

Bahrain International Circuit to open its doors this Friday for Batelco Fitness on Track

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", is set to open its doors on Friday morning, 17 April, for the latest edition of Batelco Fitness on Track, a highly sought-after activity for fitness enthusiasts.

The event will take place from 6:00am to 10:00am, offering participants of all ages the opportunity to engage in physical activities, either on foot or by bike, within the safe and controlled setting of the circuit.



Runners and walkers will utilise BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will ride along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with a separate dedicated area available for children's cycling.

The cost to participate is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Registration and payment can be completed in advance via the circuit's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973 17450000. Children under the age of 12 can participate free of charge if accompanied by a paying adult.

Bahrain eyes success at Asian Beach Games

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has named a 20-athlete delegation for the sixth Asian Beach Games, held in Sanya from April 16 to 30, with 45 nations competing under the Olympic Council of Asia.

The team departed on Tuesday via Doha, led by chef de mission Ahmed Abdulghaffar, with Maryam Mardana as deputy. Bahrain enters the competition aiming to build on its strong history at the Games across multiple editions.

As in previous years, beach wrestling stands out as Bahrain's main medal hope. The squad is led by Shamil Sharipov in the 90kg category, a world bronze and Asian silver medallist. He is joined by Magomed Sharipov, Magomedrasul Asluev, and Alibeg Alibegov, all of whom bring international podium experience and form a key strength of the delegation.

In aquatic events, Bahrain will be represented by Robert Bonsall and William Balzano in the men's 5km open water swim. They add endurance depth to the team, though they arrive with less international experience than the wrestling contingent.



Bahrain's delegation prior to departure

In team competition, Bahrain's 3x3 basketball side coached by Ahmed Elias features Bogdan Dragovic, Austin Ogukwa, Milos Supica, and Nasser Al Mousawi. Their campaign opens on April 25 against Qatar, followed by India later that day and Kazakhstan on April 27. If they progress, the knockout stage begins on April 28, with medals decided on April 29.

The beach handball team, coached by Hussain Al Qa-

idoum, also faces a packed schedule. They begin against hosts China on April 21, meet India later that day, and continue through matches against the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Iran, and Hong Kong until April 27. The semifinals are set for April 28, with the final on April 30.

Beyond these core sports, the Games also feature beach football, kabaddi, jiu-jitsu, dragon boat, sailing, sport climbing, teqball, aquathlon triath-

lon, and beach volleyball. The event marks the return of the Asian Beach Games after a decade-long break since Da Nang 2016.

The Kingdom's history at the Games raises expectations, with a total of 11 medals including seven golds. Its strongest showing came at Phuket 2014, where it secured five gold and two silver medals, while at Da Nang 2016 it added two golds in bodybuilding and jiu-jitsu.

Ekitike to miss world cup after injury



Hugo Ekitike goes down injured during Liverpool's match against PSG

TDT | Manama

French striker Hugo Ekitike will miss the 2026 FIFA World Cup after rupturing his Achilles tendon, an injury that is expected to sideline him for an extended period.

The Liverpool FC forward suffered the injury during his side's 2-0 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the second leg of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final in the 2025-26 season.

Liverpool were eliminated 4-0 on aggregate, with the setback compounded when Ekitike went down injured in the 22nd minute. He was stretchered off and unable to continue.

The 23-year-old is now set to miss the tournament,

scheduled for June 11 to July 19 across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

France have been drawn in Group I alongside Iraq, Senegal, and Norway, and will begin their campaign looking to build on recent tournament success, having won the 2018 World Cup.

Ekitike joined Liverpool from German side Eintracht Frankfurt in a high-profile transfer and has enjoyed a strong debut season, registering 17 goals and six assists in 45 appearances in all competitions.

His absence is a significant blow for both club and country, with Liverpool losing a key attacking option during the decisive stages of their league campaign.

Atletico 'ready' for Champions League success at last: Simeone

AFP | Madrid

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone said that his team was ready to finally win the Champions League after knocking out Barcelona on Tuesday to reach the semi-finals.

The Rojiblancos fell to a 2-1 quarter-final second leg defeat at home but that was enough to progress 3-2 on aggregate after their 2-0 win at Camp Nou last week.

Atletico, who have never won the competition, will face Arsenal or Sporting Lisbon in the semi-finals.

"We'll go into it with all our hope, with total belief. We know the strengths we have and our flaws," said Simeone.



Atletico Madrid's players celebrate at the end of the match

"We're ready. We're going to go after what we've been chasing for many years."

Simeone led Atletico to the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016, with both ending in painful defeats by

cross-town rivals Real Madrid. The last time the Rojiblancos made the semi-finals was 2017.

"It's been fourteen years now (at the helm), it still excites me to see that the team keeps

competing," said the Argentine coach.

"The players have changed, we've had to start over a bunch of times, and here we are again among the four best teams in Europe."

Veteran Atletico forward Antoine Griezmann said that his team always believed they could find a way back after Barca's two early goals.

Lamine Yamal and Ferran Torres fired the five-time winners ahead on Tuesday but Ademola Lookman pulled one back for Atletico and it proved decisive.

"With our fans and the quality that we have, we could get (our) goal," Griezmann told reporters.

Verstappen understands 'bigger picture' in power unit debate: F1 boss Domenicali

AFP | London

Formula 1 boss Stefano Domenicali yesterday called on drivers, including the outspoken Max Verstappen, to "be respectful" of the sport but said changes to this year's new power unit regulations needed to be made.

The Dutch four-time world champion has been the most vocal of the drivers criticising the new regulations concerning the hybrid engines, whose electric power management has posed problems for the drivers in the opening three races of the season.

Verstappen called the new style of racing "a joke" after the Chinese Grand Prix and has hinted he will take a break

from F1 in 2027 if it remains the same.

"We have spoken many, many times since the beginning," Domenicali told Autosport.

"I understand his (Verstappen's) comments and he understands the bigger picture. I don't want to fall in to the trap of trying to create antagonism because that's not me.

"We're going to be together. He is the best driver, he is a multiple world champion and of course his voice has to be listened to. But he knows that his voice has a weight. And he needs to respect that weight (as) sometimes some people can take it the wrong way and this is something we shouldn't allow to happen."