

# The Business

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## Bahrain investment chances highlighted



■ Mr Almoayyed and other officials with business leaders at the conference

**MANAMA:** Investment opportunities in Bahrain, the GCC and European countries came under the spotlight at a major conference held yesterday under the patronage of Industry and Commerce Minister Zayed Al Zayani.

Organised by Switzerland-based family office Al Dana Ferguson Partners, the conference themed "Financial Services and Investment Opportunities" was opened by Industry and Commerce Ministry Under-Secretary for Commerce Affairs Nader

Almoayyed, who was deputised by the minister.

Stressing the importance of such economic events and promotional investment opportunities in the kingdom, Mr Almoayyed said they enhance the unique position enjoyed by the country in the region.

He said Bahrain has an attractive environment for global investments and projects, many of which have already established in the kingdom to cater to the wider GCC region.

The under-secretary praised the confer-

ence programme which included presentations of incentives and potential investment opportunities that features Bahrain and presented by specialists from several leading companies such as Alba, Banagas, KPMG and Al Dana Ferguson.

Al Dana Partners chief executive Muneera Al Mubarak said they had conceived the conference "as a golden opportunity to create an interactive network between leading companies and business owners around the world and Bahrain as the conference aimed to shed light on the economic reality of Bahrain.

Germany, the UK, Malta, Cyprus, Denmark, Switzerland, Luxembourg and France were some of the key countries represented at the conference which also saw participation from 20 real estate and investment companies and a number of international banks.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry assistant under-secretary for GCC and Western countries' affairs Dr Dhafer Ahmed Al Omran told our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej* on the sidelines of the conference that members of Bahrain's diplomatic missions abroad are being trained to highlight investment opportunities in the kingdom.

### Sukuk issue a big success

**MANAMA:** The monthly issue of Sukuk Al Salam Islamic securities floated to raise BD36 million has received subscription to the tune of 211 per cent, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) announced yesterday.

Carrying a maturity of 91 days, the securities get issued tomorrow and mature on June 24.

The expected return on the issue is 0.81pc compared to 0.72pc for the previous issue dated February 25.

The securities are issued by the CBB on behalf of the government.



■ Citi Bahrain chief executive Mazin Manna, right, receiving the awards

### Citi named best bank

**MANAMA:** EMEA Finance magazine has named Citi "Best Foreign Investment Bank" for the fourth year in a row and "Best Foreign Bank" for the second consecutive year in Bahrain as part of the magazine's Middle East Banking Awards 2014.

The awards were announced at a charity awards dinner held at JW Marriott Hotel Dubai.

EMEA Finance is a bimonthly publication that reports on major financial events and happenings initiated and influenced by the international financial industry active in Europe, Middle East and Africa (the EMEA region).

### Bapco wraps up crucial safety audit

**MANAMA:** Bapco has announced the completion of its fifth periodic occupational health and safety (OHSAS) 18001: 2007 external audit, which was done by Bureau Veritas auditors.

The audit covered departments including operations, maintenance, engineering, health safety and environment, and shutdown and major maintenance.

The objectives, programmes, hazards and risk assessment, operational controls, competency/training, performance and emergency preparedness and responsibilities were reviewed as a part of the exercise.

The announcement follows a close-out meeting led by Bapco deputy chief executive for refining and marketing Ebrahim Abdulla Talib which meant that all requirements for continuing the certification were met.

"The OHSAS 18001:2007 audit is a periodic audit which is generally carried out every six months over a three-year cycle," Mr Talib said.



■ Ms Lahdo addressing students at the event

from public and private sectors, but I need a sponsor and more people to help.

"All I care about is the animals now. I can survive but how can more than 400 animals live when it becomes warmer and we all know how Bahrain's summer is.

"Even though we are facing a rough time now, I try not to worry about not having food because I will always find a way."

Power was disconnected to the shelter by the Electricity and Water Authority, which claims Mr Waters owes BD5,000 for an unpaid bill from his shelter's previous location in Karranah.

However, Mr Waters disputes the bill and claims BD4,000 of that is actually owed by his former landlord.

He also claimed he had received a bill for BD300 for his current location, despite the

fact that he was using his own generator and the power was disconnected.

"Officials from the EWA disconnected the power supply in November and then on February 1 they turned up and reconnected us, but we were disconnected again after just two days," Mr Waters said.

"I managed to speak with someone at the EWA who confirmed the bill should only be BD200, but then the massive bill was transferred to a second hand charity shop, which is owned by me and is now under threat of disconnection.

"At the same time another bill for BD300 has arrived at the centre for a period during which it was running on a generator, as the electricity supply had been disconnected."

EWA officials were not available for comment yesterday.

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## Barriers for women in business highlighted

A SEMINAR about businesswomen in the Arab world was held for students of Bahrain Polytechnic.

It was organised by the university in co-operation with Servcorp for business students aged between 20 and 24.

Servcorp Middle East general manager Laudy Lahdo spoke at the event, where she highlighted the challenges and barriers created by society and individuals for women in the business field.



■ Ms Lahdo addressing students at the event

## Turtle found dead at Amwaj Islands

A DEAD turtle was found at Amwaj Islands yesterday.

A resident who found the carcass told the *GDN* that it appeared to have a "big wound" in the middle of its shell.

"I was walking my dog when I saw a dead turtle washed up," the woman said.

"I could see that it had a big wound in the middle of its shell.

"All along that beach there were all sorts of fishing nets, with two near where I found the turtle.

"I thought maybe the turtle had been caught in a net and then accidentally dragged by a jet ski.

"I contacted security and the community police and, by the time I got back, it had been removed."