

# SPORTS

## sports

## Drag and Drift Night returns today at BIC



A car in action during a drag race

TDT | Manama

The temperatures continue to rise at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) despite the cooling weather, as the new season continues to heat up at the world-famous Sakhir desert facility.

One of the most popular activities for motor racing enthusiasts is set to return to action today with the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Night taking centre stage at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

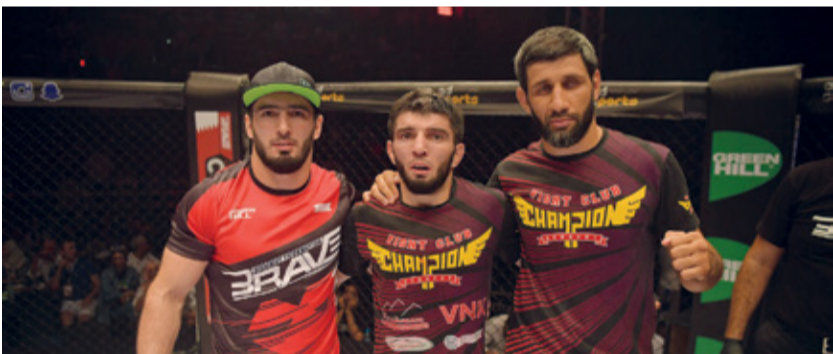
Sponsored by Ebrahim K Kanoo, Drag and Drift Night gives partici-

pants the chance to take their very own cars or motorbikes and push them to their limit in a safe and controlled environment, either down the strip or around a drifting course, or both.

BIC's world-class quarter-mile drag strip is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network. The drifting course is a specially configured facility at BIC's car park number five.

Safety standards of the highest level are followed at all times during the evening's events for both drivers and spectators alike.

## Combat Sambo champ prepares for title shot



Velimurad Alkhasov with teammates

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Velimurad Alkhasov has started his preparations for the upcoming flyweight championship title bout at the KHK MMA Gym in Bahrain.

The bout for the flyweight title will take place on 16th November at Brave 18 in Bahrain. He will face Marcel Adur from Brazil in a bout that will determine the flyweight champion of the promotion.

Alkhasov is the 2016 Combat Sambo World Champion and the former ACB flyweight champion. Alkhasov made

his promotional debut at Brave Combat Federation during Brave 14 hosted in Tangier, Morocco.

He defeated veteran flyweight fighter from the United States of America, Sean Santella by unanimous decision. Alkhasov is training alongside the Bahrain National Team who are preparing for the upcoming IMMAF - WMMAA World Championships 2018.

This marks the first time an MMA fighter is preparing for his championship title fight at KHK MMA Bahrain. Alkhasov has an undefeated professional record of 5 wins.

## Shaikh Nasser excels in Ironman championship

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His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has come out with flying colours in the 2018 Ironman World Championships held in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

HH Shaikh Nasser, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, and BOC President had successfully completed the event, which commenced with a 3.8km swim, followed by a 180km bike and was wrapped up with a 42km run.

Shaikh Nasser, competing in the age category of 30 to 34 years, took a total time of nine hours, nineteen minutes and nine seconds to finish 251st out of 2,379 competitors.

The Ironman world championship brought the world's best athletes together in competition with over 2,000 athletes embarking on a 226.26km journey that presents the ultimate test of body, mind and spirit to earn the title.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association (BAA), congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, on the achievement of HH Shaikh Nasser.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the unprecedented achievement of Shaikh Nasser is a clear result of the patronage and support of HM the King to Bahraini sports and athletes, which contributed to HH's achievement of this level of competition and honourable accomplishment.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa crossing the finish line

"It is a pleasure to watch Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa move confidently towards the desired goal. He had determined to reach the World Championship and has thus succeeded," Shaikh Khalid said. "Today, we see him deservedly crowned the hero of Ironman, which proves that Shaikh Nasser is a true model of a successful athlete and leader who never gives in. HH had termed the year 2018 as the 'Year of Gold', which is what he has achieved in this world event."

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC)

secretary general Abdulrahman Askar congratulated HH Shaikh Nasser on his success.

Askar said the triumph represents another crucial achievement for Bahrain sports in general – and to HH Shaikh Nasser – in specific, and asserts his initiative for the year of 'Only Gold' campaign launched in 2018.

"HH Shaikh Nasser has become one of the most prominent athletes in this type of sports as he managed to build a remarkable presence on an international level with his physical strength, stamina and determination to excel," Askar said.

## Yastremska claims first title in Hong Kong

AFP | Hong Kong

Ukrainian teenager Dayana Yastremska said yesterday she was dreaming of a Grand Slam after she crushed Chinese number one Wang Qiang 6-2, 6-1 at the Hong Kong Open to claim her first ever title.

The 18-year-old comprehensively outplayed the world number 24 to win the tournament without losing a set all week, walking away with a cheque for \$163,265 and more than doubling her career winnings at a stroke.

Wang -- who has been touted by some as a potential successor to Chinese tennis icon Li Na -- was chasing her third title but was never in the match, which was over in little more than an hour.

Despite chants of "Keep going Wang Qiang!" ringing out in Cantonese round the Centre Court, the 26-year-old appeared curiously listless, the day after she had put both world number five Elina Svitolina and former Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza to the sword.

Until yesterday, Yastremska's chief claim to fame had been 2016 Wimbledon girls singles finalist, but earlier this year she became the first player



Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine celebrates her victory

born this millennium to break into the WTA top 100 rankings.

She did not appear overwhelmed appearing in her first final, despite saying she had woken up so nervous she could not eat.

"I thought it would be more difficult," she said.

"But if before the match you think it's going to be really difficult you up

your focus, and when you go on court you stay more dedicated to each point, that's what helped me to stay that calm during the whole match."

She instantly put her opponent under pressure by forcing two break points in the opening service game, eventually breaking Wang to go 4-2 up, and claimed the set with a blistering backhand return.

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