

Bahrain Insurance Association appoints Mr. Ali Noor as General Manager

Manama

The Bahrain Insurance Association (BIA) has announced the appointment of Mr. Ali Noor as its new General Manager, effective 1st January, 2026.

Mr. Ali Noor brings over 30 years of extensive experience in the insurance industry, with a distinguished career spanning management, business development, information

Dr. Abdulla Sultan, Chairman of the Bahrain Insurance Association



technology, general insurance, life and medical insurance, and marketing.

Throughout his professional journey, he has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead high-performing teams, drive sustainable growth, and build long-term client relationships through a combination of strategic insight and hands-on leadership.

Dr. Abdulla Sultan, Chairman of the Bahrain Insurance Association, said:

“We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ali Noor as the new General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association. His extensive industry experience, strong leadership capabilities, and comprehensive understanding of the insurance market position him well to lead the Association into its next phase of awareness, development, and governance. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the

previous General Manager, Mr. Ebrahim Sakhnini, for his valuable efforts and contributions during his tenure, and wish him every success in his future endeavors.”

Ali Noor, General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association



In his new role, Mr. Ali Noor will focus on strengthening collaboration among member companies, enhancing industry engagement with regulators and stakeholders, and supporting initiatives that promote best practices, market development, and professional standards within the sector in line with the BIA and CBB's vision.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. Ali Noor said: “I am honored to take on the role of General Manager of the Bahrain Insurance Association at this important time for the industry. I look forward to working closely with the Board, member companies, and key stakeholders to support the continued growth and credibility of Bahrain's insurance sector.” Mr. Ali Noor's appointment marks a significant step in BIA's ongoing efforts to reinforce its strategic role as the collective voice of the insurance industry in Bahrain, while supporting national economic objectives and regulatory alignment.



Disclosure of early Elections of the Board of Directors term of Takaful International Company

Manama

Takaful International Company B.S.C. has decided to hold early elections for the term of its Board of Directors. In this regard, it is noteworthy that this step is undertaken in light of a number of strategic and governance considerations, which include the following:

1. Developments in the local insurance market: The accelerating developments in the local insurance market, alongside evolving regulatory requirements, necessitate strengthening diversity within the Board of Directors in



شركة التكافل الدولية
TAKAFUL INTERNATIONAL CO.

terms of experience and competencies, in a manner that supports the sustainability of the Company's growth and the realization of its future strategic objectives.

2. Alignment of the

Board's election cycle with the parent company: This alignment is intended to further enhance corporate governance practices, improve coordination, and support more efficient decision-making at the group level.

In compliance with regulatory requirements and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the Kingdom of Bahrain to conduct early elections, the members of the company's Board of Directors have decided to submit their resignations, effective from the date of the next Ordinary General Assembly for the Financial

year 2025.

In view of the Company's commitment to ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of the Board's functions, strengthening corporate governance practices, and safeguarding the interests of the Company and its shareholders, the Board of Directors has resolved to convene early elections for a new board of Directors at the upcoming ordinary General meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association and the relevant regulatory requirements. Further details regarding the meeting date and nomination

Gold hits record high, dollar falls as US targets Fed

London, United Kingdom

The dollar mostly weakened and gold hit a record high Monday as investors digested news that the US Justice Department is probing the Federal Reserve, raising fears over the central bank's independence against President Donald Trump's push for lower rates.

Wall Street's main indices opened lower, with Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare saying “market participants may be using this compendium of news as an excuse to take some profits following a hot start to 2026...”

Most stock markets have enjoyed a solid start to 2026, with indices in Frankfurt, London, Paris and Seoul hitting record highs last week, largely on optimism for the tech sector and gains in defence sector shares. European stocks edged higher after a strong showing in Asia.

The dollar fell against major peers, as did the price of the benchmark 10-year US Treasury bond, sending its yield slightly higher.

Gold climbed close to \$4,600 an ounce while silver approached \$85 an ounce as investors sought traditional safe havens.

India and Germany seek to boost defence industry ties

AFP | Ahmedabad, India

India and Germany are looking to boost defence industry cooperation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday after hosting Chancellor Friedrich Merz in his home state of Gujarat.

Merz said Berlin also wants a closer security partnership with New Delhi, including deeper “cooperation between our defence industries” to cut India's traditional dependence on Russia for military hardware.

Merz began his two-day India visit -- his first to Asia since taking office in May -- two weeks ahead of an EU-India summit and as India and the European bloc are working on a free trade agreement.

Both countries announced several agreements and joint declarations after the leaders' meeting with an aim to boost their \$50 billion trade.

The announcements included strengthening defence industry cooperation and on semiconductors and critical minerals.

The two countries “are work-



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) flies a kite alongside German Chancellor Friedrich Merz during the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad

ing together on secure, trusted, and resilient supply chains and our MoUs on these issues will strengthen our partnership”, Modi said.

Merz said Berlin was “committed to an international order in which we can live freely and securely, because the world is currently undergoing a process of realignment”.

“It is increasingly characterised by great power politics and thinking in terms of spheres of influence, which is why we must

join forces to weather these rough winds,” he added.

Recent actions and statements by US President Donald Trump including arbitrary trade tariffs have played a key role in upending global alliances and regional geopolitics, with New Delhi still negotiating a trade deal with Washington.

‘Strategic importance’

“It is of particular strategic importance that we deepen cooperation between our de-



Modi (C) and Merz watching a woman weave khadi on a charkha or a spinning wheel at the Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad.

fence industries. This strengthens both sides and also helps to make India less dependent on Russia, for example,” said Merz.

New Delhi, which has relied on Moscow for decades for its key military hardware, has tried to cut its dependence on Russia in recent years by diversifying imports and pushing its own domestic manufacturing base.

India today counts France, Israel and the United States as its key military suppliers besides Russia.

Berlin and New Delhi have also been negotiating a potential deal for Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems to build six submarines for the Indian Navy in partnership with Indian state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.

While still being negotiated, that deal would allow India to replace its ageing fleet of Russian-built submarines and likely include technology transfer provisions to help its domestic defence industry.

In defence, the two sides are also exploring other areas of convergence as New Delhi pumps billions of dollars to upgrade its naval fleet and air force in the next few years.

Modi said that “India is honoured that he (Merz) has chosen our nation as the place of his first visit in Asia”.

He said the leaders had agreed on “deeper cooperation in defence, space and other critical and emerging technologies”.

Merz will wrap up his visit with a trip to the southern technology hub of Bengaluru on Tuesday.



There are around 300,000 Indians and people of Indian origin in Germany, including about 60,000 students -- many of them in critical science, engineering and other key technology research fields.