BCFC Enhances the AI Assistants "Suhail" and "Suhaila" in the Sahel App

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Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) announced the release of a new set of enhancements to the AI assistants "Suhail" and "Suhaila" in the Sahel app, a step that reinforces the Company's approach to building a digital experience that is smarter and closer to the customer, and reflects its continued commitment to accelerating digital transformation and advancing digital financial inclusion in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The new enhancements center on two main areas: giving the assistants a greater capacity to interact dynamically with the customer's moment and embedding artificial intelligence across the financing application journey from beginning to end, so that the assistant becomes a companion at every step rather than a separate service.

On this occasion, Mr. Ali Al Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company, said: "What we are building in the Sahel app is based on putting artificial intelligence to work for the customer at the very moment they need it. The enhancements we are releasing today make Suhail and Suhaila better able to understand the customer's context and needs, as they simplify their journey from the first question through to completing the application, while preserving the option of speaking directly with our team. We believe the best technology is the kind that brings the customer closer to the service. This direction sits at the heart of the Company's mission of purposeful innovation and of delivering services that make a tangible difference in our customers' lives."

Mr. Ali Al Marzooq, Chief Technology Officer of Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company

The Sahel app is a comprehensive digital platform for all the financing and insurance services offered by Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company and its subsidiaries to its customers, allowing them to apply for financing in a few simple steps without visiting a branch, to manage their credit cards, personal finance, vehicle finance and insurance services, and to obtain instant access to a virtual credit card. The app has won the Bahrain Digital Content Award for the second consecutive year, in 2024 and 2025, in addition to the IBS Intelligence Digital Banking Award 2024.

Customers can enjoy the new enhancements by downloading the Sahel app or updating it to the latest version.

GCC markets close lower as rate-hike concerns weigh on investors

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Gulf stock markets ended Sunday's session on a mixed note as investors assessed the prospect of higher US interest rates and continued geopolitical uncertainty in the region.

Saudi Arabia's Tadawul All Share Index fell 0.71% to 11,158.54, marking its second consecutive decline. Mining and banking stocks were among the notable decliners. The market came under pressure as investors reacted to comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh, which increased expectations of a possible rate hike at the Fed's September meeting.

Qatar's QE Index also edged lower, losing 0.13% to 9,863.10, while the broader QE All Share Index slipped marginally. Banking and communications stocks weighed on the market, although some energy-related companies recorded gains.

Bahrain's All Share Index declined 0.08% to 1,939.86, while Kuwait and Oman moved in the opposite direction. Kuwait's All Share Index gained 0.20% to 8,912, while Oman's MSX 30 rose 0.60% to 7,577.85.

The UAE markets did not trade on Sunday, with Abu Dhabi and Dubai remaining closed ahead of their next session on Monday. Their latest closes on Thursday were 10,044.52 for Abu Dhabi's general index and 5,882.63 for Dubai's DFM General Index.

The broader regional market mood remains influenced by expectations for US monetary policy. Because most GCC currencies are pegged to the US dollar, changes in Federal Reserve interest-rate expectations can have a direct impact on Gulf financial conditions and investor sentiment.

Geopolitical developments are another key factor. Investors continue to monitor developments involving Iran, the United States and the Strait of Hormuz, particularly because the waterway is critical to regional energy exports and shipping. Recent GCC market sessions have shown that diplomatic developments around the strait can quickly influence investor confidence and energy-related shares.

Overall, Sunday's trading highlighted a cautious mood across Gulf equities. Five of seven regional benchmark indices tracked by The Edge fell, although the declines were generally limited. Analysts expect GCC markets to remain sensitive to interest-rate expectations, oil prices, shipping developments and progress in regional diplomacy in the coming sessions.

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INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the half-year ended 30 June 2026
Retail Bank, Bahrain

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 30 June 2026

Bahraini Dinars 000's	30 June 2026 (reviewed)	31 December 2025 (audited)
Assets		
Cash and balances at central bank	**194,907**	188,719
Derivative financial instruments	**4,657**	4,492
Loans and advances to banks	**2,555**	4,996
Loans and advances to customers	**288,082**	279,469
Investment securities	**107,550**	104,894
Other assets	**2,901**	1,358
Due from the Head office and other branches	**96,080**	54,504
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,960**	2,032
Intangible assets	**1,879**	1,476
Property, plant and equipment	**3,291**	3,444
Total assets	**703,862**	645,384
Liabilities		
Deposits by banks	**10,691**	15,500
Customer accounts	**592,639**	508,213
Derivative financial instruments	**4,395**	4,049
Other liabilities	**11,422**	9,508
Due to the Head office and other branches	**18,603**	41,874
Accruals and deferred income	**5,428**	5,857
Provisions for liabilities and charges	**693**	426
Retirement benefit obligations	**2,062**	2,252
Total liabilities	**645,933**	587,679
Head office funds		
Head office assigned capital	**10,743**	10,743
Other reserves	**37,785**	36,899
Retained earnings	**9,401**	10,063
Total Head office funds	**57,929**	57,705
Total Head office funds and liabilities	**703,862**	645,384

INTERIM CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2026	2025
Net cash generated from operating activities	**66,135**	32,995
Net cash generated from investing activities	**36,671**	2,058
Net cash used in financing activities	**(26)**	(38)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**102,780**	35,015
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	**193,075**	162,639
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	**295,855**	197,654

INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2026	2025
Interest income	**17,127**	17,680
Interest expense	**(4,192)**	(4,188)
Net interest income	**12,935**	13,492
Fee and commission income	**5,018**	6,142
Fee and commission expense	**(2,442)**	(2,106)
Net fee and commission income	**2,576**	4,036
Net trading income	**2,116**	1,800
Other operating income	**347**	183
Operating income	**17,974**	19,511
Staff costs	**(6,352)**	(6,662)
Premises costs	**(360)**	(268)
General administrative expenses	**(5,953)**	(5,941)
Depreciation and amortisation	**(332)**	(331)
Operating expenses	**(12,997)**	(13,202)
Operating profit before impairment losses	**4,977**	6,309
(Credit impairment) / Release	**(5,639)**	35
(Loss) / Profit before taxation	**(662)**	6,344
Taxation	**-**	(942)
(Loss) / Profit for the period	**(662)**	5,402

INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's	2026	2025
(Loss) / Profit for the period	**(662)**	5,402
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	**90**	20
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI):		
Net valuation (loss) / gain taken to equity	**(44)**	86
Net impact of expected credit losses	**840**	-
	796	86
Other comprehensive income for the period	**886**	106
Total comprehensive income for the period	**224**	5,508

INTERIM STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS
For the half-year ended 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)

Bahraini Dinars 000's	Head office assigned capital	General reserve	Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve – debt	Retained earnings	Total
As at 1 January 2025 (Audited)	10,743	34,056	2,041	12,635	59,475
Profit for the period	-	-	-	5,402	5,402
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	106	-	106
As at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)	**10,743**	**34,056**	**2,147**	**18,037**	**64,983**
As at 1 January 2026 (Audited)	**10,743**	**34,056**	**2,843**	**10,063**	**57,705**
Loss for the period	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(662)**	**(662)**
Other comprehensive income for the period	**-**	**-**	**886**	**-**	**886**
As at 30 June 2026 (Reviewed)	**10,743**	**34,056**	**3,729**	**9,401**	**57,929**

Shaikha Tareef
Acting CEO, Bahrain and CFO, Bahrain & Cluster Qatar, Egypt and Iraq

Reviewed by: Ernst & Young
Public Accountants

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