

To develop Kuwait's next generation of investment professionals

Union of Investment Companies launches the first edition of ‘ATHAR’ program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC) has announced the launch of the first edition of ATHAR, a pioneering initiative designed to build a direct bridge between universities, Kuwaiti students and graduates, and investment companies. The program aims to help participants transition from academic learning to real-world professional experience by providing first hand exposure to the financial and investment industry and its evolving workplace requirements.

The launch of ATHAR reflects UIC's belief that investing in national human capital is one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable economic development. UIC believes that the future growth of Kuwait's investment sector depends not only on developing sophisticated financial products and investment solutions, but also on preparing highly qualified national talent capable of leading the industry in the years ahead.

ATHAR offers an integrated framework that brings together universities, students, and investment companies in a practical learning environment. Participants gain hands-on experience within investment firms, enabling them to explore different areas of the financial and investment industry, develop professional skills, and engage directly with industry leaders and specialists.

The program also provides investment companies with an opportunity to engage early with promising Kuwaiti talent, assess their potential, and contribute directly to developing the skills required by a rapidly evolving labor market.

Al-Terkait: Investing in National Talent Is an Investment in Kuwait's Economic Future

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Abdullah H. Al-Terkait, Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies, said that ATHAR reflects UIC's vision of the role the investment sector should play in supporting Kuwait's economy and strengthening national human capital.

"At the Union of Investment Companies, we believe that the responsibility of the investment sector extends beyond managing capital and investments. It also includes helping develop the human capital that will shape Kuwait's future economy. ATHAR was created to establish a genuine connection between higher education and the private sector, giving young Kuwaitis the opportunity to experience the investment industry



UIC's first edition of ATHAR.

from within rather than learning about it solely in the classroom."

He added: "A competitive economy requires national professionals equipped with knowledge, practical experience, innovation, and sound decision-making skills. Investing in young people is therefore not simply a complementary aspect of development—it is one of the most important long-term investments in achieving sustainable economic growth."

Mr. Abdullah Al-Terkait noted that the strong participation of investment companies demonstrates the sector's commitment to preparing the next generation of professionals. He explained that ATHAR promotes deeper collaboration between academia and the investment industry, helping educational outcomes become more closely aligned with the skills and specializations demanded by the labor market.

He continued: "We aspire for ATHAR to become far more than a short-term internship program. Our objective is for it to serve as the starting point of meaningful career journeys for participants while providing investment companies with a platform to identify and nurture promising Kuwaiti talent, ultimately strengthening the presence of national professionals across the financial and investment sector."

ATHAR: From Academic Learning to Professional Experience

The ATHAR Program Team, comprising Farah Alajmi, Salem Almezzi, and Omar Almutairi, explained that the initiative was developed in response to the growing need to bridge the gap between academic education and professional practice, transforming traditional internships into

a comprehensive learning journey that combines practical training, professional development, and meaningful engagement with the labor market.

The team noted that the program focuses on developing both technical and professional competencies, while also strengthening leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. Participants are given direct exposure to the operations of investment companies and the wide range of career opportunities available across the financial and investment industry.

Speaking on behalf of the team, Farah Alajmi said: "ATHAR is more than a training program; it is a collaborative platform that brings together students, universities, and investment companies within one integrated experience. Its greatest strength lies in this partnership, enabling participants to gain greater clarity about their future careers while acquiring practical experience that helps them enter the workforce with confidence. At the same time, it allows investment companies to identify promising national talent and contribute to its development."

UIC emphasized that ATHAR is designed to achieve several strategic objectives, including enhancing the employability of Kuwaiti youth, strengthening collaboration between universities and the investment sector, developing professional and leadership skills, increasing awareness of career opportunities within the financial and investment industry, and creating direct connections between emerging talent, investment companies, and industry leaders.

UIC concluded by affirming that the first edition of ATHAR represents the beginning of a scalable and sustainable national initiative rather than a one-time program. UIC intends to expand future editions by increasing the number of participating students, investment companies, and academic institutions, thereby maximizing the program's long-term impact on Kuwait's labor market.

The launch of ATHAR forms part of the Union of Investment Companies' broader strategy to strengthen the investment sector's contribution to Kuwait's economic and social development, foster stronger partnerships between education, the private sector, and youth, and help build a more competitive, knowledge-driven, and sustainable economy powered by skilled national human capital.

Panel shares investment career tips

InvestGB organizes panel discussion with Kuwait's investment leaders in celebration of ‘Interns’ Day’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Gulf Capital Investment Company K.S.C.C. "InvestGB", the investment arm of Gulf Bank, hosted an "Interns' Day" event featuring a special panel discussion titled "The Journey to Success in the World of Investment: Professional and Investment Lessons from the Financial and Investment Sector." The session brought together leading figures from Kuwait's investment and business community to share their professional experiences and the key lessons learned throughout their careers, highlighting the skills and habits that help young people build a successful professional and financial future.

Moderated by Mr. Talal AlKhamis, Director of Equities and Fixed Income at InvestGB, the session explored major milestones of professional success in the investment sector, the skills and qualities that distinguish promising talent, and the importance of early investment in both money and self, alongside lessons drawn from the careers of leading financial and investment figures.

The panel featured Ms. Lamia Karam, Chairperson of InvestGB and General Manager of Treasury at Gulf Bank; Mr. Mohammed Jaffar, Managing Partner at Faith Capital Holding; Ms. Dalal Al Rayes, CEO and Co-Founder of Spare and Board Member at Gulf Bank; and Mr. Tareq AlSaleh, Managing Director of Wealth Management at InvestGB.

The session was attended by a number of leading figures from Kuwait's institutional and business community, including Ms. Layla Al-Mutairi, CEO of INJAZ Kuwait; Ms. Fadwa Darwish, Secretary General of the Union of Investment Companies; Mr. Dari Al Bader, General Manager of Corporate Affairs at Gulf Bank and Board Member at InvestGB; Mr. Abdulrahman AlKhubaizi, Assistant General Manager of Private Banking at Gulf Bank and Board Member at InvestGB; Ms. Anoud AlHathran, Independent Board Member at InvestGB; Mr. Hani AlAwadhi, Vice Chairman and CEO of InvestGB; and Mr. Ammar Hajeyah, Chief Investment Officer of InvestGB.

Speakers addressed a range of topics, including how they began their careers and entered the world of investment and financial services, the skills required to build a successful career in the investment sector, and the importance of taking calculated professional risks and learning from experience. The session also covered how to manage a first salary and build sound investment habits from an early age, the importance of self-investment in achieving professional and personal success, the qualities that distinguish promising talent in the workplace, and the top advice speakers wished they had known at the start of their careers.

Commenting on the occasion, Ms. Sara Al-Muzaini, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at InvestGB, said: "Through this session, we wanted to provide our interns the opportunity to meet inspiring leaders who have succeeded in this sector and hear directly about their professional experiences and the lessons they have learned along the way. Learning from real world experiences leaves a far deeper impact on young people than any theoretical discussion."

She added: "Investing in young minds today is an investment in Kuwait's future, and we are proud to provide opportunities that empower the next generation and open meaningful, purposeful career paths for them. At InvestGB, we do not simply build a professional work environment; we work to establish a comprehensive professional community built on continuous



Tareq AlSaleh, Lamia Karam, Mohammed Jaffar, Dalal Al Rayes, and Talal AlKhamis



Hani AlAwadhi, Layla AlMutairi, Dari Al Bader, Abdulrahman AlKhubaizi, and Ammar Hajeyah

growth and shared purpose, which is directly reflected in our excellence as a leading company."

This initiative reflects InvestGB's ongoing commitment to supporting Kuwaiti youth and empowering national talent. In May, the company announced the launch of the fourth edition of its "IGB Internship Program," a step that underscores its role as one of the most active private sector companies in supporting and developing young talent in Kuwait.

The program offers hands on training and outstanding opportunities for professional development and employment for Kuwaiti youth, with many participants successfully transitioning to full time roles at InvestGB. Since its launch in 2023, the program has attracted more than 100 interns from high schools and universities, as



well as bachelor's and master's degree holders, with participants from more than 20 local and international universities, including Kuwait University, Gulf University for Science and Technology, the American University of Kuwait, Babson College, Bentley University, Columbia University, MIT, Cornell University, UCLA, and King's College London.

The program has given interns real-world, hands-on experience and opportunities to develop the personal and professional skills needed to keep pace with the evolving job market, with 10% of participants joining the company after completing the program, reflecting the initiative's success as an effective platform for discovering, attracting, and developing national talent.

InvestGB's investment team comprises 47 investment specialists, 60% of whom are Kuwaiti, while women represent 45% of the total workforce. At the leadership level, Kuwaitis hold 80% of executive positions at the company, figures that underscore InvestGB's commitment to developing national talent, fostering a diverse and high performing work environment, and contributing to shaping the future of Kuwait's financial and investment sector.

General index up 117.39 points

Boursa Kuwait ends higher

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday's session higher, with the general index rising 117.39 points, or 1.33 percent, to 8,913.85 points.

The main market index climbed 457.42 points, or 5.22 percent, to 9,216.48 points, while the premier market index added 51.07 points, or 0.55 percent, to 9,312.08 points. The Main 50 Index also advanced, gaining 73.55 points, or 0.73 percent, to 10,173.59 points.

Trading activity on the session

totaled 296 million shares through 19,491 cash transactions, with a value of KD 84.1 million, or about USD 274.3 million.

On the main market, 126.4 million shares changed hands through 7,926 transactions worth KD 21.2 million, while the premier market saw 169.6 million shares traded across 11,565 transactions valued at KD 62.8 million. The Main 50 Index recorded 96.5 million shares traded in 5,749 cash transactions worth KD 16.7 million, or about USD 54.4 million.

Gulf Bank's red plus card offers 50% talabat discount

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: As part of its ongoing commitment to empowering and rewarding young customers, and under its "Red'y to Impress" marketing campaign, Gulf Bank has launched an exclusive offer in collaboration with Talabat for holders of the red plus prepaid card. The initiative reinforces the Bank's position as a leading financial institution offering innovative banking solutions and value-added services tailored to the aspirations of young people.

Holders of the red plus prepaid card can enjoy an exclusive 50% discount on their orders placed through the TalabatApp every Monday, with a maximum discount of KD 3 per order. To qualify, payment must be made using a red plusprepaid card, with a minimum spend of KD 4 per transaction. The offer is limited to the first 1,000 customers each week.

This promotion builds on Gulf Bank's "Red'y to Impress" campaign, which was recently launched at Al Khiran Mall to celebrate the modern lifestyle of young people and connect them with innovative banking products that reflect their individuality and energy.

Through exclusive youth-focused offers, Gulf Bank continues to bring its "Always Moving Forward" promise to life by providing young customers with

unique benefits that complement their everyday lives—whether at university, at work, or during their leisure time.

In this context, Gulf Bank stated that its partnership with Talabat aligns with its strategy of delivering innovative products and services designed specifically for young customers, while creating distinctive banking experiences that meet the expectations and lifestyles of the next generation.

The Bank added that this initiative goes beyond a promotional campaign, representing a strategic step towards building long-term relationships with its young customers and strengthening Gulf Bank's position as their preferred banking partner in Kuwait. The initiative also supports the national economy by fostering a culture of innovative partnerships.

It is worth noting that Gulf Bank's red youth account received the Best Gen Z Product in Kuwait award at the Asian Banking & Finance Retail Banking Awards 2026, in recognition of the Bank's commitment to developing innovative banking products for young customers.

These include the red account and the red plus prepaid card, which provide exclusive offers and discounts that help young customers manage their spending more effectively.

