

NBB Joins Innovation Summit in the Social Housing Sector 2026 as Platinum Sponsor

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) is set to return to the Innovation Summit in the Social Housing Sector, taking place from 29th September to 3rd October 2026 at Exhibition World Bahrain.

Held under the esteemed patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Summit is organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in collaboration with Eskin Bank.

Participating as a Platinum Sponsor of the event, NBB will maintain a dedicated booth where eligible beneficiaries of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning can learn about the Bank's exclusive offering under the government's Mazaya, Mazaya 2.0, Joint Housing Fi-

nance, Tas'heel, and Tas'heel+ programmes. Customers can benefit from a smooth and convenient application process, preferential pricing and complimentary fire insurance coverage across every scheme, with a repayment period up to 30 years.

The Bank's representatives will be available throughout the event to provide individual advisory services on eligibility, financing terms, and application requirements alongside on-site approval support, helping prospective buyers understand and decide on the options available to them. As an exclusive offer,



the first ten customers who successfully book one of NBB's Social Housing Finance products during the Summit will receive a valuable gift, as a token of appreciation.

NBB invites visitors to its booth to explore its social hous-

ing finance solutions. Through its sponsorship and participation in the event, the Bank reinforces its commitment to supporting national initiatives aimed at making home ownership more accessible to Bahraini families.

ASB Capital Secures Repeat Mandate from Kuwait International Bank with Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner Role on USD 500 Million Sukuk Issuance

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ASB Capital, a purpose-driven asset and wealth management firm with assets under management (AUM) of USD 10.2 billion, announced its appointment as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on Kuwait International Bank's (KIB) USD 500 million five-year senior unsecured Sukuk issuance.

The transaction attracted investor orders exceeding USD 1 billion, representing over 2 times the issue size. The A-rated Sukuk is listed on the London Stock Exchange's International Securities Market.

ASB Capital participated in the transaction alongside a syndicate of leading regional and international financial institutions, including Citi, Standard Chartered Bank, QNB Capital, Emirates NBD Capital, KFH Capital, Boubyan Bank, KIB Invest, Sharjah Islamic Bank, Warba Bank, Bank ABC, and Arab Bank.

The mandate marks ASB Capital's second appointment by Kuwait International Bank

in less than twelve months, following its role on the bank's USD 300 million Tier 2 Sukuk in October 2025. This senior unsecured mandate follows four consecutive GCC AT1 Sukuk appointments, extending ASB Capital's demonstrated capabilities across senior unsecured, Tier 2, and AT1 instruments.

The repeat mandate further strengthens ASB Capital's presence in Kuwait, where it has participated in capital markets transactions for Kuwait Finance House and Kuwait International Bank. It also reflects the continued development of the Group's regional investment banking platform, supported by Al Salam Bank's balance sheet and treasury capabilities.

Commenting on the transaction, Hussain Abdulaq, Chief Treasury Officer at Al Salam Bank, said: "The continued confidence shown by leading regional issuers is an important endorsement of the Group's investment banking platform. ASB Capital's second mandate for Kuwait International Bank demonstrates the



Hussain Abdulaq, Chief Treasury Officer at Al Salam Bank



Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer of ASB Capital

breadth of the platform we are building and its ability to support issuers across their capital and funding objectives."

Hichem Djouhri, Senior Executive Officer of ASB Capital, added: "We are pleased to support Kuwait International Bank again following our participation in its Tier 2 Sukuk issuance in 2025. The strong investor demand for this transaction reflects sustained appetite for well-positioned GCC financial institutions. This repeat mandate reinforces our focus on disciplined execution, long-term issuer relationships, and connecting regional institutions with a

broad international investor base."

This latest mandate extends ASB Capital's growing track record of debt capital markets transactions across the GCC, including issuances by Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Bapco Energies, Solidarity Bahrain, Al Salam Bank, Alinma Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, Bank Al-Jazira, Ajman Bank, and Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company. The firm continues to expand its capital markets and investment banking activities alongside its broader asset management and advisory platform.

A.M. Best affirms Takaful International's rating (A-) as the highest credit rating for Takaful companies in the Kingdom

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Takaful International Company B.S.C. is pleased to announce that AM Best has confirmed its rating of A- (excellent) with stable outlook for both ratings. The ratings reflect the company's balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as very strong, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management. Takaful International is the first and only Takaful company in the Kingdom to be classified within the A- financial and credit rating category.

The rating also underscores the strategic support and synergies between Takaful In-



ternational and its parent company and Gulf Insurance Group, as well as their disciplined approach to corporate governance.

On this occasion, Mr. Essam Al Ansari, the Chief Executive of Takaful International Company, expressed his pride in this achievement, emphasizing that the credit rating validates the company's strong operating profits. He noted that this affirmation has enhanced the confidence of the

company's clients and strengthened Takaful International's position as a market leader.

Mr. Al Ansari further stated, "AM Best's acknowledgment of Takaful International's business strategy, which is built on principles of financial discipline, transparency, and a commitment to corporate governance, reinforces our strong track record of consistent performance. The report from the international agency AM Best, coming amidst many challenges facing both the regional and global insurance markets, confirms the company's ability to



Mr. Essam Al Ansari, the Chief Executive of Takaful International Company

adapt to the volatile conditions of the insurance market while maintaining its financial stability and sustainable growth. We believe this rating will not only inspire trust among our clients but also provide reassurance to our shareholders about the company's stability."

Within Ongoing Efforts to Support National Housing Plans:

KFH – Bahrain Sponsors Innovation in Social Housing Conference and Exhibition 2026

Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain (KFH) has announced its participation as a Platinum Sponsor of the second edition of the Innovation in Social Housing Conference and Exhibition 2026. The event is scheduled to take place from 29 September to 3 October 2026, at Exhibition World Bahrain, Sakhrir. As part of the activities of the 4th Gulf Housing Week, it brings together various entities and institutions involved in the housing sector from Bahrain and the Gulf region.

The Bank's participation affirms its dedication to supporting governmental efforts to develop a sustainable social housing sector while fostering collaboration with key stakeholders to provide innovative Shari'a-compliant financing solutions addressing citizens' housing needs. It also reflects its continued role in supporting the Kingdom's housing finance sector. The conference and exhibition serve as a vital platform for sharing expertise, showcasing initiatives, and discussing innovative practices that develop the housing system and expand the options available to citizens.

Commenting on this occasion, Mr. Mohamed Zakout, Deputy Group CEO of Retail Banking at KFH – Bahrain, stated, "We are proud to participate in the Innovation in Social Housing Conference and Exhibition 2026. Our involvement reflects our commitment to supporting the government's vision for a



Mr. Mohamed Zakout, Deputy Group CEO of Retail Banking at KFH – Bahrain

sustainable housing system that meets the needs of its citizens. The event provides an important platform for collaboration and the exchange of knowledge on housing initiatives and solutions, including updates on the Government Land Development Rights Program projects. We reaffirm KFH – Bahrain's active contribution to the development of the housing sector by providing Shari'a-compliant financing solutions that support citizens' housing aspirations."

KFH – Bahrain's participation in this event underscores its ongoing commitment to supporting Bahrain's housing sector and strengthening communication with citizens and stakeholders. The Bank remains dedicated to developing innovative real estate financing solutions that fully align with Shari'a rules and principles while expanding available options, thus supporting citizens' housing goals and contributing to the sustainability of the Kingdom's housing finance sector.

Boeing shares fall after software glitch reported on 737 MAX



AFP

Boeing shares fell sharply on Monday after reports of a newly disclosed software glitch affecting flight computers on some 737 MAX aircraft raised fresh concerns over the company's manufacturing quality and certification timeline.

Boeing shares dropped as much as 5% in early New York trading before paring losses to trade about 3% lower at \$192.98. Shares of aerospace rivals GE Aerospace and RTX remained largely unchanged.

The decline followed a Wall Street Journal report that a software bug in versions 14 and 14.1 of the 737 MAX flight management computer can cause parts of the automated flight guidance system to disengage.

According to company documents, the problem can occur during a specific landing scenario when pilots change their planned flight path immediately after aborting a landing, known as a "go-around." In such circumstances, certain

vertical navigation and autopilot functions can become unavailable, requiring pilots to manually fly the aircraft at low altitude.

Boeing said it discovered the issue and notified operators in late August. The company stressed that the defect does not pose an immediate safety risk and said existing pilot procedures provide guidance for handling such situations.

A Boeing spokesperson said engineers are working on a permanent software fix.

The disclosure has prompted concerns among major US airlines. Southwest and United have reportedly told Boeing they will not accept new MAX aircraft delivered with the affected software and have requested an earlier software configuration.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it is aware of the issue and is working with Boeing and affected airlines. The problem could also further complicate certification of Boeing's MAX 7 and MAX 10 variants.