

DOO and Zain Bahrain sign MoU

To Explore AI Collaboration in Customer Experience



Manama

DOO and Zain Bahrain have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formally explore potential areas of collaboration in the field of AI Powered customer experience.

The MoU establish-

es a structured framework through which Zain Bahrain can assess and evaluate DOO's AI capabilities for potential alignment with its customer experience operations. This includes the exploration of advanced automation, multilingual support, intelligent engagement tools, and oppor-

tunities to enhance internal CX processes. This MoU marks the beginning of a collaborative exploration phase aimed at understanding how AI powered innovation could contribute to Zain Bahrain's CX objectives, while ensuring any future steps are guided by clear evaluation,

mutual benefit, and strategic alignment. DOO and Zain Bahrain look forward to working together throughout this assessment period to identify meaningful opportunities that enhance customer experience in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BisB launches 'Save Plus' - A Sharia'a-Compliant Digital Savings Scheme

For Long-Term Financial Security

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has launched Save Plus, a new long-term savings scheme designed to help customers plan for their financial future through monthly saving, regular profits and life takaful protection by Takaful International Co., all within a fully Sharia'a compliant structure.

Available to Bahraini residents aged 18 and above, Save Plus empowers customers across different life stages to build their savings gradually, whether they are young professionals, families planning for future milestones with medium- to long-term commitments, or entrepreneurs looking to se-

cure steady financial reserves. This is made possible through flexible tenures ranging from three to twenty years, and affordable monthly contributions starting from BD 50, customers can choose a plan that fits their goals, with monthly profit credited directly to the customer's account providing ongoing transparency, predictability, and consistency throughout their savings journey.

The scheme also includes life takaful coverage of up to BD 75,000, provided by Takaful International Co.,

subject to policy terms, conditions and underwriting guidelines & requirements.

Offering essential financial protection and long-term security for customers and their families in line with Shariah principles. This partnership reflects Takaful International's commitment to delivering reliable, customer-centric takaful solutions that support financial wellbeing.

Save Plus can be accessed entirely through the BisB Mobile App without the need to visit a branch, reflecting the Bank's dedication to innovation and customer convenience. Through BisB Mobile App, it enables customers to open, manage, and track their savings plan.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Faisal Al Abdulla, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BisB, said, "At BisB, we remain committed on developing Sharia'a compliant solutions that support the real financial needs of our valued customers across every life stage. Save Plus was designed with specific customer segments in mind, whether it's young professionals beginning their savings journey, parents planning for their children's future, or entrepreneurs seeking greater financial stability with built-in protection. Save Plus



promotes long-term financial security through a rewarding approach that combines saving, earning, and protection. By offering a seamless digital experience through our mobile app, we aim to make long-term financial planning more accessible, intuitive, and convenient for everyone in Bahrain, from busy individuals to families looking for smarter, automated ways to save." As an added benefit, every Save Plus account will be automatically entered into scheduled cash prize draws throughout 2026, with each draw awarding USD 5,000 to a winning customer. Additional details of the draw schedule will be announced soon.

Trump announces tariffs on countries doing business with Iran

Washington, United States

Russia

Us President Donald Trump on Monday announced a 25 percent tariff on any country trading with Iran, ramping up pressure on Tehran over its violent crackdown on a wave of protests.

"Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25% on any and all business being done with the United States of America. This Order is final and conclusive," Trump said on Truth Social.

Iran's main trading partners are China, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, according to the economic database Trading Economics.

The tariffs announcement comes as Trump mulls possible military action against Iran over the protests. Rights groups have reported a growing death toll.

"Air strikes would be one of the many, many options that are on the table," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said earlier Monday.

But she said Iran also had a diplomatic channel open to Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, adding that Iran was taking a "far different tone" in private than it was in its public statements.

Here are the main players who could lose out if they continue trade with Iran:

China

More than a quarter of Iran's trade takes place with China, with \$18 billion in imports and \$14.5 billion in exports in 2024, according to World Trade Organization (WTO) data.

Hydrocarbons and chemical compounds like industrial alcohols and plastics accounted for the bulk of Tehran's exports to Beijing.

In exchange, Iran bought industrial machinery, electronic equipment, cars and metals from China.

UAE

The United Arab Emirates is a significant trading partner for Iran.

Iran's exports to the UAE were \$6 billion in 2022, with imports amounting to \$18 billion, according to the World Bank.

The United Arab Emirates sold gold, smartphones and corn to Iran, and mainly bought hydrocarbons from it, according to WTO data.

Turkey

Turkey is a major partner for Iran.

Ankara's imports were a little over \$6 billion in 2022, while exports reached \$5.8 billion, according to World Bank data.

Russia

Russian imports from Iran were \$690 million in 2022, according to World Bank data, while exports were \$1.5 billion.

Russia exchanged grain, gold and timber for Iranian agricultural products.

Iraq

Iran's exports to Iraq, a major trade partner, were \$7.35 billion in 2022, with imports amounting to \$456 million, according to the World Bank.

Germany

Germany's exports to Iran totalled 870.5 million euros (\$1 billion) from January to November 2025, according to the country's official statistics office Destatis.

Imports were 217 million euros in that period.

India

Bilateral trade fell from \$17 billion in 2018-19 to \$1.7 billion in 2024-25, according to India's commerce department.

Key exports from India include basmati rice, sugar, fresh fruits and pharmaceuticals, while major imports include pistachios, apples, kiwi and dates.

Thailand

Thailand-Iran trade stood at \$199.8 million in 2022, with Thai exports at \$156 million and imports at \$43.8 million, according to Thailand's foreign ministry.

Its main exports to Iran include rubber, motorcycle parts, canned fruit, rice, computers, and vegetables.

Key imports comprise metals, fresh and processed seafood, fuels, vegetables, and chemical products.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka exported \$68 million to Iran in 2024, up from \$43 million the previous year, according to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Official imports have been zero since US sanctions on Iranian oil.

Japan

Japan's exports to Iran rose 38 percent in 2024 to \$89 million, while imports dropped 6.4 percent to \$29 million, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

Exports included pharmaceuticals, automobiles and electrical machinery. Imports included fabric products, as well as foodstuffs, fruit and vegetables.

Philippines

The Philippines exported \$66 million in goods to Iran in 2024, up from \$38 million the year prior.

Imports were under \$190,000, according to the country's statistics authority.