

NBB enters strategic partnership with Bank of London and Middle East

To offer UK Property Finance Solutions

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has announced a strategic collaboration with Bank of London and The Middle East (BLME), a London-based Sharia-compliant bank, to provide tailored UK property finance solutions to NBB's eligible high net worth clientele.

The agreement was signed at NBB's headquarters in the presence of representatives from BLME. It opens access to residential, investment, and buy-to-let property financing across London and the wider United Kingdom through BLME's established and regulated offer. BLME's financing is Sharia-compliant, and dedicated guidance



will be provided throughout the financing process.

This initiative forms part of NBB's ongoing efforts to enhance its offering to HNWI's by providing clients with access to a broader range of international financial solutions. Clients will receive personalised relationship management and specialised structuring support aligned with both UK and Bahraini regulatory requirements, enabling efficient and compliant property acquisition.

Through this joint effort, NBB continues to expand its suite of cross-border financing solutions, further strengthening its position as a trusted partner to clients with international investment ambitions.

Zain Bahrain recognised as Kingdom's most awarded network by Opensignal

Recognised among global telecom leaders at last month's world's largest connectivity summit

● Opensignal recognized Zain Bahrain with 10 awards including the best network in coverage, quality, and overall gaming experience in Bahrain

● A direct result of Zain Bahrain's continued investment, focused on expanding network capacity, modernizing infrastructure, bringing content closer and enhancing overall performance quality.

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Zain Bahrain has taken the global stage by receiving a prestigious Opensignal trophy at last month's Mobile World Congress (MWC) Barce-



lona 2026 for the most awarded network in Bahrain. Hosted by GSMA, MWC Barcelona, the world's largest and most influential connectivity summit, the landmark event brings together leading telecom operators, technology pioneers, and digital innovators from across the globe, making this recognition a powerful testament to Zain Bahrain's network excellence and its growing influence within the global telecom ecosystem.

Recognized among global telecom leaders at this international platform, Zain received 10 awards, including being named the best network for coverage, quality, and overall gaming experience in the Kingdom in the latest Mobile Network Experience Awards Report by Opensignal. It has further won accolades for upload speed, video, and voice apps. This distinction has positioned Zain Bahrain as the most awarded network in Bahrain and played a pivotal role in propelling the Kingdom to

the #1 Overall Rank position in Opensignal's Global Network Excellence Index for the MENA region for "all devices".

The recognition reflects Zain Bahrain's sustained investment in expanding network capacity, modernizing infrastructure, and enhancing overall performance. As part of this strategy, the Company has accelerated the expansion and upgrade of its 4G and 5G networks across the Kingdom, reinforcing both mobile and fixed broadband services. These efforts reinforce mobile and fixed broadband services and enable advanced 5G use cases and deliver integrated digital solutions tailored to the evolving needs of individuals, businesses, and government entities — contributing meaningfully towards Bahrain's digital vision.

Commenting on the achievement, Amar Buali, Director of Access Network, IP, Cyber Security, and Facilities Management at Zain Bahrain, said:

"Receiving this recognition at MWC Barcelona 2026 — where the global telecom ecosystem gathers to shape the future of connectivity — reinforces Zain Bahrain's role as a transformative force driving digital excellence both locally and regionally. This milestone reflects our relentless pursuit of network excellence, our commitment to innovation, and our dedication to delivering superior experiences that empower our customers and enterprise partners. It also affirms our strategic investments in next-generation infrastructure and our long-term vision to power sustainable digital growth."

Through continuous innovation and infrastructure modernization, Zain Bahrain is building a future-ready digital ecosystem that empowers enterprises with scalable connectivity, cybersecurity, cloud-enabled services, and intelligent network capabilities, while simultaneously enhancing everyday digital experiences for consumers.

India pushes for regional energy hub in Sri Lanka

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Indian officials called for the swift implementation of a proposed regional energy hub in Sri Lanka, at the start of bilateral talks in Colombo yesterday.

The planned oil hub in the northeastern port of Trincomalee featured in a meeting with Sri Lankan President Anura Kum-



Sri Lanka's Trincomalee is already home to a 99-tank oil storage farm from the British colonial era, but only 14 containers are in use under a previous agreement with an Indian oil firm.

mara Dissanayake, India's visiting Foreign Secretary Vikram

Misri told reporters. The project, which also involves the United Arab Emirates, has been under discussions since 2023, he added.

"There is no further time to lose in making progress on strategic projects such as these," said Misri, who is visiting the Sri Lankan capital along with

India's Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan.

Sri Lanka, India and the UAE signed an agreement a year ago, following two years of talks, to set up a multi-product oil pipeline connecting the two South Asian neighbours and to establish the Trincomalee oil storage complex.

Had the energy hub been completed, it could have been useful "especially at a time like this", Misri added.

Last year, both India and Sri Lanka expressed hope of expanding the proposed hub to include a refinery. They also discussed a power line to share electricity between them.