

NBB announces **reopening** of branch Network across Kingdom

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced the full reopening of its entire branch network across the Kingdom, in continuation of its earlier decision issued on 19th March. All branches will resume operations, with the exception of the Bahrain International Airport branch, which will remain closed until further notice.

The full reopening follows a comprehensive assessment of the operating environment, with the Bank taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its employees and customers, while maintaining the continuity of its services.

NBB confirms that its branches will resume operations in



The full reopening follows a comprehensive assessment of the operating environment, with the Bank taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its employees and customers, while maintaining the continuity of its services.

line with standard working hours, with precautionary measures in place across all locations. Customers are encouraged to continue utilising the Bank's digital banking channels and ATM network for convenient access to services.

The Bank remains committed to closely monitoring developments and working in coordination with the relevant authorities to ensure the continued safety of its operations and the communities it serves.

BBK resumes full branch operations across Bahrain

Manama

BBK, a leader in retail and corporate banking in the Kingdom of Bahrain has announced the resumption of normal operations across its branch and financial malls network throughout the Kingdom of Bahrain from Wednesday, March 25, 2026, restoring regular in-person service across all locations.

The Bank stated that all branches are ready to receive customers and provide the full range of banking services during standard business hours. Staff across the branch network will be in place to assist customers and ensure transactions are completed smoothly and effi-



The Bank stated that all branches are ready to receive customers and provide the full range of banking services during standard business hours. Staff across the branch network will be in place to assist customers and ensure transactions are completed smoothly and efficiently, in line with day-to-day service expectations.

ciently, in line with day-to-day service expectations.

Customers will continue to have uninterrupted access to the Bank's advanced digital banking services, including the BBK Mobile app, the digital zones at the branches and other digital channels and the 24/7 call center, enabling them

to complete their banking transactions at any time, from any location.

This return to normal operations reflects BBK's continued commitment to providing a comprehensive suite of banking services and financing solutions tailored to the needs of its diverse customer base. Operations will

continue to be conducted in line with the highest standards of efficiency and reliability, supported by ongoing enhancements to infrastructure and internal systems designed to safeguard accuracy and security, further reinforcing BBK's position as a trusted financial partner amid evolving market conditions.

Oil, stock trading spiked before Trump's Iran remarks: media

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Thousands of oil contracts -- a higher volume than normal -- traded 15 minutes before US President Donald Trump pledged to halt strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure, sending prices tumbling, financial media reported Tuesday.

Between 1049 and 1050 GMT on Monday, oil trading volumes surged to around \$580 million, according to the Financial Times. Bloomberg put the value at \$650 million.

During those two minutes, at least six million barrels of Brent crude and West

Texas Intermediate changed hands, far above the roughly 700,000-barrel average recorded at a similar time over the previous five days, Bloomberg reported.

About 15 minutes later, Trump stepped back on his threat to attack energy sites citing "very good" talks to end the war in a social media post, which sent crude prices plunging more than 14 percent.

The traders who bet on prices dropping ahead of the announcement would likely have profited from Trump's sudden reversal, prompting some analysts to question whether some

market participants had acted on prior information.

"What stands out here isn't just the size of the trades, but the timing," Stephen Innes, an analyst at SPI Asset Management told AFP.

"Traders are not clairvoyant. When positioning shifts minutes ahead of a market-moving headline, it usually means someone is acting on...intel before the story broke," he added.

Similarly, S&P 500 stock index futures showed an unusual burst of trading activity early Monday, about 15 minutes before Trump's social media post, CNBC reported.

Senator Chris Murphy, responding to a social media post that alleged a single \$1.5 billion purchase of S&P 500 futures just before Trump's announcement, called it an example of "mind blowing corruption."

"A \$1.5 BILLION BET... 5 minutes before Trump's post. Who was it? Trump? A family member? A White House staffer? This is corruption. Mind blowing corruption," the Democratic lawmaker said on X.

The speculation about insider trading has also spread to prediction markets, which allow people to bet on the likelihood of thousands of global events.

CNN reported that one trader made \$1 million from dozens of well-timed bets on Polymarket that correctly predicted US and Israeli military actions against Iran.

Based on findings from Bubblemaps, an analytics company that tracks blockchain transactions, this particular bettor has had a pattern of prescient bets, including hours before Israeli's October 2024 strikes

on Iran, CNN reported.

Innes noted that the oil market is "not just traders speculating on price; it's a tightly connected ecosystem of physical players, refiners, shippers and governments, all operating within overlapping information channels."

He added that the activity could have been driven by a large producer hedging against a potential price drop, given that oil futures had surged 40 percent since the start of the war.

