

BIC set for drag double-header

Bahrain International Circuit set for thrills on the strip with back-to-back rounds of Bahrain Drag Racing Championship

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, is all geared up for plenty of intense, head-to-head battles on the strip over the next week-and-a-half.

Set to take place back-to-back in Sakhir are the third and fourth rounds of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship – the region’s biggest and most competitive series in this category of motor racing.

Round three lights up BIC’s quarter-mile this Tuesday to Friday (Editor’s note: 6 to 9 January) followed directly by round four from 13 to 16 January, ensuring non-stop action at BIC’s National Hot Rod Association (NHRA)-sanctioned facility.

Around 200 competitors flocked to the circuit in each of the first two meetings this season, and even more are expected to compete as the stakes are raised heading into the latter half of the campaign.

The championship is being organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain



Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

The competing drag racers will be battling in their respective competition categories to crown the champions at the end of the season, each of whom will take home a prestigious ‘Wally

Trophy’, awarded only to title winners of NHRA events worldwide. The ‘Wally’ is drag racing’s most prestigious accolade. Named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, it has been handed out since the 1969 NHRA season in the US.

This week’s events get underway with two night of Test and

Tune on Tuesday from 6pm to 11pm and on Wednesday from 4pm to 11pm. Qualifying will then be held on Thursday, which will set the elimination ladders for the one-on-one races on Friday. Action on both those days is scheduled to be held from 4pm onwards.

Fans looking to attend the



round can watch the excitement unfold on the strip from the Start Line Grandstand or from BIC’s Beyon Grandstand. Tickets for the Start Line Grandstand are BD5 apiece, while tickets to the Beyon Grandstand for Test and Tune are BD2 each and BD3 per person for qualifying and race day.

Tickets can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

There are 13 classes in this season’s Bahrain Drag Racing Championship. They include the Index 10.0, Index 9.0, Index

8.5, Outlaw 6, Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Comp 4.5, Outlaw 4, and Pro Mod for cars; and Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5, Pro Street, and Outlaw for motorbikes.

The 2025/2026 calendar of the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship features five rounds. Following the upcoming double-header, the grand finale is set for 3 to 6 March.

For more information on the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official social media channels.

Man Utd sack manager Amorim

Tensions with hierarchy end Ruben Amorim’s 14-month reign at Old Trafford

● Darren Fletcher named interim manager

AFP | Manchester

Ruben Amorim has been sacked as Manchester United manager 14 months after arriving at Old Trafford, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The dismissal follows growing tensions between Amorim and the Old Trafford hierarchy, including director of football Jason Wilcox, in recent days.

United said in a statement that the Portuguese had left his role, with the club’s leadership having “reluctantly made the decision that it is the right time to make a change”.

The club added: “This will give the team the best opportunity of the highest possible Premier League finish.

“The club would like to thank Ruben for his contribution to the club and wishes him well for the future.”

Current under-18s coach Darren Fletcher will take charge of the team against Burnley on Wednesday.

‘I’m not going to quit’

United are currently sixth in the Premier League table after a 1-1 draw at Leeds on Sunday.

After that game, an irate Amorim stressed he was United’s manager rather than just the coach during an eye-catching press conference in which he told the scouting department and Wilcox “to do their job”.

The 40-year-old had alluded to frustration behind the scenes in the build-up to the match, refusing to clarify comments



Manchester United’s Portuguese head coach Ruben Amorim crouches on the touchline (file photo)

about the club’s transfer plans.

He had looked downbeat when he sidestepped those questions but was more forthcoming when asked on Sunday if he still felt he had confidence from the board.

“Guys, to start with that -- and I noticed that you receive selective information about everything -- I came here to be the manager of the Manchester United, not to be the coach of Manchester United,” Amorim said. “And that is clear.

“I know that my name is not (Thomas) Tuchel, it’s not (Antonio) Conte, it’s not (Jose) Mourinho but I’m the manager of Manchester United.

“And it’s going to be like this for 18 months or when the board decides to change, so that was my point.

“I want to finish with that. I’m not going to quit. I will do my job until another guy is coming

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Amorim’s 14-month tenure is the shortest for a permanent United manager since David Moyes in 2014, following a record-low 15th-place league finish during his first partial season at the club

here to replace me.”

United appointed Amorim to replace the sacked Erik ten Hag in November 2024.

He had established himself as one of the most sought-after young coaches in world football

at Sporting Lisbon, where he won two league titles.

Amorim led United to the Europa League final in Bilbao in May, which they lost to Tottenham, but finished a shocking 15th in the Premier League table -- their lowest finish in more than 50 years.

The club have made marginal improvements this season but have been inconsistent, winning just eight of their 20 league games so far.

They are 17 points behind leaders Arsenal.

Amorim’s 14-month stint is the shortest reign of a permanent manager at United since David Moyes was sacked just eight months into his tenure in 2014.

The club, 20-time English champions, have not won the Premier League since 2013, in Alex Ferguson’s final season in charge.

Salim Khalifa Masood wins after thrilling countback



TD Rashed Al Qutami, runner up Rashed Ahmed Al Kaabi and Vice-Captain Balbir Singh

TDT | Manama

Salim Khalifa Masood clinched victory at a New Year golf competition at Awali Golf Club after edging out Rashed Ahmed Al Kaabi on countback with an impressive 68 gross, organisers said.

Lee McIllear set the early pace with 37 points, a score that kept him in the lead for much of the day despite a costly final hole. The standings changed in the late afternoon as both Al Kaabi and Masood

returned matching cards of 38 points, forcing officials to apply countback rules based on the back nine and final six holes.

Masood prevailed after a steady round that included five birdies, three bogeys and 10 pars. Ashima Talwar claimed a prize for the first time by finishing fourth with 36 points, beating Salah Mubah Al Kaabi on countback, while Gérard van Gerwen and Melanie Swain followed in the standings.

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