

Bahrain stars shine at BIC drag meet

Drag racers light up BIC strip in action-packed third round of 2025/2026 Bahrain championship

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', staged an action-packed third round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, which wrapped up over the weekend.

Competitors from across the Gulf and beyond joined the Kingdom's best drag racers to battle it out along BIC's world-renowned quarter-mile drag strip, which is a part of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network.

Four Bahrainis triumphed across the 12 competition categories for cars and motorbikes. They included Mohsen Salman in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder class, Yusuf Alzayyani in the Outlaw 6-Cylinder, Mohammed Ebrahim in the Street Fight Bikes 9.5, and Yusuf Ahmed in the Pro Street Bikes division.

Also claiming victories were participants from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Lebanon.

The meeting marked the front-end of back-to-back rounds this season, with round four scheduled to take place later this week from Tuesday to Friday (Editor's note: 13 to 16 January) in Sakhr.

The Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, which is sanctioned by the NHRA, is organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

Salman took first place in the Outlaw 4-Cylinder category after winning the final elimination with a pass of 10.549 seconds at 227.89kph. He beat countryman Mahmood Saleh, while fellow-Bahraini Ahmed Abdul-



rahim came third.

Alzayyani followed suit by taking the Outlaw 6-Cylinder victory, where he narrowly beat compatriot Ali Alkhunaizi in the final. Alzayyani clocked a winning mark of 4.288s at 284.41kph while Alkhunaizi posted a time of 4.331s at 265.65kph. Faisal Alarab, also from Bahrain, joined them on the podium in third.

Ebrahim won the Street Fight Bikes 9.5 class with a time of 9.500s at 224.42kph in the decisive head-to-head. He beat Khalid Aldossari from Saudi, who had a break out. Khalifa Alshurooqi from Bahrain ranked third.

Ahmed also made it to the top of the podium by taking the Pro Street Bikes category. The Bahraini won the final in 4.311s at 292.93kph, defeating Hassan Alouh from Saudi who had a time of 4.814s at 241.48kph. Khalid Aldossary from Saudi

placed third.

Meanwhile, four Saudi participants claimed victories in their divisions.

Mohammed Albrahim took first place in the 9.0 Index class with a final pass of 9.029s at 221.88kph, beating the UAE's Mohamed Idris, who had a break out. Raed Ali of Bahrain came third.

Saudi's Nabeel Alessa then won the Pro 29.5 V8 category with a mark of 4.393s in the last elimination at 287.87kph. He beat Bahrain's Nayef Janahi who clocked 12.815s at 45.48kph, while Mohamed Bahloul, also from Bahrain, completed the top three.

Abdulrahman Alnajm joined his compatriots as winners amongst the 8.5 Index Bikes competitors. He took their final in 8.543s at 241.98kph, beating Shehab Burabaa from Kuwait, who timed in at 10.755s at

122.32kph. Bahraini Ali Bahram joined them on the podium.

Saudi's Jihad Aljamal then won the Outlaw Bikes class with a pass of 4.346s in the final at 277.60kph. He beat Kuwaiti Saad Jumrah, who had a run of 4.769s at 199.65kph. Saudi's Aldossary finished third for his second podium of the night.

Kuwait's Yousef Alhuraibi took the victory in the 8.5 Index category with a final pass of 8.528s at 242.00kph. He beat Ahmad Zaman in the final following a break out, while Salem Bowmashah made it an all-Kuwaiti top three.

Kuwait's Abdulrahman Bo Alwa was also triumphant, winning the 4.8 Index class with a time of 11.078s at 90.26kph in his final. Bahrain's Yousif Alkhamiri came second and Saudi's Saud Harakah was third.

Obaid Alblooshi from the UAE joined the list of victors, taking



the Competition 4.5 category. He had a run of 4.540s at 248.89kph in the final, where he defeated Kuwaiti Mohammed Alfaras, who registered a mark of 5.165s at 170.06kph.

Ahmad Jamal from Lebanon completed the round's winners. He triumphed in the 10.0 Index division with a winning pass of 10.069s at 204.67s in the final, where he beat Kuwait's Read Ali, who had a time of 10.065s at 206.28kph. Bahrain's Ahmed Matar ranked third.

Following all the action, the

winners were presented their respective trophies during the podium ceremonies.

The 2025/2026 calendar of the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship features five rounds in all. After this week's upcoming events, the grand finale is scheduled for 3 to 6 March.

For more information on the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.



Guardiola downplays trophy talk as he focuses on Man City growth

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola says he cares more about how Manchester City "grow up" than winning trophies as he prepares his side for the first leg of their League Cup semi-final away to Newcastle on Tuesday.

City ended last season without a major trophy for the first time in eight years, though they did lift the Community Shield at the start of the campaign, beating Manchester United on penalties.

Guardiola, asked at his pre-match press conference yester-

day if he felt extra pressure after missing out on the big prizes last season, insisted he was not focused on silverware.

"It's not about winning or not winning trophies, it's about how the team grows up, how the team is better," the City manager said.

"Last season we didn't deserve to win more than just one trophy, because we didn't play good. So satisfaction to win a trophy when we are not playing good, can happen, you know, knockout stages, (you can be) lucky.

"It's not about that. Believe



Pep Guardiola reacts after a match (file photo)

me, it's not about that. We are here to make the team play better, the satisfaction is to make a good performance for ourselves, our fans."

Guardiola, who has rebuilt his squad over the past year following the departures of key players, said the point was to improve game by game.

"That is the target, and all the time has been like that," he explained. "And after, when you are in that process, and you fight for the title, you can win it.

"But after the title, big com-

It's not about winning or not winning trophies, it's about how the team grows up, how the team is better

PEP GUARDIOLA

pliments, the day after, a little bit less compliments, two days after, three days, it's forgotten. It's another. So it's the journey, it's how you improve. That is

what you have to do to live our profession."

City won the League Cup for four seasons in a row from 2018, with the competition proving a launchpad for a decade of domination of English football under Guardiola.

Last season they were dethroned as Premier League champions by Liverpool and they trail leaders Arsenal by six points in the current campaign.

Chelsea host Arsenal in the first leg of the other League Cup semi-final on Wednesday.