

MPs to revisit East Riffa site plan for cancer centre



Repurposing the former East Riffa Health Centre as a specialist site for treating cancer patients

● Move to improve standard of care, support stronger health service

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama



“Malignant tumour cases are increasing in Bahrain, and the Southern Governorate needs a dedicated cancer hospital close to its people.”

— MP DR ALI AL NUAIMI

MPs will return tomorrow to a proposal to turn the former East Riffa Health Centre into a cancer treatment centre in the Southern Governorate, after the item was delayed at the last sitting because time ran short and the agenda was crowded.

The request was submitted by MPs Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, Mohammed Mousa, Bader Al Tameemi, Mohammed Yousif Al Maarafi and Najeeb Al Koari.

They are asking the government to repurpose the former clinic building in East Riffa as a specialist site for treating cancer patients, serving residents of the Southern Governorate and others.

Service

Backers say the move would improve the standard of care, support a stronger health service, and help cut pressure on existing oncology services at Salmaniya Medical Complex and King Hamad University Hospital.

They also say the government needs a dedicated site for malignant tumours closer to local families.

Dr Al Nuaimi linked the proposal to the constitutional right to healthcare.

Healthcare

“The state guarantees every citizen the right to healthcare, is concerned with public health, and guarantees means

View

The Ministry of Health, in its summary view submitted to Parliament, said the King Hamad Cancer Centre at King Hamad University Hospital already serves as a national specialist hub for cancer care, covering patients across the Kingdom, including the Southern Governorate.

Pioneers of British Bank hold memorable reunion

Pradeep Puravankara
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A distinguished assembly of former leaders and long-serving personnel from the British Bank recently gathered for a special reunion, celebrating a legacy of professional excellence and lifelong camaraderie.

The event brought together a select group of the bank's original pioneers, led by former Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Saleh Al-Kuwari.

The commemorative gathering was sponsored by Mr. Mansoor Osman, founder of MOCO.



MOCO reunion

Public Relations. It provided a unique platform for veterans of the institution to reflect on their significant contributions to Bahrain's financial landscape.

Amidst an atmosphere of nostalgia, participants reminisced about their shared history, re-

affirming the values of loyalty and commitment that defined their careers.

“It was an honor to gather with so many familiar faces who laid the foundation for what the British Bank became,” stated Mr. Al-Kuwari. “This reunion is a

testament to the bonds forged through years of dedicated service and the collective spirit that drove our success.”

Mr. Osman expressed MOCO Public Relations' pride in sup-

porting the event, noting that the stories shared represent a

vital chapter in the region's financial history.

The reunion served as a powerful reminder of the lasting professional relationships and the indelible impact these individuals made on the banking sector.

Steady growth

Bahraini finance and insurance workers earn average BD1,169 monthly, data shows

● Bahrain has 51 investment firms

Mohammed Darwish
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Bahraini workers in finance and insurance earn an average BD1,169 a month, while new starters receive a median BD610, official data shows, in a sector that accounts for 17.8 per cent of GDP and ranks among the largest non-oil contributors to the economy.

The kingdom's financial report said the sector grew 5 per cent year on year in the third quarter of 2025, with higher activity in electronic transfers and a rise in retail bank lending.

The value of transactions processed through the electronic funds transfer system rose 16.3 per cent to BD9.6 billion.

The consolidated balance sheet of the banking system increased 2.7 per cent.

Deposits

Retail bank loans climbed 4.8 per cent to BD12.7 billion, while deposits from non-banks fell 2.7 per cent.

Finance and insurance were listed as the biggest contributor within non-oil activities, which



Image used for illustrative purposes only

make up 85 per cent of GDP.

The number of financial institutions operating in Bahrain reached 375 by the third quarter of 2025.

Employment in the sector stood at 14,940 staff, including 10,383 Bahrainis, who made up 69.5 per cent of the workforce, compared with 4,557 expat workers at 30.5 per cent.

The banking sector counted 83 banks, including 29 retail banks. Of those, 13 were locally registered retail banks and 16 were branches of foreign retail banks.

The figures also covered 56 wholesale banks, six representative offices and one banking association. Islamic banks to-

talled 15.

Investment

Banking-sector assets reached \$246.8 billion by August 2025, including \$65.7 billion held by Islamic banks, while Bahrain had 51 investment companies, the data showed. Insurance figures listed 140 licensed insurance institutions, excluding representatives of insurers.

The tally included 30 insurance firms, 21 insurance and reinsurance firms, 14 locally registered firms, and six takaful and reinsurance firms, alongside branches, brokers, and insurance consultants and managers.

The number of actuaries stood at 31, and insurance company



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representatives totalled 108.

Funds

Investment funds also remained a large part of the picture, with 1,738 licensed and registered funds by November 2025 and assets worth \$11.139 billion.

This included 54 local investment funds, 10 private investment funds, and 165 local and foreign Islamic investment funds, as well as 1,674 foreign offshore funds.

Capital markets were valued at \$20.1 billion, while total insurance premiums reached BD239.438 million, according to the figures.

Rising football talent Ashwin shines abroad, wins major awards

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Young footballer Ashwin Manoj Kumar began his journey in the sport at the age of 10, building his skills through structured training and strong family support, which laid the foundation for his steady progress.

Ashwin developed his game by training with several clubs in the Kingdom, including Grip, Ciro and OLE Bahrain.

This exposure helped sharpen his technical ability, improve match awareness and build competitive confidence on the field.

His efforts produced clear results in 2023, when he was named a Grip Match Winner



Ashwin Manoj Kumar earns the Man of the Match award at the 2025 Copa Ciro tournament

and finished as the first top scorer.

Later in December, Ashwin earned the Man of the Match

award at the Copa Ciro tournament, underlining his consistency and influence during matches. In January, Ashwin reached an important milestone after being selected by OLE Bahrain to compete in the Manchester City Club Under-14 tournament in Abu Dhabi.

Making his international debut, he delivered disciplined performances that contributed to his team reaching the final and securing second place.

Ashwin's progress reflects the impact of early encouragement, regular training and perseverance, marking him as a promising young talent with strong potential for future development in football.

Ministry launching new online system for non-profit organisations



MP Ahmed Al Saloom
Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has 661 licensed civil society organisations, the Ministry of Social Development has said, reporting stronger compliance with legal and financial rules but warning that many groups still struggle with funding, governance and attracting skilled administrators.

The ministry's comments came in a written reply to a parliamentary question from MP Ahmed Al Saloom about the state of civil society organisations and how the government oversees them.

It said compliance has improved ‘markedly’ in recent years, particularly in the submission of meeting minutes, annual financial statements and fundraising reports, alongside better financial disclosure and record-keeping of spending.