

STC Bahrain Unveils the World’s First Lifetime eSIM Travel App

No renewals ever needed

- App supports global travellers
- eSIM works for lifetime
- Data packs for each trip

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TDT | Manama

STC Bahrain has launched ‘voya’, a digital travel app that introduces what it



claims is the world’s first lifetime eSIM, allowing travellers to stay connected globally without ever needing to renew or replace their eSIMs.

Positioned as a game-changer for international connectivity, the app eliminates traditional roaming complications by offering instant data activation, regional and global plans, and sustainable eSIM technology. Designed for frequent travellers, voya aims to reduce reliance on physical SIM cards, airport Wi-Fi, and local data vendors.

Flexible options

The app lets users purchase destination-specific data packs on demand, whether they are heading to a single country or taking multi-stop trips. Once

installed, the lifetime eSIM remains functional across all future travels, simplifying logistics and ensuring seamless connectivity.

“voya is designed to meet the needs of modern travellers, offering flexibility, security, and ease of use, no matter where their journeys take them,” said Karim Tabbouche, Chief Consumer Officer at stc Bahrain.

He added that the app reflected the company’s ongoing mission to improve digital experiences for its customers and placed the Kingdom at the forefront of travel tech innovation.



The eSIM (embedded SIM) market is projected to grow from \$4.7 billion in 2023 to over \$16 billion by 2030, driven by demand for travel, IoT, and dual-SIM devices.

Sustainable solution

In addition to its convenience, voya is also presented as an environmentally conscious option. By removing the need for disposable SIM cards, it supports digital sustainability and helps users re-

duce plastic waste while freeing up device slots for dual-SIM use.

The new platform underscores STC Bahrain’s broader vision of enhancing daily life through cutting-edge digital tools that are both user-friendly and future-ready.



Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, received HE Dr. HeonSang Koo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bahrain. The Minister praised the strong ties between Bahrain and Korea, highlighting ongoing progress in industry, trade, and investment. He stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation for the benefit of both countries. He also thanked the Ambassador for his efforts in promoting economic relations and wished him success in his future diplomatic work.

US scraps shoe removal at airport screening

AFP | Washington, US

Passengers at US airports will no longer have to remove their shoes to pass through security under a new policy unveiled Tuesday, 20 years after the requirement was introduced.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the change to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) rules at a news conference at Washington’s Ronald Reagan National Airport.

Passengers at US airports have been required to take off shoes during screenings since 2006, five years after the arrest of “Shoe Bomber” Richard Reid, who had explosives hidden in his footwear onboard.

“In those 20 years since that policy was put in place, our security technology has changed dramatically. It’s evolved. TSA has changed. We have a multi-layered whole of government approach now to security,” Noem said.

“We are very confident that we can continue to provide hospitality to folks and for American travelers and for those visiting our country, while maintaining the same standard of security for passengers and for our homeland,” she added.

Reid, a member of Al-Qaeda, was overpowered by other passengers as he tried to light a fuse on his shoes on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami in December 2001.

European stocks brush off Trump’s copper, pharma tariff threats

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- The news sent the price of copper -- with a wide range of uses including in cars, construction and telecoms -- to a record high Tuesday

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Wall Street rose and major European markets closed

Key figures at around 1545 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2% at 44,306.77 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.3% at 6,242.61
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 0.8% at 20,5301.22
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.2% at 8,867.02 points (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.4% at 7,878.46 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.4% at 24,549.56 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.3% at 39,821.28 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 1.1% at 23,892.32 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.1% at 3,493.05 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1714 from \$1.1730 on Tuesday
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3606 from \$1.3592
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 146.44 yen from 146.53 yen
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.11 pence from 86.27 pence
Brent North Sea Crude:	▲ 0.2% at \$70.29 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▲ 0.2% at \$68.52 per barrel

in the green yesterday, brushing off US President Donald Trump’s tariff threats on copper and pharmaceuticals.

Investors kept an eye on countries seeking to hammer out tariff agreements before Trump’s new cut-off date of

August 1. The US president had reignited trade jitters Tuesday by announcing a 50% toll on copper imports and saying he was looking at 200% tariffs on pharmaceuticals.

Copper soars

The news sent the price of copper -- with a wide range of uses including in cars, construction and telecoms -- to a record high Tuesday.

But Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB, found Wednesday “the market is not taking Trump at his word when it comes to tariffs, and the market impact has been limited so far.”

The tech-heavy Nasdaq had added almost 1% two hours into the session with chipmaker Nvidia barrelling ahead just over 2% as AI growth saw it top \$4 trillion in market value, the first company to hit the mark

as it extended its globe-leading market capitalisation.

Noting tech had endured some lean months going back to the third quarter of last year, eToro’s US investment analyst Bret Kenwell said “we’re seeing growth stocks come to life on the back of AI initiatives, while cybersecurity firms are rallying higher. Mega-cap tech continues to spend fortunes building out the necessary AI infrastructure for the future.”

After Trump said he would allow pharmaceutical manufacturers time to relocate operations to the United States before rolling out fresh duties, equity markets largely took the news in their stride as “details of when, how and who remain thin on the ground”, said Derren Nathan, head of equity research at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Germany’s Dax hit a new high

European markets were shrugging off risks of a trade war. Germany’s Dax hit a new high as it posted a 1.4% gain, matched by the CAC 40 in Paris. London could only manage a gain of just under 0.2%.

But Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at online trading platform IG, urged caution as “reports suggesting that Trump relishes the actual dealmaking process more than an actual resolution seem to suggest that a further delay to tariffs will be forthcoming, although this is an approach fraught with risk.”

Trump warned he would not again extend his August 1 deadline to reach deals, after he pushed back his July 9 cut-off. rlier in Asia, Tokyo gains were tempered by losses in Hong Kong and Shanghai.