

Heroic rescue effort

Over 138,000 received cost-of-living allowance

“We only thought of saving lives,” says Sitra rescuer after Incident

TDT Manama

A Bahraini resident recounted the moments he and others rushed to rescue families from a house affected by an explosion in the Al Giriya area of Sitra, after debris from an intercepted drone strike caused damage to nearby homes.

Speaking in an interview with Al Ayam, Hussain Abu Ali described how he immediately rushed to the scene after hearing the blast and helped evacuate residents before emergency teams arrived.

“When the explosion happened and I went outside, I saw the house opposite had been hit. The first thing we did was call 999 and report a direct explosion in the area,” he said.

Rescue

He explained that he and others entered the damaged home to rescue those inside, first bringing out an elderly man and woman before learning that more family members, including children, may still have been upstairs.



Firefighters come to the rescue immediately after the explosion



“With discipline, sacrifice, and patriotism, the Bahrain Defence Force remains the nation’s first line of pride and protection.”

— HUSSAIN ABU ALI

“We went upstairs despite the smoke and destruction. The smell was strong, visibility was low, and we used phone lights to search. We were choking, but we kept going because we believed people might still be trapped,” he said.

Abu Ali said he eventually lost consciousness due to smoke inhalation and was later taken to Sitra Hospital before being transferred to Salmaniya Medical Complex for further treatment.

Recovery

He added that he received medical attention from hospital staff and that senior officials followed his condition closely during his recovery, including Bahrain’s Health Minister Dr Jaleela Al Sayed, who personally reassured him during treatment, and MP Jaleela Alawi, who also monitored his condition and arranged for additional care.

Despite the danger, Abu Ali said he did not hesitate when entering the damaged building.

“In that moment, I didn’t think about myself. I only thought about saving lives. Of course there was fear, but there was no time to step back,” he said.

Incident

He also recalled a previous incident in Mahazza, where he and others helped evacuate children from another affected area before official teams arrived.

“These are our homes and our country. We grew up here in safety and peace. All we want is safety for everyone,” he added.



MP Ali Saqer

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 138,900 people were receiving Bahrain’s low-income family allowance up to the March 2026 payment, according to the Ministry of Social Development in a reply to MP Ali Saqer.

The ministry said the monthly cost-of-living support reaches up to 130 dinars for households where the breadwinner earns 300 dinars or less. A total of 44,780 beneficiaries fall under this lowest income category.

Eligibility is based solely on the breadwinner’s income.

Bahrain, UAE Sign BHD 2 Billion Swap Deal

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Reinforcing financial stability and deepening economic cooperation, the Central Banks of Bahrain and UAE have signed a bilateral currency swap agreement valued at BHD 2 billion (AED 20 billion). The agreement, finalized during a virtual signing ceremony, establishes a five-year framework for currency exchange cooperation between the Bahraini dinar and the UAE dirham.

His Excellency Khaled Mohamed Balama, Governor of the UAE Central Bank, and His Excellency Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, signed the deal, with senior officials and deputy governors from both institutions in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, HE Khaled Mohamed Balama highlighted that the agreement reflects the shared commitment of the UAE and Bahrain to strengthening financial cooperation and expanding economic ties.

HE Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan described the agreement as a reflection of the strong relations between the two countries.

Legal Safeguards Keep Salary Protected

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Wages in Bahrain are legally protected and considered a fundamental right under the Labour Law, ensuring employees cannot have their pay reduced except under specific legal conditions.

Lawyer Atefa Yaqoob explained that wages are agreed upon by both employer and employee. Any reduction of a worker’s rights is considered void even if mutually accepted, giving workers the right to



Lawyer Atefa Yaqoob

seek compensation or end their contract.

However, the law allows flexibility in exceptional circumstances such as economic crises, natural disasters, or other force majeure events. In such cases, employers and employees may renegotiate temporary adjustments to wages or benefits to help sustain business continuity.

Overall, Bahrain’s wage framework aims to strike a balance between protecting workers’ rights and ensuring business stability during extraordinary situations.

Another 59,258 beneficiaries receive 97 dinars per month in households where the breadwinner’s income ranges between 301 and 700 dinars, while 34,871 people receive 75 dinars in the 701 to 1,000 dinar bracket.

This brings the total number of beneficiaries under the low-income family support scheme to 138,909 as of the March 2026 payment cycle.

The ministry clarified that eligibility is based solely on the breadwinner’s income, with the wife’s income not included in calculations. Households earning above 1,000 dinars are excluded from the scheme.

Abuse of Power

Two Public Employees Jailed for Stealing Passengers’ Money

● BD500 fine for each defendant

● Court orders them to jointly repay 3,500 Saudi riyals to the victim

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court of Appeals upheld a five-year prison sentence against two public employees who abused their positions at Bahrain International Airport to unlawfully detain a passenger and steal his money.



The accused admitted to conducting an unauthorized search outside approved procedures.

The court also imposed a 500 dinar fine on each defendant and ordered them to jointly repay 3,500 Saudi riyals to the victim.

The incident occurred when the victim was taken

to a closed airport restroom, where officials searched him before he continued his journey. He later discovered that 3,500 Saudi riyals were missing and filed a complaint upon returning to Bahrain.

Footage

Investigations confirmed the abuse through surveillance footage and witness statements, while the accused admitted to conducting an unauthorized search outside approved procedures.

The court found them guilty of unlawful detention, abuse of power, and embezzlement committed during their official duties, bringing the case to a final conclusion.

غرفة البحرين
BAHRAIN CHAMBER

Invitation to the members of Bahrain Chamber to attend in the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly

The Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to invite the registered members of the Chamber to attend in the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly, in accordance with Article (15) of the Decree Law No. (48) of 2012 with regard to Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Saturday 25th April 2026

4:00 p.m

Kingdom Hall of Bahrain Chamber’s building “Bait Al Tijjar”

This Meeting will be held to discuss the items listed in the agenda, as mentioned in Article (17) of the law, these are as follows:

- 1) Ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly held on 5h April 2026.
- 2) Discuss and approve the Annual Report of the Board of Directors on the activities of the chamber for year 2025.
- 3) Discuss and approve the financial position and the report of the External Auditor for the Financial for year 2025.
- 4) Appointment of the External Auditor for the year 2026.
- 5) Any other business, subject to Article (18) of the Executive bylaw of the Chamber.

According to Article No. (19) of the Chamber’s Law, this meeting will be valid with the presence of 200 members or 10% of the total number of the registered members, whichever is lower. If there is no quorum at the first meeting, the second meeting for Ordinary General Assembly Meeting will be held at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 26th April 2026 in the Kingdom hall in Bahrain Chamber building “Bait Al Tijjar, this meeting will be valid with any number of the members who attend. The decision shall be taken in both meetings by a majority of the present members, and if the votes equaled, the side of the chairman of the meeting will be casted.

All the registered members who paid their annual participation fees and any financial dues to the Chamber 7 days prior to the Meeting will be entitled to attend in the meeting to exercise their right to vote according to Article No. (14) of the Chamber’s Law. The member himself/herself attending the General Assembly Meeting represents their own establishment (Sole Proprietorship) or the legal representative for companies. In cases where there are multiple representatives, they should nominate one of them to represent the company and vote in the meeting. Delegating others to attend the meeting or vote is not permitted. Each member shall have a number of votes according to his/her capital registered in the Chamber’s records.

Nabeel Khaled Kanoo

Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry