

NBB Appoints Equal Opportunities Committee to Advance Inclusive Agenda

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has enhanced its equal opportunities governance framework through the evolution of its Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC). The newly appointed Committee and enhanced governance reflect the Bank's proactive approach to further embedding inclusion and accessibility more extensively across its internal as well as customer-facing operations.

Operating with expanded roles and objectives, the EOC will focus on advancing transparent practices across key areas including inclusivity, women's empowerment, youth development, employee well-being, work-life balance, and workplace experience. Additionally,

tionally, the Committee will monitor staff participation and representation, identify potential barriers to career progression, and curate training programmes that further cultivate an inclusive ethos across the Bank.

The EOC will also help ensure that NBB's products, services, and customer-focused initiatives remain considerate of diverse needs. By engaging with different segments and understanding their needs, the Committee will support the Bank's wider governance objectives and reinforce its alignment with national priorities and international best practices in institutional equality.

Commenting on the announcement, Hend Mahmood, Group Chief Human Resources Officer at NBB and Chairperson of the EOC, stated,



"Equal opportunity is a principle that must be embedded into the way organisations govern, grow, and serve. The appointment of a diverse group of NBB experts to our Equal Opportunities Committee allows us to benefit from broader perspectives and embrace all differences, while expanding the Committee's scope through a clearer mandate, stronger accountability, and measurable results. This structure ensures that fairness is reflected across both employee experience and customer engagement, making way for an institution that remains responsive to the needs of the people and communities we serve."

Chaired by Hend Mahmood, the EOC brings together representatives from various NBB departments across Bahrain



and the UAE, including Human Resources and Talent Development, Strategy and Sustainability, Customer Centricity, Compliance, Market and Client Solutions, Finance, Corporate Communications, Corporate Social Responsibility, Retail Banking and Operations. This cross-functional composition ensures that equal opportunities are addressed from multiple perspectives and integrated into the Bank's broader business and governance models.

Gulf Air Announces Promotional Fares Ahead of Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 in Malaysia

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Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is giving passengers more reasons to plan their Malaysian getaway with special fares to Kuala Lumpur ahead of the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2026 IN MALAYSIA.

The promotional period from 15 to 21 August 2026 offers tickets starting from BHD 65 for a one-way Economy Class fare, inclusive of all taxes and surcharges. Passengers can take advantage of direct flights from Bahrain to Kuala Lumpur for travel between 29 September 2026 and 27 March 2027.

Gulf Air's direct service to Kuala Lumpur commences on 29 September 2026, providing seamless access to one of South-

east Asia's most vibrant destinations.

To make the experience even more rewarding, Gulf Air Holidays will offer a range of tailored travel packages designed around the race weekend, combining flights, accommodation, airport transfers, and race experiences for passengers travelling to Kuala Lumpur. Whether planning a dedicated Formula 1 getaway or an extended Malaysian holiday, passengers will be able to choose from flexible packages that suit different travel preferences and budgets, while enjoying the convenience of a seamless travel experience with Gulf Air.

Built for both adventure and relaxation, Kuala Lumpur offers an exciting mix of world-class attractions, renowned shopping destinations, diverse culinary experiences and rich cultural her-

itage. Passengers can discover iconic landmarks such as the Petronas Twin Towers, explore bustling markets and entertainment districts, enjoy family-friendly attractions, or extend their journey beyond the capital to experience the best of Malaysia. As title sponsor of the FORMULA 1 GULF AIR BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX 2026 IN MALAYSIA, Gulf Air is proud to connect fans and passengers directly to the heart of the action while providing a convenient gateway to the country's many leisure experiences.

The promotional fares are valid for sale from 15 to 21 August 2026 and for travel between 29 September 2026 and 27 March 2027. Passengers can book the special fares through gulfair.com, the airline's Worldwide Contact Centre, Gulf Air's Bahrain Sales Office, or through authorised travel agents.



Madinat Salman central market put out to tender

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Mohammed Darwish

A central market, super-market and sports hub are to be built in Madinat Salman under a new tender aimed at filling gaps in shops and services as the city grows.

The second phase covers three commercial and service plots, with the central market on Plot 11 forming the main part of the scheme. It will house separate meat, fish and vegetable markets, alongside small shops and restaurants, across 1,478.72 square metres of built space.

The market is meant to bring everyday shopping closer to homes in Madinat Salman and cut the need for residents to travel to nearby districts for basic goods.

A much larger supermarket is planned for Plot 16, with 3,534.66 square metres of built space.

Plot 17 will be used for a sports and community site with two football pitches and two drive-through restaurants. The buildings there will cover 217.34 square metres.



The three sites will together add about 5,230.72 square metres of built space, bringing new retail, food and leisure uses alongside the city's growing stock of homes.

Tender 378/2026/BTB carries a BD5,000 initial bond and a BD100 document fee. The contract will run for 12 months and bids and guarantees must remain valid for 180 days.

Companies registered in GCC countries can bid. Tender documents can be bought until September 19, while bids must be filed by September 27 and will be opened the next day.

The latest scheme comes after two years of heavy building in Madinat Salman, where work has moved from housing alone towards shops, schools, sports grounds and other public

services.

In November 2024, 1,362 flats opened on Island 12 under the new generation of housing apartment blocks. The project cost BD132 million and included car parks and shared facilities.

The Housing and Urban Planning Ministry followed in October 2025 with work on another 432 ownership flats, alongside open spaces and public amenities.

It also put 512 social housing units on Island 12 out to tender during 2025, spread across Plots 15, 18 and 19. Fifteen technical bids were filed, with 10 firms reaching the financial stage. The lowest offer was about BD42.7 million.

Private housing has grown alongside the state schemes. Handover of homes in the 131-villa Hai Al Naseem began in September 2025, while work has since started on another 137 homes split into packages of 69, 44 and 24 units under the Government Land Development Rights Programme.

easyJet strike sees 100 French flights cancelled



British budget carrier easyJet has called off about 100 flights out of French airports on Saturday and Sunday because of a strike by cabin crew furious over repeated changes to their schedules.

Unions said about half of the company's 900 French-based cabin crew would join the strike, which would affect about half of the flights out of two Paris airports, Nice, Bordeaux and Lyon.

The airline's management has called the action "opportunistic" as it falls on a major national holiday weekend when airports are busy.

France is a key market for the low-cost airline, which was recently taken over in a \$7.7 billion deal by US private equity firm Apollo. Its passenger numbers in France are second only to Air France.

Most of the flights were cancelled on Friday, with the company saying it wanted to help passengers find alternative routes.

William Bourdon of the SNPNC-FO union said that cabin crew wanted "stability" in their duties. He said some crew could see their hours and destinations changed 50-60 times a week.