

# NBB rewards International Spend this summer with up to 5% cashback

TDT | Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has launched its Summer Cashback Campaign, giving credit cardholders a rewarding way to maximise their international spending during the peak vacation season. Running until 15th September 2026, the initiative offers customers competitive cashback on overseas spending, along with an exclusive travel voucher raffle through Points by NBB.

The campaign offers up to 3.5% cashback on all purchases made overseas, ensuring cardholders gain greater benefits from every transaction. In addition, those holding credit cards linked to Thara'a Prize Accounts can enjoy an increased cashback rate of up to 5%, giving them even greater returns on their savings and international spending.

To unlock these rewards, customers simply need to register for the offer through the Points by NBB app before they begin spending with their credit card. This digital integration ensures a seamless activation process while allowing users to access the wider lifestyle rewards available through the Points by NBB App.



In addition to the cashback offering, eligible NBB credit cardholders will also have the chance to enter a raffle draw for travel vouchers worth a total of

holders who have spent outside of Bahrain during the campaign period. For every BHD 100 transaction, cardholders will receive one raffle ticket, while those who have linked their credit cards with the Thara'a account will receive two raffle tickets on Points by NBB App upon issuing the card during the campaign period. Customers may also redeem every 500 Base or Bonus Points for one raffle ticket.

Commenting on the launch, Subah Abdullatif Al Zayani, Chief Executive – Retail Banking at NBB, said, “Summer is a prime period for international travel and shopping, and our goal is to ensure our clients get the most value from their holiday spending. Through cashback, exclusive Thara'a benefits, and enhanced travel perks, we transform international spending into a more valuable and memorable experience.”

The initiative reinforces NBB's position as a rewards-driven leader in retail banking, focusing on customer convenience, flexible digital solutions, and high-value card propositions. To learn more about the campaign's terms and conditions, please visit [nbbonline.com](http://nbbonline.com), call 1721 4433, or visit any NBB branch.

BHD 3,000, with three winners each receiving vouchers valued at BHD 1,000. The opportunity is available for both primary and supplementary NBB credit card-

## Thaker calls for 'Look East' strategy to drive private sector growth

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With non-oil activities accounting for 85.8 per cent of Bahrain's real GDP in 2025, expanding the international reach of Bahraini businesses has become essential to sustaining private sector growth, according to a senior Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) official.

Bob Thaker, Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the BCCI, said the growing contribution of non-oil sectors to the national economy underscores the need to help Bahraini companies access new markets and investment opportunities abroad.

Citing figures from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy's Bahrain Economic Report 2025, Thaker said long-term business success increasingly depends on diversifying revenue streams, entering new markets and capitalising on commercial opportunities across the region and beyond.

He highlighted the importance of a “Look East” strategy, aimed at strengthening trade and supply-chain links with the fast-growing economies of Asia and the wider East.



“A strong domestic foundation must now be matched by a deliberate push into regional and Eastern markets – backed by practical support for SMEs”

BOB THAKER, BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE BAHRAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (BCCI)

According to Thaker, rising demand, manufacturing capacity and investment activity in these markets present significant opportunities for Bahraini companies, which are well positioned to serve as a gateway between Asia and the GCC.

He pointed to the Chamber's SME Support Centre as a

practical step towards helping local businesses expand beyond Bahrain. The centre was established to provide small and medium-sized enterprises with support and guidance to improve their competitiveness in regional and international markets.

Thaker said SMEs play a vi-

tal role in employment and economic activity and must be equipped to compete beyond the domestic market.

He also highlighted Bahrain's growing attractiveness as an investment destination, noting that the Kingdom's stock of foreign direct investment reached approximately BD17.7 billion by the end of 2025.

The figure, he said, creates greater scope for partnerships, co-investment opportunities and joint ventures between Bahraini and international companies.

Thaker stressed that expanding the global presence of Bahraini firms will require continued investment in institutional capabilities, compliance with regulatory requirements in overseas markets and the development of strategic partnerships that support sustainable growth.

He reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to initiatives that help Bahraini businesses strengthen their commercial and investment ties abroad, saying a stronger international presence would support economic growth, boost exports and create new opportunities across the private sector.



The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is the oldest chamber of commerce in the Gulf region, having been established in 1939 to represent and support Bahrain's private sector.

## India braces for El Nino-linked dry conditions

AFP | New Delhi, India

India will prepare contingency plans to help farmers weather potential low rainfall linked to the El Nino weather system, ag-

riculture officials said yesterday. El Nino is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that brings worldwide changes in winds, air pressure and rainfall patterns. In India and Southeast

Asia, it typically causes drier conditions.

The last El Nino helped make 2023 and 2024 the two hottest years on record.

“Full preparations should be

made in advance in those districts where there is a possibility of low rainfall or uneven rainfall,” Agriculture Minister Shivraj Chouhan said, according to an official statement.

## Microsoft launches AI agent with pay-as-you-go pricing

AFP | San Francisco, United States

Microsoft is changing how it charges for its software for the first time in two decades, moving to bill customers with a pay-as-you-go model each time they use its new AI agent.

The change, prompted by the soaring cost of artificial intelligence, came Tuesday as the company launched Copilot Cowork -- an AI “agent” that can independently carry out office tasks like drafting documents, building spreadsheets and sending emails.

The tool still requires a paid Microsoft 365 Copilot subscription, but now every task it runs is billed separately, based on how much computing power it consumes.

Copilot Cowork is Microsoft's take on so-called “agentic” AI, a wave that has gripped Silicon Valley and turned the simple chatbot into an assistant capable of acting on a user's behalf.

Like rival tools on Google's and Amazon's enterprise platforms, it can be handed an assignment and run with it on its own, sometimes for several hours.

## Brent oil price drops under \$80 on US-Iran deal

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices fell to a three-month low yesterday on optimism over the expected reopening of the Strait of Hormuz after a peace deal between the United States and Iran.

Brent North Sea crude, the international benchmark, dropped 4.0 percent to \$79.87 a barrel, dipping below \$80 for the first time since early March.

The main US oil contract, West Texas Intermediate, slid 4.5 percent to \$77.16 a barrel.

US President Donald Trump said the Strait of Hormuz would “completely open” once Washington and Iran sign their peace agreement on Friday in Switzerland.

Iran had effectively halted tanker traffic through the vital waterway in retaliation for US and Israeli strikes launched in late February, choking off

oil and gas traffic and sending crude prices skyrocketing.

“Traders are pricing in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz as the most immediate and positive result of any peace deal,” said David Morrison, senior market analyst at broker Trade Nation.

While Iranian officials have threatened to impose tolls on ships passing through the crucial channel, “as far as oil traders are concerned, they see a market which is loosening up at last,” Morrison said.



## Ethiopia Promotes Tourism Potential at Bahrain Forum



Travel industry stakeholders explored new cooperation opportunities

Ghadeer Alkumaish  
TDT | Manama

The Ethiopian Consulate and Ethiopian Airlines hosted a Tourism and Travel Forum in Bahrain, bringing together travel agencies, tour operators, and tourism professionals to strengthen tourism ties between Bahrain and Ethiopia.

Held at the Golden Tulip Hotel, the forum showcased Ethiopia's tourism offerings, highlighting its cultural heritage, historical landmarks, UNESCO-recognized sites, and year-round moderate climate. Participants were introduced to major attractions in Addis Ababa and other destinations, including Harar Jugol, Sof

Omar Caves, Lalibela, Gondar, and Aksum.

The event also featured a range of tourism packages covering cultural, historical, adventure, nature, and Islamic tourism experiences.

Yoftahie Araya, Area Manager of Ethiopian Airlines Bahrain, said the forum aimed to connect tourism stakeholders from both countries and create new opportunities for collaboration. He noted that Ethiopian Airlines offers tourism, business, medical, and stop-over travel packages for Gulf travelers.

Araya added that plans are underway to organize a familiarization trip to Ethiopia and a roadshow in Bahrain to further promote tourism and strengthen partnerships between the two countries.

The forum concluded with networking sessions focused on expanding cooperation and increasing tourism flows between Bahrain and Ethiopia.