

BisB Celebrates Futsal Team Following Bahraini Federation Cup Victory

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) recently welcomed its futsal team in recognition of their victory in the Bahraini Federation Cup, following a well-earned 2-1 win over Ahlia University in the final. The team was received by Mr. Zaid Khalid Abdulrahman, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB.



On this occasion, Mr. Zaid

Khalid Abdulrahman highlighted that this achievement reflects the standard of excellence BisB continues to uphold across different arenas, noting that such accomplishments embody a corporate identity rooted in ambition, distinction, and the continuous pursuit of outstanding outcomes.

For her part, Ms. Fatema AlAlawi expressed her pride in the team's remarkable performance and spirit throughout the tour-

nament, affirming that the title is the result of discipline, commitment, and teamwork – values that BisB holds firmly and strives to embed across its work environment and wider initiatives.

This recognition forms part of BisB's ongoing commitment to celebrating achievements associated with its brand, thereby reinforcing an ethos of appreciation and underlining its support for impactful projects.

Al Salam Bank Opens Applications for the Installment Deferment Service Starting 19 April

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In line with the directives of the Central Bank of Bahrain, Al Salam Bank has announced that applications for its 3-month installment deferment service will open on Sunday, 19 April and remain available through Thursday, 30 April. This enables clients to benefit from the initiative in accordance with approved terms and conditions, reflecting the Bank's commitment to supporting its clients to manage their financial obligations with greater flexibility.

Clients wishing to benefit from the installment deferment service can view the application steps through the Bank's Instagram account and apply easily through the Al Salam Bank App or by visiting their nearest branch, with full visibility on installment schedules and all related details of the installment deferment service.

Al Salam Bank will also host



a live session on its Instagram account on Sunday at 11 AM to address client inquiries and provide further clarification on how to benefit from the service.

Stocks rise as optimism over Mideast war takes hold

AFP | London

Stock markets advanced yesterday on expectations that a Mideast ceasefire would soon let oil and gas tankers resume transit through the Strait of Hormuz, easing inflation pressures that have upended economies worldwide.

Signs of fresh talks aimed at ending the war launched by the US and Israel against Iran have pushed stock indexes to all-time highs, suggesting investors expect a quick economic rebound from the conflict.

The Tokyo stock market reached a record high yesterday, following all-time peaks for key US indexes on Wednesday as investors cheered healthy earnings for US blue chips despite surging oil prices and rising inflation overall.

Global stock markets "have staged one of the fastest recoveries in recent memory", said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

At the same time, "oil prices remain elevated... as investors look towards a possible extension of the ceasefire between



A man looks at an electronic quotation board displaying the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo

the US and Iran while weighing the chances of a broader agreement that could ultimately reopen the Strait of Hormuz", he said.

The waterway, through which

one-fifth of oil and gas usually passes, has been choked by Iranian forces since the US-Israeli offensive began.

In the eurozone, inflation leapt to 2.6 percent in March

on surging energy prices, official data showed yesterday.

Yet even as the global economy reels from the fallout of war in the Middle East, China's economic growth topped expectations in the first quarter of the year, official figures showed.

Gross domestic product in the world's second-largest economy expanded 5.0 percent in the quarter from a year earlier.

"Hope has given way to a bright, beaming light at the end of the peace tunnel," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

"The market is no longer asking whether there will be a deal. It is trading as if the deal is already signed, sealed, and quietly filed away."

The Tokyo and Seoul stock markets led a rally in Asia, as traders poured back into the AI-based tech investments that helped send global stock markets surging before the Middle East war started on February 28.

In a sign of the still-strong demand for artificial intelligence, Taiwanese chip manufacturer TSMC reported a record first-quarter profit of \$18 billion, far outpacing estimates.

Strategic Economic Partnership



Manama

Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, met with UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves in Washington on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings.

During the meeting, Shaikh Salman highlighted the strong and longstanding relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, noting continued progress across

various sectors, particularly in finance and the economy. He stressed Bahrain's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation within the framework of their strategic partnership, supporting shared goals and mutual interests.

The meeting was attended by Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States, and Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Bahrain Chamber Supports Strategic Push for Sustainable Growth



Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Bahrain Chamber Chairman with legislative members.

Manama

In his first official visit to the Parliament since assuming office, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo underscored the importance of unified national efforts to advance the Kingdom's economic goals and sustainable development.

Kanoo emphasized that the current phase calls for stronger coordination between the legislative and executive branches, alongside private sector institutions, to achieve desired economic outcomes and reinforce Bahrain's long-term development trajectory.

He expressed deep appreciation for the continued support of the Kingdom's leadership, praising the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the commitment to economic development at the highest levels. Kanoo also highlighted the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting their significant role in launching impactful economic initiatives, improving economic performance, and enhancing Bahrain's readiness to face evolving challenges.

During his meeting with the Services Committee at Parliament, Kanoo commended the responsible vision and national focus reflected in the proposed initiatives, stating that they demonstrate a clear

understanding of economic challenges and a commitment to balanced, practical solutions that safeguard market stability.

He reaffirmed the Chamber's full support for recently announced economic measures, particularly the decision to pay the wages of Bahraini employees in the private sector for April 2026 through the unemployment insurance surplus fund. Kanoo described the move as timely and aligned with national priorities.

According to Kanoo, the initiative provides direct support to the national workforce, strengthens job stability for Bahrainis in the private sector, and alleviates financial pressures on business owners—especially micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, which play a vital role in driving economic growth and job creation.

He added that these initiatives, led by the wage support program and complemented by broader financial and economic measures, reflect a comprehensive strategic vision aimed at reinforcing economic stability, achieving sustainable growth, and ensuring the continued prosperity of Bahrain.

Kanoo further noted that the Chamber views these efforts as a cornerstone for stabilizing the labor market and enhancing the private sector's ability to adapt to economic changes, ultimately fostering a more resilient business environment and strengthening Bahrain's regional and global competitiveness.