

# Over 23,000 retirees receive pensions above BD 1,000

Pension data reveals trends among top earners

● The largest group, 19,346 pensioners, fall in the BD 1,000–1,999 band

● 1,128 beneficiaries receive pensions above BD 1,000 on behalf of relatives, with payments totalling about BD 1.6m a month

● Younger beneficiaries aged 20 to 40 include 49 men and 162 women, mostly in the lower pension bands

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

More than 23,000 retirees receive monthly pensions of over BD 1,000, the Social Insurance Organisation



● Northern Bahrain Road set for advisory tender next week

**Hasan Barakat**  
TDT | Manama

The Northern Bahrain Road project is set to move into its next phase, with the Ministry of Works preparing to appoint a qualified transaction adviser under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

The ministry is expected to issue a tender next week to appoint an advisory firm to

provide integrated financial, technical and legal services for the project, as part of efforts to accelerate investment and strengthen infrastructure along the Kingdom's northern coastline.

The proposed road will run

from the Northern Manama Bridge interchange at Bahrain Bay in the east, pass through Suhailah Island in the west, and extend towards the King Fahd Causeway. The route is expected to enhance connectivity between major development

zones, improve traffic flow and support commercial activity across key areas.

The Northern Bahrain Road

forms a core element of a wider package of residential and development projects planned for the northern coast, including Noorana, Marassi Al Seef, North Star and Diyar Al Nakheel.

The project is expected to span approximately 29.5 kilometres. Its first phase will include two lanes in each direction, with a second and final phase expanding the road to four lanes each way to meet future urban growth and transport demand.

## Sheikh Jaber highway financing deal up for parliamentary review

**Hasan Barakat**  
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The Council of Representatives is set to review a proposed financing agreement for the second phase of the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Highway during its session on Tuesday.

The agenda includes a report by the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on a draft law



approving a framework agreement between the Government

of Bahrain and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which would contribute to financing the project through a series of loans.

The committee said the agreement allows for multiple loans to be extended over several years, supporting the project while spreading financial commitments over time. It concluded that the agreement meets constitutional requirements re-

lated to public borrowing and treaty approval.

The highway project is considered a strategic infrastructure initiative aimed at improving traffic flow and connectivity across key areas of the Kingdom.

MPs are expected to assess the financing structure during the session and decide whether the agreement should move forward through the remaining legislative stages.

## Royal Hospital could become public maternity facility



**Bader Al Tameemi, MP**  
**Mohammed Darwish**  
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Parliament is set to vote on Tuesday on a proposal to convert the Royal Hospital for Women and Children (Al Malaki) into a public maternity hospital serving the Southern Governorate.

The Services Committee has recommended approval, saying the public-interest grounds presented for the proposal justify its support.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Bader Al Tameemi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, Ali Saqr Al Doseri, Mohammed Mousa and Mohammed Al Rifai. It calls for the hospital to be brought under the Ministry of Health to provide maternity and related healthcare services to residents of Riffa and surrounding areas.

Al Tameemi said the aim was

to establish the facility as a public maternity hospital serving the area, noting that Riffa and nearby districts are among the most densely populated in Bahrain.

He said converting the hospital into a public facility would help narrow gaps in access to healthcare for women and children and promote a fairer distribution of health services across the Kingdom.

Al Tameemi added that the hospital is already specialised, with trained staff and equipment in obstetrics and paediatrics, and said integrating it into the public system would reduce travel for patients currently seeking care elsewhere. He also said it could ease the financial burden on families who rely on private hospitals, where maternity and newborn care costs can be high.

## MPs to vote on raising housing income cap to BD 2,500

**Mohammed Darwish**  
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Parliament will debate and vote on Tuesday on a proposal to raise the maximum salary ceiling for eligibility for state housing services to BD2,500, a move supporters say reflects rising living costs and changing income realities.

The recommendation, submitted by MPs Abdulwahid Qarata, Bader Al Tamimi, Hamad Al Doy, Ali Al Doseri and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, aims to widen access to housing support by allowing more middle-income families to qualify.

MPs argue that the current income cap no longer reflects market conditions, particularly higher rents, property prices

and household expenses.

The Services Committee has endorsed the proposal, with all attending members voting in favour, citing strong public-interest grounds and the need to ease pressure on families who are currently excluded despite facing housing affordability challenges.

In its written response, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said existing regulations limit eligibility for housing services to applicants earning no more than BD1,200. It outlined that nomination certificates and most housing

finance programmes are tied to strict income thresholds, both at the time of application and at allocation or payout.



**Abdulwahid Qarata, MP**