

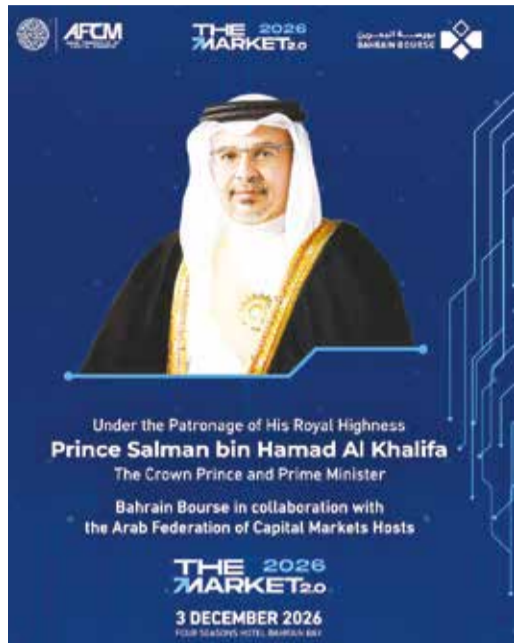
# Bahrain Bourse to Host “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026” Conference

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Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain Bourse (BHB), in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM), will host “The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026” conference on 3 December 2026 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Held under the theme “Markets in Motion: Powering the Next Era of Trading,” the conference will serve as a leading regional platform bringing together prominent global and regional market participants, financial institutions, regulators, investors, and technology leaders to explore the future of capital markets and the rapidly evolving trading ecosystem.

The conference will address the transformational shifts reshaping financial markets worldwide,



with discussions focused on the growing role of technology, data, and next-generation market infra-

structure in driving market efficiency, resilience, transparency, and accessibility. Key sessions will cover the modernization of trading platforms, evolving execution strategies, enhanced liquidity access, advancements in market surveillance, and developments in post-trade operations.

The event is expected to attract more than 500 participants, including representatives from regional and international stock exchanges, regulatory authorities, brokerage firms, listed companies,

institutional investors, technology providers, and other influential stakeholders shaping the future of the global capital markets industry.

The conference agenda will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and strategic industry conversations addressing some of the most significant trends shaping the future of global capital markets. Discussions will explore the increasing role of automation, artificial intelligence, and real-time market infrastructure in enhancing market resilience, strengthening operational continuity, improving trading efficiency, and supporting long-term market sustainability. The conference will also provide a platform for industry leaders to exchange perspectives on emerging opportunities, regulatory developments, innovation, and the future direction of global trading ecosystems.

Commenting on the occasion,

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, stated: “We are honoured to host ‘The Market 2.0: Bahrain 2026’ conference in the Kingdom of Bahrain under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The conference reflects Bahrain Bourse’s continued commitment to supporting the development of Bahrain’s capital markets ecosystem and reinforcing the Kingdom’s position as a regional financial hub.

As financial markets continue to evolve rapidly, the conference will provide an important platform for industry leaders, regulators, investors, and technology providers to exchange insights, explore emerging trends, and discuss the future of trading and market infrastructure. Through this initiative, we aim to support innovation, collaboration,

and sustainable growth across regional and international capital markets.”

Rami El-Dokany, Secretary General of the Arab Financial Markets commented, “The Market 2.0 has become a strategic platform for advancing the technology agenda of Arab capital markets. As exchanges and market infrastructures adapt to rapid developments in artificial intelligence, automation, data, cloud, surveillance, and post-trade innovation, this event provides a focused forum to discuss how our Arab markets can become more efficient, resilient, connected, and future-ready. We are proud to partner once again with Bahrain Bourse in hosting this second consecutive edition in the Kingdom of Bahrain, building on the success of 2025 and the growing importance of technology in shaping the next phase of regional market development”.

## Zain Bahrain Launches “#1 – First is Your Place” Activation Campaign at City Centre Bahrain



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Zain Bahrain has recently launched a new interactive campaign under “#1 – First is Your Place” at City Centre Bahrain, celebrating its recognition as the Kingdom’s most awarded network experience by Opensignal.

Zain Bahrain invites all visitors to City Centre Bahrain to participate in Zain #1 activation, running until 8th June, for a chance to win smart phones, TV’s and Cash Prizes. Participants can take a photo on the dedicated #1 chair, share it on Instagram while tagging Zain Bahrain’s official account @ZainBahrain on the photo.

The campaign follows Zain Bahrain’s recognition by Open-

signal as the most awarded network in Bahrain, including its leadership in coverage, quality, and Games Experience, a key metric for real-time online gaming. This distinction has positioned Zain Bahrain as the most awarded network in Bahrain and played a pivotal role in propelling the Kingdom to the #1 Overall Rank position in Opensignal’s Global Network Excellence Index for the MENA region for “all devices”.

Zain Bahrain continues to bring its network excellence closer to customers through engaging and memorable experiences, while celebrating a milestone that reflects its continuous investment in delivering high-quality connectivity across the Kingdom.

- Take part in Zain Bahrain’s #1 activation and get the chance to win smart phones, TV’s, Cash Prizes and more.
- The campaign follows Zain Bahrain’s recognition by Opensignal as the most awarded network in Bahrain, including its leadership in coverage, quality, and Games Experience.
- The achievement contributed to positioning Bahrain as the #1 Overall Rank in Opensignal’s Global Network Excellence Index for the MENA region.

## BCFC Strengthens Digital Infrastructure and Customer Experience with eKey 2.0 Integration via Sahel App

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Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) is pleased to announce the successful technical integration of eKey 2.0 - Bahrain’s national digital identity framework - into its Sahel App platform, reflecting BCFC’s ongoing commitment to modernising its digital infrastructure, elevating service quality, and delivering seamless technology-driven experiences for its customers.

Built on internationally recognised digital identity standards, eKey 2.0 enables BCFC to replace legacy authentication methods with a streamlined, biometric-based access framework. Using facial recognition technology and eKYC-driven data retrieval, customers can now onboard and authenticate faster and more accurately. This reduces the risk of identity fraud and unauthorised access while



**The integration of eKey 2.0 into Sahel App reflects our commitment to delivering faster, safer, and more seamless digital experiences for our customers.**

MR. ALI AL MARZOOQ, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AT BCFC

meeting the requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and Bahrain’s Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL). As a natural outcome of this infrastructure upgrade, eliminating password-based authentication also brings meaningful improvements to the security profile of BCFC’s digital channels.

Commenting on the milestone, Mr. Ali Al Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer at BCFC, stated: “Integrating eKey 2.0 into our Sahel App is a significant step in our digital infrastructure roadmap. Our focus was on building a more reliable, efficient, and future-ready technology stack that serves our customers better and integrates seamlessly with Bahrain’s national digital ecosystem. The result is a faster, more accurate, and more compliant customer journey, and a platform we can continue to build on as we expand our digital services.”

## BCFC Embraces Bahrain’s Digital Future with eKey 2.0

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Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC), is proud to announce its successful adoption of eKey 2.0, Bahrain’s advanced national digital identity solution, marking a significant milestone in our journey toward innovation and customer empowerment. This achievement coincides with the celebration of the second anniversary of the Sahel App and the launch of the Bulk KYC service, reinforcing BCFC’s commitment to supporting Bahrain’s digital transformation and enhancing the way customers interact with financial services.

The enhanced digital identity platform eKey 2.0 represents a major leap towards creating a secure and seamless digital ecosystem. By integrating this cutting-edge identity frame-

work, BCFC enables customers to access services effortlessly through password less biometric facial authentication while streamlining onboarding and registration through eKYC based data retrieval. This ensures greater convenience while maintaining the highest standards of data protection. These initiatives reflect BCFC’s dedication to delivering digital experiences that combine simplicity with security, aligning with Bahrain’s vision for a future-ready financial sector.

Commenting on this milestone, Mr. Mohamed Jehad Bukamal, Deputy CEO of BCFC, stated: “At BCFC, we are proud to embrace Bahrain’s national digital transformation journey through the adoption of eKey 2.0. This milestone reflects our commitment to innovation, security, and customer-centricity.



Mr. Mohamed Jehad Bukamal, Deputy CEO of BCFC

eKey 2.0 empowers us to deliver seamless, passwordless digital experiences while ensuring the highest standards of compliance and data protection. By integrating this trusted identity framework, we are not only enhancing convenience for our customers, but also reinforcing Bahrain’s vision for a secure, future-ready financial ecosystem. Together, we are shaping a smarter, safer,



Mr. Chris Hild, Beyon Connect CEO

and more connected digital future for our community.”

From his end, Dr. Khaled Ahmed Al-Mutawa, Deputy Chief Executive for Operations and Governance at the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA), welcomed BCFC to the eKey 2.0 ecosystem, as a strategic move toward strengthening the company’s secure digital services framework and enhancing customer experience.

Dr. Al-Mutawa affirmed that BCFC’s adoption of eKey 2.0 reflects the private sector’s commitment to the Kingdom’s vision of developing an advanced, customer-centric digital environment. He noted that this initiative contributes to expanding the national digital identity verification infrastructure, facilitating access to services, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and enhancing customer trust in digital transactions. He added that BCFC’s participation represents a strong model of effective public-private collaboration in advancing Bahrain’s digital transformation journey, emphasizing that the Information & eGovernment Authority will continue its efforts to drive digital innovation, accelerate digital transformation, and expand access to secure digital services.

Commenting on the collaboration, Beyon Connect CEO Chris Hild said: “BCFC’s adoption of eKey 2.0 is a strong example of how trusted digital identity can enable secure, seamless, and customer-centric financial services. At Beyon Connect, we are proud to support organizations that are advancing Bahrain’s national digital ecosystem by leveraging interoperable, future-ready identity solutions.”

BCFC remains committed to leveraging technology to enhance customer experiences and contribute to Bahrain’s leadership in digital innovation. The integration of eKey 2.0 alongside the Sahel App anniversary and the launch of the Bulk KYC service underscores BCFC’s role as a trusted partner in driving progress and creating long term value for our customers and the Kingdom.