

Bahrain Open Challenger
honoured as world's best
ATP 125 event



The chairman of the Supreme Committee of the Bahrain Open Challenger Tennis Championship, Shaikh Khalid bin Rashid Al Khalifa, received the award for the world's best ATP Challenger 125 tournament for 2025, praising senior Bahraini leaders for their backing of the event. Speaking after accepting the prize from Yulia Boyadjieva, vice-president of the ATP Challenger Tour, Shaikh Khalid thanked HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for attending the closing ceremony of the fifth edition of the tournament, saying the presence underscored strong institutional support for sport and athletes.

Batelco Fitness on Track offers
unique Tuesday night workout at BIC



TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', hosts tonight the widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track, offering participants the chance to get a workout in at a world-class Formula 1 host facility. This highly sought-after activity is to be held within the circuit's safe and controlled

setting. It is scheduled to take place from 6pm to 10pm under BIC's bright state-of-the-art floodlights, and it will be the last Batelco Fitness on Track until mid-April, so those interested in taking part are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity. Participants will be able to exercise either individually or with family and friends. The ac-



tivity can be done on foot or on a bicycle, giving participants the chance to select their preferred workout programme. Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children's cycling. The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners.

Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult. For more information on today's Batelco Fitness on Track or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Hatred of losing drives relentless
Alcaraz to tennis history

Spaniard becomes youngest man to complete career Grand Slam at age twenty-two

- Alcaraz beats Djokovic in final
- Surpasses Nadal's age record
- Credits his "hate of losing" as motivation

AFP | Melbourne

Carlos Alcaraz says that his absolute hatred of losing drives him to keep making landmarks after becoming the youngest man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments. The Spaniard beat Serbian great Novak Djokovic in four sets in Sunday's Australian Open final, adding his first Melbourne crown to his Wimbledon, US Open and French Open titles. In doing it at the age of 22 he surpassed legendary compatriot Rafael Nadal, who was 24 when he completed a career Grand Slam of all four majors. The now-retired Nadal was at Rod Laver Arena to see the world number one beat Djokovic 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5, and Alcaraz said his presence helped inspire him to victory. It was Alcaraz's seventh major title and he will head to the other three Grand Slams in 2026 as the man to beat once more, with world number two Jannik



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup at the Royal Exhibition Building

Sinner his closest rival. "I hate losing, so that's my motivation," said Alcaraz, who plans to have a tattoo of a kangaroo to mark his achievement. He declined to say if a rare calendar Grand Slam -- winning

all four majors in the same year -- was next on his hit-list. "Well, it's going to be a big challenge. Those are big words, to be honest. You know, I just want it to be one at a time," he said.

But Alcaraz does want to win the season-ending ATP Finals, having been defeated by the Italian Sinner last year in the title decider. And a Davis Cup crown with Spain is also on his radar.

Right now I'm just trying to have time to realise what I've been doing. I know I'm making history with some trophies, some tournaments, some achievements that I've been getting. For me it's an honour to put my name in the history books

CARLOS ALCAZAR

Alcaraz surprisingly split with coach Juan Carlos Ferrero in December after seven hugely successful years together, with assistant coach Samuel Lopez taking over. He has not divulged the reasons behind the change in any depth, but took satisfaction from triumphing in Melbourne given all the speculation beforehand. "Just happy to prove all the people were wrong," he said.

'Honour to make history'

Among Alcaraz's milestones, his maiden Slam, at the US Open in 2022, made him the youngest champion of a men's major since Nadal at the 2005 French Open. He was also the youngest man to ascend to the world number one ranking. His Roland Garros corona-

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To celebrate his Australian Open win, Alcaraz plans to get a tattoo of a kangaroo. He also noted the inspiration of having retired legend Rafael Nadal watching his historic victory from the stands

tion in 2024 ensured he was the youngest to win Grand Slam titles on clay, grass and hard courts. At this rate, Alcaraz is well on course to go down as one of the best in the history of tennis. But for now, he just wants to enjoy the moment and take in what he has done over the past fortnight and in his young career so far. "Right now I'm just trying to have time to realise what I've been doing," he said. "I know I'm making history with some trophies, some tournaments, some achievements that I've been getting. "For me it's an honour to put my name in the history books."