

Government Lifelines Help Bahraini Businesses Stay Afloat

Relief measures including loan deferrals, wage support, and Tamkeen grants shielded over 7,250 firms from operational disruption

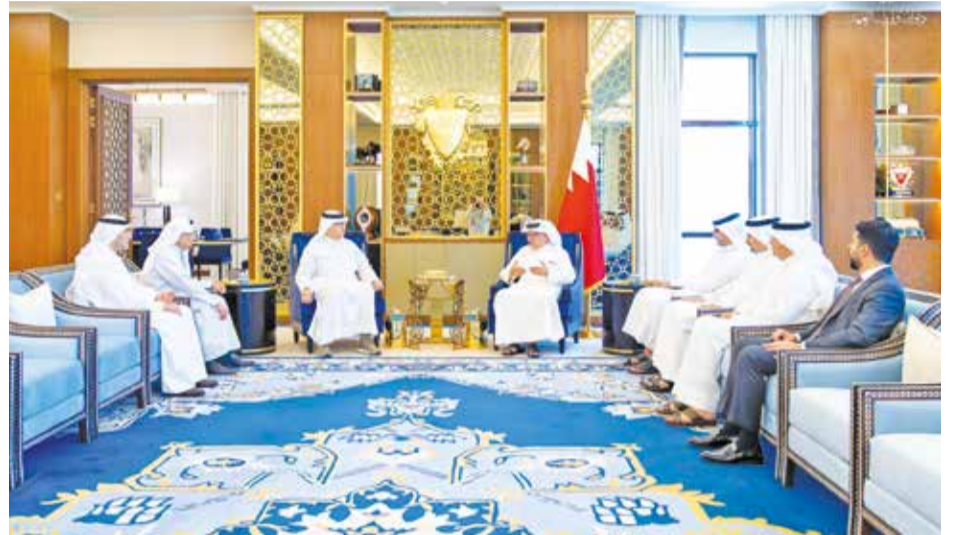
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, met with Nabeel Khaled Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), at Gudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince underscored that Bahrain's ongoing achievements rest on a longstanding partnership between the public and private sectors — what he described as “Team Bahrain” — in advancing the Kingdom's comprehensive development programme under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH emphasised that cooperation between government entities and the private sector is a key pillar in strengthening national economic competitiveness and delivering sustainable growth. He reiterated the government's determination to empower the private sector and



HRH Crown Prince Meets BCCI Chairman at Gudaibiya Palace



expand its contribution across vital industries in pursuit of economic prosperity and national aspirations.

For his part, BCCI Chairman Kanoo expressed deep appreciation for HRH's steadfast support of the private sector, and specifically highlighted the

government's relief measures introduced in response to hostile Iranian aggression against the Kingdom. He credited these measures with enabling numerous businesses to sustain their operations and the national economy to continue pursuing its development targets.

Among the support measures cited were three-month loan deferrals for individuals and companies, a package of grants and financing extended by the Tamkeen Labour Fund to 7,250 Bahraini businesses, government coverage of salaries for insured Bahraini employees in

the private sector, and the deferral of certain government fees. Kanoo said these initiatives had accelerated business recovery, maintained operational continuity, and helped stabilise the national workforce.

The BCCI Chairman also affirmed the Chamber's commit-

ment to deepening cooperation with the public sector in the period ahead, particularly through continued coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, to remove barriers facing the private sector and further cement Bahrain's economic and developmental standing.

GCC Advances Unified Investor ID Plan

Committee reports progress on cross-border securities integration

TDT | Manama

The GCC Financial Markets Committee announced the GCC Unified Investor Number (GCC-NIN) initiative, a strategic regional framework designed to support greater connectivity and interoperability across GCC capital markets.

The GCC-NIN initiative aims to establish a common investor reference identifier for GCC investors, supporting a more seamless experience across regional capital markets while enhancing operational consistency and efficiency across post-trade environments. The initiative reflects the Committee's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional market integration and advance the long-term develop-

ment of a more connected GCC capital market ecosystem.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, said, “The GCC Unified Investor Number (GCC-NIN) initiative represents a significant milestone in advancing the integration of GCC capital markets and enhancing the overall efficiency of our market infrastructure. At Bahrain Bourse, we are committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen connectivity, simplify investor access, and promote a more seamless cross-border investment environment. This collaborative effort reflects a shared regional vision to build a more resilient, accessible, and globally competitive capital market ecosystem.”

Expected to be launched



during 2026, the GCC-NIN is intended to facilitate greater consistency in investor identification across GCC markets,

reduce duplication in investor identification processes, and support future regional custody, settlement, and asset ser-

vice capabilities, while fully respecting the regulatory and legal frameworks of each GCC jurisdiction.

This initiative reflects the



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SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BAHRAIN
BOURSE

strong collaboration between GCC market infrastructure institutions and our shared commitment to enhancing operational efficiency, improving investor accessibility, and supporting the long-term competitiveness of GCC capital markets. We look forward to progressing its implementation during this year as part of our broader efforts to strengthen regional financial market integration.

The GCC Financial Markets Committee comprises representatives from leading exchanges and market infrastructure institutions across the GCC and aims to support the growth of regional capital markets, strengthen cross-border collaboration, and enhance the competitiveness of GCC financial markets globally.

Stocks slump as US tech rebound falters, oil dips below \$90

Stock markets fell Tuesday, giving back earlier gains as US technology stocks turned lower after weeks of solid gains on renewed doubts about prospects for AI names.

Oil prices fell meanwhile, with Brent crude briefly dipping below \$90 per barrel for the first time since April 14, after US President Donald Trump hinted at a deal with Iran in the coming days, despite renewed strikes by Israel on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

After opening higher, Wall Street indexes were solidly in the red, led by steep declines for tech heavyweights.

Apple shares were down more than four percent after lackluster

reviews for an AI update to its Siri voice assistant, spurring caution among investors who have seen tech valuations push equity markets into record territory.

The downturn followed heavy selling last Friday after strong US jobs data that raised the prospect of higher US interest rates to curb inflation, which would raise borrowing costs for AI firms planning massive spending on chips and data centres.

“Investors remain cautious after the sharp selloff at the start of the week,” said Anna Macdonald, investment strategy director at Hargreaves Lansdown.

OpenAI's announcement



that it had applied for an IPO of its shares -- just as Elon Musk's SpaceX is prepping a

record-smashing share sale this week -- also suggested that investors were selling their tech

holdings to buy into the new offerings.

But “the IPOs of SpaceX, Anthropic and OpenAI are less about buying into a business and more about buying into an idea,” noted Katherine Brooks, research director at trading platform XTB.

Peace deal hopes

Earlier in Asia, bargain buying saw Seoul's Kospi index surge on Tuesday after plunging more than eight percent on Monday, tracking the pre-weekend tech sell-off on Wall Street.

European indexes also retreated before the close, with London leading the downturn owing to a decline in the share price of British drugs giant GSK,

which announced an all-cash \$10.6 billion takeover of US cancer specialist Nuvalent.

Frankfurt and Paris stock markets had gained earlier after official data showed that industrial production in Europe's biggest economy Germany rose slightly in April alongside its exports.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said negotiations over a peace deal to end the Middle East war were in their final stages and a deal could come in “two or three days”.

“The market has heard that before, and even though it has yet to see an actual deal, it continues to respect the possibility,” said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.