facilities.

The health centre will include 14 doctors' clinics and 10 dental clinics, in addition to laboratory, radiology and physiotherapy departments for men and women. It will also feature maternal and child care clinics, a pharmacy, an emergency and nursing department, and designated parking spaces for patients and staff.

Minister Al Hawaj highlighted the project as an example of the continued partnership with the



private sector and its contribution to supporting government efforts across various sectors.