

# Bahrain Post to stamp its mark on banking

MPs back proposal to let the postal service provide entry-level banking support

● **Central Bank warns of major regulatory and operational demands for Bahrain Post**

● **Bank suggests**

**intermediary models used abroad to reduce risk**

● **Ministry says more joint study is needed before giving a final view**

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**N**ot just postal service, soon Bahrain Post will also start offering Banking service.

The idea isn't to turn the postal service into a full-fledged bank, but to provide simple, accessible financial services without the usual hurdles like minimum balance requirements. The goal: reach low-income citizens and

pensioners who often find traditional banking rules too restrictive.

A draft law enabling this shift has cleared its first hurdle, winning support "in principle" from Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. Lawmakers see the move as a practical way to bring financial access to people who routinely struggle with conditions such as minimum deposits or salary thresholds.

The proposal was introduced by MP Basema Mubarak. Her original version granted Bahrain Post wide powers — accepting deposits, granting loans, and managing funds. After committee discussions, the draft was streamlined to a single, clearer clause allowing Bahrain Post to offer financial services under Central Bank of Bahrain regulations.

Supporters say the change

**Parliament's Committee on Public Utilities and the Environment has also recommended approving the proposal.**

could create a new revenue stream for Bahrain Post, ultimately feeding into the state budget. But the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, which oversees the postal sector, says more coordination with other government agencies is needed before it can issue a final position.

The Central Bank of Bahrain has also urged caution, noting that banking services come with significant regulatory, operational and technological respon-

sibilities. International models, it pointed out, show that post offices often act as intermediaries for banks rather than becoming full financial institutions themselves — a structure that lowers risk and simplifies oversight.

The government's formal stance will be confirmed once the Cabinet issues its detailed response.

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MP Basema Mubarak, in her supporting statement, noted that postal services around the world have expanded far beyond mail delivery. "As economies have evolved, post offices in many countries now offer accounts, loans, deposits, withdrawals and postal cheques — helping low-income individuals access essential financial services," she said.

## Qannati Objet d'Art unveils First-of-Its-Kind interactive watchmaking experience and new Pearl editions at Jewellery Arabia 2025

Manama

**Q**annati Objet d'Art, the Bahraini luxury house known for transforming personal stories into wearable art, announces its highly anticipated participation in Jewellery Arabia 2025, taking place from 25–29 November. This year marks a major milestone for the brand as it introduces two groundbreaking offerings:

a first-of-its-kind interactive watch customization experience and the debut of Qannati's Pearl Editions, inspired by the region's deep cultural connection to natural pearls.

**A New Era of Personalized Luxury**

For the first time in the history of Jewellery Arabia, visitors will be able to design and assemble their own Qannati watch through an immersive, guided experience. Guests can select:

- Watch cases
- Dials
- Natural materials such as gemstones, feathers, and flowers
- Straps in more than 40 variations
- Ready artistic s handcrafted by Qannati's master artisans

This interactive journey allows every guest to create a piece that reflects their own style, story, or emotion.

**The World's Most Customizable Luxury Watch Experience**

Qannati highlights that no other watch brand in the world offers this level of customization, diversity of materials, artistic variations, and personal-

ization options at such accessible luxury pricing.

In an industry where true Bespoke and Métiers d'Art creations have traditionally been rare, exclusive, and extremely costly, Qannati aims to democratize Métiers d'Art, making handcrafted micro-art accessible to a broader audience.

**Introducing the Pearl Editions**

Alongside the interactive experience, Qannati unveils its new Pearl Editions, a collection celebrating Bahrain's pearl heritage. Each piece incorporates natural mother-of-pearl, hand-polished elements, and delicate artistic compositions, reimagining pearls through a modern, contemporary lens.

**Bringing Métiers d'Art to Everyone**

Historically, Métiers d'Art in watchmaking has been limited to museum pieces or ultra-high-end creations available only to a very small circle of collectors.

**Qannati seeks to shift this paradigm by offering:**

- Handcrafted universes
- Artistic micro-sculptures
- Rare and natural materials
- Multi-atelier craftsmanship from Bahrain, France, and Switzerland
- At prices accessible within the luxury segment

This makes Qannati one of the very few maisons worldwide to offer true artisanal horology without the prohibitive price barriers.

Visit Qannati at Jewellery Arabia. Qannati invites all visitors to discover these new offerings at: Booth 145 — Hall 5 25–29 November 2025

