

Cityscape Bahrain 2025 draws to a successful close

Records 11,618 attendees and Showcases 91 Major Projects



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● **Bahrain Marina has reached 80% completion**

● **Naseej Company and Al Moayyed Contracting Group signed agreements to implement 24 new housing units**

Manama

Cityscape Bahrain 2025 has officially concluded at Exhibition World Bahrain, marking the close of a highly successful edition that brought together leading developers, investors, financial institutions, and government entities from across the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event attracted 11,618 attendees and showcased 91 major real estate developments, reflecting sustained confidence in the King-

dom's property market and its continued growth momentum.

Under the theme "Elevate Your Lifestyle," this year's edition generated significant engagement around investment-ready opportunities, infrastructure expansion, and the Kingdom's growing portfolio of community-focused and sustainable developments.

highlights

Among the key highlights, Edamah unveiled its new interactive investment platform, offering transparent, user-friendly access to active projects and development-ready land across its portfolio. Bahrain Marina confirmed that its flagship coastal development has reached 80% completion, with operations scheduled to begin in mid-2026, reinforcing its position as one of the Kingdom's most prominent upcoming waterfront destinations. Further advancing national housing initiatives, Naseej Company and Al Moayyed Contracting Group signed agreements to implement 24 new housing units in Salman City under the Government Land Development Rights

Program.

Diyar Al Muharraq advanced its development momentum through the signing of several strategic MoUs, including a partnership with Mazad, alongside additional agreements supporting project delivery. The developer also showcased key residential and investment offerings, including the Suhail and Al Wasem North Island developments and the newly completed Al Naseem project, attracting strong visitor interest and reinforcing market confidence.

Alongside this, Orchid Developers presented Orchid Bahrain Bay, a landmark 47-storey beachfront development redefining modern urban living, while Amwaj Beachfront highlighted its partnership with Meliá Hotels & Resorts, strengthening Bahrain's position as a premium mixed-use and hospitality destination and spotlighting Cityscape exclusive investment opportunities.

Esnad Group also showcased a selection of real estate projects reflecting its rapid expansion across Bahrain and the wider Middle East. The exhibition

included contributions from its UAE-based subsidiary, Merath, highlighting the group's focus on innovative development across the region.

In addition, several other developers announced new projects, partnerships, and upcoming launches during the exhibition, further reflecting the strong level of activity across Bahrain's real estate sector and a healthy pipeline of future developments.

'Architects of Tomorrow'

Cityscape Talks 2025 concluded after hosting 26 sessions featuring 54 regional and international experts, who explored evolving market trends, policy priorities, and innovation across the real estate landscape.

This year's edition also saw the 3rd edition of the 'Architects of Tomorrow' initiative, which brought together 10 students from four universities to present projects envisioning the Kingdom's future built environment. After detailed evaluation by the judging panel, three winning submissions were selected; first place went to Shatha Abdulla from the Royal Univer-

sity for Women, second place was awarded to Latifa Abdulla from the same university, while third place went jointly to Tia El Khatib and Maha Al Khudhairy from the Royal University for Women, alongside Zainab Alhalal from the University of Bahrain. Their forward-looking concepts showcased the exceptional potential of the Kingdom's emerging architectural talent.

Reflecting on the success of



With growing participation, strong investor activity, and key project milestones announced throughout the week, Cityscape Bahrain continues to reinforce its role as the Kingdom's leading platform for real estate innovation, investment, and collaboration.

this year's edition, Alex Heuff, Regional Director of Cityscape, commented: "Cityscape Bahrain continues to grow as a meeting place for ideas, investment, and collaboration. What stood out this year was the collective ambition across developers, policymakers, and investors to deliver long-term value for Bahrain. The level of engagement throughout the exhibition reinforces the Kingdom's position as a market with real momentum and a clear vision for the future of its real estate landscape."

He added, "This momentum has been strongly supported by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), which has played a significant role in creating an enabling regulatory environment by streamlining licensing procedures for developers. This facilitation has helped accelerate major projects across the Kingdom of Bahrain, clearly reflected in the high level of participation at this year's exhibition, and further underscored the strength and investment-readiness of Bahrain's real estate sector moving forward."

Italy fines Apple nearly 100 m euros over app privacy feature

Rome, Italy

Italy's competition authority said Monday it had fined the US tech giant Apple 98 million euros (\$115 million) for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the mobile app market.

The AGCM said in a statement that Apple had violated privacy regulations for third-party developers in a market where it "holds a super-dominant position through its App Store".

Apple said it would appeal the decision and defended its "strong privacy protections for our users".

But Italy's antitrust body said its investigation had established the "restrictive nature" of the "privacy rules imposed by Apple... on third-party developers of apps distributed through the



App Store".

The rules of Apple's App Tracking Transparency (ATT) "are imposed unilaterally and harm the interests of Apple's commercial partners", according to the AGCM statement.

French antitrust authorities earlier this year handed Apple a 150-million euro fine over its app tracking privacy feature.

Authorities elsewhere in Eu-

rope have also opened similar probes over ATT, which Apple promotes as a privacy safeguard.

The feature, introduced by Apple in 2021, requires apps to obtain user consent through a pop-up window before tracking their activity across other apps and websites.

If they decline, the app loses access to information on that user which enables ad targeting.

Critics have accused Apple of using the system to promote its own advertising services while restricting competitors.

Apple in its statement said its privacy rules "have been embraced by our customers and praised by privacy advocates and data protection authorities around the world".

Gold price hits record high of \$4,383.76 on US rate cut bets



Hong Kong, China

Gold prices shot to a record high on Monday as investors grow increasingly optimistic the US Federal Reserve will continue to cut interest rates through next year.

The precious metal hit a peak of \$4,383.76 in early trade

as a string of data last week pointing to further weakness in the US labour market and easing inflation gave the central bank room to ease monetary policy further.

Monday's gain pushed the commodity past its previous high of \$4,381.52 touched in October.

Third 'Avatar' film soars to top in N. American box office debut
Los Angeles, United States

"Avatar: Fire and Ash," the third installment in James Cameron's blockbuster sci-fi fantasy series, debuted atop the North American box office with \$88 million in ticket sales in the weekend before Christmas, industry estimates showed Sunday.

"Fire and Ash" grossed \$345 million worldwide in its opening weekend, and is expected to do very well abroad, according to David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The "Avatar" films "connect everywhere around the world," Gross said, adding that the 20th Century movie -- like its predecessors -- would likely rev up on "outstanding word-of-mouth."