

Stage set for coffee event next year

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The “Coffee & Chocolate 2026” exhibition has announced participation from six countries so far in its fifth edition.

The event will take place from 14 to 17 January at Water Garden City in Manama, with the presence of His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa, Governor of the Capital Governorate.

The exhibition is expected to see wide participation from

companies, factories, and traders specializing in chocolate and coffee production and distribution in Bahrain, after a hiatus of several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

Businesswoman Yasmin Jamal, CEO of “Bdayat,” the company organizing the event, stated: “Five countries have confirmed their participation alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain, including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, and Ethiopia.”

Grand Quran Award for inmates



The Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre, in cooperation with the Directorate of Quranic Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, organised the final qualifying rounds of the Bahrain Grand Quran Award (Ghufran) for 29 inmates. This initiative is part of the Ministry of the Interior's commitment to implementing reformative and religious programmes that strengthen faith-based values and promote positive behaviour among inmates by providing opportunities to participate in Quranic competitions and develop their skills in memorising and reciting the Holy Quran.

National priority

New housing projects across all governorates under way as demand remains high

● Ministry allocates 12,733 housing services since start of legislative term

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning says it has allocated 12,733 housing services across all governorates since the start of the current legislative term, while the waiting list for traditional housing services stands at about 47,000 applications, in a written reply to MP Mohammed Janahi.

The waiting list, it added, covers requests for houses, flats and housing plots, and changes day by day as alternative services are assigned, applicants shift from traditional routes to immediate finance, and new requests are received.

In its reply, the ministry said its housing work under the Government Programme 2023–2026 rests on widening the range of choices and growing work with the private sector, with the aim of giving citizens



Image used for illustrative purposes only



MP Mohammed Janahi

faster paths to suitable housing.

Schemes

It pointed to finance schemes, including Tas'heel+ and Tas'heel, which it said has helped meet thousands of housing requests since its launch in 2022.

The ministry also referred to Tumooh, which it said lets eligible beneficiaries of Tas'heel and Tas'heel+ and previous beneficiaries of flat-purchase finance seek a further BD20,000 in govern-

The Housing Ministry aims to keep expanding housing delivery across the governorates through traditional building and private-sector schemes for the next two years.

ment-backed funding after 10 years from buying a flat.

The ministry said this, along with the sale price of the flat, is meant to help households move to a larger home.

Partnership

On partnership housing delivered through the Government Land Development Rights Programme, the ministry said allocations have been completed for the Suhail project in Dhailhat Al Lawzi, meeting 132 applications through housing finance

options.

It said allocations have also started for Hay Al Naseem in Madinat Salman, meeting 131 applications.

Citizens have reserved units in Al Wadi in Al Buhair, meeting 76 applications, and Danat Sitra, meeting 47 applications, through advance booking that began as a pilot in April during the Conference and Exhibition on Innovation in the Social Housing Sector.

Contracts

The ministry said it has signed contracts for three housing projects in Madinat Salman with a number of developers, providing 137 units for beneficiaries using housing finance.

It added it is taking steps to put out for tender a project to build more than 3,000 units in Madinat Khalifa, after signing four memoranda of understanding in April, and said work is expected to begin in the next stage.

It said work is continuing on projects under way in Madinat Al Hidd Housing City, Madinat Salman, Madinat Khalifa and Madinat Sitra Housing City within the 2025–2026 budget, with handovers linked to each project's readiness.

Delivery

As an example of recent delivery, the ministry said Madinat Sitra Housing City has been opened and 1,077 homes have been handed over.

It said work began in early 2024 on a second phase of 531 homes, now in its final stages and due to be handed over in the coming weeks.

New year welcome, luxury style



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Enjoy great food and a lively party to welcome 2026 at The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites residents and visitors to celebrate New Year's Eve in style with a festive line-up of dining experiences, live entertainment, and an open-air countdown by the sea.

Guests can enjoy a journey of global flavors without leaving the Kingdom, with culinary offerings spanning Italy, India, Thailand, and Mexico, culminating in a midnight celebration under the stars.

For those seeking a refined dining experience, Plums will host a four-course dinner featuring a seafood starter, seasonal soup, prime beef main course, and a citrus-inspired dessert, offering a sophisticated conclusion to 2025.

The dinner is priced at BD55 per person and will be served

from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

Cantina Kahlo will bring the vibrant flavors of Mexico to the celebration, offering an a la carte menu that highlights bold spices, colorful dishes, and a lively festive atmosphere.

Guests can enjoy this unique experience with a minimum spend of BD45 per person from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

For lovers of Indian cuisine, Nirvana presents an evening filled with richly spiced dishes, signature drinks, and an energetic ambiance, designed to elevate the night as the countdown to the New Year unfolds.

Dining at Nirvana requires a minimum spend of BD45 per person and will be available from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

Primavera will offer an elegant Italian four-course din-

ner, beginning with oysters, followed by handmade pasta, a prime beef main course, and a modern take on tiramisu.

Soft beverages are included in the BD65 per person package, with service running from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am.

As the clock approaches midnight, guests are invited to the open-air Countdown Party at Thai Lounge and La Plage, featuring live entertainment, vibrant music, exquisite bites, and sparkling toasts by the sea.

VIP tables are available with advance booking, and entry is priced at BD30 per person, with the celebration running from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am.

The festivities continue into the new year with the First Sunrise Brunch of 2026 at Primavera on January 2.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Dining

Let us give you a warm feeling of home as you celebrate this New Year's Eve with us, complete with live entertainment that will surely turn up the vibes.

Where every moment becomes a cherished #RCMemory.

Plums
4-course artisan menu
BHD 55 per person

Primavera
4-course Italian menu
BHD 65 per person

Cantina Kahlo
A la carte menu
BHD 45 per person

La Table Krug
5-course set menu
BHD 70 per person

Nirvana
A la carte menu
BHD 45 per person

**La Terrace, The Ritz Gourmet Lounge,
Cafe Gourmandise, Burlington Club and Lobby Lounge**
A la carte menu available

For reservations, call +973 1758 6499.

SCAN TO VIEW BROCHURE