

# business

## Frankfurt opens doors to Bahrain banks

“BAB” hosts German delegation to discuss world’s Financial Landscape after “BREXIT”

TDI | Manama

Bahraini banks were welcomed to join the league of major US, Japanese and Swiss banks, which chose Frankfurt as the new European Financial Center in case London decided to leave the European Union.

German ambassador to Bahrain, Kai Boeckmann, told top bankers in the Kingdom that Germany represents the biggest economy in Europe, and has the highest sovereign ratings (AAA), “making it a favourable setting to financial services and environment and friendly to investors from the Kingdom of Bahrain and the world.”

Ambassador Boeckmann, during an open meeting organised by Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), emphasised his country’s keenness to reinforce cooperation with Bahrain.

Boeckmann said his country is eager to benefit from Bahrain’s long-standing experience in this field, “especially in the Islamic banking industry.”

Frankfurt Main Finance (FMF), Managing Director Hubertus Vāth, clarified that Britain’s exit from the European Union would lead to the loss



German ambassador to Bahrain, Kai Boeckmann, speaking during an open meeting organised by Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) about the influence of “Brexit” on the European financial scene, Bahrain and the region



Frankfurt Main Finance (FMF), Managing Director Hubertus Vāth, with other participants during the meeting

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GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN, KAI BOECKMANN

of so-called “unified business license”.

“This means that the financial products licensed by banks in Britain will not be effective in the rest of EU member states as before, as these rights are used today by about 5500 financial service providers in London,” he added.

Vāth was speaking about the influence of “Brexit” on the Eu-

ropean financial scene, Bahrain and the region.

“Between 700 to 800 billion euros of assets in London will be transferred to Germany after its likely withdrawal from the European Union,” Vāth said.

Vāth indicated that Frankfurt stock exchange includes more than 250 banks, involving about 200 international banks, pointing out that the Gulf banks’

attendance in Frankfurt stock exchange is still modest.

Dr Waheed Al Qassim, Executive Chairman of Bahrain Association of Banks, said the meeting was part of the association’s keenness to learn closely about the latest development and putting Bahrain at the heart of developments resulting from Britain’s expected withdrawal from the European Union.

## Dubai rebounds on earnings, Saudi extends gains

Reuters

Dubai’s stock market rebounded yesterday, supported by real estate shares and corporate earnings, as Saudi rallied on the back of financials.

Dubai’s index rose 0.5 per cent with Emirates NBD gaining 0.9pc, while Emaar Properties was up 1pc a day after reporting a 20pc rise in third-quarter net profit.

The profit came despite a prolonged slowdown in the emirate’s property sector, where the supply glut has sent residential prices sliding by at least a quarter since mid-2014.

The blue-chip developer’s unit Emaar Development advanced 3.9pc. On Sunday, it reported nine-month net profit of 2.07 billion dirhams (\$563.60 million).

Air Arabia added 2.1pc, as the



Traders on the floor of Bahrain Bourse (file)

third-quarter net profit of United Arab Emirates’ only listed airline jumped 57pc, which it attributed to a 10pc rise in passengers carried from its hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Egypt.

In Saudi Arabia, the benchmark index was up 0.6pc, with Al Rajhi Bank rising 0.5pc and Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC) 2010. SE increasing 1.3pc, in its fifth day of gains.

Saudi Aramco in its initial public offering prospectus said it expected to close its acquisition of Sabic in the first half of next year.

Saudi Arabian Amiantit 2160.

### Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 0.4pc to 7,908 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 0.1pc to 5,088 pts
DUBAI	▲ 0.5pc to 2,674 pts
QATAR	▲ 0.4pc to 10,304 pts
EGYPT	▲ 1.1pc to 14,209 pts
BAHRAIN	▼ 0.2pc to 1,516 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.8pc to 4,072 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc to 6,257 pts

In Abu Dhabi, however, the index extended the losses for a straight fourth day to close 0.1pc lower, as lender Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank slid 0.9pc and First Abu Dhabi Bank was down 0.1pc.

Dana Gas jumped 4pc. The energy firm said on Sunday its collections from Egypt, UAE and Iraq’s Kurdistan increased 16.7pc to \$230 million in the nine-month period.

Egypt’s blue-chip index ended 0.2pc lower, as the country’s largest lender, Commercial International Bank slipped 0.4 and El Sewedy Electric declined 2.2pc.

The latter reported third-quarter net profit of 829 million Egyptian pounds (\$51.52 million), compared with 1.13 billion Egyptian pounds a year earlier.

SE soared 9.9pc, its biggest gain since May. The firm said it had reduced the accumulated losses to 1.4pc of capital.

In Qatar, the index edged up 0.4pc, snapping three straight session losses, with Gulf’s largest lender Qatar National Bank increasing 1.1pc and Qatar International Islamic Bank adding 1.8pc.



The Ambassador of Pakistan Afzaal Mahmood with prominent Bahraini businessmen and members of Rotary Club on 11 November during an exchange of views on strengthening trade and investment ties between Pakistan and Bahrain