

Final dash at Bahrain karting finals

Rotax MAX grand finals set for exciting climax to week-long karting battles at BIKC

Manama

The Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals (RMC GF) 2025 are headed to the final two days of high-octane action this weekend at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir.

Following four days of action-packed running from Monday to today, including non-qualifying practices, qualifying practices, and qualifying heats, the stage is now set for the sessions that matter the most – the pre-finals happening today and finals tomorrow.

All eight categories in the RMC GF are set to feature on both days of intense grassroots motor racing, namely the Micro MAX, Mini MAX, Junior MAX, Senior MAX, DD2, DD2 Master, E20 Senior, and E20 Master.

The RMC GF is one of the biggest events in the world of karting held each year, and it has brought nearly 400 of the sport's very best to the Kingdom, representing 60 nations worldwide.



All are welcome to attend the last two days of racing and enjoy the incredible wheel-to-wheel battles featuring roaring

Rotax engines, screeching tyres, packed grids, and moments that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Entrance is free of charge and

will be on a first-come, first-served basis. BIKC will be opening its gates to fans from 10am until the end of track activity

on each day, except today, when spectators can access the circuit from 4.30pm.

Amongst the field of karters competing this week are Team Bahrain, who are represented by 11 drivers.

Flying the Kingdom's flag on their home track are Tariq Soofi racing in the Micro MAX class, Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa and Jude Andrews in the Mini MAX, Demir Abali and Rashid Hilal in the Junior MAX, Tye Mejia in the Senior MAX, Abdulla Sajjad and Abdulqader Qasem in the DD2, and Yousif Alaali, Vedant Menon, and Mohammed Alhasan in the E20 Senior.

The Team Bahrain talents have been holding their own against their counterparts from overseas – showcasing the quality and impressive prowess of the Kingdom's motorsport-loving community.

This year's RMC GF marks the third time in five years that Rotax karting's most prestigious occasion is being held in Sakhir,

following the success of the previous events in 2023 and 2021.

The competitors are lighting up BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track with sessions in both daytime and night conditions.

BIKC was designed to the highest international standards and is capable of hosting world championship races under the CIK-FIA. The track made motorsport history in 2012 when it became the first karting venue ever to host a world championship-level event at night, thanks to BIKC's high-specification floodlight system.

Drivers such as Max Verstappen, Charles Leclerc, Lando Norris, George Russell, and many more, who are all amongst the biggest stars in Formula 1 today, have competed at BIKC during the early years of their careers.

For more information on this year's RMC GF, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Tunisia Stay Perfect as Bahrain Fall in Straight Sets

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's volleyball team were unable to stop Tunisia's relentless march at the Arab Challenge Cup yesterday, falling 0-3 (29-31, 19-25, 20-25) at Princess Sumaya Hall in Amman. The match carried no impact on the title race after Tunisia had already secured the championship with a round to spare, yet the North Africans still approached it with full intensity as they aimed to maintain their spotless record.

Bahrain pushed Tunisia to the limit in a tightly contested opening set – even producing a three-point scoring run and 13 points won on serve over the match – but the Tunisians'



Abdulwahed, Yaqoob and Alafyah leap to block a Tunisian spike

composure in key rallies told the difference. After edging the first set 31-29, Tunisia tightened their grip, taking the next two sets 25-19 and 25-20 to complete yet another straight-sets victory.

The result confirms Tunisia's dominance in Amman, having swept every opponent they have faced in the league-format tournament. For Bahrain, it marked their third consecutive defeat after earlier setbacks against Egypt and Kuwait, despite opening the competition with a confident 3-0 win over Palestine.

The Reds now shift focus to today's final outing, meeting hosts Jordan at 5pm as they seek to close their campaign on a positive note

Ravindra, Latham tons put New Zealand in command of West Indies Test



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra (R) is congratulated by Tom Latham after scoring 150 runs

AFP | Christchurch

Big centuries by Tom Latham and Rachin Ravindra put New Zealand firmly in control of the first Test against the West Indies with a lead of 481 at stumps on day three in Christchurch yesterday.

The pair put on 279 for the third wicket before Latham was out for 145. Ravindra followed soon after for 176.

At stumps, Will Young was 21, Michael Bracewell was on six and New Zealand were 417-4 to go with their 64-run first innings lead.

The West Indies would need to break their own record fourth innings chase to overhaul New Zealand, having reached 418-7 to beat Australia in 2003.

After two days of overcast skies favouring swing and seam bowling, the pitch flattened out under bright sunshine as day three progressed.

The West Indies attack was not so threatening and they also suffered from a lack of discipline, conceding runs to fielding lapses and giving away 23 extras including 11 wides.

Latham and Ravindra presented contrasting styles as they set a New Zealand-best third wicket partnership against the West Indies and Latham passed 6,000 Test runs.

New Zealand captain Latham laid the foundations of the innings in a clinical 84-run opening stand with Devon Conway, who made 37.

After a brief partnership with Kane Williamson, who fell for nine, Latham was on 40 when he was joined by Ravindra in an aggressive move.

While Latham was methodical and largely chanceless, Ravindra took to the bowling in one-day mode and made the West Indies suffer for dropping him on eight and 13.

His 176 came off 185 deliveries, with one six and 27 fours, including one from the first ball he faced.

He also smacked fours to pass the 50, 100 and 150 milestones.

Latham faced 250 deliveries for his 145 and hit 12 fours.

For the West Indies, Kemar Roach had both Latham and Williamson caught behind to return figures of 2-61.

Norris rejects idea of team loyalty before Formula 1 title showdown

AFP | Abu Dhabi

Lando Norris yesterday rejected the idea of asking title rival and McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri to support him this weekend in the decisive season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix even if it is the only way he can beat Red Bull's Max Verstappen to the title.

The 26-year-old Briton, who holds a 12-point lead on four-time champion Verstappen and a 16-point advantage on Piastri, said he would welcome help in certain scenarios, but would not seek it -- because it was not how he, personally, felt about it.

He and Piastri made clear that McLaren had not discussed team orders for the race and would continue racing under



Lando Norris

'papaya rules' that encourage them to race each other with equal team backing.

"I don't think I would ask for it because -- and I don't know -- it's up to Oscar, if he would allow it," Norris told reporters before Sunday's showdown.

"I don't think it's necessarily down to me.

"It's the same if it's the other way around. Would I be willing to or not? Personally, I think I would -- just because I feel like I'm always like that and that's just how I am."

'Not a fair question'

The three drivers sat together answering questions of which some focused on the possibility that if Verstappen was leading with Piastri third and Norris fourth, it would mean the Dutchman took his record-equalling fifth consecutive title unless the two McLaren men swapped positions.

"I'm not going to ask it," he continued.

"I don't want to ask it because

I don't think it's necessarily a fair question, but at the same time if that's how it ends and Max wins, then well. That's it.

"Congrats to him and look forward to next year. It doesn't change anything. It doesn't change my life. He will deserve it over us."

Verstappen, who has won five of the last eight races, appeared to be the most relaxed of the trio while Norris seemed understandably tense and Piastri, who was deprived of a likely victory by bungled team strategy last weekend in Qatar, composed if edgy.

"It's not something we've discussed," said the 24-year-old Australian, bidding to be his country's first champion since Alan Jones in 1980.