



Bahrain to host next year's F1 fourth round race

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Bahrain will be the host of next year's fourth round of the FIA Formula 1 World Championship, which will feature 24 races.

This was confirmed by the Formula 1 and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) as they announced the official 2026 season calendar.

The Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will take place from 10 to 12 April 2026 at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

The 2026 season will begin in Australia from March 6 to 8, followed by China (March 13-15), Japan (March 27-29), and then Bahrain.

BIC will offer priority ticket access for fans registering their interest early via Bahraingp.com, ahead of the official ticket launch.

Kingdom extends condolences to Austria over school shooting

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The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed strong condemnation and deep denunciation of the shooting incident that occurred at a school in the city of Graz, in southeastern Austria, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of innocent individuals.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Kingdom of Bahrain extended its sincere condolences to the government of Austria, and to the families and relatives of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for all the injured.

The ministry affirmed Bahrain's solidarity with Austria and its firm rejection of all forms of violence, intimidation, and acts that threaten the safety and security of innocent people, regardless of their motives or justifications.

HM King checks on Bahraini pilgrims' wellbeing

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a telephone call with Shaikh Adnan bin Abdullah Al Qattan, Head of Bahrain's Hajj Mission.

HM the King inquired about the wellbeing of Bahraini pilgrims following the completion of their Hajj rituals and commended the efforts of the Bah-

raini Hajj Mission in providing seamless services and support to ensure the pilgrims could perform their rites with ease and reassurance.

He also expressed his sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for the extensive efforts and facilities



HM the King

made available to serve the pil-

grims in the holy sites. Shaikh Al Qattan thanked HM King Hamad for his guidance and for his continued support for the comfort and welfare of Bahraini pilgrims.

He lauded His Majesty's ongoing support for the mission's work in serving pilgrims from the Kingdom.

HM the King lauded Saudi Arabia for the extensive efforts and facilities made available to serve the pilgrims in the holy sites.

Bahrain Matches Gulf Heat Rules

First extension for Bahrain

● **Three-month ban starts June 15th**

● **Matches UAE and Saudi rules**

● **First extension since 2013**

Mahir Haneef
TD | Manama



H.E. Yousef bin Abdul Hussain Khalaf

Bahrain has extended its annual midday summer work ban to three full months for the first time, with this year's restriction running from June 15th to September 15th. The change aligns the Kingdom with other Gulf countries already enforcing similar protections for outdoor labourers.

The announcement was made by His Excellency Yousef bin Abdul Hussain Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs and Acting Min-

ister of Labor, who confirmed that Ministerial Resolution No. (3) of 2013, amended by Resolution No. (11) of 2025, will now apply for an expanded three-month period.

The rule bars outdoor work from 12 noon to 4 pm during this time.

This is Bahrain's first such extension since the ban's formal introduction in 2013.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia already enforce three-month bans



covering the same period - June 15th to September 15th - under national labour laws.

Officials in Bahrain say the move reflects growing climate challenges and renewed attention to occupational safety.

The goal is to minimise risks such as heat exhaustion, sun-

stroke, and heat-related workplace injuries during the hottest part of the year.

Employers who violate the midday ban will be subject to penalties under Article 192 of the Labour Law in the Private Sector.

These include imprisonment

for up to three months or fines ranging from BD500 to BD1,000.

The Ministry has called on companies to adapt work hours and ensure compliance.

More information is available at www.mol.gov.bh or via the Ministry's official social media channels.

Amid Russian threat, US uncertainty

Europe warns of 'perfect storm'

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Europe is facing a "perfect storm" on defence as it presses to rearm in the face of Russian aggression and doubts over US engagement, the EU's defence commissioner said yesterday.

"Our readiness for defence is not sufficient. It demands an urgent ramp-up and a longer term strategy how to replace

American capabilities in Europe," commissioner Andrius Kubilius said.

"The forthcoming American withdrawal from Europe is a new reality."

Kubilius said Europe needs to avoid an "angry divorce" with Washington as US President Donald Trump's administration weighs shifting forces from the continent.

NATO countries look set to

agree at a summit in the Hague later in the month to massively ramp up defence spending in a bid to keep Trump on side.

The EU for its part has launched a raft of initiatives worth some 800 billion euros aimed at helping countries bolster their defences.

Next week, Brussels will unveil proposals to slash red tape to allow Europe's defence industry to bolster production.

Tech meets tails



Alter-Ego, a humanoid robot developed by the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), stands in front of dolphins during a test event at the Aquarium of Genoa, northern Italy. The robot interacted with visitors by providing information on the characteristics of cetaceans and their conservation, with particular attention to the bottlenose dolphin. (AFP)

