

When Bahrain's roads call for help

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On Bahrain's roads, trouble rarely sends a warning. A stalled engine, sudden rain, or a minor accident can turn an ordinary journey into a moment of uncertainty.

In those moments, help often arrives from the Fazaa Voluntary Group, a team built on readiness rather than recognition.

Idea

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Rashid Fakhro, a member of the Fazaa team, said the group was formed around a simple idea. Be present when people need help and act without hesitation.

He explained that Fazaa conducts community driven humanitarian missions across Bahrain, responding to situations where motorists are left stranded or vulnerable.

Volunteers assist vehicles suffering from fuel shortages, battery failure, or the need for jump starting. They also recover cars



The Fazaa Voluntary Group assists stranded motorists, restoring road safety and traffic flow

stuck in rough ground or muddy terrain, restoring safety and flow to the roads.

Response

Fakhro noted that Fazaa volunteers also provide first aid at accident scenes, offering immediate support until official emergency services arrive.

During periods of heavy rainfall, the team becomes especially active, helping recover vehicles damaged or trapped by flooded



"We believe in community strength, reassurance, and humanitarian values translated into action."

- RASHID FAKHRO, MEMBER OF THE FAZAA VOLUNTARY GROUP

streets.

The group supports authorities in search operations for missing persons on land and at sea and assists drivers in completing minor accident reports through official traffic service applications.

According to Fakhro, all services are provided completely free of charge, reflecting Fazaa's belief in community strength, reassurance, and humanitarian values translated into action.

Jail term reduced in hammer assault case

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The First High Criminal Appeals Court has reduced the sentence of an Asian defendant from three years in prison to one year in jail, while upholding his permanent deportation after serving the sentence.

The ruling followed the defendant's conviction for assaulting another man with a hammer and a screwdriver after the victim refused to pay him BD30 as a "commission" for allegedly helping him get a job.

In its judgment, the court said that, based on the circumstances of the case and under Article 72 of the Penal Code, it decided to reduce the punishment.

The court sentenced the defendant to one year in jail and ordered his deportation instead of the original three-year prison term.

Former convict accused of posing as police officer in BD15 knife robbery case

● Court verdict set for 24 February

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A man with a past drugs conviction is accused of pretending to be a police officer and robbing a worker at knife point for BD15, with the High Criminal Court due to give its verdict on 24 February.

Prosecutors say the 32-year-old acted with an unknown accomplice, threatening the victim with a weapon and using force to take cash and other belongings.

He is also accused of unlawfully depriving the victim of his freedom while posing as a public officer, using force and threats of serious harm to obtain money.

Victim

The alleged victim, a 41-year-old Asian man, told investigators he was sitting in a vehicle linked to his workplace at about 2 pm, parked on a vacant plot in Nuwaidrat while he ate lunch, when another car pulled up.

Two men approached, he said, one coming to his window and the other moving to the window on the opposite side.

Both claimed to be police officers.

Defendant

He said the defendant took the car key and his mobile phone, then forced him out by grabbing him by the neck.

They demanded his wallet. He refused.

High Court Appeal adjourns investment fraud case hearing

● Bid to recover BD320,000 over two sham deals

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The High Court of Appeal has adjourned an appeal in an investment fraud case to 8 February.

This came as the prosecutors asked the court to order three former senior figures at the firm to repay BD320,000 alongside the company owner over two sham deals at the centre of the dispute.

The appeal follows a ruling by the High Criminal Court that jailed the owner of an investment company for eight years, fined him BD105,000, ordered him to return misappropriated sums, and confiscated money said to be the proceeds of crime.

Deposits

The court found he took more than BD6 million of investors' deposits by carrying out 388 fictitious transactions and then laundering the proceeds.

In the same case, the firm's chief executive and two board members were sentenced to a year in prison and fined



The High Court of Appeal will hear further pleadings and replies from defence counsel on 8 February.

BD5,000 each for taking part in the embezzlement tied to the last two sham transactions, worth BD320,000.

The prosecution is appealing because the three were not ordered to repay that amount.

Addressing the appellate court, the Head of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution said the offences were made out, arguing that the evidence traced what each defendant did in a clear sequence and showed criminal intent.

He rejected claims by the three co-defendants that they alerted the Central Bank of Bahrain as soon as they learned of suspicious activity, saying the report came only days after they had agreed to pass the two transactions and after they had enabled the owner to take the money.

Mortgage lending tops BD3.1b in third quarter

● Personal loans account for roughly 48 per cent of all lending

Mohammed Darwish
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Mortgage lending made up 51.2 per cent of personal loans in Bahrain in the third quarter of 2025, amounting to about BD3.1 billion, as retail-bank lending kept rising year on year, according to data from the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Personal loans accounted for roughly 48 per cent of all lending, reaching about BD6.1 billion, up from BD5.9 billion in the same quarter of 2024.

Housing finance formed the largest slice within that category, pointing to continued demand for home funding alongside what the figures show as a stable property market.

Value

Overall, the total value of loans issued by retail banks grew 4.8 per cent over the year to around BD12.7 billion.

The rise was driven in part by a 3.9 per cent increase in personal lending, suggesting ongoing consumer spending and a sustained appetite for credit.

Business lending stood at about BD5.2 billion, making up



Image used for illustrative purposes only



The demand for home funding continues amid a stable property market.

40.8 per cent of total loans, with a small year-on-year dip of 0.3 per cent.

Caution

The figures suggest firms took a more cautious line on extra borrowing over the period.

Lending to the government rose 34.8 per cent to around

BD1.4 billion, with the data linking the jump to higher spending on public projects and services.

On markets, the Bahrain Islamic Index rose 13.9 per cent from a year earlier, signalling stronger demand for Sharia-compliant investment tools during the period.

Movement

Money-supply figures showed mixed movement. Narrow money supply stood at about BD2.8 billion, up 1.0 per cent year on year, while broad money supply was around BD14.0 billion, down 1.4 per cent.

Broad money supply including government deposits reached about BD16.2 billion, a 2.3 per cent annual fall, indicating a mild easing in liquidity compared with the same period last year.