

More than 24,000 Bahrainis draw pensions above BD1,000

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TDT | Manama

More than 24,627 Bahrainis receive retirement pensions exceeding BD1,000 per month, according to figures provided by the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) to Parliament.

The breakdown further shows that 4,272 pensioners receive BD2,000 or more, spanning both the public and private sectors.

The figures come from the approved statistical data for the third quarter of 2025 and were provided in a written reply to a parliamentary question from MP Ali Saeer Al Doseri.

The SIO said the number of living pensioners stands at 23,499, spread across several pension bands.

Most sit in the BD1,000 to



MP Ali Saeer Al Doseri

BD1,999 bracket, totalling 19,346 pensioners.

Another 2,851 receive between BD2,000 and BD2,999, and 1,002 receive between BD3,000 and

BD3,999. The SIO also counted 192 pensioners in the BD4,000 to BD4,999 range, and 108 on BD5,000 or more.

The reply also covered de-



1,128 dependants receive more than BD1,000 a month, with total payments estimated at about BD1.6 million each month, or close to BD19.2 million a year.

pendants drawing pensions on behalf of relatives.

Payments

The SIO said 1,128 depend-

ants receive more than BD1,000 a month, with total payments estimated at about BD1.6 million each month, or close to BD19.2 million a year.

Most of those dependants fall within the BD1,000 to BD1,999 band, numbering 1,008.

A further 87 receive between BD2,000 and BD2,999, while 28 are in the BD3,000 to BD3,999 bracket.

Four dependants receive between BD4,000 and BD4,999, and one receives BD5,000 or more.

Beneficiaries

For male dependants aged 20 to 40 who receive more than BD1,000, the SIO reported 49 beneficiaries. Their payments total BD66,300 a month, or about BD795,600 a year.

Almost all – 46 – are in the BD1,000 to BD1,999 band, with

two in the BD2,000 to BD2,999 band and one in the BD3,000 to BD3,999 band.

None were recorded above BD4,000.

Dependants

Among female dependants aged 20 to 40, the SIO said 162 beneficiaries receive more than BD1,000.

Their pensions total an estimated BD226,400 a month, or close to BD2,717 million a year.

Of these, 146 receive between BD1,000 and BD1,999, while 13 receive between BD2,000 and BD2,999 and three receive between BD3,000 and BD3,999.

None were recorded in the BD4,000-and-above bands.

The SIO said it aims to present its statistics openly and to provide Parliament with accurate data to support its oversight role.

Shura Council to vote on new BCCI election voting scale

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A draft law to redraw voting power inside the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) goes before the Shura Council for debate and a vote on Sunday, after a committee backed an overhaul intended to smooth out the steep jumps in votes awarded by capital size.

The current system, laid down in Law No. 16 of 2020, gives members more votes the more capital they declare, but the steps are large.

At the top end, a firm can hold up to 256 votes, a figure the Shura Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee says should be replaced with a gentler climb that brings more members into the ballot

The Shura committee said voting in Chamber elections is an organisational right linked to economic representation, and should rest on equality, clear rules and non-discrimination.

and leaves the Chamber looking more evenly represented.

The committee has urged members to follow the version approved by Parliament.

Review

In its report, it said it reviewed the lower chamber's decision and attachments, read legal and economic opinion memoranda prepared on the bill, and con-



Khalid Al Maskati, Head of Shura Council's Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs

sidered a view from the Shura Council's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which said the draft was sound under the Constitution and the law.

The committee also said it discussed the proposal with legal advisers and its financial and economic adviser.

The bill would amend the voting schedule attached to Decree-Law No. 48 of 2012 on the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The draft law itself is short.

Change

One article replaces the existing schedule with a new one attached to the law, while a second article deals with how the change is put into effect.

Under the current schedule, members whose capital is not declared receive two votes.

Those declaring between BD1 and BD19,999 receive four.

The scale then rises through bands, reaching 32 votes for BD100,000 to BD499,999, 128 votes for BD1 million to BD4,999,999, and 256 votes for BD5 million and above.

Stage set for Bharathi Association's Pongal celebration at Indian Club

Event set for January 16, 2026

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The Bharathi Association, the only registered Tamil association operating under the Ministry of Social Development, is excited to announce a grand Pongal event scheduled for January 16, 2026, at the Indian Club, in collaboration with Star Vision Events.

Since its inception, this non-profit organization has been dedicated to serving the needs of the Tamil community



Bharathi Association holds a press conference to unveil the details of the event and fostering cultural heritage.

Yesterday, a press conference was held at 1 PM to unveil the details of this anticipated all-day celebration.

Pongal, a vibrant multi-day harvest festival, is celebrated by Tamils worldwide and holds

profound significance within the Tamil diaspora.

Known as the Festival of Tamils, Thai Pongal coincides with the first day of the Tamil calendar month of Thai, typically observed on January 14 or 15 in the Gregorian calendar.

The festivities will commence at 7:30 AM with an engaging Kolam Competition.

Attendees can look forward to an array of sports and competitions, including Tug of War and 'Uri Adithal,' tailored for men, women, and children.

Tourism Minister visits Wen w Bkm Festival at BIC

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Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism and Chairperson of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), visited the Wen w Bkm Festival held at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Zallaq, as part of her ongoing visits to tourism and entertainment events taking place across the Kingdom during the fourth edition of the Celebrate Bahrain Season 2025.

During the visit, she reviewed the festival's activities, which include shopping, food and family entertainment. The festival features more than 160 outlets from inside and outside Bahrain, including Bahraini small businesses, productive families, and participants from GCC countries.

H.E. Al Sairafi said the festival supports national projects and entrepreneurs by providing a platform for local businesses and productive families.

Diversity

She noted its development over the past six years from a local event into a festival attracting Gulf participation, contributing to the diversity of Bahrain's tourism offering and

“The festival supports national projects and entrepreneurs by providing a platform for local businesses and productive families.”

— H.E. FATIMA BINT JAAFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM
strengthening the Kingdom's position as a family tourism destination.

The Minister added that hosting the festival at BIC reflects the effective use of national venues to support tourism events and provide an integrated experience for visitors, highlighting the role of modern infrastructure in supporting the tourism sector and year-round activities.

The organisers expressed their appreciation to the minister for visiting the festival, praising the role of the Ministry of Tourism and the BTEA in supporting and organising tourism and entertainment events, and in providing a supportive environment for national initiatives and local projects.

Lane set for closure

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The Ministry of Works, in coordination with the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior, has announced that maintenance work on Bapco's oil pipelines along Dry Dock Street will re-

quire the closure of the left lane of the turning lanes from Dry Dock Street to Street 13, leading towards Khalifa Bin Salman Port. One turning lane will remain open to traffic.

The work is scheduled to begin tomorrow, and is expected to continue for three weeks.