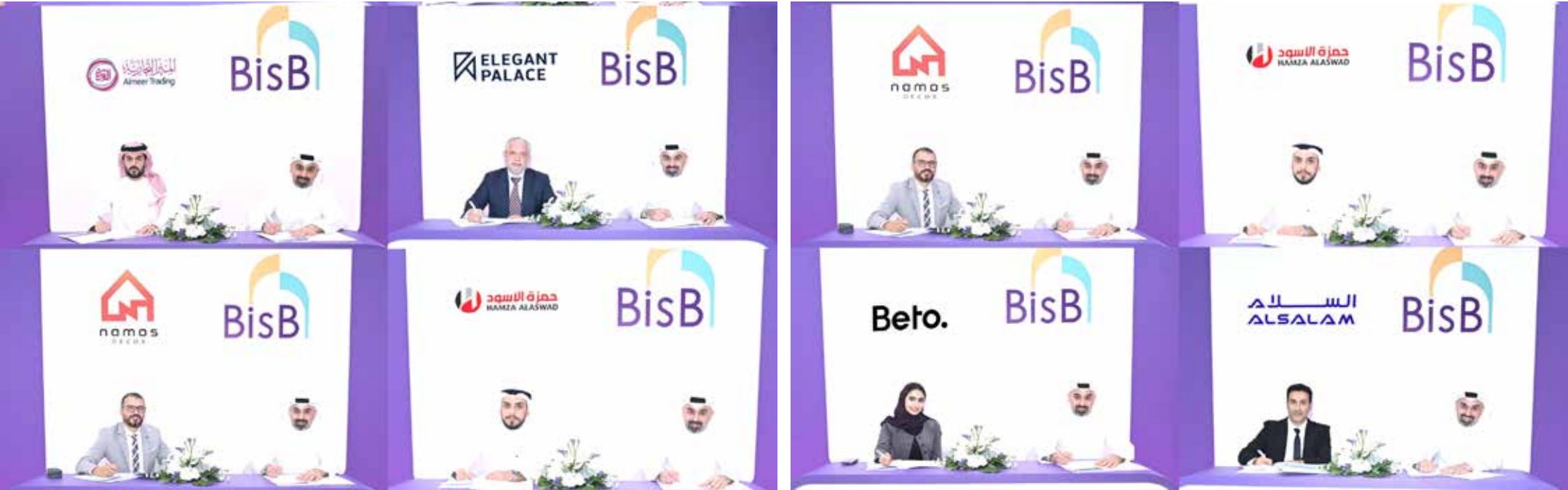


BisB secures strategic agreements with Furniture and Electronics Cos

Social Housing Innovation Exhibition



TDT | Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of Islamic digital banking services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the signing of several partnership agreements with a group of furniture and electronics companies. These companies include: Hamza Al Aswad Center, Namos Decor, Almeer Trading Est, Al Atlas Furniture, Elegant Palace, Fulgor Kitchen appliances,



Faisal Al Abdullah, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB

Homebase trading center, Alma Kitchens, Bahrain Aluminum Kitchens, Beto Furniture, Choices home furniture, Boutique home furniture, Dome Stone & Design, Pieces Furniture, Magic interior, Kewalram & Sons Haji Gallery, Mobilia Un, Al Salam Group and The Closet.

These partnerships aim to meet the needs of Bahraini families benefiting from social housing programs and initiatives across the Kingdom, providing innovative financing solutions for customers interested in ob-

taining residential mortgage financing through BisB's exclusive offers.

The signing ceremonies took place on the sidelines of BisB's participation as a platinum sponsor in the Innovation Summit & Exhibition 2025 for Social Housing. The event, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, runs from April 23 to 25 under the theme "Towards Innovative and Sustainable Housing Solutions." It

is organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and Eskan Bank at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The agreements will cover the provision of innovative financing solutions for a variety of furniture, home essentials, interior designs, electronics, and durable goods. Additionally, BisB will introduce a credit card with exclusive benefits for its customers, including reward points up to 5,000 points, along with other financial advantages

and facilities.

Mr. Faisal Al Abdullah, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, stated: "We reaffirm our commitment to offering exceptional financing solutions for beneficiaries of housing programs through our constructive partnership with the esteemed government, providing the best housing services with convenient financing that meets citizens' needs, supported by exclusive offers to furnish their dream homes with the best furniture and essential electronics."

Highlighting global connectivity, ATM 2025 set to welcome over 55,000 attendees

- Over 2,800 exhibitors—17% from the Middle East—will participate
- The conference will host 200 speakers

TDT | Dubai

Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025, organised by RX Global, will run from 28 April to 1 May at the Dubai World Trade Centre, expecting over 55,000 attendees from 161 countries. This year's theme, Global Travel: Developing Tomorrow's Tourism



ism Through Enhanced Connectivity, focuses on the role of

cross-border, industry and community connections in shaping

the sector's future.

Over 2,800 exhibitors—17%

from the Middle East—will participate, marking a 12% increase in exhibitor numbers. New features include IBTM@ATM, a dedicated space for business events suppliers, and a Business Events Stage, highlighting strategies for MICE and corporate travel. ATM Travel Tech returns with over 26% more products and a new Start-Up and Innovation zone, spotlighting the tech-driven future of tourism.

The conference will host 200 speakers across 70+ sessions, tackling topics such as aviation, hospitality trends, climate action and AI adoption.

Key figures shared their insights ahead of the event. Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director

at RX Global, noted increased participation from Asia, Europe and the Americas. Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, stressed the importance of connectivity in driving sustainable growth. Emirates' Adnan Kazim highlighted how the ATM theme aligns with their global strategy. IHG's Haitham Mattar spoke on enhancing guest experiences through innovation, and Al Rais Travel's Mohamed Al Rais emphasised partnerships in shaping the future of tourism. Strategic partners include the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), Emirates, IHG Hotels & Resorts, and Al Rais Travel.

As the Dollar Sinks, Gold and Global Assets Rise

TDT | Manama

The recent slide of the US dollar is prompting investors to reassess their portfolio strategies, particularly those heavily weighted toward US-based assets. As the greenback weakens against major currencies including the euro and yen—and even gold—market analysts say the time is ripe for considering more globally diversified investment approaches.

"A falling dollar presents both risks and opportunities," said Lale Akoner, Global Market An-

alyst at eToro. "While US-based investors may see purchasing power and real returns eroded, globally diversified portfolios often benefit from such currency moves."

Akoner notes that foreign equities, particularly those in export-oriented economies like Germany, Japan, and South Korea, stand to gain from a weaker dollar. These nations benefit from improved global competitiveness as their goods become relatively cheaper, often resulting in stronger corporate earnings. Emerging markets are also reaping rewards, with

Q1 seeing significant inflows into Chinese and Korean equity funds as capital shifts away from US dominance.

Gold and Commodities: Safe Havens Reaffirmed

Amid currency debasement, gold has emerged as a standout performer, with the dollar losing nearly 25% of its value relative to the precious metal. Gold's role as a hedge against inflation and geopolitical uncertainty reinforces its strategic importance. Broader commodity exposure, including sectors like energy, metals, and agricul-

ture, typically rises in a weakening-dollar environment as well.

Currency Diversification Gains Appeal

Investors are increasingly seeking to diversify their currency exposure to mitigate concentrated risks. This includes holding assets denominated in euros, yen, and Swiss francs, or investing in international funds with currency-hedged share classes. "Alignment is key," said Akoner. "US investors anticipating further dollar weakness often remain unhedged to capture

foreign gains, while European or British investors may prefer to hedge US holdings to reduce FX volatility."

Revaluating Fixed Income in a New Landscape

In light of a weaker dollar and inflation concerns, US Treasuries may lose some luster. Investors may instead consider short-duration bonds, Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), and high-quality international debt. Bonds from stable developed markets or selectively chosen emerging economies can help preserve yield while

adding global resilience to portfolios.

A Strategic Tilt, Not a Total Overhaul

While the dollar's dip doesn't demand a wholesale portfolio reconstruction, experts caution against inaction. "Economic leadership rotates, and so should portfolios," Akoner added. "A thoughtful allocation toward international assets, inflation hedges, and diversified currencies can help investors adapt to shifting market dynamics and uncover new return streams."