



Winners pose for a group photo.



Officials applaud participants during the closing ceremony.

IBAK Diamond League 2025 ... A knockout success

International senior badminton tourney concludes with spectacular displays of skill

KUWAIT CITY, April 5: The Indian Badminton Association of Kuwait (IBAK) proudly hosted the IBAK Diamond League 2025, marking a historic moment as the second-ever International Masters Doubles only Badminton Tournament under the Seniors category.

IBAK Diamond League, a premier badminton tournament in the seniors' category, successfully concluded, showcasing remarkable talent and sportsmanship from players worldwide. The event, held at IBK Salwa Gym, witnessed intense competition among seasoned athletes, reaffirming their passion and dedication to the sport.

Bringing together elite senior badminton players from various countries, the tournament provided a platform for players to display their skills, experience, and competitive spirit.

The matches featured spectacular rallies, strategic game play, and impressive performances that enthralled spectators and reaffirmed badminton's growing appeal among senior athletes.

From 31 March 2025 to 2 April 2025, participants competed across various categories and age groups, showcasing their skills in both Men's/Women's doubles and Mixed doubles matches.

The event highlighted the players' abilities and lifelong passion for the sport, further promoting badminton as an inclusive activity that transcends age. Badminton players from various countries like India, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Lebanon, Russia, Pakistan, and Kuwait participated in the tournament. The event was hosted in categories as follows. Mix Doubles +35, Women Doubles +35, Men Doubles +35, Men Doubles +45, Mix Doubles +45

Chief Guest of the tournament was Mr. Kareem Elkhelawy, Marketing Manager at Al Mulla International Exchange Company. Mr. Kareem Elkhelawy gave the medals and cash prizes to all Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medal-



Players getting ready for action.

ists.

IBAK Chairman, Dr. Manimara Chozha, expressed his gratitude, saying, "We are thrilled with the turnout and the high level of competition we witnessed over the past days. It is inspiring to see senior players compete with such enthusiasm and skill.

Their dedication is a testament to the sport's timeless nature. We thank Our sponsors - Al Mulla Exchange, EagleBurgmann, Trans W bolting services, Logi Middle East Limited Company, Ooredoo, Nouri Industrial Establishment Company, Mr. ErinjeriRapealJose(Founder, Global International Gen-

eral Trading & Contracting Company), Dr. Ali Jaber Al Marri (Consultant - Intervention Radiology and Pain Management, Taiba Hospital), Dr. Asma Al Kandri (Gastroenterologist & Endoscopist, Taiba Hospital) and supporters who made this event a grand success"

The tournament not only fostered a competitive spirit but also promoted camaraderie and international sportsmanship among senior players. With the overwhelming response and enthusiasm from participants and spectators, organizers are looking forward to an even bigger and better edition next year.

IBAK can be reached at www.ibakwt.org or ibakcommittee@gmail.com
The following are the results of various individual categories.

Event	Position	Name
Mix Doubles +45	1	Maggesar Maheswaran K+ Jayashree Raghu
	2	Jabbar Farooqui+ Shaina Ajay Kumar
	3	Bobby Varughese+ Cheryl Magsayo Manaytay
Men Doubles +45	1	Srinivas Reddy G + Maggesvar Maheswaran K
	2	Jabbar Farooqui+ Manimara Chozhan Regunathan
	3	Mathew Abraham + Chandra Mouli
Mix Doubles +35	1	Syed Akhbar Shah + Ainur Jubail Jul
	2	Maggesar Maheswaran K+ Jayashree Raghu
	3	Jabbar Farooqui+ Olivia Olliquino Knaf
Men Doubles +35	1	Hisham Ezzi + Syed Akhbar Shah
	2	Manimara Chozhan Regunathan + Subin Varghese
	3	Anil Antony + Rethesh KUMAR Ps
Women Doubles +35	1	Olivia Olliquino Knaf + Cheryl Magsayo Manaytay
	2	Rio Ferrer + Ainur Jubail Jul
	3	Jayashree Raghu + Ivy Jill T. Simene

Celtics break season 3s record, Pistons wrap up first playoff spot since 2018-19

Cavaliers close within a game of sealing East's best mark

BOSTON, April 5, (AP): Jaylen Brown scored 31 points and hit three 3-pointers and the Boston Celtics broke the NBA record for 3-pointers in a season in a 123-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

Boston was 14 of 39 from 3-point range to push its season total to 1,370. Golden State held the previous record with 1,363 in 2022-23.

After having their nine-game winning streak halted in their previous game, the Celtics coasted to the victory.

Jayson Tatum added 23 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. Kristaps Porzingis had 15 points before he walked to the locker room holding a towel to the bridge of his nose early in the final quarter after getting hit by Cody Martin's elbow while the Suns player was driving to the basket.

Pistons 117, Raptors 105

In Toronto, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 23 points, Jalen Duran had 21 points and 18 rebounds and the Detroit Pistons beat the Toronto Raptors to wrap up their first playoff berth since 2018-19.

Malik Beasley scored 21 points for the Pistons, and Dennis Schroeder added 16. Detroit won a franchise-worst 14 games last season, ending an NBA-record 28-game losing streak in the process.

Cavaliers 114, Spurs 113

In San Antonio, Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points, Evan



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell, right, passes the ball as he is guarded by San Antonio Spurs forward Sandro Mamukelashvili (54) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio. (AP)

Mobley added 25 points and 10 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers held on to beat the San Antonio Spurs to move a game away from clinching the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Cleveland never trailed and led by 23 points in winning its third straight. The Cavaliers have won six of seven and are a win or a Boston loss from clinching the East's best record for the sixth time in franchise history.

Warriors 118, Nuggets 104

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 36 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Denver Nuggets for their fifth straight win.

Brandin Podziemski added 26 and Jimmy Butler III had 19 for the Warriors. They pulled within a half-game of the Nuggets, who

began play third in the Western Conference.

The Warriors built a double-digit lead in the third quarter and maintained it the rest of the way. A 3-pointer by Curry midway through the quarter gave Golden State a 15-point lead, and he also completed a three-point play with under three minutes to play to keep the lead at 15.

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 33 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, after finishing with 61 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the last game he played.

Rockets 125, Thunder 111

In Houston, Jalen Green had 34 points, Alperen Sengun added 31 and the Houston Rockets snapped the Oklahoma City Thunder's 11-game winning streak.

Houston, which is second in the

Western Conference, improved to 2-3 against the top-seeded Thunder with the win. Oklahoma City lost for the first time since March 10.

Lakers 124, Pelicans 108

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic had 35 points, Austin Reaves added 30 and LeBron James had 27 in the Los Angeles Lakers' victory over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Doncic struggled in a 123-116 loss to Golden State a night earlier, finishing with 19 points on and being exploited several times on the defensive end, but he responded to help the Lakers maintain their grip on third place in the Western Conference ahead of Denver and the Warriors. The Lakers have won three of four.

Clippers 114, Mavericks 91

In Inglewood, Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points, Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 13 rebounds and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the Dallas Mavericks for their third straight victory.

The teams will meet again Saturday in Inglewood.

Norman Powell added 14 points, James Harden had 13 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic and Devin Eubanks each scored 12 points. Los Angeles led by 25 points midway through the second quarter and pushed its lead to 35 points in the fourth before emptying its bench.

The Clippers are 13-3 in their last 16 games.

Kings 125, Hornets 102

In Charlotte, Zach LaVine had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Domantas Sabonis added 24 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and the Sacramento Kings rolled past the Charlotte Hornets to remain in 10th place in the Western Conference standings.

DeMar DeRozan added 22 points to help the Kings win for only the second time in their last nine games.

Bulls 118, Trail Blazers 113

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic and Coby White each had 31 points, Josh Giddey had a triple-double and the post-season bound Chicago Bulls beat the Portland Trail Blazers.

Giddey had 15 points, 19 rebounds and 12 assists for his sixth triple-double of the season. The Bulls are 10th in the Eastern Conference, the lowest position they can finish.

Pacers 140, Jazz 112

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner had 26 points, seven rebounds and six blocked shots, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Utah Jazz for their third straight victory.

Pascal Siakam scored 22 points and Bennedict Mathurin had 20, going 12 for 16 from the free throw line.

De Bruyne to leave City at end of season

MANCHESTER, England, April 5, (AP): Kevin De Bruyne has announced he will leave Manchester City - bringing an end to a trophy-laden decade with the club.

The 33-year-old Belgian playmaker is out of contract this summer and in an emotional post on his social media channels on Friday confirmed he is in his "final months" with the Premier League champion.

"Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here," he wrote.

De Bruyne will go down as one of the all-time Premier League greats after helping City win 16 major trophies during a period of unprecedented dominance.

Since joining from Wolfsburg for around \$71 million in 2015 he has gone on to win every major club honor, including the Champions League.

"This city. This club. These people... gave me EVERYTHING. I had no choice but to give EVERYTHING back! And guess what - we won EVERYTHING," he wrote. "Whether we like it or not, it's time to say goodbye."

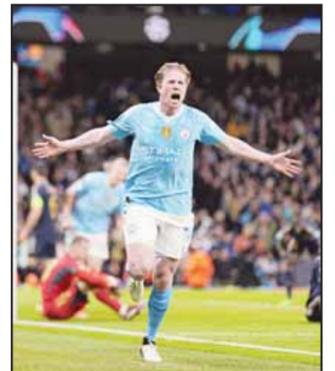
City manager Pep Guardiola described it as a "sad day" following De Bruyne's announcement.

"In the Premier League he is one of the greatest midfielders ever to play in this country and I think in this club (there) is no doubt," Guardiola said. "His assists, his goals, his vision in the final third, that is so difficult to replace."

With 118 assists in the league, De Bruyne is second only to Manchester United great Ryan Giggs, who provided 162, on the all-time list.

He reached that total in 280 appearances, as opposed to 632 for Giggs. He has played 413 matches for City in all competitions, scored 106 goals and was twice named PFA Player of the Year in England.

While De Bruyne will go down as one of the finest players to play for City, he could have



In this file photo, Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match between Manchester City and Real Madrid at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

instead spent the bulk of his career at Chelsea after joining club from Belgian team Genk in 2012. But he grew frustrated after making only two league starts and eventually moved to Wolfsburg in Germany in 2014.

There he revitalized his career and convinced City to make him the club's record signing.

De Bruyne did not say if he would take part in the Club World Cup, which runs through June and July in the United States.

"He has to decide, it's a new competition. I hope he can continue to play football in another place, but it depends on risk and contracts for the future," Guardiola said. "I don't know. The club has to talk to him, and he has to say what he wants to do."



Golden State Warriors guard Moses Moody (4) dives for the ball next to Denver Nuggets guard Christian Braun (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

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