

BisB supports **Down Syndrome** initiatives

Jood team joins efforts

- Pact with local nonprofit
- Events planned throughout year
- Focus on inclusive empowerment

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank has signed a strategic partnership with the Bahrain Down Syndrome Society in a move that puts inclusion and community empowerment at the heart of its corporate social responsibility efforts.

The agreement, signed on Wednesday, commits BisB to supporting year-round activities by the Society, which advocates for individuals with Down syndrome and their families across the Kingdom. The bank's Jood volunteering team will offer logistical and moral support through its community engagement channels, further aligning its public engagement strategy with national inclusion goals.

BisB Chief Executive Officer Fatema AlAlawi described the partnership as part of the bank's broader mission to empower all segments of society through lasting social impact. "We are pleased to sign this agreement with Bahrain Down Syndrome Society as part of our unwavering commitment to social responsibility," she said. "We believe this collaboration will create a tangible positive im-



pact by supporting the Society's programmes and initiatives, in line with our vision of fostering

sustainable community partnerships."

Shared commitment

Echoing this sentiment, Executive Director of Bahrain Down Syndrome Society Ahmed AlAli welcomed the partnership as a major step in advancing inclusion. "This agreement with Bahrain Islamic Bank represents a strategic step that underscores the importance of institutional partnerships in advancing social inclusion and community integration," he said.

He added that the collaboration would help expand the Society's reach and increase the effectiveness of its programmes. "We remain committed to working together to achieve sustain-

able outcomes that benefit individuals with Down syndrome and their families."

CSR in action

As part of the agreement, BisB will participate in a range of events organised by the Society, reinforcing its commitment to diversity and community development. The partnership also highlights the bank's position as a leader in impactful corporate social responsibility efforts within Bahrain's banking sector.

With this initiative, BisB continues to focus on building meaningful connections across the community while promoting dignity, opportunity, and inclusion for people with Down syndrome.



Down syndrome is the most common genetic cause of intellectual disability worldwide, affecting approximately 1 in every 700 births.

Mazad leadership shift aims to diversify offerings

- Nezar brings 20 years' experience
- Leadership change from July 20th
- Board thanks outgoing CEO

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Mazad's leadership transition signals a broader strategic push to scale innovation and diversify offerings, with the new CEO bringing experience from Bahrain's telecom and SME sectors.

The company has appointed Nezar Hasan Habib as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective Sunday. Nezar brings

over two decades of leadership experience across the telecom and banking sectors in Bahrain and the UAE. His most recent role was Director of SME at STC Bahrain.

Board confidence

Mazad, a portfolio company of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, praised Nezar's background in building high-performing teams, leading marketing initiatives, and driving strategic growth.

Chairperson of the Board, Marwa Khaled AlSaad, welcomed the appointment, saying: "Mazad's

entering its next phase with a clear strategy and an exceptional team. We continue to strengthen our core business through deeper government partnerships, while diversifying our portfolio, expanding into new segments, and building a customer-first organisation that creates sustainable, long term value for our stakeholders."

She also extended gratitude to outgoing CEO Talal Aref Aloraifi, acknowledging his efforts in transforming the company from a start-up into a trusted national auction platform.

Vision for growth

Nezar described his appointment as an honour and said

he looked forward to driving Mazad's next phase of development.

"The company has earned a distinguished reputation as a trusted and forward-thinking leader in the auction industry, and I am excited by the strategic plans we have envisioned to shape its next phase of growth," he said.

"I am committed to building Mazad's strong foundation by accelerating innovation, strengthening operational excellence and positioning the company as a benchmark across the region."

Mazad operates as Bahrain's premier online auctions platform, offering a digitised approach to asset sales through strategic partnerships and transparent practices.



Chairperson of the Board, Marwa Khaled AlSaad



Nezar Hasan Habib, Chief Executive Officer

Bahrain Targets Polish Gateway

Lublin offers tax incentives



● Forum strengthens private ties

● 40 Polish firms attend

● Sectors include tech, hydrogen

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Bahrain is placing a bold bet on Eastern Europe, positioning itself as a Gulf gateway for Polish investors amid its long-term push to diversify beyond oil.

Gateway ambitions

Speaking at the Bahrain-Poland Economic Forum, His Excellency Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, spotlighted the Kingdom's evolution into a regional hub linking the Gulf, Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia. H.E. cited Bahrain's advanced banking and financial landscape, home to more than 400 offshore banks, and growing strengths in innovation, transport, and engineering.

H.E. Nass praised Poland's capabilities and urged stronger partnerships in food security, education, and advanced manufacturing, calling for more joint exhibitions to connect businesses in both nations.

Lublin's pitch

Polish leaders responded in kind. Marshal of the Lublin Voivodeship, Jarosław Stawiarski, hailed the forum as a milestone for bilateral economic ties and positioned Lublin as a strategic European partner. He pointed to the region's academic depth, agricultural strengths, and investor-friendly environment.

Head of International Cooperation at the Lublin City Office, Ewelina Graban, added that investors in the region benefit from tax refunds of up to 70% for 15 years, access to Europe's largest dry port, and a modern airport, making Lublin an ideal logistics base for Gulf outreach.

Bahrain's outreach

Representing the Bahrain Chamber, board members and officials used the platform to underline Bahrain's private sector capabilities. Board Member Ahmed AlSaloom said Bahrain could serve as a springboard for Polish exports and investments entering the wider Gulf. He highlighted opportunities in technology, renewable energy, and green hydrogen.

Dr. Waheeb Alkhaja echoed that momentum, calling for deeper collaboration in education and research through joint programmes that align with Bahrain's national education strategy.

Vice Treasurer of the Chamber and Head of its Steering Committee said the Chamber's sectoral committees were actively generating data-driven insights to improve competitiveness and policy alignment.

Growing momentum

The forum welcomed over 40 Polish companies, many seeking entry into Gulf markets. Discussions culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding aimed at deepening cooperation across food security, finance, manufacturing, education, and technology.

The gathering signalled both countries' commitment to repositioning their economic strategies through mutual investment and sectoral innovation.

