

BENEFIT launches 'Scheduled Transfers' feature to streamline payments via BenefitPay

Manama

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's leading innovator in fintech and electronic financial transaction services, has announced the launch of its new "Scheduled Transfers" feature through the BenefitPay app, under the Central Bank of Bahrain's directive.

The launch marks a further step in the continued development of Bahrain's digital payments ecosystem and the delivery of innovative solutions that simplify the management



of users' everyday financial transfers.

The new feature allows users to schedule money transfers in advance through Fawri and Fawri+, offering a more convenient and efficient experience by removing the need to manually initiate each transaction every time. Users can set transfers at flexible intervals, including daily, weekly, biweekly, or monthly, to the same beneficiary, whether through mobile numbers or IBANS.

The feature also gives users the option to set periodic re-

mindings instead of automatic execution, providing greater flexibility in managing financial obligations according to personal preferences, while supporting more accurate and organized financial planning.

Mr. Ahmed AlMahri, Assistant General Manager, Business Development & Services at BENEFIT, commented: "Scheduled Transfers represents a valuable addition to BENEFIT's digital services ecosystem, giving users greater ability to manage their recurring financial transfers with ease and flexibility, whether

through automatic execution based on a selected schedule or through periodic reminders. The feature has been tailored to help users organize their daily financial obligations more efficiently, while saving time and effort and enhancing a smoother and more reliable payment experience through digital financial services."

Mr. AlMahri further added: "This initiative builds on BENEFIT's ongoing journey in developing more advanced and seamless digital payment solutions, supported by security

and efficiency, and responsive to the evolving needs of individuals and institutions. It also contributes to enhancing the readiness of Bahrain's payments infrastructure and supporting the transition towards a more connected and effective digital economy. This aligns with the directives of the Central Bank of Bahrain to advance digital payment infrastructure, improve efficiency and transparency, and reinforce the Kingdom's position as a leading hub for financial innovation and excellence."

RCSI Bahrain secures 5-Year accreditation

Irish Medical Council renews accreditation for undergraduate medical programme

Manama

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain received approval for a further five-year accreditation for its undergraduate medical programme from the Irish Medical Council, reinforcing the University's international positioning of its undergraduate medical education.

The accreditation, valid from February 2026 until January 2030, followed an extensive institutional review led by a Medical Council Assessor Team chaired by Mr Graham Knowles, supported by Professor May O'Sullivan and three external examiners. The review included consultations with university leadership, academic teams, clinical faculty and students, alongside inspections of teaching facilities and affiliated clinical sites.

The outcome of the accred-



itation renewal carries wider strategic implications for Bahrain's higher education sector, where international accreditation frameworks are

becoming a defining benchmark for credibility, graduate mobility and employer confidence across global healthcare systems.

Against this backdrop, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's renewed accreditation strengthens its international relevance and enhances the employabil-

ity of its graduates in overseas internship and residency pathways. This accreditation also aligns with Bahrain's Higher Education Council to elevate

national higher education standards and international prominence.

Professor Sameer Otoom, President of RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, stated: "We are delighted with the IMC's continued accreditation of our undergraduate medical programme and the benefits this brings to our medical graduates. In line with the new strategy of the Higher Education Council, we are committed to contributing to Bahrain's higher education global quality assurance standards."

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain's Quality Enhancement Office, led by Dr Nichola McLarnon, Head of Quality and Academic Development, will continue benchmarking graduate competency to strengthen preparedness for increasingly complex healthcare environments in line with the University's long-term academic sustainability.

Aramco says quarterly profits up as crude prices surge

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi oil giant Aramco said yesterday its net profit rose by 25.5% in the first quarter compared to the same period last year, after the Middle East war sent oil and gas prices soaring.

Aramco, the world's biggest oil exporter, said in a statement published on the Saudi stock exchange website that its "increase in revenue was mainly due to higher prices and volumes sold of refined and chemical products as well as

higher crude oil volumes sold and higher crude oil prices".

Crude prices jumped during the first quarter from the mid \$60s in early February to more than \$100 a barrel in March as Iran's shutdown of the strait sparked a global energy crisis.

Aramco, majority-owned by the state, said in its statement that net income in the first quarter of 2026 reached 120.13 billion Saudi riyals (\$32.04 billion), compared to 95.68 billion riyals (\$25.51 billion) for the same quarter in 2025.

"The increase was mainly driven by higher revenue and other income related to sales, partially offset by higher operating costs and an increase in income taxes and zakat driven by higher taxable income compared to the same quarter of the previous year," it said.

The median analyst consensus for first quarter adjusted net income had been \$31.16 billion -- an external estimate based on 13 forecasts.

Aramco's increase in net income is its first quarterly rise after 12 consecutive quar-

ters of decline.

President and CEO Amin H. Nasser said the result reflected "resilience and operational flexibility in a complex geopolitical environment".

He said the company was "leveraging both its domestic infrastructure and its global network to navigate disruption".

East-west pipeline Aramco is the flagship company of the Saudi economy and one of the largest firms in the world by market capitalisation.

Despite the closure of the Strait of Hormuz,

it has been able to deliver millions of barrels of crude to markets daily through its massive east to west pipeline, which connects its energy installations on the Gulf to export terminals on the Red Sea.

The company said "a significant increase in pumping through the east-west pipeline to reach its maximum capacity of 7 million barrels per day in the first quarter supports exports from the kingdom's west coast".

Last month, Saudi Arabia's energy

ministry said the pipeline and other facilities had been restored following attacks by Iran.

The surge in prices for oil and gas has also created a windfall for other major energy firms.

In late April, French oil and gas giant TotalEnergies said its net profits had risen 51% in the first quarter, while British energy giant Shell saw profits after tax jump 19%.

If crude oil prices remain at current levels, Aramco's profits are expected to continue rising in the second quarter after Saudi Arabia, Russia and the rest of the OPEC+ countries raised their oil production quotas as expected.

