

Al Merisi crowned Amateur Open champion

Bahrain national team golfer ends three-day competition with one-over-par final round score to finish seven shots clear of closest challenger to clinch title

● Dubai-based golfer Viggo Sorensen finishes in second place, one shot ahead of veteran Bahraini player Nasser Yaqoob

● Winners presented their respective prizes in awarding ceremony that followed play at The Royal Golf Club

TDT | Manama

Khalifa Al Merisi was yesterday crowned champion of the third annual Bahrain Amateur Open golf championship, which came to a close at The Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Al Merisi secured the title after completing the 54-hole competition seven shots clear of his closest challenger.

The Bahrain national team golfer carded a one-over-par 73 in the final round to bring his three-day total to two-under-par 214.

His day three performance yesterday included six birdies, including one on the 18th hole, but he also had a pair of double bogeys on holes five and 14 and three other bogeys.



Winners with officials at the awarding ceremony

Al Merisi capped a memorable weekend at RGC's Montgomerie championship course as he led the tournament from the first to last day.

Finishing in second place was Dubai-based golfer Viggo Sorensen. After a disappointing second round, the Danish-French national bounced back with the field's best score on day three of two-under-par 70. He had just two bogeys on the day while playing four birdies.

Sorensen completed the event with a five-over-par score of 221 over 54 holes.

Veteran Bahraini golfer Nasser Yaqoob came third overall. He finished yesterday's play with an even-par score of 70 to bring his three-day total to 222. A further three shots behind was Sultan Al Hakam who played a 75 yesterday, while finishing tied-fifth were Fahad Al Hakam and Mohammed Al Noaimi, both with 226 total scores.

Last year's champion Ahmed Al



Khalifa Al Merisi with the winner's trophy

Zayed finished seventh with a 228 gross, while Khalifa Duaij was eighth on 229. Abdulla Al Yaqoob was ninth on 232, with Hamad Afnan and Julian Jacobs tied-10th on 236 totals.

Fifty-four of the 60 players who made the cut for the final round completed the competition.

At the end of play, the winners were presented their respective prizes in an awarding ceremony attended by officials from tournament organisers the



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Bahrain Golf Association.

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This year's Open marked the first time it was held as a World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) event. Competitors have been able to improve their standing or become ranked players in the WAGR.

The tournament was sponsored by Infonas, Kanoo Travel, Banz, Riffa Views and Reza Hygiene.

Drag and Drift Nights returns for new season of exciting experiences at BIC

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is bringing back the Drag and Drift Nights on Monday.

The activity is one of the most popular on offer to fans at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", with the new season of events now in full swing.

BIC Commercial Director Sherif Al Mahdy commented: "It's a great pleasure to be launching another new season of E.K. Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights. It's one of our most popular regular events at BIC and we are hugely grateful to E.K. Kanoo for their continued support."

Participants get the chance to take their very own car or motorbike and push them to their limit either down BIC's world-class drag strip or around the circuit's Vehicle Dynamics Area, or both!

BIC is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network, and its quarter-mile strip is highly regarded as one of the best in the sport, ensuring an absolute thrill of a drive for all taking part.

BIC's Vehicle Dynamics Area is a specially configured venue at BIC's car park that has been surrounded by safety barriers. It is the largest open tarmac area in Bahrain and the ideal location to go drifting.

Both the drag and the drifting can be enjoyed for a single fee of BD10,500. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD7,500. Registration can be done on site from 5pm,



A car on track at BIC during a previous Drag and Drift Nights event



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and the action will be held from 6pm to 10pm.

Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional BD4. Spectators can purchase tickets for BD2 apiece.



A biker in action at BIC



A car drifts at BIC

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

For more information on the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights, visit the circuit's official website on bahrainp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

Kohli hails impact of 'inspirational' mentor Dhoni

AFP | Dubai

Virat Kohli yesterday hailed MS Dhoni as an "inspiration" who had a "huge impact" on his cricketing journey as the India captain goes in search of the Twenty20 World Cup title.

Dhoni, who on Friday led Chennai Super Kings to their fourth IPL crown, captained India to the T20 world title in 2007.

But a World Cup win still awaits Kohli who will step down as the national T20 skipper after the 2021 tournament which gets underway on Sunday.

The star batsman, who took over the leadership role across all formats from Dhoni in 2017, said the former captain's presence in the dressing room as team mentor will inspire an already confident unit.

"He has always been a mentor for all of us when we were starting our careers through till the time we played with the team and now has an opportunity to continue to do that



MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli during a match (file photo)

same work again," Kohli told reporters.

"Younger guys who are playing their first major tournaments at early stages of their careers will benefit from his practical inputs, the intricate details of where the game is

going and how we can improve.

"So we are delighted to have him back in this environment and his presence will certainly boost the morale of the team further and give us a lot more confidence than we already have as a team."

Budaiya beat Al Najma, East Riffa draw with Hidd

TDT | Manama

Budaiya claimed a narrow 1-0 victory over Al Najma last night in the 2021/2022 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

The result was their first win of the new season and it kicked off the fourth week of action.

Abdulla Duaij scored the match's lone goal.

With the result, Budaiya improved to four points for seventh on the league table. Najma stayed on five points in sixth



Action for the East Riffa-Hidd match

following their first loss.

In yesterday's other match, East Riffa and Hidd played to a 1-1 stalemate.

Mohammed Al Rumaihi was on target for East Riffa while Mohammed Al Tayeb scored for Hidd.

East Riffa went to five points for fifth place on the league table while Hidd claimed just their second point. They are second-to-last in ninth place.

League action continues tonight with another two matches on the cards. At 5.45pm, current leaders Manama take on Al Hala. That will be followed at 8.20pm by champions Riffa facing off with Al Khaldiya in a titanic clash.