

NBB and INJAZ Bahrain launch Third Edition of Entaliq

To Empower Young Entrepreneurs



Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), in collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain, has launched the third season of Entaliq, a strategic initiative designed to accelerate the development of Bahrain's next generation of entrepreneurs. This year's edition builds on the success of previous seasons by offering structured mentorship, practical guidance, seed funding, and incubation support to young innovators with scalable business ideas.

Entaliq with INJAZ powered by NBB equips participants with professional coaching over 20

hours of hands-on learning, connecting them with industry experts and mentors to refine and operationalise their ven-

tures. The programme stems from a strong partnership between NBB and INJAZ Bahrain, representing both organisa-

tions' commitment to fostering youth-led innovation and long-term contribution to the Kingdom's economy.

Competitive selection

The launch event brought together NBB representatives, INJAZ Bahrain leadership, educational partners, and programme attendees. With a competitive selection process in place, only the most committed teams will progress into the mentorship and incubation phases, ensuring high-impact

outcomes for both participants and the broader business community.

Building on its ongoing efforts towards youth empowerment, NBB remains dedicated to supporting initiatives that nurture entrepreneurial skills and drive sustainable economic growth within Bahrain. Entaliq with INJAZ stands as a testament to what can be achieved through partnership, preparation, and unwavering support for emerging leaders.



IMF lifts 2026 global growth forecast but flags AI, trade risks

World economic growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3% this year

US growth is estimated at 2.4% this year

AFP | Washington, United States

The IMF upgraded its 2026 global growth forecast Monday, citing a boost from tech investments but warning that a reevaluation of AI productivity gains or renewed trade tensions could bring disruptions.

World economic growth is projected to hold steady at 3.3% this year, the International Monetary Fund said, raising its forecast by 0.2 percentage points from October. This would be the same pace of growth as in 2025.

But the Washington-based lender cautioned in its World Economic Outlook update that "the resilience exhibited so far is driven largely by a few sectors," signaling vulnerability.

While the global economy appears to be "shaking off the trade and tariff disruptions of 2025," this does not mean they had no impact, said IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas. Instead, the challenges were

Economy / Region	2026	2027
World	3.3 (+0.2)	3.2 (0.0)
Advanced economies	1.8 (+0.2)	1.7 (0.0)
United States	2.4 (+0.3)	2.0 (-0.1)
Euro area	1.3 (+0.1)	1.4 (0.0)
Germany	1.1 (+0.2)	1.5 (0.0)
France	1.0 (+0.1)	1.2 (0.0)
Italy	0.7 (-0.1)	0.7 (+0.1)
Spain	2.3 (+0.3)	1.9 (+0.2)
Japan	0.7 (+0.1)	0.6 (0.0)
Britain	1.3 (0.0)	1.5 (0.0)
Canada	1.6 (+0.1)	1.9 (0.0)

Economy / Region	2026	2027
Emerging & developing economies	4.2 (+0.2)	4.1 (-0.1)
China	4.5 (+0.3)	4.0 (-0.2)
India	6.4 (+0.2)	6.4 (0.0)
Russia	0.8 (-0.2)	1.0 (-0.1)
Latin America & Caribbean	2.2 (-0.1)	2.7 (+0.1)
Brazil	1.6 (-0.3)	2.3 (+0.1)
Mexico	1.5 (0.0)	2.1 (+0.1)
Middle East & Central Asia	3.9 (+0.1)	4.0 (+0.2)
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.6 (+0.2)	4.6 (+0.1)
South Africa	1.4 (+0.2)	1.5 (0.0)
Global inflation rate	3.8 (+0.1)	3.4 (0.0)

ish territory of Greenland have thrown a spanner in the works.

Divergence

The pickup in tech investment and expenditure was estimated to add around 0.3 percentage points to average annualized US GDP growth in the first three quarters of 2025.

This offset a drag from the lengthy government shutdown late in the year.

Gourinchas noted the divergence between the United States -- which is seeing a jump in AI tech investment -- and other advanced economies.

The IMF estimates US growth at 2.4% this year, 0.3 percentage points higher than predicted in

October. In contrast, it expects euro area growth of 1.3%, and a slower pace in Japan.

Growth in China and India is also "relatively strong" compared with other emerging markets, Gourinchas said.

Most of the upward revision in global growth this time was accounted for by the United States and China, the IMF said.

Looking ahead, Gourinchas stressed the need for central bank independence, so that they can pursue their mandate of price stability and financial stability.

He did not comment on an ongoing US Justice Department probe into Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

BAS renews IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations Certification

Manama

Bahrain Airport Services (BAS), the leading aviation service provider in Bahrain, has recently renewed major international accreditations, including the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certification. This renewal reaffirms BAS's status as a certified provider of ground handling services aligned with the highest international standards.

The ISAGO certification covers critical areas of airport ground operations, including organizational management, staff training, cargo and mail handling, baggage processing, apron and passenger services, and load control.

On the occasion, Mr. Nabeel Kanoo, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BAS, said: "This achievement will contribute to raising the level of service we provide to our airline partners and reinforces the company's leadership at both the regional and international levels."