

Almansoori extends perfect BTCC season

Ali Almansoori continues incredible winning run in Bahrain Touring Car Challenge at BIC | **P16**

Trump urges Iranians to oust rulers, says ‘help’ on its way

THE DAILY tribune

BIC welcomes darts’ biggest stars ahead of 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters

DOO and Zain Bahrain sign MoU

HM King hails Bahraini-Moroccan ties and cooperation



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa highlighted the strong and historic relations between the Kingdoms of Bahrain and Morocco.

He noted the high level of Bahraini-Moroccan cooperation and the importance of such visits for exchanging expertise and enhancing joint efforts in Islamic affairs and endowments.

HM the King was speaking as he received yesterday at Al Safriya Palace His Excellency Ahmed Toufiq, Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of Morocco.

H.E. Toufiq conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King



HM the King with H.E. Ahmed Toufiq

Mohammed VI of Morocco and his best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Bahrain under His Majesty’s leadership. HM King Hamad relayed his greetings and best wishes to HM King Mo-

hammed VI.

HM the King also commended the Minister’s distinguished efforts in the fields of endowments and Islamic affairs.

His Majesty also commended HM King Mohammed VI for his

role in strengthening the distinguished bilateral relations with Bahrain and for his efforts in serving the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations.

H.E. Toufiq expressed gratitude for the generous hospi-

“HM King Mohammed VI strengthens the distinguished bilateral relations with Bahrain and serves the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations.”

– HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

New directors for ministry



HRH Prince Salman
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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (1) of 2026, regarding the transfer and appointment of directors at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, based on a proposal submitted by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

Abbas Abdullah Hussain Arafat, Director of Vegetation Development at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, shall be transferred to serve as the Director of the Afforestation and Parks at the same ministry, succeeding Ahmed Abdulaziz Ahmed Buasali.

Zardari to arrive in Bahrain today

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The Royal Court has announced that Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari will arrive in the Kingdom today on an official visit.

He will hold meetings with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to discuss relations between the two countries.

Digital checks

Instant electronic system links across government to verify social assistance claims

Cost-of-living payments to increase by BD20 per eligible category this month

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Databases are being linked across government to spot ineligible social assistance claims, the Social Development Minister, His Excellency Osama Al Alawi, said.

Cost-of-living payments are due to rise this month after a BD20 increase for each eligible category.

Answering a parliamentary question on the ministry’s services, he said the expanded electronic links allow instant checks of the rules for social assistance.

“We have developed the electronic linkage system with the relevant entities, enabling instant verification of eligibility conditions for social assistance,” he said.

The aim, he added, is to “limit any duplication or undue disbursement” and improve the accuracy of records and the use

of public funds.

The minister said royal directives issued in December 2025 ordered the extra BD20 for all eligible categories, and that the revised sums will be paid during the current month.

Payments will rise to BD130, BD97 and BD75, he said.

He said the last rise before that came in January 2022, when a 10 per cent increase was applied to cash support under the social security and cost-of-living schemes.

That move lifted payments from 100 to 110 dinars, from BD70 to BD77, and from BD50 to BD55.

Allowance

All recipients of the social security programme, across nine categories under the Social Security Law issued in 2006, now also receive the cost-of-living allowance, the minister said.

He added that most recipients sit in the top payment band after the latest rise, alongside what they already receive under social security.

He said the ministry has also been reworking parts of its internal process to cut waiting times and widen online access.



“The electronic linkage system with the relevant entities aims to limit any duplication or undue disbursement and improve the accuracy of records and the use of public funds.”

– H.E. OSAMA AL ALAWI, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

“We have started re-engineering a number of procedures, simplifying work pathways, and updating service level agreements,” he said, adding that more online services will be announced soon.

The minister said the Social Security Law is applied strictly, with recipients required to report any change in their social

or financial status.

He said the ministry also carries out regular follow-up, backed by electronic links with other government bodies, to keep records up to date and support the long-term running of the scheme.

He said a committee chaired by him was formed about a year

ago to deal with urgent humanitarian cases, meant to handle emergencies that cannot wait and to take decisions within the legal framework.

“Parliament plays a vital role in conveying these cases and co-operating directly in addressing them,” he said, describing this as showing “a spirit of partnership and integration” between the legislative and executive branches.

Some recipients also receive support through other schemes, the minister said, including disability allowances, either the general allowance of BD100 or payments linked to special cases, under the approved conditions.

Allocations

On funding, he said the ministry works with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to secure the allocations needed to keep support programmes funded as beneficiary numbers rise.

By December 2025, he said, about 137,000 people were receiving the cost-of-living allowance, while the most recent social security payment covered about 17,740 recipients, alongside about 15,440 disability allowance recipients.

220 fils (includes VAT)

