

INJAZ launches 'Tech Valley' to support Bahraini students

TDT | Manama

INJAZ Bahrain, in collaboration with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), has launched a "Tech Valley" programme to support young Bahraini talents for their future in a digital age.

Tech Valley is a three-week programme focused on engaging high school students in hands-

on, project-based learning to be successful in careers in technology.

The idea is to provide a direct path from high school to college to career to ensure a steady pipeline of educated professionals.

The programme introduces future innovators to five learning tracks. Topics include cloud computing, big data and data science, machine learning and ar-

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tificial intelligence, Blockchain, the Internet of Things.

Participants will also learn how to design their own Infographics to best showcase information and boost their communication skills. The programme wraps up with a team-based Hackathon to apply the acquired modules on the Bahraini ecosystem.

Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, INJAZ Bahrain Chairperson, commented on the programme, stating:

"We believe that students need to understand the basics of emerging technology to thrive in the modern digital age and this program educates students in this respect."

For his part, Tamkeen's Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi praised this programme as an important initiative towards fostering students' skills in digital transformation.

On this occasion, BIBF's Director Dr Ahmed Al Shaikh, stated, "Across all industries, digital skills are required in the majority of roles and companies want to hire graduates that know of digital technologies and platforms."

Also, as part of the programme, a hackathon will be held in collaboration with Brinc Batelco towards the end of the programme.

Qu Dongyu becomes first Chinese to head UN food agency



Outgoing FAO Director-General, Jose Graziano da Silva (R) holds the badge of newly-appointed FAO Director-General, China's Qu Dongyu

Rome, Italy

Qu Dongyu yesterday became the first Chinese national to be elected to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, clinching the post in the first round of voting.

Qu, 55, a biologist by training, won 108 votes, followed by Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France with 71 votes and Georgia's Davit Kirvalidze with 12, according to official results.

"I'm very grateful to all member countries for your active participation," the new FAO chief said after the results were announced. "Thanks also to other candidates who helped make me better."

"I will be committed to FAO's original aspirations, mandates and the missions of the organization."

His election to the helm of the Rome-based agency, which

brings together 194 member countries, comes as the fight to eradicate world hunger takes a blow from global warming and wars.

Hunger blamed on the combined effects of extreme and erratic weather, economic slowdowns, and conflicts, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, has risen for the past three years.

FAO has sounded the alarm over rising food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition, and Qu will have to ramp up support for smallholder farms and fisheries to combat the ills of intensive farming, food waste and poverty.

The successor to Brazil's Jose Graziano da Silva will have to put policies in place now in preparation for feeding a world population expected to increase from 7.7 billion people to 9.7 billion in 2050.

Trump says did not threaten to demote Fed's Powell

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday on NBC's 'Meet the Press' news program that he has the power to demote Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell but has not threatened to do so.

"I didn't ever threaten to demote him," Trump said. "I'd

be able to do that if I wanted to, but I haven't suggested that."

Trump has been pressuring the Fed to cut interest rates for months, a campaign that began last October when he said the US central bank had "gone crazy" under Powell after several rate hikes.

Markets end lower



Traders on the floor of Saudi Stock market (Courtesy of Amazons)

● Saudi extends losses for third straight session

● Emaar Properties falls in Dubai

Dubai | Reuters

Middle Eastern stock markets fell yesterday, led by Saudi Arabia, as political tensions ramped up after US President Donald Trump announcing new sanctions on Iran.

Trump on Saturday said additional sanctions would be imposed today but that he wanted to make a deal to bolster Iran's flagging economy, an apparent move to defuse tensions following the shooting down of an unmanned US drone last week by Iran.

The Saudi index fell 1.5 per cent, extending losses from the previous two sessions, as banking shares slid.

Al-Rajhi Bank lost 1.3pc, Samba Financial Group dropped 3.6pc, and National Commercial

Closing Bell

SAUDI	▼ 1.5pc	8,739pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.1pc	4,989pts
DUBAI	▼ 0.7pc	2,640pts
QATAR	▼ 1.3pc	10,551pts
EGYPT	▼ 0.2pc	14,017pts
BAHRAIN	▲ 0.1pc	1,456pts
OMAN	▼ 0.1pc	3,924pts
KUWAIT	▼ 0.4pc	6,344pts

Bank fell 1.9pc.

Qatar's index lost 1.3pc, reversing gains from the previous session when it reached its highest since February, as the region's biggest lender Qatar National Bank fell 1.9pc. Industries Qatar fell 1.4pc.

QNB split its stocks this month, while Industries Qatar is due to follow suit on June 25.

A 10-to-one stock split for companies on the exchange is being phased in from June 9, aiming to boost liquidity by encouraging smaller investors to buy shares.

The Abu Dhabi index shed

1.1pc, hurt by a 1.7pc drop in First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), the United Arab Emirates' biggest lender.

On Wednesday, FAB said that it would close its sole branch in Qatar, citing Doha's regulatory actions against the bank.

FAB said Qatari actions have no impact on its business outside Qatar and the Doha branch contributed less than 0.03pc of its full-year 2018 net profit.

In Dubai, the index lost 0.7pc as developer Emaar Properties fell 1.6pc and budget carrier Air Arabia lost 1.0pc.

The UAE's aviation authority said on Saturday UAE-registered operators need to avoid areas that could jeopardise operations.

Earlier, the US Federal Aviation Authority banned US operators from flying over some Iran-controlled airspace.

Egypt's blue-chip index lost 0.2pc, its fourth consecutive session of losses since closing higher on Monday, the day Egypt's first democratically elected president Mohamed Mursi died while on trial in a Cairo court.

German energy giant RWE vows action against climate activists

Berlin, Germany

German energy giant RWE said Sunday it will be seeking prosecutions after hundreds of climate activists occupied their open-cast mine at the weekend to protest against the use of coal.

Following a cat-and-mouse game with police on Saturday, around a thousand activists invaded the vast Garzweiler lignite mine, some 43 kms (21 miles) west of Cologne.

Police say it took until Sunday morning to completely clear the area of protesters, who RWE accuse of trespassing and arson.

Around eight officers were injured during the protests, according to police, but no figures were given on how many protesters were taken into custody.

German retailer Metro snubs Czech billionaire's bid

Berlin, Germany

The management of German retail giant Metro on Sunday snubbed an "unsolicited" takeover offer from a group owned by Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky, saying it was too low.

The offer, announced Friday but yet to be officially launched by Kretinsky's Munich-based EP Global Commerce group, values Metro at 5.8 billion euros (\$6.6 billion).

But the price -- 16 euros per ordinary share and 13.80 euros per preference share -- "substantially undervalues the company and does not reflect its value creation plan," Metro said in a statement.



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) and Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA), the Kingdom's aviation regulator, holding a strategic meeting to review aviation security plans for Bahrain International Airport's (BIA) new Passenger Terminal Building. In attendance were BAC Chief Executive Officer Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah and senior officials from BAC and CAA. Participants discussed new terminal access control strategy, airport security zones, including the enhanced process for security passes, key management system and the new airport security pass format