

business

Al Salam Bank launches win 10pc cashback promotion

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Al Salam Bank-Bahrain announced the launch of a new summer offer on its range of Visa Credit and Prepaid cards.

Running from 18 June to 31 August 2019, the campaign offers 10 per cent cash back to the top 12 cardholders who use their cards the highest number of times while travelling abroad or shopping online.

The promotion builds on the success of a pre-summer promotion this year, which saw 10 cardholders win 5pc cash back on their international transactions.

Al Salam Bank's Head of Retail Banking, Mohammed Buhijji said: "It may not be the biggest spenders who win, but the ones who incorporate our credit and prepaid cards into their travel lifestyles the most."



Mohammed Buhijji, Al Salam Bank's Head of Retail Banking

Customers will also enjoy a special rewards programme by earning Gulf Air miles when shopping with Al Salam Bank's cards, which can be redeemed for a number of benefits including free flights, membership and flight upgrades, lounge access, excess baggage, and much more.

IGA, Microsoft renew pact

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has renewed its partnership with Microsoft to implement a number of initiatives within the 'Cloud First' Policy.

The initiative, iGA said, is designed to accelerate digital transformation across the Kingdom and deliver economic prosperity through Vision 2030.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain has prioritised the development of its ICT sector at the national level since the launch of Vision 2030," said Mohamed Ali AlQaed, Chief Executive of Information & eGovernment Authority.

He added: "The Microsoft Cloud enables digital transformation for governments, and empowering them to solve com-



Officials following the deal signing

mon challenges related to citizen engagement, worker productivity, cost efficiency and service innovation".

In March, the iGA on behalf of the Bahrain Government renewed its Enterprise Agreement for Microsoft 365 and mandated migration to the trusted Microsoft Cloud for Exchange Online and Enterprise Mobility and Security.

Microsoft 365 combines Office 365, Windows Enterprise, Mobility and Security into one intelligent solution.

Under the protection of the Microsoft Cloud, the kingdom's public entities receive advanced email security and threat protection for all employees. In a subsequent rollout phase, government employees will get access to leading collaboration

tools such as Teams and Yammer, to support Bahrain's Connected Government initiative.

"In line with Microsoft's mission to empower every individual and organization to achieve more, our commitment to the government and people of Bahrain is absolute," said Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, Country General Manager for Microsoft Bahrain & Oman.

Ebdaa backs special needs employees

● The bank recently slashed working hours of employees who are taking care of their differently abled family members

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Ebdaa Bank for microfinance announced rolling out measures to support the bank's employees and customers with special needs.

Chief Executive of Ebdaa Bank Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi confirmed bank's recent decision to allow employees with special needs or those taking care of disabled family mem-



Chief Executive of Ebdaa Bank Dr Khaled Al Ghazzawi

bers to have their working hours slashed as well as propose amendments to develop their careers.

"The needs of this employee vary according to the type of disability, whether it is physical, hearing, or vision disability. The bank is aiming to provide all means to help disables to

ensure their work performance with ease," said Dr Al Ghazzawi. Dr Al Ghazzawi noted that Bank aims to employ more disabled, and added: "The bank plans to cooperate with concerned authorities to train bank's employees on how to better serve disabled customers and learn banking terminologies in sign language to ease communication with deaf disabled."

"The basic concept of microfinance banks, including the Ebdaa Bank, is to support the neediest segments of society, such as low-incomers, youth and women. Supporting people with special needs from employees, customers or borrowers, is at the top of our priorities," added Dr Al Ghazzawi.

US blocks more Chinese tech firms

● Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi are set to meet next week on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan.

Washington

The US Commerce Department blacklisted five Chinese tech entities Friday in a new move against Beijing's supercomputing industry likely to raise tensions ahead of a meeting between President Trump and Xi Jinping next week.

The notice targets Sugon -- a prominent Chinese supercomputer manufacturer -- along



Earlier this month, Beijing summoned executives from American firms Dell and Microsoft and South Korea's Samsung, among others, to warn them that any moves to ramp down their businesses in China may lead to retaliation, The New York Times reported

with three of its microchip subsidiaries and a computing institute owned by the People's Liberation Army.

All of the entities will be effectively barred from obtaining US technology after the government determined they were "acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States."

Trade tensions between the world's top two economies have spilled over into the tech sector in recent months, with Trump's administration moving to essentially ban Chinese tech firm Huawei from the huge US market on security grounds.

In May, it added Huawei to an "entity list" of companies barred from receiving US-made components.

Manara begins phase 2 of 'Investment Gateway-Bahrain'

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Manara Developments Company, a leading real estate developer has announced the commencement of phase two of its large-scale "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" in line with its schedule.

As of June 2019, the project has completed 26 per cent of its landfill target of phase two, as the main project contractor laid more than 2.7 million cubic meters of landfill sand and will continue for approximately 18-21 months for the BHD 100m infrastructure construction phase to proceed.

Upon completion, the "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" project will span a total surface area of 29 million square feet making it the largest light industry project available for freehold ownership in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Managing Director of Manara Developments, Dr Hassan Al Bastaki commented on the second phase of "Investment - Gateway - Bahrain" stating: "The Government of the King-



IGB - Phase 2 - site progress

dom of Bahrain has extended support on numerous occasions that have brought this project to its significance today as it has approved the classification

of the project as an investment zone of a unique standard. The classification allowed non-Bahraini investment bodies to own property within the project thus

driving a higher volume demand and global expertise towards it."

Phase two of the "Investment Gateway - Bahrain" Project will bring an injection of approxi-



The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has extended support on numerous occasions that have brought this project to its significance today as it has approved the classification of the project as an investment zone of a unique standard

DR HASSAN AL BASTAKI

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MANARA DEVELOPMENTS

mately BHD 500 million towards the landfill and construction of infrastructure notwithstanding the construction works to commence on the land plots by investors that are estimated at BHD 200,000 each in addition to creating 0,000 to 10,000 jobs at the very least.

The project also allows an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to take part in the second phase to freely develop their operations in line with their business needs that are of a unique nature.

The project would provide approximately 1,600 land plots ranging between 450 to 1,200 square meters with the flexibility to merge and adapt plots based on the needs of each business.

Amongst the main distinguishing factors of this project is its interconnection between more than one port and Bahrain International Airport along with a road network and bridges leading to these ports, which facilitate and reduces transportation costs significantly.