

Help firms overcome credit red tape

MPs urge Tamkeen to launch new programmes supporting businesses

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Lawmakers are urging the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) to roll out new programmes for commercial establishments, pointing to the difficulties companies face in accessing trade credit from banks' tightly controlled "approved lists."

The proposal, tabled by MPs Jaleela Alawi, Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, Najeeb Al Kuwari, Mohsen Al Asboul and Mohammed



Jaleela Alawi, MP

Janahi, aims to introduce new Tamkeen schemes to help registered businesses continue operations and expand. Main proposer Jaleela Alawi said commercial banks maintain short approved lists, making it difficult for new firms to obtain credit. "This reluctance delays growth and holds back progress," she said, adding that Tamkeen could fill the gap by supporting

all registered commercial enterprises.

In response, the Labour Fund said it is keen to assist Bahraini businesses that meet programme requirements, in line with its existing support across the Kingdom's economic sectors. Tamkeen noted that its schemes are designed to help enterprises at every stage of development – from launching new ideas to expanding locally and regionally.

Tamkeen highlighted several key programmes:

- **Start Your Business:** Grants of up to 50% to support start-ups and create growth

paths.

- **Business Growth:** Grants of up to 50% to cover resources and services, helping businesses expand in Bahrain, enter overseas markets, and boost exports.

- **Tayseer:** Funding solutions run with local banks, covering up to 50% of profit costs to help enterprises establish, grow, and expand.

Parliament's Services Committee has recommended approval, with all members present backing the proposal, citing public-interest grounds as a reason to move forward.

Sacred Heart Church Celebrates 85 Years



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The Sacred Heart Church in Manama marked a major milestone this week, celebrating its 85th anniversary with a vibrant gathering that brought together religious leaders, diplomats, cultural figures, and community representatives from across Bahrain's diverse faiths and nationalities.

Among the attendees was Mrs. Munira Nofal Al Doseri, Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, who joined the celebration to highlight Bahrain's deep-rooted tradition of embracing diversity.

In her address, Mrs. Al Doseri said the occasion reflects the Kingdom's long history as a welcoming home for people of different cultures and religions. She noted that Bahrain continues to lead the way in promoting tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and meaningful

dialogue—values strengthened under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Mrs. Al Doseri also congratulated the church community on reaching 85 years of service, extending her appreciation to Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent, Bishop Aldo Berardi, Father Francis Joseph, and the entire team behind the Sacred Heart Church.

Bishop Aldo Berardi, speaking during the event, expressed his sincere gratitude to Bahrain for its commitment to religious freedom and mutual respect. He commended the Kingdom for fostering an environment where different communities live and work together, and applauded the King Hamad Global Centre for its active role in spreading a culture of peace, compassion, and coexistence.

Sixty-four unlicensed health operators referred to prosecutors

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Eight unlicensed premises and 56 unlicensed individuals were found offering health services in Bahrain over the past two years, with all cases referred to the Public Prosecution, according to a written reply from health authorities to Parliament.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA), responding to MP Ali Saqer Al Dosari through the Health Ministry, said no harm or medi-

cal errors were reported in connection with these violations. It clarified that while there are no "unlicensed clinics" in the formal sense, inspectors identified premises being used without approval to provide health-related services, along with individuals working without the required permits.

Complaints involving licensed practitioners, meanwhile, go through NHRA's standard disciplinary process and are reviewed by specialist technical committees that assess professional and ethical

breaches.

Mr Al Dosari had sought figures on unlicensed operators, checks on medical qualifications and how violators were able to practise. The NHRA outlined its verification steps, which include checking certificates and transcripts, confirming that universities appear on approved lists, and using accredited companies to authen-



ticate qualifications. If a certificate fails to meet standards set by the Education Ministry or Supreme Council of Health, the licence is rejected.

On how violators operated, the NHRA said most worked inside premises never approved by the Authority, enabling them to offer services until inspections uncovered the breaches.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Branch Bahrain

State Bank of India is licensed as a Conventional Retail Bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain

(All amounts are in BHD 000's)

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 30 September 2025

	30-Sep-25 (Reviewed)	31-Mar-25 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with banks and the Central Bank	46,925	40,184
Due from other branches	456	565
Loans and advances	85,993	59,140
Interest receivable and other assets	494	508
Right-of-use assets	109	183
Furniture and equipment	56	40
TOTAL ASSETS	134,033	100,620
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office funds		
Head Office account	10,655	10,655
Unremitted profits	6,703	5,423
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	17,358	16,078
LIABILITIES		
Customer deposits	81,884	77,616
Due to other branches	32,834	4,866
Interest payable and other liabilities	1,864	1,887
Lease obligations	93	173
TOTAL LIABILITIES	116,675	84,542
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	134,033	100,620

INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Six-month period ended 30 September 2025 (Reviewed)

	30-Sep-25 (Reviewed)	30-Sep-24 (Reviewed)
Interest and similar income	3,271	2,926
Interest and similar expense	(1,406)	(892)
NET INTEREST INCOME	1,865	2,034
Fees and commission income	221	143
Other operating income	128	220
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	2,214	4,378
Staff expenses	(347)	(284)
Depreciation	(93)	(91)
Other operating expenses	(400)	(362)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(840)	(737)
Profit before expected credit loss allowance	1,374	3,641
Expected credit loss allowance - release / (charge)	81	(50)
Tax charge for the period	(175)	-
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	1,280	3,591

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS Six-month period ended 30 September 2025 (Reviewed)

	Head Office account	Unremitted profits	Total
Balance at 1 April 2025	10,655	5,423	16,078
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	1,280	1,280
Balance at 30 September 2025	10,655	6,703	17,358
Balance at 1 April 2024	10,655	929	11,584
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	-	3,591	3,591
Balance at 30 September 2024	10,655	4,520	15,175

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Six-month period ended 30 September 2025 (Reviewed)

	30-Sep-25 (Reviewed)	30-Sep-24 (Reviewed)
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the period	1,280	3,591
Adjustments for non-cash and non-operating items:		
Depreciation	93	91
Tax charge for the period	175	-
Expected credit loss allowance - (release) / charge	(81)	50
Interest expense on lease obligations	2	2
Operating profit before changes in operating assets & liabilities	1,469	3,734
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(254)	263
Loans and advances	(26,772)	(13,095)
Due from other branches	-	3,769
Interest receivable and other assets	14	(20)
Due to other branches	27,968	(2,600)
Customer deposits	4,268	(7,278)
Interest payable and other liabilities	(198)	(176)
Net cash from (used in) operating activities	6,495	(15,403)
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(35)	-
Net cash used in investing activity	(35)	-
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Principal repayments of lease obligations	(80)	(92)
Interest paid on lease obligations	(2)	(2)
Net cash used in financing activities	(82)	(94)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6,378	(15,497)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	38,230	51,465
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	44,608	35,968
Cash and cash equivalents at period end comprise		
Cash and balances with banks and the Central Bank of Bahrain	46,925	37,876
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,773)	(2,331)
Cash and balances with banks and the CBB	44,152	35,545
Add: Due from other branches with an original maturity of less than ninety days	456	423
44,608	35,968	

Interim Statement of Financial Position, Interim Statement of Profit or Loss and Other comprehensive Income, Interim Statement of Cash Flows, Interim Statement of Changes in Head Office funds of State Bank of India - Retail Branch, Bahrain for the six-month period ended 30 September 2025 which were approved for issue by the management and on which an unmodified review conclusion was issued by Ernst & Young - Middle East, Bahrain on 27 November 2025.

Chief Executive Officer