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## Editorial

### Dear Readers,

As salamu alaikum,

*Again a very active time: The first Islamic bank in Singapore; and also a number of banking steps in the African continent beside new movement in Pakistan and also in Kazakhstan.*

*Islamic finance is getting ground in new regions and housing finance is obviously gaining ground in the Middle East.*

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*Best regards wa salaams,*

*Michael Saleh Gassner*

### Islamic Finance in Minority Areas

Islamic Bank of Britain

### Islamic Banking

S&P, BFH, DIB, International Etihad Islamic Bank, QIB, Eamar International, ADIB, Bank Turan Alem, Emirates Bank, Great Lakes Islamic Bank, Amlak, Tamweel, DP World, Ithmaar, Al Salam, GIH, SIB, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Southern Sudan, KFH, IIB, Sahab Al Khaleej Real Estate Co., Manazel Real Estate, First Gulf Bank, Dar Al Arkan, Kingdom Installment Co.

DBS, Islamic Bank of Asia, First Dawood Islamic Bank, Habib Bank, State Bank of Pakistan, Bank of East Asia, Amana Investments Limited, Central Bank of Malaysia

### Fixed Income (Sukuk, Syndication)

S&P, Debt Issues, Moody's report, Al Imtiaz, Etihad Airways, Tadawul – Sukuk Trading Centre, SAAD Group, Sabic/Gas, Al Hamad Group, DIB, ABC Islamic, ILIC, Saudi Electricity, Barwa Real Estate, EIB, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Sorouh Real Estate

MBB Sukuk, Malakoff, Haisan Resources, Lekas, Bank Muscat, Kazakhstan,

### Wealth Management

Sharia Indexes, Bahrain Islamic Bank, IIB, ABN Amro, DIB, Daman, Emaar, Kotak, Parsoli, Bank Muscat

### Takaful

Bank Islam, Takaful International, Takaful Ikhlas, Amana Takaful

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**Dear Reader,**

Islamic Bank of Britain held its General Assembly meeting end of April and announced an increased deposit base of GBP 83 mn (+ 75 %), while its assets reached GBP 120 mn by the end of December 2006, representing a 32 % growth. The bank opened in total 8 branches in UK and offers internet services. The bank is the only offering Islamic banking only and has been authorised to operate in other European countries, which some of them it has started regulatory negotiations, reported Peninsula on 29 April.

**Islamic banking GCC**

S&P Statistics Standard & Poors named some figures of the industry according to Gulf Daily News on 2nd May. The Islamic finance industry shall be around USD 500 bn, with a growth rate of 10 % for the last decade. Market share of Islamic banks in the GCC shall be about 17 % and in Malaysia 12 %. According to Gulf Times on 25 April S&P projects a market size of USD 4 trillion within 5 years. S&P also launched a series of Sharia compliant GCC stock market indexes.

BFH Shaikh Khalifa ibn Salman Al-Khalifa, prime minister of Bahrain, opened on 2 May the Phase I of the Bahrain Financial Harbour.

DIB in Syria Dubai Islamic Bank has received approval from the Syrian authorities to establish an Islamic bank in Syria. DIB says it is seeking to finalise the licensing procedure for the new bank, reported Ameinfo on 1 May.

DIB plans for Turkey Dubai Islamic Bank is considering to buy a financial institution in Turkey or planning its own operations. Plans for acquisition are in talks stage and could be possibly concluded by mid next year according to Saadat Muzaffar, Head of International Wealth Management told Reuters, reported the Khaleej Times on 4 May.

new bank in Yemen According to Arab News on 25 April ten Saudi businessmen have agreed to establish an international Islamic bank in Yemen with a capital of USD 10 bn (!?) in association with their counterparts in Yemen and other Gulf countries. The founders of the International Islamic Union Bank (IIUB) will subscribe to 35 % of the capital. The remaining 65 % would be floated for public subscription, according to Shihab Al-Azazi, head of the Yemini-Gulf-Business Forum. Sabanews.net named the bank planned "International Etihad Islamic Bank" with a "total cost" of YR 20 bn equivalent to USD 100 mn. Yementimes put the paid up capital at USD 10 bn.

QIB in Sudan Qatar Islamic Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Bank of Sudan to explore the possibility of establishing a bank in Sudan with an authorised capital of USD 1 bn. The paid-up capital of the proposed bank will be USD 500,000. The bank shall focus on project finance and investments according to Peninsula on 30 April.

Eamar International Eamar International Bank, is progressing according to Saleh Kamel, president of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Rob Corder reported on 2 May on Arabianbusiness. Saleh Kamel disclosed to Asharq Al Awsat that financial commitments have been received from across the Islamic world to set up the bank with a paid up capital of USD 100 bn. The bank will start operations early next year with a mandate to invest in projects that create jobs and economic developments within Muslim communities. The bank might be based in Saudi-Arabia, UAE, Bahrain or Malaysia.

ADIB takeover Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank discusses internally the takeover of Egypt's National Bank for Development, reported Reuters on 2 May without further details.

JSC Bank TuranAlem JSC Bank TuranAlem and Emirates Bank Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding that through the subsidiary Emirates Islamic Bank tied up for the development of Islamic finance, was released on 8 May via Ameinfo.

ADIB in Uganda Harriette Onyalla wrote on allafrica.com on 20 April that Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank plans to build an airport and a hotel on one of Uganda's islands the bank's managing director, Ahmed Darweesh Dagher has said. Also The Great Lakes Islamic Bank in Africa with its headquarters in Kampala were announced.

UAE licensing policy	The UAE Central Bank does not plan to issue new bank licenses to finance companies in the near future, Gulf News were told by Sultan Bin Nasser Al Suwaidi on 26 April. Therefore Amlak and Tamweel cannot currently receive a banking license and forced to raise funds through other means.
DP World	Dubai Ports World, the issuer of the convertible DP World Sukuk should be considering selling a minority stake cites The News Pakistan London's Times and should have hired Deutsche Bank and Dubai based Shuaa Capital as advisers. Gulf News reported on 20 April on 10.55 % drop in net profits for DP World due to costs related to P&O acquisition.
Ithmaar Bank	Bahrain-based Ithmaar Bank said that first quarter profits increased more than 3x on higher income of investments amounting of USD 32.9 mn compared to USD 9.4 mn. Income from investments surged to USD 43.6 mn from USD 709.000 a year earlier and earned USD 5.3 mn in fee income. The bank's assets grew by 9.4 % to USD 3.5 bn, reported Khaleej Times on 29 April.
Al Salam Bank	Al Salam Bank, Bahrain reported a quarterly net profit of BD 5.2 mn representing a 15.1 % return on equity. The bank was established on 19 January 2006 with an authorised capital of BD 120 mn as an Islamic bank. Founding shareholders hold 65 % of the paid up capital, and include Emaar Properties, Amlak Finance, Dubai Investment Group, Dubai Holding, Global Investment House, Lebanese Canadian Bank, Al Salam Bank Sudan and Dubai Islamic Insurance and Reinsurance Company (Aman), reported Albawaba on 29 April.
GIH	Chairman Faisal Abdullah Al-Khazam of Gulf Investment House addressed the Annual General Meeting of shareholders and explained the strategy of growth through expansion in the Middle East, reported Albawaba on 17 April.  Sharjah Islamic Bank has set up a property arm called ASAS Real Estate in line with their diversification strategy. Ahmad Hussein Amiri has been appointed director-general of the company reported Ameinfo on 3 May.
Bahrain Islamic Bank	Bahrain Islamic Bank was rated at national scale entity credit rating for medium to long term at BBB (Triple B) and for short term at A-2 (A two) and International scale entity credit rating for medium to long term at BBB- (Triple B minus) and for short term at A-3 (A three) with positive outlook by the International Islamic Rating Agency.
Southern Sudan	The Government of Southern Sudan aims to introduce a conventional banking system and is not going to authorize Islamic banking in Southern Sudan. A number of Islamic banks had indicated that they would withdraw from the Souther Sudan, such as Omdurman National Bank, Bank of Kharthoum, Faisal Islamic Bank and Farmers Bank. If the banks, or any others, are unable to comply with the requirement to provide purely conventional banking services, they will be obliged to cease operating, wrote Sudan Tribune on 21 April.
KFH in Algeria?	Kuwait Finance House plans to set up a unit in Algeria cited Safura Rahim, Arabianbusiness on 9 May Al Seyassah Kuwait.
IIB Sahab Al-Khaleej RE	<i>Housing finance</i> International Investment Bank (IIB), Bahrain, started its property venture "Sahab Al-Khaleej Real Estate Co." after its strategic investors, such as First Investments, Al-Safwa Group, Kuwait and Amjad Company, Saudi-Arabia. The authorized capital of the company was increased to 50 mn BD from 20 mn BD. The company shall focus on the mid-tier residential property market, considered to be underserved as other developers focus on luxury or affordable housing, reported Arab News on 25 April. Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco. The financing for this housings shall include Islamic financing, reported Khaleej Times on 2 May.
Amlak - Syria, Pakistan Egypt, Saudi	Amlak, Dubai posted its second-smallest quarterly profit in two years after delays in property projects restricted revenue growth. Net income for the first quarter plunged 35.4 % to Dh 24 mn. The company plans to apply for licenses to sell mortgages in Syria and Pakistan, after it starts operations in Egypt and Saudi-Arabia, reported Arabianbusiness on 24 April.

Manazel RE	Abu Dhabi based property developer Manazel Real Estate said it plans to invest more than USD 11 bn in the Middle East and North Africa to tap growing demand for mid-range housing. The Chairman Mohammed Al Qubaisi told reporters that more than 70 % of all real estate projects in the UAE in the next few years would concentrate on creating mid-range housing projects. The company would focus on Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco. The financing for this housings shall include Islamic financing, reported Khaleej Times on 2 May.
FGB Sourouh Real Estate	The First Gulf Bank (FGB) in association with three Abu Dhabi real estate developers, Aldar Properties, Sourouh Real Estate and Reem Investments has launched an Islamic finance company "Aseel Finance" to offer mortgage and real estate development finance capitalised with Dh 500 mn. FGB holds a 40 % stake, the developers each 20 %. The company targets a mortgage in Abu Dhabi and elsewhere figured at Dh 4-5 bn p.a, reported Khaleej Times on 2 May.
Dar Al Arkan	Dar Al Arkan and the Kingdom Installment Co. planning a new USD 533 mn company specialised in housing finance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Menafn reported on 8 May based on the Saudi Press Agency.

### Islamic Banking Asia

DBS Islamic Bank of Asia	DBS as majority stakeholder and 22 Middle Eastern investors are the founding shareholders for the Islamic Bank of Asia (IB Asia), which received approval from the Monetary Authority of Singapore for a full banking license. The initial paid up capital will be USD 418 mn with DBS contributing UD 250 mn representing an initial stake of 60 %. After the second closing the capital shall be USD 500 mn and DBS's stake 50 % plus one share. IB Asia will originate and distribute wealth management and capital market instruments for corporate and private banking clients in the Middle East and Asia. The Sharia Board consits of Sheikh Nizam Yaquby, Dr Mohamed Elgari, Dr Abdul Sattar Abu Ghuddah and Dr Mohd Daud Bakar, released DBS on 9 May on Ameinfo.
First Dawood Islamic Bank	First Dawood Islamic Bank plans to open 19 branches by 2008 to tap rising demand. It holds the sixth Islamic banking license in Pakistan, reported app.com.pk on 24 April.
Habib Bank	Habib Bank plans to open 10 Islamic banking branches across five cities in Pakistan. On the conventional side the bank plans to open 12 international branches including outlets in Bangladesh, Turkey and Tajikistan. It is close to finalise a minory stake in Kyrgyz Investment & Credit Bank in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Further in January it took a 4 % stake in Diamond Trust Bank Kenya for 5 mn USd to expand in Tanzania and Uganda. The bank has itself 3 branches in Kenya. Habib Bank is owned 51 % by the Aga Khan Foundation, Geneva.
State Bank of Pakistan	State Bank of Pakistan allowed Islamic Banking Institutions (IBIs) to invest in share markets of the country on the basis of Mudaraba and Musharaka and to enter into cross border transactions, while hedging currency risk in with Sharia compliant instruments, reported The News Pakistan.
Bank of East Asia	Bank of East Asia, Hong Kong's third biggest publicly traded bank, will raise its stake in Malaysia's Affin Holding to 25 %, giving it greater access to the nation's Islamic banking market, wrote Soraya Permatasari and Chia-Peck Wong on Bloomberg on 25 April.
Amana Investments Microfinance	Amana Investments Limited, Sri Lanka, has partnered with Muslim Aid to offer Microfinance using Murabaha and Mudaraba modes of finance. Muslim Aid will train the entrepreneurs. The programme will serve the whole community and not be based on any religious or ethnic programme, reported Lanka Business Online on 26 April.

## Malaysia statistics

The Central Bank of Malaysia published statistical information according to Kazinform on 23 April. As such the number of branches of Islamic banks increased from 766 at end of 2005 to 1167 at end of 2006, the number of authorised banks from 6 to 10 compared to 22 conventional commercial banks and 14 conventional investment banks. Islamic banks only have 329 ATMs compared with 4869 for the conventional commercial banks and had 5151 employees compared with 91741 for the conventional commercial sector. The total assets of the Malaysian Islamic banking system at end 2006 accounted for RM 133 bn or 6.4 % of the total assets of RM 2091.2 bn of the financial system. The Islamic bond market accounted for 31.3 %. Islamic financing in Malaysia accounted for 13.2 % of total bank lending, Islamic banking deposits accounted for 12.2 % of total bank deposits and Islamic banking assets accounted for 12.2 % of total banking assets at end 2006. Malaysia's official target is 20 % by 2010.

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**Fixed Income**


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## Events:

Syndication, 21/22 May: <http://www.euromoneyseminars.com/syndisfi>

Securitisation, 22/23 May: <http://www.euromoneyseminars.com/smeisfi>

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## S&amp;P opens office

Standard & Poors plans to open an office in Dubai to provide Gulf investors, issuers and intermediaries with independent research, information and benchmarks, which aims to enhance transparency and help accelerate the development of deep and efficient capital markets, reported Albawaba on 23 April.

## debt issues in the Gulf

Gulf News reported on 3 May that Gulf companies are expected to raise USD 40 bn through debt issues during 2007, an increase of 100 % according to projections by Moody's. Project finance requirements exceed USD 1.2 trillion. The Gulf raised USD 18.2 bn in debt issues in 2006 with Islamic sector contributing about 40 %. The UAE accounted for 83 % of the total corporate debt issuance, while Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar had shares of 7, 6 and 4 % respectively. The UAE is dominated by issues from Nakheel, Dubai Ports and Taqa - together accounting for 72 % of total debt issues.

## Moody's Report Family Owned Companies

Moody's report "Family-Owned Corporates in the GCC" looked into four areas, typical corporate structures, accounting and transparency issues, capital structure and liquidity and analytical considerations. Many companies cite Gulf Times on 30 April, rely on short term funding, which often depended on the strength of their banking relationships rather than any contractual commitment. It said that family owned enterprises are even worse, using uncommitted lines of funding to meet potential short term liquidity needs resulting in a source of uncertainty. It is said that with the development of regional capital market and Islamic financing gaining momentum, the practice will gradually change.

## Al Imtiaz

Al Imtiaz mandated Liquidity Management Centre and Islamic Investment Bank to launch its 3-year, USD 75-150 mn Sukuk offering, was released on 9 May via Ameinfo.

## UK Gov

The UK government discusses its first ever Sukuk issue in regard to the potential advantages and feasibility, reported Safura Rahimi in Arabianbusiness based on Reuters on 24 April.

## Etihad

Etihad Airways has signed the a Dh 1.46 bn (USD 400 mn) Islamic lease facility to finance four Airbus. Citi and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank will act as mandated lead arrangers and joint bookrunners for a consortium, which includes as mandated lead arrangers ABC Islamic Bank, First Gulf Bank, Qatar National Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, reported Gulf News on 2 May.

## Tadawul Sukuk Trading Centre

Arabianbusiness cited Al Wasat Newspaper from Bahrain that an investor group consisting of Aref Investment Group, Kuwaiti and Qatari firms had received final approval from Bahrain's Central Bank to establish the Sukuk Trading Centre called Tadawul. Kuwait News Agency names on 15 April Munshaat Real Estate Projects Company for the same or similar project.

- SAAD SAAD Group, Saudi-Arabia is set to price its 5 year Sukuk at 80 to 85 basis points above LIBOR a source at arranging bank BNP Paribas said according to Khaleej Times on 1st May. Moody's assigned a Baa1 rating to the Sukuk and S&P BBB+. SAAD Group would lease land in Saudi Arabia to Golden Belt, a Bahrain based SPV, which is selling the Sukuk. SAAD Group owns a 3.1 % stake in HSBC via Singularis Holding worth USD 6.6 bn. The SAAD Group is owned 90 % by Maan Al Sanea and 10 % by his wife Sana al-Gosaibi.
- Sabic (GAS) Sabic affiliate National Industrial Gases Company (GAS) signed a SR 1.5 bn Murabaha facility. The syndicate consists of eight local and Gulf banks to finance expansion projects. Among the financial institutions named are Banque Saudi Fransi as financial advisor and lead arranger, Riyad Bank, National Commercial Bank, Samba Financial Group, Arab Petroleum Investments Corp. (Apicorp), Saudi Hollandi Bank, Arab National Bank and Gulf International Bank, reported Gulf News on 23 April.
- Al Hamad Dubai Islamic Bank and Al Hamad Group signed AED 735 mn finance facility agreements for the new AED 2.38 bn project at Dubai International City, has been released on 29 April via Ameinfo.
- ILIC ABC Islamic Bank is the sole mandated arranger for a USD 100 mn, 5 year amortising, revolving Murabaha facility for Kuwait's International Leasing & Investment Company (ILIC). The facility has been fully underwritten by ABC Islamic Bank, reported Gulf Daily News on 24 April.
- Saudi Electricity The shareholders of Saudi Electricity Co. approved to sell Sukuk to finance the investment plans. The state-controlled company has said 150 bn riyals of investment is needed in the next decade to cope with rising demand for electricity. The shareholders also approved a dividend of 0.7 riyals for 2006. The company made a first quarter net loss of 434 mn riyals, reported Khaleej Times on 22nd April.
- Barwa RE Barwa Real Estate company is to refurbish, develop and own seven hotels at a cost of QR 454 mn in Switzerland and Belgium, reported Gulf Times on 30 April. The finance facility shall be Sharia compliant.
- Nakheel Nakheel is looking to raise USD 1.5 bn Islamic finance facility for projects in the Emirates. Barclays Capital and Dubai Islamic Bank operate as lead arrangers for the deal.
- EIB Emirates Bank International, is seeking to sell as much as USD 1 bn of Sukuk to finance acquisitions and expand retail banking. Emirates Islamic Bank, the Islamic unit, will use the funds to buy stakes in financial institutions in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, Abdulla Showaiter, GM of corporate and investment banking told Reuters. A first Sukuk of USD 350 mn might be sold in May arranged by Standard Chartered Plc. Any price guidance was not given, reported Khaleej Times on 24 April.
- Tameer Bahrain Islamic Bank signed a BD 4.8 mn international commodity Murabaha agreement as a placement agent on behalf of the participating banks in favour of Al Khaleej Development Company (Tameer). The finance is provided for 6 month period, which is renewable for a similar period, reported Gulf Daily News on 12 April.
- Sorouh RE The Abu Dhabi based Sorouh Real Estate seeks more than USD 1 bn Islamic finance facilities from local and international banks cites Menafn on 9 May the CEO of the company.

#### Fixed Income SE Asia

- MBB Sukuk Linklaters has advised Aseambankers, HSBC and UBS Investment Bank as Joint Lead Managers and HSBC as International Trustees on the issuance of a USD 300 mn subordinated Sukuk by Malayan Banking Berhad ("Maybank") reported Lawfuel on 27 April. The MBB Sukuk Inc. got listed on the Labuan International Financial Exchange and structured on a 10 Non-Call 5-year basis due in 2017 but callable with step-up in the profit rate in 2012. The subordinated bank qualifies as Tier 2 capital for Malayan Banking Berhad and is rated BBB+ by Fitch Ratings and S&P and Baa1 by Moody's. The issue was oversubscribed 7 times, reported the Exchange Handbook on 27 April. Investors came from Asia (61 %), Middle East (15 %) and Europe (24 %), according to The Edge Daily on 19 April.

Malakoff	Malakoff Crop raised RM 7.9 bn of Senior and Junior Sukuk fully taken up by local and foreign financial institutions and investors in order to complete the leveraged buyout by MMC Crop Bhd. Malakoff Corp is the largest independent power producer in the country, reported Business Times on 3rd May. MMC bought Malakoff's business through its 51 % owned Malakoff Corp Bhd.
Cagamas	Cagamas issued second Islamic residential-backed securities (IRMBS). The IRMBS, with tenures of three, five, seven, 10, 12, 15 and 20 years, have been accorded AAA (ID) rating by Malaysian Rating Corp Bhd and AAA by Rating Agency Malaysia Bhd. CIMB Investment Bank Bhd is the principal and financial adviser and sole lead arranger of the IRMBS. Aseambankers Malaysia Bhd, CIMB Investment Bank and HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd will act as joint lead managers, reported The Star on 8 May.
Haisan	Haisan Resources Bhd intends to issue up to RM 200 mn Sukuk Al Ijara, reported Business Times on 4 May.
Lekas	Izwan Idris reported on 26 April in The Star Malaysia that Lekas aims to raise RM 1.75 bn by Sukuk and loan stocks for the toll highway that will connect Kajang, Semenyih and Seremban. AmlInvestment Bank Bhd, the lead arranger for the financing facilities, has already started a roadshow for the RM 1.42 bn Sukuk Istisna papers with maturities ranging from 7 to 15 years. Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd is the co-arranger of the programme. The construction cost is estimated at RM 900 mn to be part financed by the RM 785 mn proceeds from the senior Istisna Sukuk sale, the other portion of RM 633 mn shall arise from a junior Istisna issue and be used to repay older debts incurred by the highway project. The two issues are rated AA3 and A1 respectively by Rating Agency Malaysia Bhd. Lekas will also issue a RM 240 mn convertible loan stock and RM 50 mn redeemable loan stocks.
Bank Muscat	Bank Muscat is looking at helping Indian companies to raise funds via Sukuk, Economic Times India reported on 20 April.
Kazakhstan	The PK Agency on Regulation and Supervision of financial Market and Organisations (AFS) in Kazakhstan and Islamic Development Bank discussing Islamic securities nominated in KZT in Kazakhstan, said Gani Uzbekov, vice chair of AFS, reported Gazeta.kz on 7 May.
<b>Islamic Wealth Management</b>	
Sharia Indexes	Standard & Poors creates a Sharia compliant GCC index for each GCC country, was released on 24 April. Seekingalpha covered the story on 26 April as also MSCI Barra plans to enter the Sharia compliant index market, firstly catered by Dow Jones Indexes in 1999, followed by FTSE in 2000. S&P relies on Ratings Intelligence to ensure the Sharia compliance is said, while MSCI has chosen Dar Al Istithmar, a joint venture of Deutsche Bank and Oxford Institute. The boards do apply a slightly different method in their screening methodology, such as screening out companies involved in weapons and defense and music industry, hotels and tv (MSCI), while S&P screens out advertising and media, trading of gold and silver as cash on deferred basis.
Bahrain Islamic Bank	Bahrain Islamic Bank plans a real estate investment fund with Capital Partners to undertake hotel development and management in Mecca and Medina, wrote Rania Deimezi in Travel Daily News on 2nd May.
IIB German RE	International Investment Bank (IIB) announced its acquisition of commercial real estate portfolio in Munich, Germany valued at USD 98 mn. The projected Internal Rate of Return (IRR) on the investment is said to be in excess of 10.12 % pa over an investment horizon of 5 years, with a cash yield of 7 % pa, reported Albawaba on 1 May.
ABN Amro RE protected Note	ABN Amro launched a Real Estate Capital Protected Note. The note offers exposure to an actively managed fund investing in liquid real estate assets, the AMRO Asset Management Global Properties Securities Fund, which has returned on average 30 % pa over the last 3 years. ABN offers intraday liquidity on bid/offer spread basis, reported Maktob on 18 April.

DIB Water note	Dubai Islamic Bank launched a 4 year principal protected note with an underlying basket of 10 stocks linked to the water industry. The instrument is structured in partnership with ABN Amro. The note offers a minimum annual return of 2 % and a maximum potential annual return of 11 % with exit opportunity twice a month for a flat fee of Dh 250, nreported Gulf News on 26 April.
Daman UAE fund	Daman Investments launched its first Sharia compliant mutual fund, which focuses on the UAE equity markets. More funds are planned in a series, reported Khaleej Times on 9 May.
Emaar	Emaar, the Sharia compliant real estate developer, is expanding to Indonesia by developing a resort in Lombok with a 7 km waterfront, marina and luxury residences. Project size is USD 600 mn, reported Albawaba on 1 May.
Kotak, India	Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company plans to raise USD 50-100 mn trough Islamic funds in the Middle East through local partnerships. Also an international real estate fund is expected to close at USD 125-150 mn, reported Financialexpress on 9 May.
Bank Muscat, India	Bank Muscat is looking at raising a Sharia compliant fund of USD 250 mn from investors in Oman and Dubai in the next 3-6 months to be invested in India, reported Economic Times India on 20 April.
Parsoli, India	Parsoli Corporation Ltd is in talks with local fund houses to offer Islamic funds, reported Sai Praisan on 7 May in the Financialexpress. Parsoli is giving Sharia Audit and clearance from Islamic scholars and is an Ahmedabad based brokerage firm. Parsoli would market the scheme. Baader Wertpapierhandelsbank received already a green signal from the regulator Bafin, for such a fund.
	<b>Takaful</b>
Bank Islam	Bank Islam Malaysia has launched two Takaful linked saving productst o save for children education expenses. The premiums get waived in case of death of the contributor, reported Businesstimes on 3 May.
Takaful Int.	Takaful International, Bahrain aims to expand its operations across the Gulf, such as acting as technical advisor for Takaful Kuwait - other negotiations going on in UAE and Qatar, reported Gulf Daily News on 30 April.
Takaful Ikhlas	Takaful Ikhlas, Malaysia, expects its premiums to slightly exceed its target of RM 200 mn for the year ended March 31, reported The Star on 28 April.
Amana Takaful	Sri Lanka's Amana Takaful Insurance, has reported a 57 % growth in premium collections for 2006 to 679.9 mn rupees. Amana Takaful is 15 % owned Syarikat Takaful Malaysia and controlled by 60 % owner, Amana Investments, reported Lankabusinessonline on 18 April.





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