

Tanami and Sirati win 19th edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch



Manama

As part of its ongoing efforts to support and empower entrepreneurship and startups—and building on the success of previous editions of StartUp Bahrain Pitch in fostering an innovative and dynamic ecosystem, the 19th edition of the StartUp Bahrain Pitch competition was held through support by the Labour Fund “Tamkeen” and in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Bahraini

Development Bank within efforts to elevate StartUps across Bahrain.

The event featured a judging panel of leading experts and seasoned investors in the field of entrepreneurship including Samantha Evans – Managing Director at Startup Genoma, Laith Al Khalili – Associate Director at Mumtalakat, Sara Anan – Investment Advisor at Blossom Accelerator and Abdulrahman Jiffry – Partner at 500 Global.

The participating Bahraini startups varied in industry starting with Sirati, a platform which connects job seekers

with employers through AI-based filters reducing time-to-hire and improving alignment between labor market outcomes and local needs ; Thoubify, an application for tailoring traditional men’s attire using AI-technology by bringing together traditional tailors in a digital market place; Lamma, a platform specialized in creating online stores using AI-technology; Tanami, a fintech platform that is reshaping access to private markets through alternative investments which focus on quality, transparency and providing tools that help users achieve their financial



goals and Xseen, an AI-powered ERP solution that integrates accounting, inventory, POS and sales.

After the evaluation by the judging panel, the top two winning teams were announced, and “Tanami” was crowned with first place and “Sirati” in second place.

On this occasion, Dr. Nawaf Al Maskati Co-Founder of Tanami stated: “We are honored to have secured first place in the Startup Pitch Bahrain rounds, a high-potential platform that supports innovation and entrepreneurial projects. This victory reflects our continuous

commitment to excellence and marks an important turning point in our journey towards further achievements and sustainable growth.”

For his part, Yousif Sabba, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Sirati, expressed his sincere appreciation, saying: “We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizing and supporting entities that contributed to the success of this initiative. Our participation in Startup Bahrain was a valuable and thought-provoking experience that provided us with the opportunity for effective engagement with the entrepre-

neurial community and to explore new horizons for growth and innovation.”

This support aligns with Tamkeen’s strategic priorities for 2025, which focus on enhancing the position and competitiveness of Bahrainis in the private sector, equipping Bahrainis with suitable skills for career development in the private sector, and prioritizing enterprise growth, digitization, and sustainability, and supporting the development of the ecosystem surrounding the labor market and private sector.

KFH first to launch pilot phase of upgraded wage protection system

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Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the launch of the pilot phase of the Wage Protection System, making it one of the first banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain to begin implementing this pioneering national initiative. This launch comes in collaboration with the with government entities, and technology partners.

The Wage Protection System, first introduced in 2021, aims to ensure the regular and complete disbursement of employees’ salaries through banks and financial institutions...

Kuwait Finance House has started operating the improved version of the system in September 2025. The new system will enable direct integration with the bank’s digital platform for corporate clients, which will contribute towards upscaling the range of solutions provided.

Dr. Shadi Zahran Group Chief Executive Officer – Bahrain emphasised the importance of this achievement, saying: “We are proud to be one of the first banks in Bahrain to launch the enhanced Wage Protection System, which reaffirms our commitment to supporting government initiatives and achieving the highest levels of compliance and transparency. This achievement also reflects our leadership in digital

transformation and our ongoing dedication to prioritising our clients through upscaling our transaction banking solutions.”

Dr. Shadi stressed that Kuwait Finance House’s participation in this project was a direct response to the regulatory requirements of the Central Bank of Bahrain, and a commitment to enabling the bank’s corporate clients to carry out salary disbursement procedures easily and in accordance with the newly established legal frameworks. This, in turn, will help strengthen trust between employers and employees, and foster a more stable and just work environment.

Dr. Shadi concluded his statement by affirming that this project marks a milestone in the development of banking services in Bahrain, paving the way for other banks to adopt the system and benefit from its key advantages in enhancing regulatory compliance and further developing Banking corporate services.

Dr. Shadi Zahran
Group Chief Executive Officer - Bahrain

NBB serves as Platinum sponsor of the Bahraini Banks reception



● The reception will be attended by high government officials from Bahrain

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) will serve as a Platinum Sponsor of the Bahraini Banks Reception to be held in conjunction with the upcoming Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Organised by the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), the event will take place in Washington D.C. on 16th October 2025, convening senior international finance professionals, policymakers, and investors from across the globe to foster high-level dialogue and strengthen financial ties.

The reception will be attended by high government officials from Bahrain. It will provide a valuable platform for strengthening relationships between Bahrain’s financial institutions and their global counterparts. Members of the Bahraini delegation will also engage in meaningful discussions to explore new avenues for strategic partnerships, capital flows, and future development of financial markets at both regional and global levels.

Commenting on the occasion, Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of NBB said, “We are proud to sponsor the Bahraini Banks Reception during the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. Our participation in this initiative stems from our role as a leading financial institution rooted in Bahrain’s economic progress, and we are always

keen to represent Bahrain’s banking and financial sector on major global forums.

Meanwhile, the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) praised the backing of NBB and other sponsors to ensure that the reception continues to serve the Association’s strategic mandate of enhancing the Kingdom’s prominence as a well-regulated, innovative, and business-friendly financial centre. Additionally, they highlighted that the initiative advances the BAB’s broader mission of contributing to the Kingdom’s economic diversification and international outreach. BAB also affirmed that the annual gathering helps harmonise the efforts of Bahraini institutions with the developments of the global financial ecosystem, particularly at a time when multilateral cooperation is becoming increasingly important.