

BIC and SIC launch 10-day countdown for Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and Sepang International Circuit (SIC) launched yesterday the final 10-day countdown to the highly anticipated race weekend of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026.

The spirit of Bahrain will be coming alive at SIC from 2 to 4 October as the 16th round of the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

Limited race-weekend tickets remain available at BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible.

Along with world-class racing, the event will feature plenty of family entertainment for all to enjoy at the Fan Zone. These include the internationally renowned Chinese Acrobats, an army of delightful roaming performers, concerts featuring A-list music artists, plus so much more.

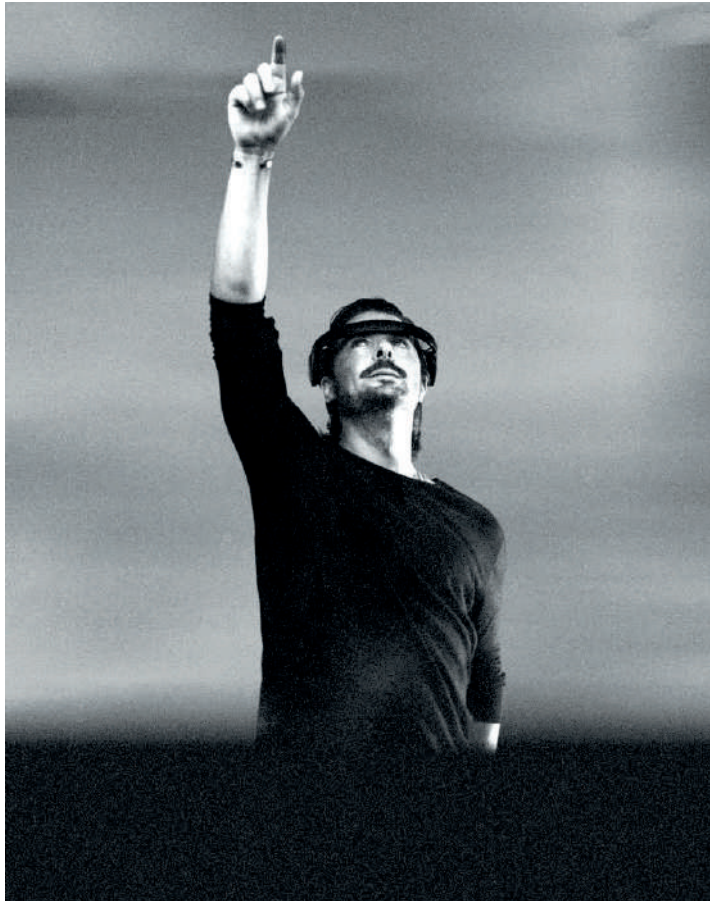
The concerts are set to feature back-to-back live performances by a pair of music industry superstars. On the Sunday of



the race weekend, multi-platinum-selling hit-maker Martin Garrix will headline the post-race celebrations, while on the evening before on the Saturday,

Grammy-nominated DJ and producer Axwell will be taking to the SIC stage.

Ticket upgrades for each concert are available exclusively to



race-weekend ticket holders. Ticket 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 required for each performance and upgrade instructions have been sent directly to ticket holders

by email.

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 Furta-do, and "Jump" by Madonna, to name a few. Axwell has claimed a spot in 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.

Bahrain duo earn NBA Academy call-up



Mahdi Habib, left, and Jok James with assistant coach Leon Subotic

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain basketball prospects Mahdi Habib and Jok James are taking part in the NBA Academy Select Showcase in Abu Dhabi after being selected among 32 under-18 players from 14 countries.

Mujtaba Mahmood was also chosen for the four-day camp at New York University Abu Dhabi, but has been forced to miss the programme due to a recent injury.

Habib, captain of Bahrain's youth basketball team, and James are accompanied by senior team assistant coach Leon Subotic. The showcase runs from today until Saturday.

Their selection places them among promising young players from across the Gulf, South Asia and Africa, with the programme designed to develop their skills while providing an opportunity to compete alongside and against talent from

different countries.

Training includes individual skill development, physical conditioning, life-skills sessions, combine testing, evaluation games, team competitions and a three-point contest. The programme concludes on Saturday with final games and an awards ceremony.

Coaches with previous NBA experience Damian Cotter, James Wade, Henry Domer-cant and Dan Craig are leading the basketball programme, supported by NBA staff.

Five-time NBA champion Ron Harper and two-time Slam Dunk Contest winner Jason Richardson are also attending the showcase.

The latest selections continue Bahrain basketball's involvement in NBA development programmes after Hassan Abdulqader was previously chosen for the Basketball Without Borders Next Up camp in Istanbul, organised by the NBA and FIBA.

Jeddah ready for Gulf Cup kick-off

Hussain Almaskati
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The 27th Arabian Gulf Cup, also known as Khaleeji 27, gets underway in Jeddah today, with eight teams beginning their pursuit of one of the region's most coveted prizes.

Iraq and Oman raise the curtain on Group A at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium at 5.30pm before hosts Saudi Arabia meet record 10-time champions Kuwait at Al-Inma Stadium at 9pm.

A brief opening ceremony will



be held before the Saudi-Kuwait clash, with the 12-minute programme set to feature musical and cultural performances celebrating the tournament and its participating nations.

Saudi National Day will also form part of the ceremony, which is expected to conclude with a fireworks display before the hosts take to the pitch.

The Saudis are chasing a fourth Gulf Cup title and their first since 2003, while Iraq enter as four-time winners. Oman, meanwhile, have finished runners-up in each of the last two

editions.

Focus shifts to Group B tomorrow, when defending champions Bahrain launch their bid for a third title against three-time winners Qatar at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium at 9pm.

Dragan Talajic's men return to the competition as holders after their 2-1 comeback victory over Oman in the previous final.

The UAE, champions in 2007 and 2013, face Yemen at Al-Inma Stadium at 6.55pm in tomorrow's earlier Group B encounter.

Ali races into Esports semi-finals

Hussain Almaskati
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Hasan Ali advanced to the Gran Turismo 7 semi-finals as Bahrain began their esports campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya yesterday.

Finishing eighth in the Time Attack Qualification at Aichi Sky Expo Hall D, Ali clocked two minutes 13.451 seconds to secure his place in today's semi-final Group A.

His time was 1.769 seconds behind South Korea's Kim Youngchan, who topped the 15-driver field in 2:11.682.

Action resumes for Ali at 3am today, Bahrain time, when he lines up alongside competitors from Indonesia, Iran, South Korea, Malaysia, Tajikistan and



Hasan Ali during the Gran Turismo 7 competition

the UAE.

Elsewhere, the kingdom's

eFootball campaign ended in the group stage following a de-

feat and a draw in Group E yesterday.

A 2-0 loss to Jordan opened proceedings, with the Bahrainis beaten 1-0 in each game, before a 1-1 draw with Myanmar. They won the opener 1-0 but lost the second by the same scoreline.

Jordan topped the three-team group with two victories, leaving Bahrain out of the next stage.

Fighting Games action follows tomorrow, with Yusuf Bahram, Mohamed Derbas and Husam Alansari representing the kingdom in Group C.

They face Kyrgyzstan at 5am before taking on Saudi Arabia at 7.45am, with Street Fighter 6, Tekken 8 and The King of Fighters XV making up the competition.