

BIC welcomes darts' biggest stars ahead of 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters

● Opening event of 2026 World Series of Darts takes place this Thursday and Friday at Terminal 4 by Beyon at Exhibition World Bahrain

● Darts' international icons, led by double World Champion Luke Littler, to meet fans in official draw and autograph session, open to all ticket-holders today from 6.30pm at Bahrain Rugby Club

● BIC opens additional section in all-new Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand following high demand for tickets

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', has welcomed darts' biggest superstars to the Kingdom ahead of the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters, which takes place Thursday and Friday at Terminal 4 by Beyon in Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB).

Eight of the Professional Darts Corporation's (PDC) most celebrated players, headlined by reigning back-to-back World Champion Luke Littler, have



already arrived on the island for the two-day spectacle.

They are also all set for the Bahrain Darts Masters' official draw and autograph session, taking place today evening at Bahrain Rugby Club in Saar.

The fan-engagement evening, which is open to all ticket-holders, is scheduled for a 6.30pm start. It will determine the match-ups for the first round of play in the year's opening event of the 2026 World Series of Darts.

Fans attending tonight at Bahrain Rugby Club will have the chance to meet Littler and the rest of the Bahrain Darts Masters' star-studded cast, including defending champion in the Kingdom Stephen Bunting,

2023/2024 World Champion Luke Humphries, the World Series of Darts' most successful player in history Michael van Gerwen, 2020/2021 World Champion Gerwyn Price, former World Matchplay champion Nathan Aspinall, World Championship runner-up Gian van Veen, and Dutch star Danny Noppert.

The PDC superstars will be taking on eight Asian representatives in round one. These continental standouts include six players from the PDC Asian Tour, namely Filipino stars Alexis Toylo and Lourence Ilagan, Japanese duo Motomu Sakai and Ryusei Azemoto, Singapore's Paul Lim, Hong Kong's World Cup quarter-finalist Man Lok Leung, and the Bahrain duo of Abdulla

Saeed and Basem Mahmood.

Those who have yet to purchase their tickets for this weekend may still do so but must act quickly due to tremendous demand. Only tickets to the all-new Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand at Terminal 4 by Beyon are available, so fans must purchase theirs at the earliest to avoid missing out on one of the most highly sought-after occasions of the new year.

Due to the interest, BIC has opened a new section for the grandstand, offering additional seats to accommodate the many darts enthusiasts expected to attend.

All tables, including Premium and VIP areas for the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters, have already



Luke Littler

completely sold out, but fans can still experience the magic of the game at the grandstand, which offers an incredible view of the stage, as well as close access to food and beverage areas at the venue.

Tickets to the Bahrain Darts Masters Grandstand are BD25 apiece for the two days. All available ticket options can be found online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

This Thursday and Friday at the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters, gates at Terminal 4 by Beyon at EWB are scheduled to open at 6pm, with action starting from 7pm each night. The opening round on day one will set the stage for the knockouts on day two, including the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final.

The Bahrain Darts Masters is organised by BIC, the PDC and sports promoter CBX, and is supported by Bahrain Tourism and

Exhibitions Authority.

The game of darts has become an international phenomenon in recent years, and in the Kingdom, the Bahrain Darts Masters has grown tremendously over the past three seasons it has been held. The event has been moved to Terminal 4 by Beyon at EWB to be able to accommodate the massive crowd expected, and the venue will be transformed into Bahrain's answer to the iconic Alexandra Palace.

Fans can expect an incredible atmosphere, with fancy dress, themed activations, and a wide range of food and beverage options as 'Sport's Biggest Party' brings its unique flavour to Bahrain.

For more information on the 2026 Bahrain Darts Masters or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Ex-France, Liverpool defender Sakho announces retirement

AFP | Paris

Former France, Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain defender Mamadou Sakho announced his retirement on Monday aged

35.

Centre-back Sakho had been without a club since leaving Georgian outfit Torpedo Kutaisi last January.

The 29-time international

came through PSG's academy and went on to captain the Parisians. He was in the side that won the 2012-13 Ligue 1 title.

"I wanted to thank everyone," he said on the pitch before PSG's

French Cup last 32 game against another of his former sides, Paris FC.

"I wanted to officially announce the end of my career," he added.

Al Kaabi triumphs after superb round as Saleh claims Medal



TD Balbir Singh, overall winner Abdulla Saeed Al Kaabi and Captain Steve Newall

TDT | Manama

Abdulla Saeed Al Kaabi produced a masterclass in consistency to secure an overall victory, while Nasser Yaqoob Saleh claimed the prestigious gross medal in the latest club competition sponsored by the Bahrain International Circuit.

Al Kaabi, playing off a five handicap, delivered a remarkably steady performance by carding 17 pars across his 18 holes.

His only blemish came on the par-four seventh, widely regarded as the course's most difficult hole, where he recorded a bogey. This disciplined approach resulted in a net 66, which was just enough to edge out James Williamson on a count-back for the top spot on the leaderboard.

Williamson had appeared on track to comfortably break the 80-stroke barrier before the challenging layout clawed back shots in the closing stages. De-



TD Balbir Singh, Medal Winner Nasser Yaqoob Saleh and Captain Steve Newall

spite missing out on the overall title, his net 66 earned him the trophy for division two, finishing ahead of runner-up Benedit Schwerm, who continued a recent "hot streak" with a net 70.

The gross medal was decided by a single stroke as Nasser Yaqoob Saleh carded a 70 to narrowly beat Al Kaabi for the day's best raw score. Saleh's clinical round also secured him the victory in division one, finishing ahead of runner-up Adel Ali Al

Fayyadh. In division three, CV Murthy took the win with a net 69, followed by Paul McLean in second place.

The prizes were presented during a post-round ceremony by Club Captain Steve Newall and Tournament Director Balbir Singh. The event, a long-standing fixture on the local golfing calendar, was hosted and sponsored by the club this season as part of its ongoing support for the sport in the Kingdom.

Doncic scores 42 points but Lakers humbled by Kings



DeMar DeRozan #10 of the Sacramento Kings is guarded by DeAndre Ayton #5 of the Los Angeles Lakers

AFP | Los Angeles

Luka Doncic scored 42 points but could not prevent the Los Angeles Lakers stumbling to a third straight defeat with a 124-112 loss against the lowly Sacramento Kings on Monday.

LeBron James wore a special patch on his uniform to mark his historic 23rd season in the NBA and scored 22 points on a frustrating night

for the Lakers, who made just eight three-pointers from 36 attempts.

Doncic and James were among only four Lakers play-

ers to make double figures with DeAndre Ayton finishing with 13 points and Jaxson Hayes adding 12 off the bench.

The Kings, one place off the bottom of the Western Conference with a 10-30 record, were led by 32 points from DeMar DeRozan with Russell Westbrook finishing with 22 points against his former team.

"We literally couldn't make a shot," Lakers coach JJ Redick said.

In other games, the Indiana Pacers bagged their third straight victory with an upset 98-96 win over the Boston Celtics in Indianapolis.