

# NBB Collaborates with Hope Talents to Enhance Employee Recognition Programmes

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has partnered with Hope Talents, the talent management arm of Hope Fund, to enrol its workforce in the Employee Loyalty Rewards Programme. Formalised through a signing ceremony held at the Bank's headquarters, the collaboration aims to recognise outstanding performance and engagement through a range of incentive-based initiatives.

Under the programme, eligi-

ble staff will have the opportunity to participate in monthly prize draws and national reward schemes designed to acknowledge their achievements and years of service. This step reflects NBB's strategic focus on fostering a positive workplace culture and enhancing employee wellbeing.

Commenting on the occasion, Shaikha Noora bint Isa Alkhalifa, Representative of Hope Fund said: "We are delighted to welcome NBB to the Employee Loyalty Rewards Programme, given



its well-established standing and long record of investing in its workforce. The programme has been designed to recognise the

years of dedication and commitment embodied by the Bank's employees through their ongoing contributions to its journey and success. Through this collaboration, we look forward to showcasing these efforts and fostering a culture of appreciation and workplace loyalty."

Hend Mahmood, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBB, added, "Our people remain at the heart of everything we do, and their dedication continues to drive the Bank's progress. This partnership with Hope Tal-

ents reflects our commitment to creating an environment where our teams feel valued and recognised for their contributions. By investing in initiatives that celebrate their efforts, we can continue to strengthen our organisational foundations of excellence, wellbeing and shared success."

Through ongoing efforts that support professional growth and talent retention, NBB further reinforces its position as an employer of choice within Bahrain's banking sector.

## American University of Bahrain Signs Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance to His Majesty the King

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The American University of Bahrain (AUBH) signed the Pledge of Loyalty and Allegiance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, may God protect him, during a special ceremony in the presence of board members and Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the University, alongside members of the academic and administrative teams.

The initiative reflects the University's deep pride in the Kingdom of Bahrain and its wise leadership, reaffirming its loyalty to His Majesty the King and its support for his far-reach-



ing vision, which has laid the foundations for comprehensive development and strengthened the Kingdom's standing across

a wide range of fields.

AUBH also expressed its pride in the achievements realized under the prosperous reign of



His Majesty the King, while recognizing the national efforts led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,



Crown Prince and Prime Minister, may God protect him, to advance sustainable development, strengthen education, empower

youth and promote innovation. These priorities continue to play a central role in building a knowledge-based economy and creating new opportunities for a more prosperous future.

The participation of the University's faculty and staff in signing the pledge further demonstrates AUBH's commitment to fostering the values of citizenship, loyalty and responsibility across its learning environment. It also reflects the University's mission to prepare socially conscious graduates who understand their national responsibilities and are equipped to apply their knowledge and skills in support of Bahrain's continued progress.

## Gold dip brings Bahrain buyers back

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Mohammed Darwish

Gold shops in Bahrain have reported a lift in trade after prices fell from May's highs, bringing buyers back for jewellery, gifts and savings, though demand for bullion remains below the rush seen in earlier months.

Traders said 21-carat gold dropped to about BD43 a gram in recent days before rising again to nearly BD45. Some said the fall from about BD50 in May had cut prices by close to 10 pc and helped draw shoppers who had been waiting on the sidelines.

The dip came as families were buying gifts for high-achieving students after school results were announced. Shop owners said some parents had bought gold pieces for their sons and daughters to mark their results.

But the mood is mixed. Some buyers are holding back in the hope of a further fall, while others see the lower prices as a chance to buy before gold climbs again. Dealers said some customers had also looked at silver as a cheaper way into precious metals.

Prices rose again on Saturday evening as markets watched political and economic shifts abroad. Traders



said 21-carat gold reached about BD45 a gram, while the ounce was quoted at \$4,218.9.

Mohammed Riyadh, a gold expert, said the metal was going through a normal correction after sharp gains in recent months. He said the fall did not by itself mark a change in the wider path of prices.

He said gold was still well placed over the medium and long term, despite pressure from the strong dollar and expectations that interest rates would stay high. He pointed to geopolitical strains and central bank buying as factors still helping the metal.

Mohammed Taha, owner of Al Isra Jewellery, said trade had picked up after prices fell by about BD5 a gram.

"The fall in the gold price has fed straight into the final price of jewellery, including workmanship and VAT", he said. "That has made pieces more attractive to buyers."

## Oil falls further on Mideast deal, but Fed outlook knocks equities

Oil prices tumbled further Thursday after US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart signed off on a deal to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to tanker and cargo traffic.

European and Asian stock markets were mixed, with some major indexes retreating after steep falls on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve raised its inflation forecast and projected higher US interest rates this year, boosting the dollar.

"Politics and economics are front and centre for markets," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

"The US and Iran have signed an initial deal to end the war, causing oil prices to fall further," he said, but the Fed's hint at a rate increase "took the market by surprise and caused a wobble" on Wall Street and elsewhere.

Kevin Warsh, the new Fed chief, vowed



to "deliver price stability" after chairing his first policy meeting, even though Trump has repeatedly called for lower rates.

"Persistently high prices are a burden for the American people," he said after the meeting, which followed an interest rate hike by the

European Central Bank last week.

"The thought of a hawkish Fed policy and higher interest rates weighs heavily on risk appetite," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior analyst at Swissquote.

Crude futures slid around two percent Thursday after a deal that should bring an end to the US-Israeli conflict with Iran that restricted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, causing a spike in energy prices.

But "the latest ECB and Fed decisions showed that policymakers do not necessarily rely on the idea that lower oil prices will immediately cool inflationary pressures," Ozkardeskaya said.

In London, the benchmark FTSE 100 index was down nearly one percent in late morning deals, with the Bank of England widely expected to keep its main interest rate on hold despite elevated inflation.

## Bahrain launches pilot "Uber Black" service in partnership with licensed companies

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The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has announced the pilot launch of the Uber Black service in Bahrain, in collaboration with licensed transport companies and the Uber platform, as part of efforts to enhance mobility services and provide high-quality transportation options.

Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Post, said the initiative reflects the ministry's ongoing commitment to developing Bahrain's transport sector and meeting the needs of different seg-

ments of society. She explained that the service will initially operate on a limited pilot basis through partnerships with licensed companies, allowing authorities to evaluate service quality and operational performance before any wider rollout.

Al Dhaen noted that Uber Black will be available in selected locations, with service coverage visible through the Uber application, ensuring transparency and ease of access for users. She added that the service offers a

premium travel experience focused on luxury, comfort and



professionalism.

The service will be provided through a fleet of high-end vehicles operated by licensed companies specialising in chauffeur-driven luxury transport. All vehicles undergo regular technical inspections approved by the relevant authorities to ensure

safety, reliability and passenger comfort.

Al Dhaen said the launch supports the ministry's strategy to improve public services and encourage the adoption of modern technologies and innovation within Bahrain's transportation sector.

Uber Bahrain General Manager Youssef Abu Saif welcomed the collaboration, describing the pilot launch as an important step toward expanding mobility options while maintaining high standards of quality and reliability. He expressed confidence that the initiative would contribute to the continued development of Bahrain's transport sector.