

Business

Warba Bank acts as joint lead manager in arranging \$600m sukuk for Dar Al-Arkan

Saudi real estate developer Dar Al-Arkan raises \$600m under its sukuk program

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on Sunday announcing the names of the winners for the week of 20 - 24 October 2019. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

Nesma Mohammed Alturkai
Ayoub Yousef Ali Kamal
Naji Ahmad Suwaidan
Omar Abdulla Mohammed Al-Somali
Abdullatif Abdullah Al-Rodan

Gulf Bank's final Al-Danah draw for KD 1,000,000, will be held on 16 January 2020, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced at a live event. Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience.

Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year which are added to the customer's chances the following year. So the customer receives in 2018 all the chances he earned in 2018, and they get added to the chances he earned in 2019, and so on. Terms and conditions apply.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2019 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

KUWAIT: Warba Bank acted as Joint Lead Arranger and Book-runner on the successfully placed Sukuk issuance for Saudi Arabia's leading listed real estate developer Dar Al-Arkan, rated Baa2 by Moody's with a stable outlook. The five-year \$600 million Sukuk was issued at a discount at \$98.841, with a coupon rate of 6.75 percent to produce a 7.00 percent yield and based on the principles of the Islamic wakalah. Warba Bank was appointed alongside other regional and international financial institutions to manage the company's sixth sukuk issuance which listed on Irish Stock Exchange under its \$2 billion program.

Demand for sukuk was strong as evidenced by the oversubscription. Warba Bank's participation in Sukuk issuances and the growth of its assets' portfolio reflects its commitment to develop its investment banking capabilities in foreign markets by continuing to inject the necessary financing for international companies in the regional and global markets through its financing portfolio, which witnessed a remarkable growth of 39 percent to



Thuwaini Al-Thuwaini

reach KD 1.931 billion until June 30, 2019.

Thuwaini Khalid Al-Thuwaini, Chief Investment Banking Group at Warba Bank said that the Sukuk issuance was successful in generating 2.7 times over subscription with the order book reaching over \$1.6 billion. "We are pleased play such a lead role in this sukuk issuance for Dar Al-Arkan Real Estate Development," he said.

Al-Thuwaini said that the transaction followed a comprehensive marketing strategy and road show

aimed at informing the international fixed income community on the company's most recent development. He pointed out that a senior management delegation met with investors in Singapore, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and London.

Al-Thuwaini pointed out that the transaction was successfully led by Alkhair Capital, Deutsche Bank (B&D) / Dubai Islamic Bank / Emirates NBD Capital / Goldman Sachs International / Nomura International / Noor Bank / Standard Chartered Bank and Warba Bank as Joint Lead Managers. He elaborated that the law firm Allen and Overy acted as legal counsel for the banks, while Latham and Watkins represented Dar Al-Arkan.

Al-Thuwaini added that Warba Bank continues to support the business sector in emerging markets by providing them with superior financing and investment solutions that are flexible and efficient. This is based on the Bank's strategy to establish Warba Bank as a leader in the corporate and investment sector both in Kuwait and in international markets.

ECB lending pace sees slower growth

FRANKFURT MAIN: The pace of growth in lending to eurozone companies slowed in September, ECB data showed yesterday, bolstering outgoing president Mario Draghi's message that more stimulus was warranted to confront an economic slowdown. Loan growth to non-financial firms shed 0.6 percentage points compared with August, to 3.7 percent year-on-year, the European Central Bank said in figures adjusted for some purely financial transactions.

Credit to households expanded by 3.4 percent, the

same pace as the two previous months.

Overall, private sector credit growth slowed from 3.8 to 3.7 percent. The monthly data is closely watched to gauge the effectiveness of the ECB's measures to encourage lending and investment in the single currency bloc in a bid to drive up economic growth and inflation.

Draghi, after chairing his final meeting as ECB chief last Thursday, said a recent decision to unleash fresh stimulus in the eurozone was "justified" in the face of a weaker economy. Last month, the Italian economist and his colleagues cut a key interest rate deeper into negative territory and loosened conditions on a new round of cheap credit to lenders.

More controversially, the ECB also relaunched corporate and government bond purchases to the tune of 20 billion euros (\$22.2 billion) a month, sparking rare public criticism from some council members who argued that the move was too drastic. — AFP

Dollar dips on trade optimism, before Fed meets

NEW YORK: The US dollar slipped yesterday as optimism that the US and China will reach a trade deal reduced demand for safe haven currencies, and as investors waited on the Federal Reserve's meeting this week. US President Donald Trump said yesterday he expected to sign a significant part of the trade deal with China ahead of schedule but did not elaborate on the timing.

The comments come after the US Trade Representative's office and China's Commerce Ministry said on Friday that US and Chinese officials are "close to finalizing" some parts of a trade agreement, with talks to continue. The trade war between the US and China has been blamed for adding to global economic weakness, which in turn has prompted central banks globally to cut rates. "Positive trade headlines continue to support our view that trade tensions are easing," said Win Thin, global head of FX strategy at Brown

Brothers Harriman.

The dollar index against a basket of six major currencies fell 0.07 percent to 97.765. The greenback gained 0.19 percent against the Swiss franc to 0.9962. The Australian dollar, which is highly sensitive to the Chinese economy, rose 0.07 percent to \$0.6827 US dollars. Hopes that Britain will reach a deal to leave the European Union, and avoid a disorderly exit, also boosted risk sentiment yesterday.

The European Union yesterday agreed to a 3-month flexible delay to Britain's departure from the bloc as Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushes for an election after opponents forced him to request an extension he had vowed never to ask for.

The next major US focus is this week's Federal Reserve meeting. The US central bank is expected to cut rates when it concludes its two-day meeting tomorrow, though investors will be watching for any indication that further cuts are likely. Fed policymakers are deeply divided on whether the U.S. central bank should continue cutting rates.

"There's still an awful lot of discrepancy and uncertainty in the markets as to what the Fed will do next year," said Jane Foley, senior FX strategist at Rabobank. "The market will be looking for clues as to which way that might go." — Reuters

Kuwait ambassador to UK welcomes first Jazeera flight at London Gatwick



At the moment of the landing of flight J9 1 of Jazeera Airways London Gatwick



LONDON: Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan and Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai on the A320neo that landed in London Gatwick on Sunday

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of Kuwait to the United Kingdom, Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan, honored Jazeera Airways with his presence at the landing of its first flight to London Gatwick on Sunday afternoon. The airline's first flight "J9 1" to the UK took off in an A320neo at 9:45am Kuwait time.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.400
Euro	340.780
Sterling Pound	394.350
Canadian dollar	235.240
Turkish lira	54.070
Swiss Franc	309.660
US Dollar Buying	296.950

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.802
Indian Rupees	4.302
Pakistani Rupees	1.963
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.674
Nepali Rupees	2.677
Singapore Dollar	225.060
Hongkong Dollar	38.839
Bangladesh Taka	3.574
Philippine Peso	5.956
Thai Baht	10.108
Malaysian ringgit	77.852

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.227
Qatari Riyal	83.661
Omani Riyal	791.163
Bahraini Dinar	808.820
UAE Dirham	82.931

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.866
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223

TUNISIAN DINAR

Tunisian Dinar	111.500
Jordanian Dinar	429.790
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.189

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.383906	0.387806
Czech Korune	0.005207	0.014507
Danish Krone	0.041227	0.046227
Euro	0.330411	0.344111
Georgian Lari	0.121480	0.121480
Hungarian 0.001147	0.001337	
Norwegian Krone	0.029279	0.034479
Romanian Leu	0.065231	0.082081
Russian ruble	0.004775	0.004775
Slovakia	0.009099	0.019099
Swedish Krona	0.027494	0.032494
Swiss Franc	0.299995	0.310995

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.199883	0.211883
New Zealand Dollar	0.187457	0.196957

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.228078	0.237078
US Dollars	0.300300	0.305600
US Dollars Mint	0.300800	0.305600

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.002962	0.003763

Chinese Yuan	0.041639	0.045139
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036936	0.039686
Indian Rupee	0.003690	0.004462
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002719	0.002899
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069357	0.075357
Nepalese Rupee	0.002625	0.002965
Pakistan Rupee	0.001332	0.002102
Philippine Peso	0.005715	0.006015
Singapore Dollar	0.217981	0.227981
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001319	0.001899
Taiwan	0.009697	0.009877
Thai Baht	0.009736	0.010286
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.801280	0.809330
Egyptian Pound	0.018636	0.021377
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000214	0.000274
Jordanian Dinar	0.424432	0.433432
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020832	0.044832
Omani Riyal	0.785522	0.793413
Qatar Riyal	0.082955	0.083789
Saudi Riyal	0.080087	0.081387
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.103271	0.11271
Turkish Lira	0.046002	0.055847
UAE Dirhams	0.082244	0.083070
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

Trade tariffs hit profitability at Philips

THE HAGUE: Electronics giant Philips said yesterday that trade tariffs had begun to bite into the profit margins at one of its medical equipment units and that orders were flat in the third quarter.

The Dutch firm that has largely shifted to building medical equipment in recent years reported that net profits fell by nearly 30 percent to 208 million euros (\$231 million) in the three months to September, thanks largely to 78 million euros in writedowns. It was in the business line which makes equipment that helps doctors and hospital staff monitor patients that Philips said tariffs have begun to erode margins.

The operating profit margin in the Connected Care businesses declined to 11.3 percent from 15.8 percent, "due to increasing headwinds from tariffs," chief executive Frans van Houten said in a statement. He also cited the delayed impact of measures meant to mitigate the impact of tariffs, under-utilisation of factories and its product mix as factors for the unit's performance.

Overall, sales rose by six percent on a comparable basis, with China leading the way with double-digit growth. But order intake was flat after surging 11 percent in the third quarter of last year.

While van Houten described the third quarter performance as "mixed results" for the firm, he said Philips still expects adjusted sales growth of 4.0-6.0 percent for the year, with its overall operating margin to rise slightly. Shares in Philips fell 3.2 percent in midday trading on the Amsterdam exchange, where the AEX index was 0.2 percent lower. — AFP