

BD500 Monthly Fines Proposed for Unfinished Buildings

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Unfinished buildings left idle for years across Bahrain could soon face monthly fines of around BD500 under a new proposal discussed by the Capital Municipal Council.

The plan, submitted by council member Dr Bashar Ahmadi, aims to tackle long-delayed construction projects and improve the country's urban appearance.

Under the proposal, projects that remain incomplete beyond a set timeframe would be closely monitored.

Property owners would first receive official notifications, and if construction does not resume within the allowed period, monthly fines starting at BD500 would be imposed. The penalties could increase gradually if delays continue without valid reasons.

The framework is designed to introduce accountability, ensuring that stalled projects are managed under clear rules rather than being left unresolved.

However, the proposal also allows flexibility. Fines may be paused in special cases such as legal disputes, inheritance issues, or other exceptional circumstances.



“Unfinished buildings, specially along main roads, have a direct impact on the country's image and overall appeal”

- DR BASHAR AHMADI



Stalled buildings in Bahrain

Under the new plan, buildings left incomplete for more than a year—particularly those facing main roads—could have their façades temporarily used for licensed advertising under municipal supervision.

Officials say the move is designed to enhance the appearance of these areas while making practical use of inactive structures, turning them into regulated elements that contribute positively to the cityscape.



Stalled Buildings to Become Advertising Spaces

Following the approval of a new municipal proposal aimed at improving the country's urban appearance, these buildings may soon be transformed into organised advertising spaces.

The proposal, approved during a session of the Capital

Municipal Council, targets long-standing stalled construction sites that have remained exposed for years, affecting the visual appeal of key roads used daily by residents and visitors.

Grandmothers Learn Life-Saving Skills

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

A group of senior women participated in a life-saving educational workshop titled “First Aid with Grandma.”

The workshop was held at the Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Ali Al Khalifa Center for Senior Women in West Riffa, in collaboration with the She Medic Training Institute.

The initiative targeted women aged 50 to 70, with around 40 participants attending the session.

It aimed to raise awareness about basic first aid and strengthen their role in handling family emergencies.

Organisers highlighted the importance of equipping mothers and grandmothers with essential life-saving skills, given their central role in caring for children and grandchildren daily.

International life support trainer Husnia Karimi led the workshop, providing simplified



Basic first aid awareness can save a life

explanations and practical demonstrations on dealing with common household emergencies such as cuts, burns, and choking incidents.

The session also introduced the basics of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), emphasizing interactive learning tailored to the participants' age group.

The Center's Director, Haya Al Nuaimi, said the workshop is part of a broader series of awareness programmes aimed at empowering senior women and involving them in community health education initiatives.

She noted that the programme combines their life experience with practical skills that can

help protect families.

Participants expressed appreciation for the initiative, saying it boosted their confidence in responding to emergencies.

They also described the training as meaningful and hoped the knowledge gained would be passed down to future generations as a lasting family legacy.

Expatriate Insurance Coverage Hits 473,323

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

● Number of insured Bahraini nationals across both the public and private sectors increased steadily

● Number of non-Bahrainis covered in the private sector grew

Social Insurance Figures

- Individuals who stop contributing to the insurance scheme are not tracked separately once coverage ends.
- Total pension benefits paid across both public and private sectors stood at **BD810.112 million in 2023** and **BD785.040 million in 2024**, covering both Bahraini and non-Bahraini beneficiaries.
- End-of-service gratuity for expatriates was included in the scheme only from **March 2024**.
- **Q3 2025 wage breakdown:**
- 32% of insured Bahrainis in the private sector earned BD200–BD399
- 33% of Bahrainis in the public sector earned above BD1,000
- 71% of expatriates in the private sector earned below BD200

Insurance coverage for expatriates working in Bahrain's private sector has reached 473,323 by the end of the third quarter of 2025, according to figures provided by the Social Insurance Organisation in a response sent to MP Jalal Kadhem.

The data also shows that the number of insured Bahraini nationals across both the public and private sectors increased steadily over the same period, rising from 151,659 in 2023 to 154,894 in 2024, and reaching 157,213 by Q3 2025.

Over the same timeframe, the number of non-Bahrainis covered in the private sector grew from 458,768 in 2023 to 467,267 in 2024, before reaching 473,323 in 2025.

The organisation noted that expatriates working in the public sector are covered only for work injury insurance, with no separate headcount provided.

Combined insurance con-

tributions from both sectors stood at BD418.657 million in 2023 and rose to BD437.448 million in 2024, based on consolidated financial reporting after the merger of the two funds under Decree-Law No. 21 of 2020.

The number of living retirees receiving pensions also increased, from 84,612 in 2023 to 85,607 in 2024 and 86,003 by the end of Q3 2025.

Arbitration Future Talks

The Secretary-General of the Council for International Dispute Resolution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Professor Marike Patrani Paulsson, met with the newly formed Young ICCA Board in Madrid on the sidelines of the 27th ICCA Congress.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the two sides and reviewing Bahrain's initiatives aimed at supporting national talent and

promoting regional innovation in the field of international dispute resolution.

Both sides also discussed ways to expand youth participation in arbitration, alongside enhancing training and professional development programmes. The discussions highlighted efforts to strengthen the arbitration ecosystem and create wider opportunities for young lawyers and legal practitioners across the region.



Professor Marike Patrani Paulsson with a Young ICCA Board representative