

StartUp Bahrain Pitch Competition Announces Winners of Its 18th Edition

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As part of its ongoing efforts to support and empower entrepreneurship and startups—and building on the success of previous editions of StartUp Bahrain Pitch in fostering an innovative and dynamic ecosystem—StartUp Bahrain, the Kingdom’s leading startup platform supported by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), hosted the latest edition of the StartUp Bahrain Pitch series. The event was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), the Bahrain Economic Development Board, and the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB)..



The event featured a judging panel of leading experts and seasoned investors in the field of entrepreneurship, including Stephanie Nour, Partner at Nuwa Capital and keynote speaker; Ronald Daher, Chief Executive Officer at AstroLabs;

Hasan Haider, Founder and Partner at Plus VC; and Laith Al Khalili, Associate Director at Mumtalakat. The participating Bahraini startups varied in industry, starting with Unlabeled, a mobile app that enables SMEs to

instantly create e-commerce websites without technical skills; Jaras, a platform that helps children explore and learn through short educational clips and interactive activities that build skills and encourage movement; Wajba—a dig-

ital platform that allows F&B providers to sell surplus items at discounted prices, reducing food waste while making meals more affordable; and WeFit—a fitness tech platform that connects users with gyms and trainers and enables instant booking for memberships, classes, and personal training. After the evaluation by the judging panel the top two winning teams were announced, “Wajba” was crowned with first place and “Jaras” in second place. On this occasion, Ghassan Esfahani, the founder of “Wajba” stated: We are delighted to have secured first place in the Start-Up Bahrain Pitch rounds, which aim to support and promote

entrepreneurship and emerging startups. Undoubtedly, today marks a new milestone in our continuous journey of hard work towards achieving further growth and success.” In addition, Walaa Al Arai-bi of “Jaras” extended their sincere appreciation, saying: “We are grateful to all the entities that provided the support needed to make this initiative a success. We also express our appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the StartUp Bahrain Pitch rounds, which provided us with a valuable and rewarding experience in engaging with the entrepreneurship community and exploring new opportunities and horizons for growth and development.”

With a Size of BHD 200 Million and a Return of 5.75% Commencement of Subscription in the 2nd Issue of the Islamic Ijara Murabaha Sukuk through Bahrain Bourse

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Bahrain Bourse (BHB) announced that as of Sunday, 24th of August 2025, and according to the invitation announced by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahraini and Non-Bahraini investors can directly subscribe through the primary market of BHB in the Islamic Ijara Murabaha Sukuk Issue 2 (BHD 200 million) that has been issued by the CBB on

behalf of the Government of Bahrain by executing their orders through registered brokers at Bahrain Bourse. Thereafter, investors will be able to trade the Sukuk on the secondary market at BHB once listed, which is expected to be on 14th September 2025. Bahrain Bourse specified that the subscription period through the registered brokers is effective on Sunday, 24th August



2025 until Tuesday, 26th August 2025. The subscription will be open on Sunday and Monday from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm and on Tuesday from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. The minimum subscription size is 500 Sukuk per subscriber. The BHD 200 million Sukuk issued at a par value of BHD 1 each, on the 28th of August 2025 for a period of 4 years maturing on the 28th of August

2029. The annual fixed return on these securities is 5.75%, and will be paid bi-annually on 28th of February and 28th of August every year throughout the period of this issue. The Central Bank of Bahrain issued the Islamic Ijara Murabaha Sukuk on behalf of the Government of Bahrain. The Government of Bahrain directly guarantees the Sukuk securities.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank: Summer Credit Card Campaign Extended Until October 20

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Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the extension of its special summer promotional campaign for its individual credit cardholders until October 20, 2025. This exclusive campaign features three grand draws offering rewarding prizes to around 50 winners, with total cash prizes reaching BD14,000, in addition to 200,000 points under Al Baraka loyalty programme. Since its launch on June 20, the campaign has experienced an overwhelming response from customers, driven by its exceptional benefits and unique winning opportunities. It has ignited enthusiasm and interaction across diverse customer segments, enriching their banking experience with in-



novative services and exclusive offers. Every transaction becomes an exciting chance to earn rewards and win valuable prizes, making banking not just a necessity, but a thrilling opportunity.

In light of this high level of interest, Al Baraka Islamic Bank renews its invitation to all valued customers holding any of its credit cards across different categories to seize the opportunity and participate in the campaign. Every customer who achieves a minimum spend of BD300 locally or BD700 internationally or online will automatically qualify for the three grand draws, which cover both local and international transactions, with increased chances of winning through the combination of local and international spending. The Bank also invites new customers wishing to join the Al Baraka Islamic Bank family to apply for one of its credit cards and discover a world of unique banking benefits that combine innovation, convenience and opportunities to win attractive cash prizes and valu-

able rewards. Al Baraka Islamic Bank offers a diverse range of credit cards to meet the needs of different customers, including the Mastercard Titanium, which provides a variety of rewards and benefits and offers free access to over 10 designated airport lounges. Additionally, the Mastercard Platinum card represents an ideal choice for those seeking wider benefits, with free access to more than 25 regional and international airport lounges. The World Mastercard card has been designed for travel enthusiasts, offering unlimited access to more than 1,200 airport lounges worldwide, as well as free comprehensive travel insurance covering accidents and emergency medical expenses. Meanwhile, the World Elite Mastercard card represents the peak of luxury and exclu-

sivity, granting cardholders a host of premium benefits that enhance their lifestyle. Among its most notable features is the first-of-its-kind home check-in service in Bahrain, offered in collaboration with Hala Bahrain, providing unmatched ease and convenience in the travel experience. Cardholders also enjoy exclusive free access to the Awal Private Terminal Lounge, in addition to unlimited access for themselves and a guest to more than 1,200 airport lounges worldwide, 24/7 personal concierge services, free airport transfers with Careem, global travel and roaming offers, fast-track services at selected airports, as well as exclusive discounts on hotel bookings and car rentals, together with comprehensive travel insurance covering emergency medical expenses of up to USD 500,000.

All Al Baraka credit cards are fully compliant with the principles of Islamic Sharia, with a grace period of up to 55 days, in addition to automatic enrolment in the Al Baraka Rewards Programme, which allows points to be redeemed for worldwide travel and accommodation offers. On this occasion, Mr Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, stated: “We are delighted to once again invite our valued customers to participate in the summer promotional campaign for credit cardholders, which has been designed to reward them for their daily transactions and provide them with real opportunities to win attractive cash prizes and valuable reward points, while benefiting from the multiple advantages of Al Baraka Islamic Bank credit cards.”

Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery: SCW is an effective national institution and a pioneering cultural platform that supports the achievements of Bahraini women

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His Excellency Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, Acting Managing Director of the Board of Directors of Bapco Energy and Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Refining Company, extended his sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme

Council for Women, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women. Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery emphasized that the Supreme Council for Women has become an effective national institution and a pioneering cultural platform that champions the achievements of Bahraini women over the past years, thanks to the lofty royal vision of His Majesty the King. It represents a national achievement in the path of sustainable development and an exceptional model for the empowerment and promotion

of women locally, regionally, and internationally. The CEO of Bapco Energy Group said, “The Supreme Council for Women attaches great importance to initiatives that contribute to providing Bahraini women with equal opportunities in various fields, such as healthcare, education, employment, and entrepreneurship, in addition to developing national policies and strategies aimed at enhancing women’s participation in social and economic development.” Jawahery expressed his pride in the role of Bapco Energy and all its subsidiaries, particularly



Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery Bapco Refining, in creating a

healthy environment conducive to empowering Bahraini women to assume the highest leadership positions in the energy, oil, and gas sector. This is achieved through policies that establish a comprehensive work environment that supports diversity and inclusion and ensures equal opportunities between the sexes. He added, “At Bapco Refining, we believe in the importance of supporting women and providing them with real opportunities to make decisions and achieve success in their leadership and decision-making posi-

tions, as they are essential and effective partners in the various achievements made in the industrial sector in general and the energy sector in particular.” Jawahery explained that Bapco Refining has always been committed to creating equal opportunities for training and advancement, encouraging diversity, and raising awareness of the culture of women’s advancement in the energy, oil, and gas sector. Creating interactive networks that enable women to communicate and exchange experiences and knowledge.