

**World Series of Darts to debut in Bahrain**

The world's best darts players to compete at inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters Championship on January 12 and 13 at Bahrain International Circuit | P12

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**World Series of Darts set for Bahrain debut**

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 The Kingdom of Bahrain will be hosting its first-ever event in the World Series of Darts early next year, it was announced yesterday by Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

BIC will be staging the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters on January 12 and 13 at its facility. It is part of a global tour of the world's best darts players.

BIC and sports promoter CBX have teamed up with the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain.

The 2023 Bahrain Darts Masters will comprise two days of competition, with eight top players - set to include reigning World Champion Peter Wright and world number one Gerwyn Price - taking on eight regional representatives, including Bahrain's best.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa said: "The sport is a spectacle that has to be seen to be believed and the atmosphere at PDC events is something that we expect will be a unique experience for fans in Bahrain."

**HM King returns from successful Saudi visit**



**Bahrain and Saudi Arabia bilateral relations are strengthened further**

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa returned to Bahrain following a successful visit to Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, led the well-wishers as they welcomed HM the King at the airport.

Highlight of His Majesty's visit was his meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques



HM the King is welcomed back by HRH Prince Salman and senior government officials

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud that focused on enhancing relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and reviewed regional and international developments.

HM King Hamad also met the Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

In a cable to King Salman, HM King Hamad thanked him for the gracious hospitality accorded to the Bahraini delegation.

His Majesty expressed deep gratitude for the constructive talks the two leaders had and

stressed they would deepen the strong relations between the two countries.

HM the King lauded the sincere efforts exerted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the sake, unity and solidarity of the nation, as well as the dedicated commitment to defend the interests of the Arab and Islamic countries and to preserve their security, stability and prosperity.

HM King Hamad wished King Salman abundant health and Saudi Arabia further progress and prosperity under his rule and with the support of HRH Prince Mohammed.

**Snowden is now 'Russian citizen'**

Washington  
 President Vladimir Putin yesterday granted Russian citizenship to former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, nine years after he exposed the scale of secret surveillance operations by the National Security Agency (NSA).

Snowden has been living in Russia since 2013, after the US charged the former intelligence analyst contractor under the 1917 Espionage Act for leaking highly classified documents about government surveillance programs.

**Team Bahrain 'vital' for economic growth**

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Team Bahrain's efforts to implement the Economic Recovery Plan were commended by the Cabinet, noting its positive contribution to the Kingdom's economic growth.

The Cabinet thanked those who contributed to the Kingdom's economic success and urged them to continue development efforts with the same determination.

This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet discussed a memorandum submitted by the Minister of Finance and National Economy on Bahrain's quarterly economic report for Q2 of 2022. The report outlined the outcomes of implementing the Economic Recovery Plan, as Bahrain recorded remarkable growth during the second quarter of 2022 YoY.

The quarterly report shows that the total Real GDP grew by 6.9% in Q2, the highest YoY growth rate since 2011, while the



HRH Prince Salman chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

non-oil sector grew by 9%. It also revealed positive economic growth driven by the strong performances of the non-oil sectors thanks to the Economic Recovery Plan.

**Positive outcomes**

The Cabinet highlighted the outcomes of the meeting held by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

It lauded the meeting for strengthening the everlasting relations of cooperation and coordination between both countries.

The Cabinet also highlighted the meeting held between HM the King and the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. In this regard, the Cabinet noted Saudi Arabia's pivotal role in consolidating regional security, stability, and peace.

The Cabinet noted that the mediation led by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a leading diplomatic and humanitarian initiative to settle regional and international disputes by diplomatic means and support regional and global peace and stability.

In this regard, the Cabinet noted the success of the Saudi mediation in releasing 10 prisoners as part of the prisoner exchange process between Russia and Ukraine.

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