

## Push for national stadium in Muharraq

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Parliament has endorsed a proposal calling for the construction of a national stadium in Muharraq, highlighting the governorate's lack of major sports infrastructure.

The proposal, submitted by MPs including Khalid Saleh Buanaq and Hisham Abdulaziz Al Awadhi, argues that Muharraq, home to more than 120,000 residents, remains without a fully equipped national-level sports facility.

MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno stressed that strengthening sports infrastructure forms part of broader institutional development in the sector.

He expressed hope that the government would consider incorporating the project into future development plans.

The Services Committee recommended approval of the proposal, signalling parliamentary recognition of Muharraq's sporting heritage and its need for modern facilities.

## MPs support BD30,000 bank guarantee to protect market

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After hours of pointed exchanges inside Parliament, MPs approved a proposal to amend Article 264 of the Commercial Companies Law, introducing a BD30,000 bank guarantee for companies involving non-Bahraini partners.

The vote followed an emotionally charged but orderly debate, reflecting growing concern among MPs over the direction of the local market.

MP Jaleela Al Alawi spoke of shuttered shops and empty units across commercial areas, describing them as visible signs that the market is under strain.

### Warning

She warned that weak purchasing power and short-lived businesses are not isolated incidents, but indicators of deeper imbalance.

MP Mamdouh Al Saleh insisted the proposed BD30,000 guarantee is not a fee collected by the government, but a refundable measure to ensure seriousness.

He argued that genuine investors would not be discouraged by a safeguard designed to filter out shell companies.

Meanwhile, MPs such as Hassan Ibrahim Hassan and Hisham Abdulaziz Al Awadhi questioned whether tighter entry rules might unintentionally burden the wider investment climate.

# 'Immediate financing'

BD800m support for housing loans as 11,000 applications completed

Mohammed Darwish  
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The Housing Minister, Her Excellency Amna Al Rumaihi, told Parliament yesterday that BD800 million has been allocated over two years to support government-backed housing loans, with citizens paying 25 per cent of their salary towards repayments.

Answering a question from MP Iman Shuwaiter, H.E. Al Rumaihi said the ministry was relying on "immediate financing" to deal with rising demand, as new households form each year.

"The immediate financing solutions did not come out of nowhere; they were preceded by a number of studies," she said.

H.E. Al Rumaihi said the Ministry of Housing is working through three tracks.

The first is building and development in housing cities, car-

**"These budgets were allocated to provide support to the citizen and ease the financial burden on them. The housing units offered meet the applicant's needs."**

— H.E. AMNA AL RUMAIHI, MINISTER OF HOUSING

ried out under the Government Programme and within fixed capacity and budget limits.

### Track

"This track has a fixed capacity, with clear budgets allocated to it," she said. "The programmes, budgets and final accounts are sent to MPs, and you know the scale of spending and the volume of work under



the general budget, with state support aimed at easing costs for applicants.

### Policy

"A total of 800 million dinars has been allocated to the housing file over two years," she said. "The citizen pays 25 per cent of their salary, and we are continuing with this policy."

She said applicants can choose between the subsidised loan and larger options available in the market, including additional borrowing, depending on what they want to buy.

"This is where the citizen's role comes in, in choosing what suits them," she said.

H.E. Al Rumaihi said the ministry has completed 11,000 applications "during this short period" through the immediate financing track.

"We have now reached 11,000 applications completed, which

**800m In**  
Total amount allocated to housing file over two years.

shows the programme's success," she said.

She added that the ministry offers financial advice before applicants choose a route, working with private sector partners to match people with suitable units.

"These budgets were allocated to provide support to the citizen and ease the financial burden on them," she said. "The housing units offered meet the applicant's needs."

## Gulf Air Launches its Biggest Sale Ever Tomorrow

The airline's "Takeoff Sale" offers special fares across its network for travel through November 2026

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Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, will launch its biggest sale ever tomorrow, Thursday 26 February 2026 at 08:30am, the "Takeoff Sale," which offers 150,000 tickets at special fares across its network.

The limited-time offer runs from 26 February to 04 March 2026, allowing travelers to plan ahead for journeys taking place between 01 March and 30 November 2026.

With access to a broad range of regional and international destinations, the promotion supports the growing demand for travel to and from Bahrain, while offering added value to customers seeking flexibility and choice.

Customers can take advantage of some of Gulf Air's lowest fares on select routes, including Bah-



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rain to Abu Dhabi starting from BD15, Bahrain to Cairo starting from BD44, Bahrain to Istanbul starting from BD41, Bahrain to Bangkok starting from BD 66, and Bahrain to London Gatwick starting from BD35.

Bookings are available through [gulfair.com](http://gulfair.com) and authorized travel agents across the Kingdom.

Customers are encouraged to secure their bookings early to take full advantage of exciting travel opportunities.

## Death sought over Budaiya murder

Mohammed Darwish  
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Prosecutors have asked the court to sentence two Asian men to death over the alleged killing of a man in his fifties in Budaiya. They said the pair had monitored his movements for nearly two months before attacking him outside his home with a knife and a cleaver. The High Criminal Court is due to rule on 14 April. The Public Prosecution says the defendants, aged 25 and 28, killed the victim on 28 December 2025 within the Northern Governorate security jurisdiction.

It says the pair acted with premeditation and lay in wait, having bought the knife and cleaver for the attack and tracked the man until they knew when he left home and when he returned. Prosecutors allege the defendants waited near the victim's house on the day of the killing, then fell on him as he walked back to his residence, stabbing and striking him in different parts of his body.

## Businessman jail term upheld in BD3m investment fraud

● 10 years behind bars

Rehab Mohammad  
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A businessman who promised lucrative returns in real estate, luxury assets and commercial ventures has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after authorities determined he collected millions of dinars without a license and failed to return investors' money.

The High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the prison term, imposed a BD100,000 fine, or-

dered confiscation of illicit proceeds and mandated repayment to victims in a case involving losses exceeding BD3 million.

Prosecutors said that between 2020 and 2023, the defendant cultivated trust among investors by presenting himself as an expert in real estate development, company formation, luxury cars, high-end watches and distinctive vehicle number plates.

Investors were told their funds would be formally registered in their names and that profits would be deposited into dedicated bank accounts.

According to court findings,

those accounts were never opened.

The largest investor transferred nearly BD1.67 million in bank payments, cash and assets — including vehicles and jet skis — after being assured the investments would be legally documented.

Years later, he discovered that nothing had been registered in his name and that no profits had been deposited.

Another investor transferred 1 million Saudi riyals to finance a proposed seaside venture in the Seef area, featuring jet skis and padel courts.

There was no written con-

tract, only verbal promises. Most of the capital was later returned, except for 50,000 riyals, and no profits were paid.

A third victim invested BD45,000 after being promised employment, substantial returns and a luxury car.

He also transferred ownership of two distinctive number plates at the defendant's request.

The cheque issued to him was later reclaimed, and the promises were not fulfilled.

A Gulf businessman testified that he had delivered approximately BD2 million between 2020 and 2024 for investments in property, vehicles and busi-

ness ventures, only to discover that none of the assets had been registered in his name and no account had been opened as promised.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with collecting funds for investment without the required regulatory license and with misappropriating entrusted assets.

The ruling reinforces that investment activity conducted outside the regulatory framework carries criminal consequences — and highlights the risks of informal agreements built on personal trust rather than legal safeguards.