BisB Wins the "Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain" Award at the Euromoney Islamic Finance 2026

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has been named the "Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain" at the Euromoney Islamic Finance Awards 2026. The accolade marks another step in BisB's longstanding contribution to the progress of Bahrain's Islamic banking sector and reinforces its commitment to shaping a more accessible and intelligent model of Sharia'a compliant financial services.

On the occasion, Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB, stated: "This recognition marks an important milestone in a journey that began in 1979, when BisB was founded as Bahrain's first Islamic bank. It also reflects a responsibility we continue to carry today: developing an Islamic banking experience that is simpler, smarter and more responsive to the needs of our customers. Being first is not simply a matter of when we were established; it is something we must continue to earn through the solutions and initiatives that advance Islamic banking and enhance the customer experience. The Best Islamic Bank in Bahrain title reaffirms the continuity of that legacy and motivates us to keep innovating and delivering better. I am proud of our colleagues behind this achievement and grateful for the trust of our customers, which has always been, and will remain, essential to our success."

Throughout 2025, the Bank remained focused on advancing the delivery of Islamic banking services while preserving the principles that underpin them. The requirements of the Sharia'a Supervisory Board were embedded across product design and distribution, further strengthening alignment with Islamic principles at every stage of development. This foundation informed the launch of Al Murshid, the Kingdom's first AI-powered Sharia'a advisory platform, providing customers with immediate guidance on rulings related to financial products and contracts.

The Bank also accelerated digital adoption across its services to meet evolving customer needs, improving accessibility and enriching the overall customer experience. GCC Digital Onboarding also expanded access by enabling eligible Gulf residents to open accounts remotely without visiting a branch.

Customer service continued to combine convenient self-service capabilities with personalised assistance, ensuring a high level of responsiveness to customer queries and complaints. A dedicated team was formed to provide the necessary support to complete the registration process, while also re-engaging inactive e-banking users.

In the same vein, BisB strengthened its digital savings, financing and investment portfolio through solutions including Save Plus automated pledge-based financing against Tejoori balances, additional Tejoori Premium tiers and the Special Investment Deposit Account, giving customers greater flexibility and convenience through digital channels.

Extending this progress across its corporate and SME propositions, BisB became the first financial institution in Bahrain to pilot the Bulk KYC service through the national eKey for Business platform. The service enables secure verification of corporate information against trusted government sources, thereby improving process efficiency and reinforcing regulatory compliance. The Bank also continued to develop solutions that help entrepreneurs manage liquidity and expenditure with greater flexibility and transparency.

BisB supported this progress through biometric authentication, trusted-device controls and AI-based identity verification, with no identified customer data leaks or losses recorded in 2025. These measures were complemented by Sharia'a governance training, cybersecurity simulations and fraud-awareness programmes, ensuring that innovation remains grounded in specialist knowledge, operational resilience and responsible long-term growth.

Coinciding with the Euromoney award is BisB's "The First" campaign, which will showcase the Bank's pioneering achievements. Launched in parallel with the award announcement, it aims to chronicle BisB's transformation from being the first to being the best and underscores its continued ambition to drive the next era Islamic banking growth in the Kingdom.

GCC Moves to Tackle the Next Wave of Digital Crime

Public Prosecution participated in a three-day workshop aimed at developing a GCC Strategy to Combat Cybercrime and AI-Related Crimes, organised by the GCC General Secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Qatar.

Bahrain was represented by Zahra Murad, Head of the Cybercrime Prosecution, who took part in discussions with experts and specialists in emerging technologies from GCC member states.

Zahra Murad, Head of the Cybercrime Prosecution

The workshop focused on strengthening regional efforts to address emerging forms of crime, particularly those linked to artificial intelligence and modern technologies.

It also examined ways to improve the use of advanced technologies in combating crime and enhance coordination between GCC security and judicial authorities.

The discussions aimed to establish a unified GCC framework to strengthen the effectiveness of efforts against cybercrime and other technology-related criminal activities.

Bahrain's participation reflects Attorney General Dr. Ali bin Fadhl Al Buainain's emphasis on adopting a proactive approach to emerging crimes and keeping pace with rapid technological developments.

MPs Seek Jail Terms for Insulting Islamic Figures

Five-year jail term and BD20,000 fine proposed for public insults

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Five Bahraini MPs have proposed tougher penalties for publicly insulting prophets, the Prophet Mohammed's family, his Companions or his wives, including up to five years in prison and a BD20,000 fine.

The proposal, submitted by MPs Mohammed Mousa, Bader Al Tamimi, Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, Jameel Mulla Hassan and Ali Saqer Al Dosari, calls for a new Article 310 bis 1 to be added to the Penal Code.

Repeat offenders could face up to 10 years in prison and a BD40,000 fine, or either penalty.

The proposed offence would cover insults made publicly through writing, images, signs, performances, gestures, online posts and other electronic means.

"Religious abuse can fuel sectarian tensions and threaten social unity."

– Mohammed Moosa, MP

The MPs said clearer legal provisions are needed as social media enables abusive content to spread rapidly, potentially fuelling sectarian tensions, religious hatred and social division.

They noted that existing Bahraini law already criminalises attacks on recognised religions and religious symbols but argued that specific protection for revered Islamic figures would provide greater clarity.

The proposal draws on legislation in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with Kuwait cited as the closer model for explicitly naming protected religious figures.

The MPs stressed that freedom of expression should not be used to justify religious insults or incitement against sections of society.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Asian woman challenges one-year sentence

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has set September 6 for pleadings in the appeal of a 21-year-old Asian woman convicted over a fatal apartment fire that claimed her roommate's life.

The Court of First Instance sentenced the woman to one year in prison and ordered her permanent deportation from Bahrain after serving her sentence. She was convicted of causing the death of her roommate by mistake and causing a fire by mistake on March 20, 2026.

According to the case details, the defendant told investigators that she had lit a candle on a small wooden table while performing religious prayers. The candle remained burning before a fire later broke out in the room.

The fire spread while the victim was in the bathroom. Other workers attempted to help but could not reach her because of the flames and heavy smoke. Civil Defence personnel later extinguished the fire, while the victim was taken to the hospital and subsequently died.

5 Years for Failed Exchange House Robbery

The Fifth High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a five-year prison sentence against an Asian man for attempting to rob a money exchange house at knifepoint.

The court also ordered his deportation after completing his sentence and the confiscation of the seized items.

The defendant, who worked as an advertising and publicity representative, attempted to steal cash from the exchange company on April 28, 2026, by threatening two employees with a knife.

According to court proceedings, the defendant entered the exchange house wearing a black face mask and initially asked about the exchange rate for the Pakistani currency. When a female employee asked him to show his identification and remove his mask, he pulled out a knife and demanded money.

The employee alerted her male colleague, who entered and locked the door. The defendant then demanded that the money be placed in a bag.

The robbery was foiled after the employees activated the alarm, prompting the defendant to flee.

Security camera footage confirmed the incident, while investigations led to the defendant's arrest at his residence, where he was reportedly found wearing the same clothes seen in the footage.

Drug Trafficking Verdict Set for September 15

The First High Criminal Court has set September 15 to issue its verdict in the case of three defendants, including a Bahraini woman and an Arab woman, accused of drug trafficking and related offences.

The first defendant, aged 25, faces charges including importing narcotics for trafficking, possessing drugs for trafficking and personal use, as well as possessing an electric stun device and handcuffs. The second defendant, aged 24, is accused of importing and possessing narcotics for trafficking and personal use.

The third defendant, a 26-year-old Arab woman, is accused of assisting the first defendant in possessing narcotics for trafficking, including receiving money from him and transferring it to an alleged drug dealer in an Asian country.

According to the investigation, authorities received information that the first and second defendants were involved in selling and promoting drugs. Investigators alleged that the first defendant managed the network, while the second defendant assisted in bringing drugs into Bahrain through the King Fahd Causeway.