

# BBK hosts "Lamea" national project introductory session to encourage employee participation

Manama

**B**BK, a leader in retail and corporate banking in the Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted an introductory session for employees on the National Development Program "Lamea", as part of its efforts to promote participation in national initiatives that support leadership development and the growth of promising Bahraini talent.

The session was led by BBK employees Ahmed Mubarak and Afnan Shams, who served as Lamea ambassadors. Mubarak was among the winners of the fifth edition of Lamea, while Shams was selected to participate from a large pool of applicants, reflecting the caliber, ambition and leadership potential of BBK's employees. During the session, they introduced the program's objectives, methodology, key stages and selection criteria, while sharing their own



experiences and insights with colleagues. The session also highlighted the value of Lamea in broadening professional ex-

posure, strengthening leadership capabilities and encouraging greater participation in future cohorts.

Mrs. Sarah Jamal, BBK Group Chief Human Resources Officer, said: "We are proud of our Lamea ambassadors and their achievements. Their journey reflects the ambition, potential, and dedication we see every day in our employees, and the meaningful impact that they have created through important national initiatives. What makes us even prouder is how they bring those experiences back to the Bank, sharing their insights and inspiring all employees. Through this, they contribute to building a more connected, collaborative, and growth-focused culture where employees continuously learn from one another and expand their capabilities for future opportunities."

Mrs. Jamal added: "Lamea represents a valuable oppor-



Mrs. Sarah Jamal, BBK Group Chief Human Resources Officer

tunity for learning and professional development, as well as an important national platform for refining promising Bahraini talent and preparing them for future leadership roles. At BBK, we strongly believe that invest-

ing in human capital is one of the key pillars of sustainable institutional success. We therefore continue to support and encourage our employees to benefit from high-quality programs that enable them to contribute more effectively to institutional and national development."

Launched in 2021 under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Lamea is a national initiative aimed at identifying, nurturing and empowering exceptional Bahraini youth. The project seeks to develop a new generation of young leaders by strengthening their personal and professional capabilities, enhancing leadership skills and encouraging innovation, in line with Bahrain's wider national development goals.

## NBB Group Chief Executive Officer named among Middle East's leading voices in banking and finance

● The list highlights prominent leaders across commercial banking, Islamic finance and investment banking, whose work continues to influence the evolution of financial institutions in the Middle East



Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is pleased to announce that Group Chief Executive Officer, Usman Ahmed, has been named among Economy Middle East's list of 30 Leading Voices in Middle East Banking & Finance, which recognises senior executives shaping the direction of the region's financial services sector.

The list highlights prominent leaders across commercial banking, Islamic finance and investment banking, whose work continues to influence the evolution of financial institutions in the Middle East. Usman Ahmed's inclusion reflects his contribution to advancing NBB's strategic direction, strengthening its market position, and reinforcing its stature as a key participant in the Kingdom of Bahrain's financial sector.



## 'Fortnite' game returns to Apple App Store



AFP | Paris, France

Massively popular online shooter "Fortnite" was again available on Apple's online App Store, developer Epic Games said Tuesday, adding that it was "confident" of prevailing in a court battle with the iPhone maker.

Epic has been battling in court against both Apple and Google -- which develops the Android operating system -- over the sizeable fees they charge to allow software makers to sell to users.

"Fortnite is back on the App Store around the world," the company posted on X Tuesday.

"We are confident that once Apple is forced to show its costs, governments around the world will not allow Apple

junk fees to stand," it added.

"Fortnite" was removed from both the Apple and Google stores in 2020 when Epic Games attempted to circumvent their payment systems.

Its return last year to Apple's US App Store followed a first favourable court ruling.

It also returned to the American Google store after Epic struck a deal with the web giant.

"We see this as the beginning of the end of the Apple Tax worldwide," Epic chief Tim Sweeney posted on X.

"Fortnite" is nevertheless unavailable for Australian users to download -- despite a victory last summer in courts there, where Epic had accused Apple and Google of abusing their market position.

## Oil dips, stocks mixed after Trump holds off on Iran attack

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices eased Tuesday but remained above \$100 a barrel while stocks wavered as investors tracked a potential deal between the US and Iran to end a war that has sent energy prices soaring.

Rising government bond yields also weighed on sentiment, with the yield on 30-year US Treasuries hitting its highest level in nearly 19 years. The move indicated growing market unease over inflation, energy prices and fiscal worries.

President Donald Trump said he held off a major new assault against Tehran as he saw hopes for securing an agreement to end the conflict, which was sparked by US and Israeli strikes on Iran at the end of February.

Stocks didn't get much of a boost from Trump's announcement, with Wall Street's major

### Key figures at around 1530 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 1.6% at \$110.27 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.2% at \$103.14 a barrel
New York - DOW:	▼ 0.5% at 49,424.33 points
New York - S&P 500:	▼ 0.9% at 7,339.51
Nasdaq Composite:	▼ 1.3% at 25,759.40
London - FTSE 100:	▲ less than 0.1% at 10,330.55 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ less than 0.1% at 7,981.76 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 0.4% at 24,400.65 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▼ 0.4% at 60,550.59 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.5% at 25,797.85 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.9% at 4,169.54 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1596 from \$1.1650 on Monday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3392 from \$1.3422
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.58 from 86.77 pence

indices lower in late morning trading.

European indices ended the day mixed.

"Investors are showing relief that tensions haven't escalated,"

said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

He added, however, that "oil prices remain at high enough levels to weigh on the global economy".

Brent crude, the international benchmark, hovered at around \$110 a barrel, down from Monday's prices but still up more than 50% since the outbreak of the Middle East war.

Michael Wan of financial group MUFG said "the durability of this de-escalation -- and whether it translates into a sustained decline in oil prices -- remains the single most important driver for global bond yields," said

Investors are also nervously eyeing rising yields for government bonds in major economies including the US and Japan, indicating that investors are selling amid fears inflation will hinder economic growth.

"Markets have begun to integrate a much more inflationary outlook linked to sustained higher oil prices," said John Plassard, an analyst at Cite Gestion Private Bank.

## Japan, South Korea agree to boost energy cooperation amid Mideast war

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung are expected to agree on strengthening cooperation to ensure a stable supply of energy resources during their summit Tuesday amid global disruptions linked to tensions in the Middle East, Kyodo News Agency reported.

The meeting is taking place in Andong, the South Korean president's hometown in the country's southeast, marking the leaders' third summit and

part of ongoing reciprocal visits aimed at deepening bilateral ties.

Takaichi arrived at South Korea's Daegu International Airport on Tuesday afternoon on her two-day visit and traveled to Andong.

According to Japanese government officials, the two leaders are also likely to discuss broader economic security issues, including efforts to build more resilient supply chains for critical minerals and other strategic materials.