

NBB and Batelco join to advance Cashless Bahrain

Partnership drives payment reform



Officials during deal signing

● **Cashless tools gain reach**

● **Connectivity meets fintech edge**

● **SMEs benefit from bundling**

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TDT| Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and Batelco by Beyon have signed a strategic partnership aimed at accel-

erating Bahrain's transition to a cashless economy by bundling fintech-powered payment tools with advanced telecom solutions for businesses.

At the heart of the agreement is the integration of NBB GO, a SoftPOS application, into Batelco's business packages. This allows corporate clients to access tap-to-pay payment capabilities alongside enterprise-grade connectivity in a single offering, helping small and mid-sized businesses go fully digital.

Bundling financial and digital tools

NBB GO turns any Android

phone with NFC capabilities into a point-of-sale terminal, enabling merchants to accept contactless payments without traditional hardware. The app is available on the Google Play Store and offers a low-cost entry into cashless transactions for retailers, startups and field-based businesses.

By embedding this fintech solution into its telecom bundles, Batelco aims to reduce complexity for SMEs while strengthening digital inclusion and business agility.

Serving development goals

NBB's Group Chief Executive

for Markets and Client Solutions, Hisham AlKurd, said the partnership supports Bahrain's broader national vision. "We are enabling businesses to embrace secure, efficient payment systems that complement their communication needs and align with Bahrain's digital transformation goals," he said.

Batelco's General Manager of Enterprise, Abdulla Danesh, added that the collaboration redefines business enablement. "This agreement is about more than bundling services, it's about creating the infrastructure that empowers companies to grow and innovate."

Vision-led digital shift

The MoU aligns with Bahrain's national plans to modernise the economy through digital payment systems and reduce dependence on cash. NBB and Beyon are jointly building a framework that helps local en-

terprises embrace cashless tools that scale with their ambitions.

For Bahrain's SME sector, the partnership offers a practical, accessible path into the digital economy, one that connects financial innovation with telecom reliability to meet the demands of a new era.



According to McKinsey, countries that transition to digital payments see up to a 3 percent boost in GDP due to increased financial inclusion, reduced cash handling costs and improved transparency

Trump says EU not offering 'fair deal' on trade

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the European Union had yet to offer a "fair deal" on trade, as Washington negotiates tariff agreements with friends and foes alike.

"We're talking but I don't feel that they're offering a fair deal yet," Trump said of the EU, speaking to reporters on board Air Force One before arriving back in the United States from a G7 summit in Canada.

"We're either going to make a good deal or they'll just pay whatever we say they will pay."

Shortly after taking office, Trump upended the global economic order by accusing the United States' trading partners of unfair practices and he announced huge global tariffs.

Trump imposed a blanket 10 percent tariff on most US trading partners and unveiled higher individual rates on dozens of economies, including India and the European Union -- although he swiftly paused the elevated rates.

The pause on those higher



(L/R) French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, US Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the Group of Seven (G7) Summit at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada

duties is due to expire on July 9, though the White House has indicated it could extend the deadline for countries that it believes are negotiating in good

faith.

The US president also imposed additional sector-specific levies on cars, steel, and aluminum that have hit many US trading

partners hard, including the EU.

World leaders at the Group of Seven summit in Canada on Monday pushed Trump to back away from his punishing trade

war, arguing that it posed a risk to global economic stability.

The US president left the G7 talks early, citing the crisis between Iran and Israel, and was

back in Washington on Tuesday morning.

Before his departure, Trump and EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen met for a few minutes on the sidelines of the G7 in what the European leader told reporters was a "good and intensive discussion" on trade.

"Of course, it's complex, but we are advancing and that is good," von der Leyen said after Trump's criticism of the EU's position.

The EU chief added that negotiations between the US and Europe were ongoing, including on the sidelines of the G7 on Tuesday, and that both sides were working hard to strike an agreement by the July deadline.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stayed behind after Trump left, spearheading negotiations on trade with the other G7 countries. "From the very beginning, I have been very clear that a negotiated solution is my favorite solution," she said, though adding that the EU was ready to retaliate with countermeasures if talks broke down.