

iGA launches Labour Force Survey 2026

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In line with efforts to strengthen the national data framework and improve labour market indicators, the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) announced the launch of the 2026 Labour Force Survey (LFS), which will be conducted from January to December 2026.

Targeting a random sample of more than 8,000 households across the Kingdom's governorates, the study aims to collect comprehensive data on the Kingdom of Bahrain's labour market, including information on occupational structure and the economic activities of the employed population. The data will be compiled according to the standards and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), allowing for regional and international comparability.

Vision

Duaa Sultan Mohamed, iGA's Deputy Chief Executive for Statistics and Population Registry, said that the Labour Force Survey reflects the Government's vision and iGA's commitment to the directives of His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Information and Communications Technology (MCICT). She also noted that continuing to conduct these studies and surveys supports informed decision-making, policy development, and the formulation of national plans and strategies to further advance the Kingdom's development.

A higher ceiling

Southern Municipal Council backs BD13,000 cap for home renovation aid

Mohammed Darwish
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BD13,000 could become the new upper limit for renovation support under the Cities and Villages Development Project.

The Southern Municipal Council voted yesterday to write to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, urging a change to the project's guidance manual.

The council backed, unanimously, a proposal from Mohammed Darraj, the member for the Fourth Constituency, to lift the cap from BD10,000 to BD13,000, or less, but only in exceptional cases.

Darraj told the council: "The expected actual cost of carrying out the works has become higher than the amount estimated

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— MOHAMMED DARRAJ, FOURTH CONSTITUENCY MEMBER

and approved in the first phase. There is a need to complete the project without placing additional burdens on citizens. Citizens rely on limited salaries, which makes them unable to cover any additional costs."



Under the proposal, the higher ceiling would apply only when extra works are needed because of the scale of damage and rising costs, subject to a decision by the project's Exceptions Committee.

Darraj said the extra amount would also help with items that can sit outside the main renovation schedule, including fees to issue permits, engineering drawings and other additional works linked to the job.

He linked the request to the aim of the Cities and Villages Development Project's renovation and rain insulation service, which targets safe and suitable housing for low-income citizens, with the aim of raising housing standards across the Kingdom.

In its recommendation, the council referred to provisions in the Municipalities Law and its executive regulations that allow municipal councils to propose local projects and follow up services within their remit, while co-ordinating with the relevant authorities.

The proposal also notes that the "houses at risk of collapse" project has been stopped since 2012, leaving some urgent cases relying on renovation support despite the scale of damage in some homes.

Vehicle embezzlement and impersonation case

Rehab Mohammad
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In a further connected case, the loss of ID cards inside a vehicle led to the uncovering of a broader fraud and vehicle embezzlement scheme.

The suspect had used an identity belonging to a detainee serving a sentence at a rehabilitation centre to rent a vehicle, which he failed to return.

The rightful owner of the ID later confirmed that he had neither rented the vehicle nor signed the contract, and that his card had been stolen.

Signatures

Forensic examination established that the suspect had forged the signatures on the rental agreement, and financial investigations confirmed that payments for the vehicle rental were made using a phone num-

ber registered in the suspect's name.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant in 2025 with using forged official documents, impersonation, fraud, document forgery, misuse of a forged document, vehicle theft and causing financial damage to the rightful owner.

The High Criminal Court set 10 February as the date for issuing its verdict, with the defendant remaining in custody.

Stage set for Primary Healthcare Centers event

● Conference, exhibition bring leading experts together in February

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Primary Healthcare Centers are preparing to host the second edition of the Primary Healthcare Centers Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to take place from 12 to 14 February 2026 at the Gulf Hotel, in partnership with BDA Conferences and Exhibitions.

The conference will bring together more than 40 speakers comprising prominent experts and specialists in the field of primary health care, alongside broad regional and international participation.

The event will also feature the participation of a select group of leading pharmaceutical and medical supplies companies, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and in-depth discussion of the latest solutions and challenges across several critical areas of healthcare.

Disciplines

The conference programme will cover a wide range of disciplines, including family medicine, emergency medicine, communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, physiotherapy, and dental health.

It will also highlight the latest professional practices



Dr. Ijlal Al Alawi

and innovative technologies shaping the future of primary health care services.

On this occasion, Dr. Ijlal Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of Primary Healthcare Centers and President of the Conference, confirmed that all organizational and scientific preparations for the second edition have been fully completed.

Success

He noted that this edition builds on the success achieved by the inaugural conference and reflects the growing focus on advancing primary healthcare services and strengthening their central role within the healthcare system.

"The conference places particular emphasis on delivering practical scientific content that keeps pace with the latest developments in the field, while anticipating the evolving needs of the next phase of primary healthcare services," said Dr. Al Alawi.

Military cooperation meeting



The Bahrain Defence Force has successfully concluded the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Military Cooperation of the Armed Forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. During the meeting sessions, a number of topics listed on the agenda were discussed, aimed at developing integrated strategies and initiatives that contribute to supporting the progress of joint Gulf military action and strengthening the foundations of existing military cooperation and coordination among the armed forces of the GCC states.

Empowering youth centres

His Excellency Hassan Abdullah Al Madani, Governor of the Northern Governorate, received Sadiq Salman Habib, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abu Saiba Youth Empowerment Centre, along with a number of board members, in the presence of H.E. Brigadier Abdullah Ali Rashid Ma'anhar, Deputy Governor of the Northern Governorate. The meeting discussed a number of topics related to the needs of the centre and local residents, as well as ways to enhance cooperation with the relevant authorities, contributing to the support of joint efforts to serve children and youth and to invest their time in ways that benefit them and their community. The Governor praised the vital role and outstanding efforts undertaken by youth empowerment centres in nurturing talents and developing the capabilities of young people.

