

Zain Bahrain Celebrates Signature Members at Exclusive Event

TDT |Manama

Zain Bahrain, the leading telecom and technology company in the Kingdom, has recently hosted an exclusive event for its Signature members, reaffirming its commitment to recognizing and rewarding their most valued customers with premium experiences.

The event highlighted the exclusivity of the Signature program, offering members a rewarding experience that combined recognition with meaningful networking opportunities. It also offered members the opportunity for direct interaction with Zain Bahrain's leadership team, reflecting the company's focus on building lasting relationships with its most valued customers.

Signature members enjoy a wide range of privileges and unique benefits, including ac-



Abdulla Salmeen, Zain Bahrain Chief Customer Care Officer

cess to a dedicated Key Account Manager for personalized support, priority service across all touchpoints, exclusive seasonal gifts, and early access to the latest devices through a seamless reservation and delivery process.

Abdulla Salmeen, Chief Customer Care Officer at Zain

Members can enjoy a wide range of privileges and unique benefits, including access to a dedicated Key Account Manager for personalized support, priority service across all touchpoints and much more.

Bahrain, stated: "Signature is a reflection of Zain Bahrain's vision to provide an exceptional experience for our premium customers. This initiative un-

derscores Zain's commitment to its valued customers, reinforcing the principles of community and partnership. Through "Signature", members can enjoy ex-

clusive benefits and experiences that redefine customer service standards in the Kingdom, with more unique privileges to be introduced in the future."

Zain Bahrain remains dedicated to enhancing the Signature program with innovative offerings designed to reward loyalty and elevate customer value.

For more information about Signature, please contact Zain at 66666107, email signature@bh.zain.com, or visit the official webpage: <https://eshop.bh.zain.com/signature>

OpenAI signs multi-billion dollar chip deal with AMD

AFP | New York, United States

OpenAI signed a multi-year partnership Monday with chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices as the ChatGPT-maker continues an investment spree to secure massive amounts of computing power for rolling out generative artificial intelligence. The companies announced

the plan to develop AI data centers that the chipmaker said would bring in tens of billions of dollars in new revenue over the next five years.

AMD's share price surged 35 percent when markets opened on news of the agreement that would see the company deliver six gigawatts worth of chips to the ChatGPT-maker.

OpenAI sits at the center of an AI investment bonanza to power the promised artificial intelligence revolution.

It oversees the Stargate project, which has secured \$400 billion of the \$500 billion planned by 2029 for giant data centers in Texas, New Mexico and an undisclosed site in the US Midwest. The deal with AMD fol-

lows a contract with Nvidia for more than \$100 billion in equipment intended to increase OpenAI's generative AI capabilities.

Nvidia's graphics processing units (GPUs) are by far the dominant player in the AI field, with its products integrated into the company's software ecosystem, making it harder for rivals to

compete.

"This is all incremental to our work with NVIDIA (and we plan to increase our NVIDIA purchasing over time). The world needs much more compute..." wrote OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on X.

California-based AMD generates the bulk of its revenue from CPU sales -- processors used for

personal and business computers that are less powerful than GPUs.

Data server giant Oracle saw its share price skyrocket by 35 percent last month when it announced its own deal with OpenAI.

OpenAI also signed a chip deal with South Korea's Samsung and SK Hynix.

Paris stocks slide as French PM resigns, Tokyo soars

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stock markets diverged yesterday as a deepening political crisis in France sent Paris into a tailspin while a new Japanese ruling party leader buoyed shares in Tokyo.

Gold pushed ever closer to \$4,000 an ounce as the US government shutdown and expected interest cuts from the Federal Reserve boosted the precious metal's attractiveness.

The euro fell against main rivals and French borrowing costs spiked as Sebastien Lecornu, who had been prime minister for less than a month, resigned just 14 hours after naming a largely unchanged cabinet.

France's "fractured parlia-

Key figures at around 1530 GMT

New York - Dow:	▼ 0.1% at 46,696.12 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.3% at 6,736.19
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 0.5% 22,902.72
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.2% at 9,479.14 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 1.4% at 7,971.78 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	■ at 24,378.29 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 4.8% at 47,944.76 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.7% at 26,957.77 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	Closed for a holiday
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1711 from \$1.1742 on Friday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3474 from \$1.3482
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 150.09 yen from 147.45 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.92 pence from 87.09 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 1.3% at \$61.64 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 1.4% at \$65.41 per barrel

backed aggressive monetary easing and expanded government spending.

Traders are "enthused by the new Japanese leader, who promises to reignite stimulus to light a fire under the Japanese economy," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at trading platform IG.

The yen weakened more than 1% against the dollar and hit a record low against the euro.

Yields on 30-year Japanese bonds rose sharply reflecting fears the country's already colossal debt will balloon further.

After her victory Saturday, Takaichi pledged first to implement measures to address inflation and boost Japan's economy, rural areas and primary industries.

"She has said that the Bank of Japan should not raise interest rates, which is feeding demand for stocks and weighing on long term bond yield," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

"The decline in the yen is also a sign that the market is pricing out the prospect of BoJ rate hikes this year," she added.

Oil prices jumped nearly 1% after OPEC+ agreed at the weekend to boost supplies by 137,000 barrels a day -- less than initially expected.

"The limited supply adjustment was seen as a supportive move that would help offset a glut in the oil market while still signalling confidence in global demand levels," said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison.

U and Morocco tweak trade deal covering W. Sahara

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The European Union and Morocco have agreed to alter a trade deal to cover imports from the disputed Western Sahara region, Brussels said yesterday.

The move comes after the EU's top court last year ordered the farm produce agreement to be scrapped after a challenge from Western Saharan independence movement the Polisario Front.

The new deal means that goods coming from the region

will now have to clearly specify their origin to receive preferential tariffs.

In its 2024 judgement, the ECJ said product labels "must indicate Western Sahara alone as the country of origin of those goods, to the exclusion of any reference to Morocco, so as to avoid misleading consumers as to the true origin of those goods".

Morocco, an important trading partner with the 27-nation EU, views the Western Sahara as an integral part of its territory.

Surging numbers of children using e-cigarettes: WHO

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

E-cigarettes are fuelling an "alarming" new wave of nicotine addiction, with millions of children now hooked on vaping, the World Health Organization warned Monday.

In countries that have the data, children are on average nine times more likely than adults to vape, the WHO said.

The UN health agency said the industry was promoting vapes as supposedly less harmful products than cigarettes -- but in fact was aggressively targeting young people and getting children addicted.

More than 100 million people are vaping, according to the WHO's first global estimate of e-cigarette use.

"The numbers are alarming," the agency said.

They include at least 86 million adults, mostly in high-income countries, and at least 15



Picture for representation only

million children aged 13 to 15.

"E-cigarettes are fuelling a new wave of nicotine addiction," Etienne Krug, the WHO's director of health determinants, promotion and prevention, said in a statement.

"They are marketed as harm reduction but, in reality, are hooking kids on nicotine earlier and risk undermining decades of progress."

Globally, people are smoking less, with the number of tobacco users dropping from 1.38 billion in 2000 to 1.2 billion in 2024, while the world's population has swelled.



An interesting fact about the stock market: the first recorded stock market crash happened in 1637 during the Dutch "Tulip Mania," when the price of tulip bulbs—once worth more than a house—collapsed almost overnight, wiping out many investors.