

# SPORTS

## sports

## Drag racing returns to BIC

● Bahrain Drag Racing Championship makes rousing return this week at BIC

● Participants are set to compete in 16 categories for both cars and motorbikes

TDI | Manama



A participant in the drag racing championship (file photo)

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the long-awaited season-opening round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship (BDRC) this week, starting with the first of two days of Test and Tune Tuesday (Editor's note: November 12) in Sakhir.

The BDRC is the region's biggest and most competitive drag racing series and it attracts drivers and their vehicles from all over the world, including many from across the Gulf and the US.

BIC's quarter-mile drag strip will host all of the action once again this season. BIC is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network, allowing the Bahrain championship to run under the prestigious NHRA banner.

Test and Tune continues until Wednesday, after which Qualifying takes place on Thursday. That sets the stage for Race Day on Friday.

The tests are from 6pm to 11pm both nights, and then Qualifying will be from 4pm to 11pm. Race Day's head-to-head battles begin from 4pm Friday.

Participants are set to compete in 16 competition categories for both cars and motorbikes. They will all be vying for the season's titles as well as a highly sought-after "Wally" trophy.

The classes this season include 12 for cars and four for motorbikes.

The cars categories consist of Street 4 and 6, Outlaw FWD, Super Street 6-Cyl, Outlaw 6-Cyl, Street V8, Super Street V8, Competition 4.5, Outlaw 10.5, Pro Mod, Index 10.5, Index 9.5, Index 8.5. For motorcycles,

the classes include Street Fight Bikes, Street Bikes, Super Street Bikes and Pro Bikes.

All are welcome to attend the season-opening round. Tickets can be purchased at the gate. Tickets to the Test and Tune cost BD2 apiece for each night. For Qualifying and Race Day, tickets are BD5 for both days at the Start Line Grandstand, while tickets are BD3 for both days at the Batelco Grandstand. Children aged from three to 12 years old can attend for half the price.

The 2019/2020 season is composed of five rounds, to be held until February of next year. Round Two is set from December 17 to 20, followed by Round Three from January 14 to 17. Round Four will be from February 4 to 7, and then the championship finale will be held from February 25 to 28.

## Bahrain begin final training for qualifiers



Players warm up at the start of their training session in Hong Kong

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Bahrain's senior men's national football team have kicked off the final preparations for their upcoming Fifa World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023 joint-qualifier against Hong Kong on Thursday.

Upon reaching Hong Kong, the Bahrainis went right to training under head coach Helio Sousa.

All but one of the 23 players named by Sousa for his squad are with the team. Only striker Abdulla Yusuf, who plays in Europe with Czech club Sparta Prague, has yet to report

for national team duty, but is scheduled to do so today.

Bahrain's qualifier with Hong Kong is scheduled for a 3pm kick-off, Bahrain time. After that game, they will travel to Amman to play another qualifier against Iraq on November 19 against Iraq.

Bahrain are in Group C of the qualifiers for the World Cup and Asian Cup. Iraq currently tops the group with seven points, leading Bahrain on goal difference, while Iran holds third spot with six points. Hong Kong and Cambodia each have one point.

## Khaka says he is ready to battle for Arsenal place

AFP | London

Granit Xhaka may have been stripped of the Arsenal captaincy due to his public run-in with the club's fans but he says he will be staying and fighting for his place in the team.

The volatile 27-year-old Swiss international midfielder has not played since he mouthed an obscenity at a section of Gunners fans jeering him when he was substituted in the Premier League match with Crystal Palace a fortnight ago.

However, despite manager Unai Emery deciding he could not carry on as skipper -- a role he was given after a secret ballot of



Granit Xhaka

**“**You can be sure that I'll keep fighting and putting myself out there in every training session. I feel last week has been dealt with and I'm ready

GRANIT XHAKA

## Brave 31 full fight card released, including clash of generations in South Africa

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The second trip of BRAVE Combat Federation to South Africa already had a date and place set. Now, the fans know which fights will electrify the arena in Durban. The 10-bout card was announced by BRAVE officials and, apart from the already-published Middleweight title fight between Chad Hanekom and Daniel Gaucho, includes a historical clash of generations for the South African MMA scene.

A main card featured bout will take place between South African MMA pioneer Jeremy Smith and Mzwandile Hlongwa, one of the hottest prospects in the country and pointed as the face of the sport in the region for the upcoming years. "Pitbull" and "Snake-

bone" will meet in the Middleweight division.

In a quick turnaround, Dansheel Moodley is ready to action once again, only a few weeks after defeating Noureddin Hezrat in Romania. "Buddha" will face Philipines' John Cris Corton in the co-main event of the evening.

Another stellar bout confirmed for BRAVE 31 is the return of "The Future" Nkosi Ndebele, who is set to face United Kingdom's Ian Cleary in a Bantamweight bout. The fight will be featured in BRAVE 31 prelims.

BRAVE 31 takes place on December 7, in Durban, South Africa. The event will be headlined by the inaugural Middleweight title fight between local superstar Chad "Superman" Hanekom and Brazil's Daniel

## Al Ettihad cruise past Al Najma

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Al Ettihad edged Al Najma 108-101 yesterday in their Group A game of the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Cup.

Ettihad had strong performances on the second and third quarters and then did just enough in the end to hold on for the victory.

Najma got back to within one point in the final quarter following a lay-up by Qassim Hassan that made it 98-99 with just under four minutes remaining. But then Hassan Albosta replied with a three-pointer on the very next possession and later scored once again to give Ettihad a 104-100 advantage. Najma were unable to narrow the gap from there.

Ettihad had a slow start to the game and faced a 21-27 deficit



Ettihad's Shabaan goes for a lay-up during their game against Najma

after the opening period. They were able to turn things around in the second when they took a 52-50 lead into the half.

They extended their lead to 85-76 after three and did well to thwart a Najma comeback.

Mohammed Abdulla Ali led a balanced attack for Ettihad in

their win. He scored 26 points, including an impressive five three-pointers, coming off the bench.

He was one of six Ettihad players in double-figures. Ahmed Mohammed Shabaan added 24 points and eight rebounds while Ali Ghadeer had a near triple-double with 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Fadhel Abdulelah had 13, Ali Helal 12 and Albosta 10.

Ali Jaber had a game-high 39 points for Najma. He also had 10 rebounds and six assists. Hassan scored 23 off the bench while skipper Fadalallah Abbas came one assist shy of a triple-double, scoring 12 points, grabbing 12 rebounds and dishing out nine assists.

Cup action continues this evening with Samahej taking on Isa Town at 5.30pm.

### Check out the announced BRAVE CF 31 fight card:

#### MAIN CARD

Middleweight World Title: Chad Hanekom vs Daniel Souza  
Flyweight bout: Dansheel Moddley vs John Cris Corton  
Super Lightweight: Djamil Chan vs Amin Ayoub  
Middleweight bout: Mizwandile Hlongwa vs Jeremy Smith  
Featherweight bout: Steven Goncalves vs TBA

#### Preliminary card

Welterweight bout: Kevin Ruat vs Ibrahim Mane  
Bantamweight bout: Martin Debeer vs TBA  
Bantamweight bout: Nkosi Ndebele vs Ian Cleary  
Welterweight bout: Dimitri Fogg vs Jason Culverwell  
Welterweight bout: Britis Lukasal vs Eleizer Kubanza

## Pak CC edge Titans in CBA T20 League

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Pak CC defeated Titans by 9 wickets in CBA division C T-20 League.

Pak CC won the toss and elected to bowl first. Jishad (53) scored a half century that helped titan to score 181 runs. Faisal and Farid took two wickets each for Pak CC. Chasing the target, Faisal (70) and Zubair (79) put a 100 runs partnership for second wicket that helped



Sreejith - Fog

Pak CC to reach the target in 17th over and win the match by 9 wickets.



Faisal - Pak CC

Pak CC 182/1 in 16.3 overs (Zubair 79, Faisal 70) beat Titans 181/8 (Jishad 53, Waseem

32, Mohan 27, Faisal 2/21) by 9 wickets

FOG CC 130/6 (sreejith 53, Philip 28) beat Indian Delights 104/8 (Leju 25, Vijil 2/13) by 26 runs

Sprite CC 180/8 (Zafar 42, Zubair 38, Shaami 2/25) beat Brave Warriors 124/10 (Sultan 26) by 56 runs

TISC Stars 104/10 (Asif 39, Prathab 2/11) beat LuLu 102/5 (Pradeep 29, Samir 2/24) by 2 runs