

bni's Al Meraj is named Young Leader of the Year

BAHRAIN National Insurance Company (bni) has announced that its chief operating officer, Mohammed Al Meraj, has been named 'Young Leader of the Year' at the 11th Middle East Insurance Industry Awards (MIIA) 2024.

The prestigious award recognises Mr Al Meraj's outstanding leadership, innovation, and dedication to driving excellence within bni and the wider insurance industry.

His ability to inspire teams, streamline operations, and foster a progressive work culture

has been instrumental in the company's significant growth and operational efficiency.

Expressing her pride in Mr Al Meraj's achievement, bni chief executive Eman Mojali said: "We are incredibly proud of Mohammed and the incredible impact he has made at bni. This award is a testament to his exceptional leadership, and we are confident that he will continue to set new standards of excellence in the years to come."

Mr Al Meraj expressed his gratitude for the recognition and attributed the success to the col-



■ Mr Al Meraj

lective efforts of the bni team. "I am truly honoured to receive this award," he said. "This achievement reflects the dedication and passion of our exceptional team at bni. I am excited to continue pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together."

Benefit CEO wins award

BENEFIT announced that its chief executive, Abdulwahed AlJanahi, has been honoured with the CEO Award at the Bahrain Society for Human Capital Management (BSCM) Excellence Awards 2024.

The award recognises Mr AlJanahi's visionary HR strategy, commitment to employee engagement, and innovative HR initiatives.

Mr AlJanahi also participated in a panel discussion at the event, sharing insights on aligning HR strategies with organisational objectives.

"This award reflects the collective effort and passion of the entire team at



■ Mr AlJanahi receives the award

Benefit," said Mr AlJanahi. "We believe that investing in our people and creating a cul-

ture of trust and engagement are the cornerstones of our sustained success."

Saudi's NSG to acquire UP42

SAUDI Arabia's Neo Space Group has finalised an agreement to acquire Airbus' UP42 platform, a move that marks a key milestone in the kingdom's efforts to achieve its Vision 2030 goals.

On Tuesday, NSG, a company owned by the Public Investment Fund and Saudi Arabia's leading commercial space services provider, announced that it had reached a definitive agreement with Airbus Defence and Space to acquire the next-generation Earth observation digital platform.

The deal is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, as stated in a company release.

NSG CEO Martijn Blanken said: "By integrating the UP42 platform into the Saudi ecosystem, we are positioning NSG to deliver cutting-edge geospatial insights for one of the world's fastest-growing economies."

The acquisition underscores NSG's strategic role in advancing Earth observation services in Saudi Arabia, following the permit granted in July by the

Communications, Space, and Technology Commission to operate the platform within the Kingdom.

Aligned with PIF's broader strategy, the deal aims to

unlock the potential of emerging sectors in Saudi Arabia, boost the country's non-oil revenues, and support the diversification of its economy in line with Vision 2030.

NSG emphasised that UP42's platform will enable customers to tackle real-world geospatial challenges, offering valuable solutions across industries such as agriculture,

urban planning, real estate, infrastructure monitoring, and disaster management.

The company also reiterated its commitment to fostering local expertise and strength-

ening the kingdom's position within the global space economy, with the goal of supporting the diversification of the Saudi economy and advancing Vision 2030.

NBB partners with Applied Science University

THE National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has entered into a strategic partnership with Applied Science University (ASU) to offer tailored financing solutions for students pursuing higher education.

Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding (MoU), NBB will provide ASU students with exclusive benefits, including competitive interest rates, waivers on administrative and insurance charges, and flexible payment terms. The bank will also offer a grace period of up to six months, allowing students to concentrate on their studies without financial stress.

NBB chief executive for retail banking Subah Al Zayani emphasised the importance of education in

driving economic growth and societal development.

"NBB is committed to supporting this vital sector by providing accessible financing solutions that empower students to achieve their academic goals," Mr Al Zayani said.

Applied Science University president Professor Hatem Masri expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership. "This collaboration with NBB aligns with our mission to create a supportive environment where our students can thrive," he said.

Through this partnership, NBB and ASU aim to contribute to Bahrain's growth as a regional education hub by supporting students and fostering academic excellence.



■ Officials at the signing ceremony



RESULT OF 2ND MEETING OF THE ADJOURNED OGM

We would like to announce that the Ordinary General Meeting ("OGM") of Bahrain Middle East Bank B.S.C. (the "Bank" or "BMB") that was scheduled for **Wednesday 4th December 2024** did not meet the required legal quorum, therefore the OGM has been adjourned to the **3rd meeting scheduled on Wednesday, 11th December 2024** at the same venue and time that was initially specified in the Shareholders' invitation that was issued by the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Alba to participate in Sustainability Forum

ALBA, the world's largest aluminium smelter on a single site, has announced its participation as a forum partner for the third edition of the Sustainability Forum Middle East.

The event is scheduled to take place on January 28 and 29 in Bahrain.

The forum, to be held under the patronage of Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs Dr Mohamed Bin Daina and supported by the Supreme Council for Environment, will focus on 'Mobilising Action and Investment for Climate and Energy Resilience.'

Alba's continued involvement underscores its commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions, aligning with Bahrain's net-zero emissions goal by 2060.

Alba chief executive Ali Al Baqali said: "As a global leader in aluminium production, we are committed to making decisions today that pave the way for a better tomorrow. Our participation in the Sustainability Forum Middle East reflects our unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable practices."

Laila Danesh, managing director of FinMark Communications and forum founder and organiser,

expressed her enthusiasm for Alba's partnership.

"Alba's dedication to sustainable practices and its leadership in reducing carbon emissions align with our mission to promote action and collaboration across all industries to reach regional net-zero goals," she said.

The forum's 2025 agenda will delve into critical topics such as financing strategies, policy developments, and technological advancements. The event will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at inspiring action and investment toward a more sustainable future.