

BIC and SIC begin 20-day race weekend countdown

● **Concert ticket upgrades for Martin Garrix and Axwell available now for qualifying ticketholders**

● **Limited race weekend tickets remain for spectacular programme of racing and entertainment**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and Sepang International Circuit (SIC) launch on Saturday (Editor's note: 12 September) the 20-day countdown to the highly anticipated race weekend of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026. The historic event takes place 2 to 4 October at SIC.

Excitement continues to build for the grand prix spectacle, which will mark the 16th round of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship. There will be plenty in store for all those attending both on and off the track, with back-to-back live performances by a pair of world-class international artists. On Saturday, 3 October, Grammy-nominated DJ and producer Axwell will be



Martin Garrix

taking to the stage at SIC, while on Sunday, 4 October, multi-platinum-selling hit-maker Martin Garrix will headline the post-race celebrations.

Ticket upgrades for each concert are available exclusively to race-weekend ticket holders who purchased their tickets by midnight on 8 September. Tick-



Axwell

et holders are able to upgrade for US\$50 per person for the Axwell concert, and US\$100 per person for the Martin Garrix concert. A separate ticket is re-

quired for each performance and upgrade instructions have been sent directly to ticket holders by email.

Limited race weekend tickets

are still available through the BIC website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Axwell is the co-founder of both Swedish House Mafia and Axwell x Ingrosso. He is a sought-after remixer, delivering popular remixes of "Burn" by Usher, "Ma, I Don't Love Her" by Clipse and Faith Evans, "Maybe" by N.E.R.D., "Angel" by Pharrell, "Promiscuous" by Nelly Furtado, and "Jump" by Madonna, to name a few. Axwell has claimed a spot on DJ Mag's "Top 100 DJs" list nine times and won four DJ Awards.

Martin Garrix is one of the youngest and most successful DJs and producers in pop and electronic music, collaborating with some of the biggest names in the industry throughout his career including Dua Lipa, Ed Sheeran, U2, Bebe Rexha, Khalid, Macklemore, Avicii, and Madonna. Aside from F1, Garrix has also performed at some of the world's biggest events and festivals, including the Winter Olympics, Coachella, Lollapalooza, Ultra Music Festival, and Tomorrowland.

For more information on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline, or follow BIC and SIC on social media.

Naser Reaches Ultimate Championship Final



Salwa Eid Naser (No 8) competes in Budapest, Hungary

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser secured her place in the women's 400 metres final at the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest yesterday.

The former world champion clocked 49.67 seconds to finish second in the opening heat behind Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic, who won in 49.58.

Jamaica's Nickisha Pryce and Cuba's Roxana Gomez claimed the remaining two qualifying places from the race.

Norway's Henriette Jaeger led the second heat in 49.64, followed by Lieke Klaver of the Netherlands, American Aaliyah Butler and Chile's Martina Weil.

Naser's performance was the third-fastest across both races, leaving her just nine hundredths of a second behind Paulino ahead of today's medal showdown.

The title will be decided at 7.08pm, Bahrain time, with the kingdom's representative

seeking to add another major honour to her distinguished career.

"On to the final, and I'm so grateful," Naser said after the race. "Of course, I wanted to win, but I'll take second place and keep fighting."

"This season has been amazing. It hasn't been typical, but I'm grateful and happy. I love doing this."

"Last year was a long season. I raced a lot and didn't finish until November, so this year I decided to take my time and enjoy it. Now I'm here."

Her season's best stands at 49.27, while her personal best of 48.14 remains the Asian and Bahraini record.

Kemi Adekoya had also appeared on the original entry list for the women's 400m hurdles but is absent from the official start lists for today's two heats. No reason for the change has been announced.

The three-day meeting has brought many of the world's leading athletes to the Hungarian capital to compete across 28 disciplines for a share of a record \$10million prize fund.

East Riffa Survive Dramatic Najma Fightback

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Promoted East Riffa survived a frantic stoppage-time finish to defeat Al Najma 3-2 and secure their first victory of the 2026-27 Nasser bin Hamad Premier League season last night.

Carlos Alberto missed a late penalty that would have completed a remarkable comeback at Bahrain National Stadium, where Tunisian coach Fathi Labidi's side twice reduced a two-goal deficit. Elsewhere, Robson da Silva helped A'Ali open their account with a 1-0 success over Al Malkiya.

East Riffa struck first after 10 minutes when Labidi's men failed to clear the ball during a scramble inside their penalty area. The loose ball eventually fell to captain Talal Al Sherooqi, who guided a first-time finish into the bottom corner.

Bahraini coach Hesham Al Mahoozi's men doubled their advantage in the 34th minute. Sayed Ahmed Hashim slipped a pass between two defenders from the right, allowing Brazilian Gabriel Silva to find the near corner with a composed low strike.

Alberto pulled one back just two minutes later. Ali Al Doseri supplied an excellent delivery from the right and the Brazilian met it with a diving header that



Al Sherooqi celebrates putting East Riffa ahead session

bounced off the turf and into the net.

Defender Ahmed Muslim restored the two-goal cushion in the 71st minute. A cross into the area was only partially cleared and, after battling through a crowd of players, he volleyed the loose ball into the roof of the net.

The contest took another turn during stoppage time as Hassan Madan beat his marker on the left and crossed for Rickson Barbosa Sa da Conceicao, who headed home to make it 3-2.

Madan was then caught by Abdulhalim Abou during an attempted clearance in the closing moments. The referee initially booked the winger for simulation, but reversed his decision following a VAR review and awarded a penalty.

Alberto stepped forward with the chance to rescue a point, only to send his effort over the crossbar as East Riffa held on.

The victory lifts the newcomers to four points following their opening defeat to Hidd and

goalless draw with Sitra. Najma, who retained their top-flight place through the play-offs last season, remain on three after beginning the campaign with a heavy loss to Al Khaldiya and a narrow win over Malkiya.

At Khalifa Sports City Stadium, Da Silva settled a tighter contest with the only goal in the 22nd minute.

A slick exchange of passes carried A'Ali into the final third before the Brazilian drove just inside the penalty area and struck towards the bottom corner. Goalkeeper Al Sayed Ali Mohammed got his fingertips to the ball but could not keep it out.

Al Malkiya thought they had equalised in the 50th minute when Nigerian forward Ossy Martins produced a stunning strike from distance into the top corner. The effort was ruled out, however, after VAR showed that he had caught his marker in the face while turning to create room for the shot.

The result moves Brazilian coach Vinicius Eutropio's team on to four points, while Malkiya remain without a point or goal after three matches under Portuguese coach Alvaro Rodrigues.

Matchweek three concludes tonight, with Sitra facing Hidd at Khalifa Sports City and Al Ahli meeting Al Ettifaq at Bahrain National Stadium. Both matches kick off at 7pm.