

More firms, more jobs as financial sector grows

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Bahrain's financial sector continued to expand in 2025, with the number of licensed institutions rising to 375 by September, up from 369 at the end of May, according to data from the Central Bank of Bahrain. The addition of six firms represents growth of about 1.6% over the period.

Employment in the sector also recorded a modest increase. The workforce reached 14,940 in 2025, compared with 14,775 in 2024, an increase of 165 employees, or around 1.1%. Bahrainis accounted for 10,383 jobs, representing 69.5% of total employment, while non-Bahrainis numbered 4,557, or 30.5%. The figures align with broader economic indicators for 2025. Bahrain's gross domestic

product (GDP) at current prices stood at \$47.1 billion, reflecting growth of 2.0%, while GDP at constant prices reached \$40.3 billion, up 2.6%. The financial sector contributed 17.2% of GDP at constant prices. In the banking sector, total assets reached \$246.8 billion by September 2025. Bahrain's banking industry comprises 83 banks, including 15 Islamic banks, whose assets stood

at \$65.7 billion over the same period. Insurance activity also showed growth, with 140 firms licensed to operate in Bahrain by September 2025, compared with 137 in December 2024. Total insurance premiums reached BD239.4 million by the end of the year. The investment sector comprised 51 firms operating in Bahrain by September 2025, the Central Bank data showed.

MPs push to regularise long-serving temporary staff

At Jaafari Waqf Directorate

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Lawmakers are calling on the Government to convert temporary contracts at the Jaafari Waqf Directorate (JWD) into permanent posts, arguing that many employees have spent years on repeated renewals while performing permanent duties. The proposal, signed by MPs Basema Mubarak, Hanan Fardan and Jalal Kadhem, along with First Deputy Speaker Abdunabi Salman and Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata, says a stable workforce is essential to the JWD's role in managing and developing religious facilities.

In an explanatory memorandum, the MPs said long-term reliance on temporary contracts undermines job and financial security and risks losing accumulated experience. They noted that many temporary staff have demonstrated competence over extended periods and should be retained to ensure continuity and service quality. The MPs called for eligible temporary staff at the JWD to be confirmed in permanent posts in line with current regulations.



Ice-cream truck crash leads to BD630 payout for property damage

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A residential building owner has been awarded BD630 in compensation after an ice-cream truck damaged safety equipment fixed to the front of his property, with the court holding both the driver and the vehicle's owner company jointly liable.

The case was filed by the property owner, represented by lawyer Eman Hassan, who sought BD530 to cover repair costs and BD200 for moral and psychological harm.

According to court docu-



Representative image

ments, the driver struck a pipe installed as part of mandatory security and safety measures required under Civil Defence

regulations. The collision broke the pipe and caused additional damage to the building. The claimant told the court that the driver later said the vehicle was not insured in Bahrain and that the incident could not be officially registered. The driver reportedly offered to repair the damage and arrange for a specialist, which the owner initially accepted. However, the repairs were never carried out. The owner later obtained quotations from two specialist firms and submitted them to the driver, who refused to pay. During the hearings, the

claimant's lawyer submitted written pleadings supported by video footage of the incident and WhatsApp correspondence between the parties. The court also found that the driver had rented the vehicle from the second defendant company, which was operating without a licence to conduct a vehicle rental business. Citing Article 158 of the Civil Code, which stipulates that anyone whose fault causes harm to another is obliged to provide compensation, the court ordered both defendants to jointly pay BD630, in addition to court costs and legal fees.

Police bust gang behind currency exchange scam

The victim was tricked into handing over BD1,200

- Victims were lured through WhatsApp with promises of currency exchange rates above market value
- BD1,200 stolen after suspects arranged a meeting and fled with cash in an envelop

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Colonel Osama Bahar



Picture for representation only

ly planned fraud designed to steal cash from unsuspecting customers. The case emerged after a victim reported the loss of BD1,200 from a parked car. Initial checks found no evidence of a break-in, prompting investigators to conduct a deeper probe. It later emerged that the money had not been stolen from the vehicle but handed over as part of a carefully planned scam. According to the Ministry of Interior, the head of Hidd Police Station, Colonel Dr Osama Bahar, said the victim was first contacted on WhatsApp by a suspect posing as a foreign currency dealer from a neighbouring country. The suspect offered to exchange dollars, euros and other currencies at rates significantly above market

value. A meeting was subsequently arranged, with the victim instructed to bring the cash in an envelope. Upon arrival, the suspect, acting with an accomplice, swiftly snatched the envelope and fled the scene. Colonel Bahar warned the public to be cautious of offers promising unusually high exchange rates, stressing that such deals are often a clear indicator of fraud. He also noted that the victim initially withheld key information, which delayed the investigation, and urged full disclosure when reporting crimes. Police later tracked down and arrested the gang. The case was referred to court, where those involved were convicted and sentenced to prison terms.

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