

MENA Fintech forum returns virtually



Sael Al Waary



Rasheed Al Maraj

● **To be held under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain**

● **Bank ABC hosts the forum**

TDT | Manama

Despite the pandemic, which led to the cancellation of many major events around the world, MENA's leading international bank, Bank ABC, under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain, is returning with the fourth edition of annual MEA Fintech Forum.

Themed "Banking Beyond Digital", the forum dubbed as the "Davos of Fintech" kicks-off on a virtual platform from 24 - 25 November 2020.

The two-day event aims to discuss subjects including post-pandemic recovery, low-touch economy, Bank of the future, cashless payments and sustainability.

Commenting, Rasheed Al Maraj, Governor of the Central

Bank of Bahrain said: "We are pleased to continue our support to Bank ABC's initiative of the MEA Fintech Forum, which has significantly advanced Bahrain's FinTech agenda and encouraged the business and financial services community to look at their operations differently. We look forward to another engaging and successful conference this year."

Sael Al Waary, Deputy Group CEO, Bank ABC said the event brings together leading thinkers, technologists, and those who are shaping the financial services industry. "They will discuss pertinent subjects such as economic recovery, regulation in the digital age, cybersecurity and the e-commerce ecosystem."

The forum aims at exploring how disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence can be harnessed to enhance operational efficiency and meet the ever-changing needs and expectations of the customer. More regional banks, financial institutions, big tech and leading consultancies are expected to take part in the forum this year.

Israel says UAE visit 'making history'

Signs deals for visa exemptions, scientific cooperation

● **Four agreement signed**

● **To set up a \$3 billion fund**

● **Fund for modernising checkpoints for Palestinians**

● **The US officials on Sunday joined an Israeli delegation to Bahrain for a signing ceremony to formalise ties**

Reuters | Jerusalem

In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, a United Arab Emirates delegation arrived in Israel yesterday, accompanied by top US officials, to cement a normalisation deal signed last month.

"We are making history in a way that will stand for generations," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in welcoming Emirati Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq al-Mari and Minister of State for Financial Affairs Obaid Humaid al-Tayer.

They were accompanied by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other American officials on the flight from Abu Dhabi to Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv.

"I think that the visit of such a high level delegation from the



An Etihad Airways plane carrying a UAE delegation on its first official visit to Israel (Courtesy of the National)

UAE... will show our peoples, the region and the entire world the benefit of having friendly, peaceful and normal exchanges," Netanyahu said.

Four agreements were signed

US announces joint Israel-UAE fund

Reuters | Jerusalem

The United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates will set up a fund to encourage private-sector investment and regional cooperation, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation head Adam Boehler said on Tuesday. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the arrival of the first official UAE delegation in Israel, Boehler envisaged funding to enable the modernisation of Israeli-operated checkpoints for Palestinians.

relating to investment, scientific cooperation, civil aviation and visa exemptions during the visit, which was restricted to the airport due to coronavirus concerns.

Tayer said the deals offered "great opportunities" to "achieve prosperity for both our economies, and our people".

Citing discussions on taxation and financial relations, he said there had already been significant progress between the two governments and added: "We look forward to welcoming you to the UAE in the near future."

Mnuchin, the most senior US official to attend, called it an "historic occasion," adding: "With greater economic prosperity comes stronger security."

Reflecting a realignment of regional powers concerned about Iran, he added that Israel, the UAE and USA "share a smart outlook regarding threats and opportunities in the region."

No more trade talks unless EU changes position, UK's Johnson says



Reuters | London

There will be no more trade talks with the European Union unless the bloc fundamentally changes its stance on the discussions, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told his Greek counterpart in a call on Tuesday.

"He reaffirmed that the EU have effectively ended those negotiations by stating they did not want to change their negotiating position," Johnson's spokesman said following the call with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"Should the EU fundamentally change their position, then the UK would be willing to talk on that new basis."

The two leaders also spoke about the recent Turkish Cypriot presidential election, which was won by Ersin Tatar who favours separate administrations on the Mediterranean island, the spokesman said.

"The prime minister was clear that a settlement in Cyprus was in everyone's interest," the spokesman said.

EU takes action against 'golden passport' schemes in Cyprus, Malta

Reuters | Brussels

The European Union's executive said on Tuesday it was launching legal action against Cyprus and Malta over their investor citizenship programmes, also known as "golden passport" schemes.

The schemes allow wealthy foreigners to buy citizenship in exchange for an investment of around 1 million euros (\$1.2 million) in Malta and 2 million euros in Cyprus.

IAA holding virtual global conference on Economic revival

● **Creativity4Better 2020 takes place on October 27 and 28**

● **In attendance are leaders from Facebook, Google, Heineken, Havas Creative, Google**

TDT | Manama

The International Advertising Association (IAA) announced holding

its first virtual global conference on the theme Brands: The Engine for Economic Revival.

Creativity4Better 2020 taking place on October 27 and 28 and will feature leaders from global companies including Facebook, Google, Heineken, Havas Creative, Google and many more.

"The event will deliver a packed agenda that focuses on the importance brands play for economic recovery post-COVID-19," said Khamis Al Muqla, IAA Bahrain Chapter President.

IAA joins forces with the United Nations with Maher Nasser, Director of DGC's Outreach Division speaking about the United Nations' vision for post-Cov-

id-19 and how governments, businesses and brands can ensure economic recovery.

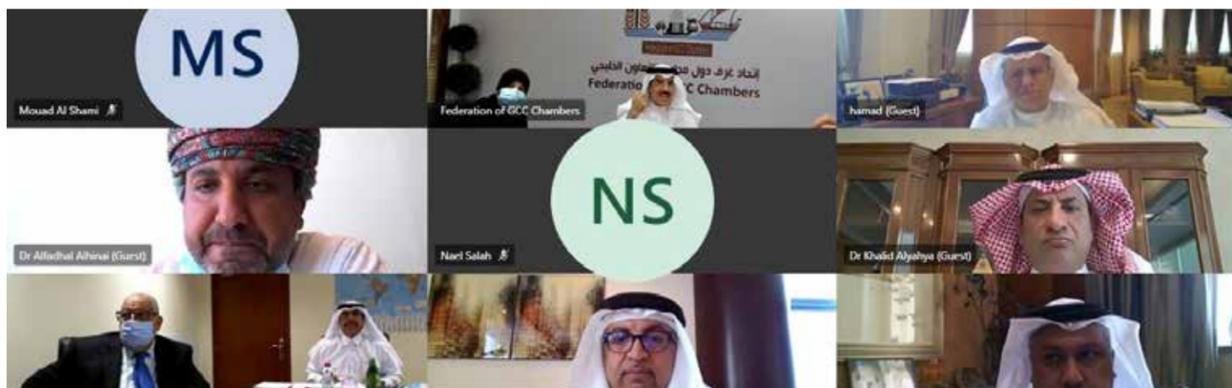
David Haigh, CEO of the world's leading independent brand valuation consultancy, Brand Finance, will present its new report - Why Brands Matter on the role of brands in driving growth for individual businesses and the global economy as a whole.

The event will bring together thousands of delegates including brands,

The IAA was founded in 1938 in New York, USA and has over 4000 individual and corporate members spanning marketing, advertising, media, IT communications and academic sectors with a presence across 56 countries. IAA Bahrain Chapter was founded in 1993.

governments, agencies, media owners, students and academia from around the world.

The event is open to both members and non-members. IAA members will get an exclusive discount. Don't miss the chance to gain first-hand insight from over 25+ industry-leading speakers. For more information about the event, the full list of speakers, and to register for tickets, visit creativity4better.com.



The Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Chamber Shaker Al Shater takes part in the 47th meeting of the Executive Leaders' Committee of the Federation of GCC Chambers held virtually with the participation of chief executives and directors from member chambers and federations. The meeting discussed a memorandum of cooperation between the Federation and the Secretariat General of Gulf Cooperation Council on international economic affairs as well as endorsed a comparative report on the revenues and expenses of the General Secretariat of the Federation for the year 2018 and the closing accounts among several other decisions.