

# Boosting food security, private sector focus of Bahrain Chamber, says Kanoo

Chamber's sector committees unveil two-year action plans

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Bahrain Chamber unveiled plans yesterday to boost food security and projects to support the Kingdom's health, education and other vital sectors.

Waleed Kanoo, the Head of the Committees Steering Group and vice-Treasurer, said the Chamber would encourage the private sector here to establish a food packaging and distribution factory and a manufacturing plant in the coming years.

The Chamber, he said, also aims to come up with projects in the education sector to help meet the job market demand.



Chairman of Bahrain Chamber Sameer Nass heads sector committees meeting yesterday

He also revealed that the Chamber intends to commission a regulatory authority for

the contracting sector and hold studies on the health sector. The studies will focus on the

impact of the National Health Insurance Program "Sehati" on the private sector and the short-

age of health cadres in specific sectors. The developments emerged

as the sector committees of the Bahrain Chamber discussed their two-year action plans in the presence of the board of directors headed by Chairman Sameer Nass.

The plans by the ten sector committees, Kanoo said, aims at enhancing coordination and cooperation among committees and keeping members of the executive and the administrative body informed of the goals and objectives. In this regard, Kanoo underlined the role of the committees in translating the Chamber's vision and goals into actionable plans to help revitalise the private sector and streamline its endeavours.

## Al Baraka Islamic Bank launches "Spend and Win Credit Card Campaign"

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In line with the ongoing efforts to reward its customers, Al Baraka Islamic Bank, introduced its newest "Spend and Win" Mastercard campaign. The campaign will offer 20 customers every month the chance to win 10,000 rewards points.

The campaign provides exclusive opportunities to Al Baraka's credit card holders to enter the monthly raffle draw for the 10,000 rewards points with every payment transaction during the campaign's period.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank's Chief Retail Officer, Fatema AlAlawi, said: "Through the 'Spend and Win' campaign, we wanted to give our credit card holders, who constitute a large segment of Al Baraka Islamic Bank's customers, something to look forward to with each transaction they make and enrich their banking experience by providing these monthly rewards and prizes."



Eyad Alabbasi, Head of Cards Center at Al Baraka Islamic Bank



Fatema AlAlawi, Al Baraka Islamic Bank's Chief Retail Officer

"Therefore, we encourage customers to take advantage of using their cards when shopping to increase their chances of winning and wish them all the good luck" - stated Eyad Alabbasi, Head of Cards Center at Al Baraka Islamic Bank.

Credit card holders have the opportunity to increase their chances of winning by collect-

ing points when making local and international purchases, as they can instantly redeem points in a multitude of ways, which include flight reservations with more than 1,200 airlines, staying at more than 100,000 hotels around the world, car rentals, in addition to redeeming points by cash-back or shopping through the bank's website.

## Google makes changes to Android in India after antitrust setbacks

Reuters | New Delhi

Google said yesterday it will allow device makers in India to license its individual apps for pre-installation and give an option to users to choose their default search engine, announcing sweeping changes to how it promotes its Android system.

The move comes after the country's Supreme Court upheld stringent antitrust directives last week, rejecting a Google challenge against a Competition Commission of India ruling that said the company abused its market position, ordering it to change how it markets its Android system in a key growth market.

Google also made some changes related to its in-app billing system, which was at the centre of another Indian antitrust decision recently where the company was found engaging in anti-competitive practices by restricting the use of third-party billing or payment processing services.

"Implementation of these



A view of the main lobby of building BV200, during a tour of Google's new Bay View Campus in Mountain View, California

changes across the ecosystem will be a complex process and will require significant work at our end and, in many cases, significant efforts from partners, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and developers," Google said in a blog post.

Google had been concerned about India's Android decision as the directives were seen as more sweeping than those imposed in the European Commission's landmark 2018 ruling against the operating system.

About 97% of 600 million smartphones in India run on Android, while in Europe, the system accounts for 75% of the

550 million smartphones, according to Counterpoint Research estimates.

The CCI ruled in October that Google, owned by Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O), exploited its dominant position in Android and told it to remove restrictions on device makers, including those related to pre-installation of apps and ensuring exclusivity of its search. It also fined Google \$161 million.

Hoping to block the implementation of the CCI directives, Google had approached the Supreme Court, warning that growth of its Android ecosystem will stall. It said it would be forced to alter arrangements with more than 1,100 device manufacturers and thousands of app developers if the directives kick in.

But the Supreme Court refused to block the directives as Google sought. The court had also said a lower tribunal - where Google first challenged the Android directives - can continue to hear the company's appeal and must rule by March 31.

## Gulf Air celebrates first batch of succession programme



In pictures, Gulf Air officials with the first batch of Succession Programme

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Gulf Air celebrated the graduation of the first batch of its Succession Programme yesterday, which aims to prepare talented Bahrainis to lead the

company in higher positions in future.

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, Captain Waleed Al Alawi, said, "Gulf Air Human Resources is playing a vital role in implementing a challenging yet important people-centric

strategy to engage and retain our talent pool for future internal development and promotions."

"We have witnessed a cultural transformation within Gulf Air in recent years, with an emphasis on work-life balance, proudly rewarding and recognizing

achievements of staff, and providing opportunities for training and career progression."

Captain Al Alawi added: "I congratulate these graduates and look forward to the implementation of the skills they obtained in this program at their

workplaces, as well as their succession to higher positions in the future to further lead the national airline towards improvement and sustainable success."

"I also thank the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance

(BIBF) for collaborating with us to design this program that aims at equipping future generations of professionals that will contribute to the development of the national carrier and the advancement of its Bahraini workforce."

