

Bahrain Rotax karting set for exciting double-header this weekend at BIKC

Manama

Not even a week removed from hosting one of international karting's biggest annual events, Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) world-class grassroots motor-sport facility will be buzzing once again with back-to-back days of high-octane racing action.

Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC), the Kingdom's history-making karting venue in Sakhir, will be hosting this Friday and Saturday (Editor's note: 12 and 13 December) the second and third rounds of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), the country's premier karting championship. After a hugely successful event on the world stage in the just-concluding Rotax MAX



Challenge Grand Finals 2025, which featured nearly 400 competitors from 60 nations worldwide, the focus shifts to the premier national karting series, boasting the very best local talent going wheel-to-wheel in their very own Rotax-powered karts. Competitors will be battling it out along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track across five high-octane categories, including Micro MAX, Mini MAX, Junior MAX, Senior MAX, and DD2 MAX. Action on both days is scheduled to begin at 10.50am with free practices. They are to be followed by qualifying practice from 11.37am, while after a prayer and lunch break, the pre-finals will be held from 1.05pm. That will then set the stage for the finals, flagging off from 2.37pm. The podium ceremonies are slated for 5.07pm fol-

lowing the exciting action. All are welcome to attend and cheer for the karters. Entrance to BIKC is free of charge. The BRMC features a total of eight rounds in its 2025/2026 calendar. Following this weekend's double-header – which marks the final action of this calendar year – round four will kick off 2026 on 10 January, followed by round five on 30 January. Round six is then set for 13 February, and then the seventh and penultimate round will be held on 28 March. That will pave the way for the championship final, scheduled for 18 April at BIKC. For more information on the BRMC or other events and activities at BIC or BIKC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Arab Cup quarter-final lineup completed ahead of rest day

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The FIFA Arab Cup wrapped up its final group-stage clashes last night, confirming the complete quarter-final lineup ahead of today's rest day.

At Al Bayt Stadium, Group C winners Jordan showed their class with a comfortable 3-0 win over Egypt. The opener arrived in the 19th minute when Mohammed Abu Hasheesh bulldozed through midfield, unleashed a speculative effort that ricocheted off a teammate, and fell perfectly back to him for a composed finish. Jordan doubled their lead in the 41st minute: Ahmad Ersan delivered a gorgeous first-time pass wide to Muhammed Abu Zraiqa, who dummied his marker before curling an inch-perfect strike into the far corner. Ali Olwan sealed the result with a calm 90+2 penalty.

In the other Group C match,



Abduljabbar celebrates after putting Bahrain ahead

the UAE secured second place with a 3-1 win over Kuwait. Yahya Al Ghassani struck twice within two minutes – first from the spot in the 16th minute, then capitalizing on Kuwait's failed attempt to play out. Kuwait were reduced to ten men in the 55th minute after Sultan Al Enezi's

dismissal, though they pulled one back five minutes later through Fahad Al Hajeri's header from a Mohammad Daham free-kick.

In Group D, already-eliminated Bahrain closed their campaign with a strong 3-1 win over Sudan. Mehdi Abduljab-

bar opened the scoring in the 37th minute after a determined surge from Abdulla AlKhalasi. Sudan equalized chaotically in the 72nd minute as a scrambled clearance bounced off Yasir Mozamil, but Bahrain hit back: Mohammed Al Romaihi converted a 79th-minute penalty, and Me-



Jordan's Abu Zraiqa celebrates his stunning strike against Egypt

hdi Humaidan finished a slick 89th-minute move.

Group winners Algeria later defeated Iraq 2-0, controlling proceedings after Hussein Al Saedi's red card. Mohamed Tougaï struck in first-half stoppage time following VAR confirmation, before an Iraq own goal seconds

after the restart sealed it.

Today is a rest day before the quarter-finals: Morocco vs Syria and Palestine vs Saudi Arabia tomorrow, followed Thursday by Iraq vs Jordan and Algeria vs UAE. The semi-finals are on December 15, with the final and third-place match on December 18.

Red Bull part ways with influential advisor Marko - reports

AFP | London

Red Bull's influential advisor Helmut Marko is leaving the Formula One giants, it was reported by several media outlets yesterday.

The 82-year-old Austrian has been front and centre of Red Bull's remarkable run in F1 since their arrival on the grid back in 2005, helping to oversee six constructors' championships and eight drivers' titles.

The 1971 winner of the Le Mans 24 Hours for Porsche is a close ally of Max Verstappen, who missed out on a fifth successive title by only two points to McLaren's Lando Norris in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Marko was responsible for Red Bull's young driver programme, and was behind



Helmut Marko

Sebastian Vettel's four titles, along with Verstappen's emergence as one of the all-time greats.

The decision to split ways with Marko was said to have been made after talks with Red Bull executives in Abu Dhabi on Monday, including Oliver Mintzlaff, one of the Austrian firm's managing directors in charge of sports, according to motorsport.com.

REHC to honour media, celebrate National Day in special race meet

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club (REHC) is set to host one of its most distinctive race evenings this Friday, combining high-stakes competition with a celebratory national focus. The eighth race of the 2025-2026 season will feature the prestigious National Day Cup, the Nadd Holding Group Cup, and a unique new event: the inaugural Al-Riffa Media Cup.

This unique initiative is designed to honour Bahrain's media professionals, reflecting the club's appreciation for their "dedicated national role."

The REHC plans to host edi-



tors-in-chief, journalists, broadcasters, and photographers from across the Kingdom to celebrate their noble mission in serving the nation.

The evening itself will car-

ry a strong national character, coinciding with the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day celebrations, with the National Day Cup sponsored by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Au-

thority.

Beyond the festive atmosphere, the evening will feature eight competitive races, promising excitement and strong competition for racing enthusiasts.

Highlights include the Bahrain National Day Cup for imported horses over 1800 metres, the Nadd Holding Group Cup (imported) over 2200 metres, and the concluding Al-Riffa Media Cup (imported), a Balance Race over 1200 metres straight.

The race card also features the Bahraini Purebred Arabian Horses "Al Wahoo" race over 1400 metres, ensuring a blend of local heritage and high-class international competition throughout the night.