

11,000 jobseekers on allowance in October

Ministry says eligibility rules unchanged amid ongoing support for jobseekers

● **11,452 Bahrainis received unemployment allowance in October, ministry tells Parliament**

● **Majority on support for over a year; system tracks eligibility under the 2006 law**

● **Jobseekers choose vacancies via the National Employment Platform with no cap on applications**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 11,000 Bahrainis were receiving unemployment allowance in October 2025, the Labour Ministry told MP Khalid Buanaq, stressing that it has no plan to restrict eligibility.

The ministry said 11,452 jobseekers were on the allowance that month, noting that the total changes daily as people find

work or fall outside the legal criteria set under Decree-Law 78 of 2006. Of the October figure, 3,479 had been receiving the allowance for less than a year, 6,258 for one to five years, and 1,715 for more than five years.

Responding to questions about opportunities offered to long-term recipients, the ministry said there is no limit on how many roles a jobseeker may apply for through the National Employment Platform. Employers upload vacancies, after which the ministry checks salary, qualification and specialism before publishing them. The ministry does not nominate candidates or contact them directly; jobseekers choose roles themselves, with the system blocking applications that do not match the required qualification or specialism.

Jobseekers with no work experience re-

ceive automated guidance if they fail to apply for enough roles. Continued inaction leads to an in-person meeting with an employment specialist, who explains how to use the platform.

The ministry pointed to Article 24 of the Unemployment Insurance Law, which re-

moves entitlement if a jobseeker refuses two suitable opportunities. Since long-term recipients are still receiving the allowance, it said, they have not met the refusal threshold.

It also detailed steps taken after HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa directed the ministry on 28 September 2025 to ensure each registered jobseeker is offered three opportunities before year-end. Measures included boosting private-sector vacancies, extending ministry working hours to 7am-7pm, expanding interview rooms and parking, increasing staff, and strengthening the platform with the Information and eGovernment Authority.

Jobseekers remain on the register until employed and recorded as insured with the Social Insurance Organisation, the ministry added.



Ambassador to Egypt attends 2025 Arab Government Excellence Awards



Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League, attended the 2025 Arab Government Excellence Awards in Cairo. Ambassador Zainal said she was proud to see several Bahraini ministries honoured this year, noting that the recognition underscores Bahrain's ongoing efforts to improve public services, encourage innovation and advance digital transformation.

Global travel elite to gather in Bahrain for world travel awards



Manama

The Bahrain International Exhibition Centre has completed preparations to host the 32nd World Travel Awards (WTA) Grand Finale today. This will be the first time the prestigious global event is held in the Kingdom. More than 500 international figures and senior leaders from the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors are expected to attend. The ceremony will also honour 118 winners recognised as global leaders in their respective categories.

Sara Ahmed Buheji, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority and Chairperson of the Exhibition

Centre's Board, said hosting the WTA Grand Finale reflects global confidence in Bahrain's tourism sector and the Centre's world-class facilities.

The Grand Finale concludes the World Travel Awards' annual global tour, which includes regional events across continents celebrating excellence in the sector. Since its launch in 1993, the WTA has become one of the travel industry's most respected honours, attracting senior government officials, CEOs, decision-makers and international media.

The event is expected to further highlight Bahrain's growing position as a regional hub for major tourism and business events.

BD5,000 utilities claim upheld despite five-year limitation argument

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A civil appeal court has upheld a ruling ordering an electricity and water subscriber to pay BD5,000 in unpaid bills dating back 11 years, rejecting her claim that the case should be dismissed because it exceeded the five-year time limit.

The Electricity and Water Authority filed the lawsuit after the woman failed to settle her electricity and water charges over more than a decade. Her lawyer argued that the claim was time-barred under Article 368 of the Civil Code, which limits the state's ability to recover

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taxes and certain government fees to five years.

However, the court ruled that the article does not apply in this case. It explained that electricity and water bills are payments for services, not government fees or taxes, and therefore fall

outside the scope of the five-year limit.

In its decision, the court cited constitutional court principles that distinguish taxes and fees from other types of state revenue. Payments for public utilities such as electricity, wa-

ter, telecommunications, transport, aviation and healthcare, it noted, are treated more like commercial charges for services provided.

The court also found that the subscriber had indeed benefited from the services during the disputed period, and records showed she had been renting the property at the time. The Authority submitted detailed statements of the outstanding amounts, which the court said accurately supported the claim.

The appeal court therefore upheld the original order requiring her to pay BD5,000, in addition to court costs and BD100 in legal fees.

Historic Muharraq lights up as fourth Muharraq Nights Festival opens

● **Festival features hundreds of cultural events, art installations, workshops and performances**

● **Regional participation includes Kuwait's Al Sadu Society and Saudi Arabia's "Beit Kalimat."**

● **Festival runs until 30 December**

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The historic city of Muharraq has come alive with the launch of the fourth Muharraq Nights Festival, transform-



ing its traditional houses and neighbourhoods into hubs of cultural activity. The festival offers a rich programme of exhibitions, workshops, musical performances that blend folk and contemporary styles, visual showcases, and culinary experiences inspired by Bahraini heritage.

Organised through collabora-

tion between public institutions, private partners, entrepreneurs, and regional cultural bodies, the festival forms an integral part of the Celebrate Bahrain Season. This year's edition expands its scope through new themed stations, larger exhibitions, and partnerships with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, strengthening its regional cultural dimension.

The 2025 festival features more than 560 events, marking significant growth from previous years. Dana Yousif Abdulghani, Director of the National Heritage Directorate at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, said the expanded programme reflects increasing community participation and strong public interest in Muharraq's cultural revival. She described the festival as a platform that embraces diverse creative disciplines and continues to highlight the renewed heritage value of Muharraq.

As part of regional exchange, the festival is hosting exhibitions with Kuwait's Al Sadu Society, showcasing textile arts inspired by traditional Sadu weaving. Saudi Arabia's Kalimat House is also participating

through a cultural space dedicated to books, arts, musical evenings, and creative programming.

Visitors can also explore visual displays of Bahrain's Expo 2025 Osaka Pavilion, "Connecting Seas", along the Pearling Path, as well as the "Public Pages" space, which brings together local and regional publishers.

Muharraq's heritage houses remain central venues, including the Haneen Houses, which offer new contributions in design and gastronomy, and the revived "Under the Spotlight" project, which activates ten historic shops as cultural sites.

The festival runs until 30 December, with daily events along the UNESCO-listed Pearling Path. Free shuttle buses,

boat trips, parking options, and mobility services are provided, with full programme details available on pearlingpath.bh and the festival's social media channels.



Muharraq is home to Bahrain's UNESCO-listed cultural site, the Pearling Path – a 3.5 km living heritage trail that links historic homes, markets, and coastal sites that once powered the world's most prized natural pearl industry.