

The calm before the storm

Asian Youth Games countdown enters final week in the Kingdom

- Games run from October 22–31
- 356 Bahraini athletes
- Futsal, volleyball, swimming lead numbers
- Record 54 female participants

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The wait is almost over. With just one week remaining until the curtain rises on the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG), Bahrain is in the final stretch of preparations to host one of the continent’s largest multi-sport events. Scheduled from October 22 to 31, the Games will welcome 356 Bahraini participants, including 150 male and 54 female athletes, competing across 26 sports and 253 events. The Bahraini delegation spans a mix of individual and team sports. Futsal leads in participation with 38 athletes, followed by volleyball (36) and swimming (24), while handball and equestrian endurance racing feature 23 and 27 participants respectively. This edition also features the largest-ever female participation in Bahrain’s AYG history, reflecting the country’s growing focus on women in sport. Held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Games will be Bahrain’s debut as host of a continental multi-sport competition, and its most ambitious sporting event to date. Beyond the medals, the AYG serves as a



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa inspects Bahrain National Stadium preparations for the 3rd Asian Youth Games, accompanied by HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Dr. Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, and Yousef Duaij

qualifying pathway to the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal. It is also the first edition since Nanjing 2013, following cancellations in 2017 and 2021. Yesterday, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, inspected final preparations at Isa Sports City. He was accompanied by senior officials including HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, BOC Secretary-General Faris Al Kooheji,

The Games were reasigned to Bahrain less than a year ago

and Yousef Duaij, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Third AYG. On Monday, Shaikh Khalid

conducted a similar inspection at Bahrain National Stadium, checking the athletics track, VIP platform, spectator stands, media platform, athletes’ changing rooms, and other facilities. “The readiness of venues is one of the key factors for success,” Shaikh Khalid said, praising the pace of progress and reaffirming Bahrain’s commitment to delivering “an event that reflects the Kingdom’s growing sporting stature.”

Bahrain’s Squads Confirmed

The Bahrain Olympic Committee has confirmed the Kingdom’s participation in five other sports including athletics, 3x3

Bahrain’s Squads

Men’s 3x3 basketball: Somto Patrick Onoduenyi, Hassan Abdulkadir, Divine Tochukwu Abochi, Ali Hussain Mahdi, Yousif Meshaei, Hussain Fuad Ghuloom; coached by Bogdan Dragovic (Serbia) and Bahraini assistant Murtadha Mohammed

Athletics: Salah Rashid, Yousef Ayman Rizq, Talal Al Dossary, Maryam Ateeq, competing in sprints, middle distance, and cross-country

Jiu-jitsu: Pedro Bisi de Jesus, Yousif Mercer, Hamad Fuad Waheed

Badminton: Ali Ashoor, Fatima Ebrahim

E-sports: Captained by Hussain Al Jawder

Handball Groups

Group A: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Maldives, Hong Kong-China

Group B: Kuwait, Iran, China, UAE, Thailand, Kazakhstan

Umm Alhassam Sports Hall for handball, and the Bahrain Endurance Village for equestrian competitions.

Early Matchups

Group draws for futsal, handball, and volleyball were conducted at the Gulf Hotel, attended by Yusuf Duaij and senior OCA officials. Bahrain’s boys’ handball team will open against Hong Kong-China on October 19, with matches against Maldives, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia to follow. Following withdrawals from India, Qatar, and Uzbekistan, a revised draw on October 9 at the Asian Handball Federation HQ in Kuwait created two groups:

- Group A: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Maldives, Hong Kong-China
- Group B: Kuwait, Iran, China, UAE, Thailand, Kazakhstan

A Legacy in Motion

Bahrain has been a consistent participant in the Asian Youth Games since its inception, winning bronze medals in athletics at both the 2009 Singapore and 2013 Nanjing editions. This time, as host nation, Bahrain will give its next generation a platform while confirming its readiness to stage a major multi-sport event in record time.



Athletes from Thailand and Indonesia arrive in Bahrain to participate in Asian Youth Games. Participants continue to flock to the Kingdom, amid an atmosphere of enthusiasm in preparation for the launch of the biggest continental event in the history of Bahraini sports

BIC to bring head-to-head thrills with Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night this Thursday



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, continues to ramp up its public offerings this 2025/2026 season with the first edition of Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night, set to take place this tomorrow in Sakhir.

The event offers motorsport enthusiasts the opportunity to engage in head-to-head battles along BIC’s world-class quar-

ter-mile drag strip in their very own cars or motorbikes. Interested participants can invite their family or friends for an exciting one-on-one challenge, but instead of the traditional standing start, they will begin their run at a rolling speed of 80kph.

Thursday’s event is scheduled from 7pm to 12midnight. To book a slot or for more information, visit BIC’s official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.



The cost to be a part of the Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night is BD22 for each driver or rider. Spectators can watch from the stands for a fee of BD2.

Just as in all activities at the circuit, safety is paramount for all taking part. Cars and motorbikes must therefore go through scrutineering before being able to hit the BIC strip, which is a part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night makes for a unique experience, putting fans into an engaging, yet friendly, duel. Both participants will be able to push their vehicles to their limit within the secure and controlled environment at BIC.

For more information on Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night or other events and activities at BIC, visit the circuit’s website, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official social media channels.