“Try Working” Programme Expands

Bahrain Chamber Promotes Youth Workplace Skills

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry has concluded the fifth edition of its “Try Working” programme, organised in partnership with the Nasser Centre for Science and Technology and Youth City, with the participation of 60 male and female students aged 15 to 18.

The programme aims to prepare Bahraini youth for the labour market by providing them with opportunities to experience the workplace, develop practical skills, gain professional exposure and explore different career paths.

The Bahrain Chamber praised the continued directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, to support Bahraini youth, invest in their capabilities and expand initiatives that provide young people with practical skills and experience.

The Chamber said His Highness’s directives to expand the beneficiaries of the “Try Working” programme and provide opportunities for more students reflect his commitment to preparing young people for the future and strengthening their role in Bahrain’s development.

Nabil Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, said the directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad provide an incentive to build on the programme’s achievements, expand its reach and further op initiatives aimed porting Bahraini

Kanoo said the Working” programme reflects the Chamber’s commitment to empowering young people and preparing them for the labour market by providing practical opportunities that develop their skills, experience and confidence, while introducing them at an early stage to different professions, sectors and place requirements.

Bank Deposits Rise 10.6pc as Current Accounts Surge

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Cash poured into Bahrain’s retail banks over the year to May, but savers kept much of it close to hand rather than locking it away, sending current-account balances up almost 24pc even as banks paid more on fixed-term deposits.

Total deposits climbed 10.6pc to BD22.87 billion at the end of May 2026, from BD20.67bn a year earlier, Central Bank of Bahrain figures show. That was a rise of BD2.2bn in 12 months.

Most of the gain came from money held inside Bahrain. Domestic deposits rose by about BD1.58bn to BD17.52bn, while foreign deposits grew by BD615.6 million to BD5.35bn.

Current accounts led the rise by a wide margin. Balances jumped 23.7pc from BD2.94bn in May 2025 to BD3.64bn this May, adding about BD697.7m.

Fixed-term deposits barely moved by comparison. They rose by BD127.4m, or 1.8pc, from BD7.26bn to BD7.39bn. Savings accounts fared better, climbing 9.5pc to BD3.66bn.

The numbers show that much of the new money stayed in accounts from which it could be spent or moved straight away, rather than being tied up for months at a time.

That choice came despite banks paying more for fixed-term cash.

Government deposits also climbed, rising 18.5pc from BD2.39bn to BD2.83bn over the year. The increase was worth more than BD442m.

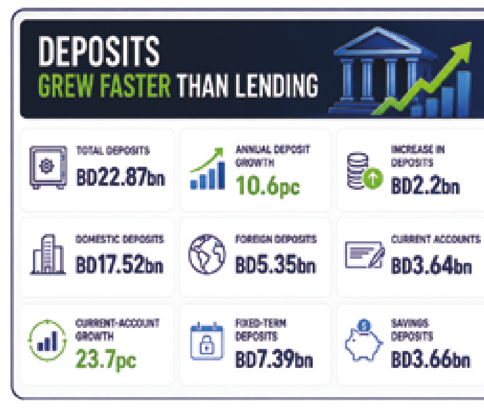
Lending grew too, though at a slower rate than deposits. Loans and credit facilities to economic sectors, excluding banks, rose 7.8pc to BD13.42bn from BD12.44bn, an increase of BD971.8m.

Deposits therefore grew faster than lending over the same 12 months, at 10.6pc against 7.8pc.

Returns on short fixed-term deposits rose sharply in May. The average rate on conventional deposits of less than three months reached 2.56pc, up from 1.87pc in April.

Banks paid an average 2.51pc on deposits of three to six months and 2.55pc on those of six to 12 months.

At Islamic retail banks, average profit rates stood at 1.99pc for deposits of less than three months, 2.57pc for three to six months and 2.73pc for six to 12 months.



Making Waves: Grand Swiss-Belhotel Waterfront Seef Transitions to Aqua Vista Bahrain Ahead of Global Brand Integration

TDT | Manama

The premier Seef district property enters an independent white-label phase, maintaining its premium local service while preparing to join a renowned global boutique hospitality portfolio.

The Al Seef shoreline welcomes a new identity as the landmark property previously known as Grand Swiss-Belhotel Waterfront Seef officially rebrands as Aqua Vista Bahrain.

Operating independently in the interim, the transition marks the first phase of an extensive development roadmap for the premium hotel. Management is currently finalizing steps to seamlessly integrate the property into a globally renowned, indie-spirited hotel portfolio in the coming months, offering guests a stay that balances distinct local character with world-class global standards.

Behind the scenes, active transition work is already underway throughout the property, ranging from subtle interior soft-refreshes and signage updates to comprehensive staff training modules, ensuring every physical detail and operational standard is fully optimized in the lead-up to the official grand opening.

Located on the Al Seef waterfront, Aqua Vista Bahrain is tailored for modern business and leisure travelers seeking premium design, panoramic marine views, and convenient urban connectivity. The hotel features exceptionally spacious accommodations, sea-view dining venues, and versatile meeting spaces designed to support both regional business events and weekend leisure travel.

“This transition represents an exciting milestone for our property,” said Mr. Alper Kucukbaycan, the newly appointed General Manager of Aqua Vista Bahrain. “Operating independently as Aqua Vista Bahrain gives us the agility to refine our service personality and elevate the guest experience. While our name is changing, our commitment to delivering exceptional hospitality remains absolute. We are building a bridge to a strong, globally connected future, and this chapter allows us to prepare our spaces and team to welcome the world with fresh energy.”

During this transition period, the hotel guarantees complete operational continuity for all partners and guests. All current reservations, corporate accounts, partnership agreements, wholesale travel allotments, and upcoming events remain fully valid and will be honored under the same corporate ownership framework.

The hotel’s management has already updated all global distribution networks, online travel agencies, and direct booking channels to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. Concurrently, internal operations are being aligned with international best practices to establish a flawless foundation for the property’s upcoming brand debut.

To celebrate this new chapter, Aqua Vista Bahrain is launching a collection of curated local experiences, including premium waterfront pool day passes and custom weekend staycation packages tailored for the Bahraini and wider GCC community.

For reservations, corporate partnerships, or further information regarding the transition, please contact the Aqua Vista Bahrain team at +973 1717 7333 or email reservation@aquavista-bh.com.