

Champions of the drag strip crowned!

BIC awards 2021 champions of Bahrain Drag Racing Championship following season's fifth and final round in Sakhir

● Five drivers secure their 2021 titles in final meeting of the season at BIC

● Eleven champions in all come away with their trophies in their respective categories

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The roster of champions in the 2021 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship was completed over the weekend, following the staging of the season's fifth and final round at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

The title winners not only took home their respective first place trophies, but also came away with a highly coveted Wally, which is a prestigious, globally renowned award presented only to champions of National Hot Rod Association (NHRA)-sanctioned events around the world.

Securing their crowns in the curtain-closing meeting at the world-class Sakhir drag strip were Ali Abdulla in the Index 10.5 class, Hamdan Al Kaabi in the Index 9.0, Jehad Al Jamal in the Super Street Bikes category, Ali Bahram in the Index 8.5 Bikes and Fadi Abu Jamus in the Street Fight Bikes class.

They joined the six other champions who had already secured their respective 2021 titles heading into the campaign closer. They included Bahraini



Super Street V8 champion Hussain Mohammed celebrates on the champions' podium

Racing's Khalid Al Balooshi in the Pro Mod class, Bapco Motorsport's Hani Ali in the Index 8.5 category, Obaid Al Balooshi in the Competition 4.5 class, Hussain Mohammed in the Super Street V8, Mahmood Mohammed in the Outlaw 4 and Nawaf Almannai in the Outlaw 6 category.

All the champions were presented their hardware in an awarding ceremony held at the end of the fifth round.

A number of the new titlists were able to close out their seasons in style with wins over the weekend.

Round five winners

Nawaf Almannai was one of them. He took first place in the Outlaw 6 category after defeating Yousif Al Zayani in the final. Almannai had an elapsed time of 4.542 seconds at a top speed of 224.56kph.

Hussain Mohammed in the

Super Street V8 category was another. He took yet another win after beating Ali Al Joder in their deciding head-to-head.

Obaid Al Balooshi also wrapped up his campaign in first place after beating Ebrahim Abbas in the Competition 4.5 final.



The Pro Mod car of Bapco Motorsport's Hani Ali in action on the strip



Super Street Bikes champion Jehad Al Jamal with his Wally trophy on the champions' podium

Al Balooshi had a winning pass of 4.665s at 224.56kph.

Hani Ali also triumphed in the last round, but it was in the Pro Mod class where he overcame a tough challenge from Tariq Hadi, clocking a mark of 3.790s at 318.71kph.

Hamdan Alkaabi won the last battle in the Index 9.0 category with a 9.051s time at 234.03kph, beating Tariq Mohammed to take the top podium step.

Meanwhile, among the other round five winners at BIC, Salman Mahmood claimed first place in the Outlaw 4 class, where he beat Ali Nooraddin with an pass of 8.110s at 277.75kph in their decisive elimination run.

Abdulrahman Askar won the Index 10.5 category where he beat Abdulla Ghaloom with a 10.611s pass at 194.47kph; while Hussain Almahroos claimed the Index 8.5 category victory, where he clocked a time of 8.690s at 241.36kph to beat Hussain Abduljalil.

Elsewhere, Hasan Salman took first place in the Street Fight Bikes after beating category champion Fadi Abu Jamus in the final elimination with a run of 9.733s at 239.74kph; Ali



The Wally is drag racing's most prestigious trophy. It stands more than one-foot tall with a classy brass finish. It was affectionately named the "Wally" in honor of the late NHRA founder Wally Parks. The trophy remains one of the single biggest motivators for high-performance enthusiasts who compete in NHRA events around the world

Basilar won the Index 8.5 class with an 8.557s pass at 246.28kph; and Mishari Al Turki took the Super Street Bikes win against title-holder Jehad Al Jamal with a 7.812s time at 89.51kph.

The 2021 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship was organised and run by BIC, in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Club and the Bahrain Motorcycle Club.

Each event was held with no spectators in attendance, and with strict health protection measures in place, in line with government regulations and guidance.

Najma through to Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup semis

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Back-to-back league champions Al Najma barged into the semi-finals of the inaugural Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup early yesterday morning following a resounding 38-26 victory over Al Ettihad.

Najma had a 16-9 lead at the interval but were able to extend their advantage in the second half en route to securing the big win.

Mahdi Saad and Ali Eid top scored for the victors with six goals apiece, while Ko-



Al Najma player Komail Mahfoodh looks to score against Al Ettihad in their quarter-final game

mail Mahfoodh and Hassan Al Fardan added another five goals each.

Najma are next to face off with Bahrain Club in the final four. Bahrain Club advanced to the semis with a 23-18 win over Samahej.

The two other quarter-final games are between Al Ahli and Al Ettifaq and Al Shabab and Barbar.

The semi-finals of the competition may be rescheduled after Shabab's game with Barbar has been postponed until further notice.

The tournament is being held under the patronage of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Bahrain win silver in FIBA Esports Open

● Bahrainis lose 0-2 to counterparts from Saudi Arabia in best-of-three championship series

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Bahrain narrowly missed out on the gold medals yesterday in the FIBA Esports Open III, played online using the NBA 2K21 video game platform.

The Bahrainis had to settle for the silver medals in the competition's Middle East Conference after losing to Saudi Arabia 0-2 in the best-of-three championship round.

The nationals first bowed to their Gulf rivals 60-100 in a game one blowout, before falling 59-76 despite a tougher challenge in their second game.

The two losses wrapped up their campaign in the open, which included two wins in the preliminary stage and a 2-1 victory in the semi-finals to set up their match-up with the Saudis.

Bahrain's team in the tournament featured game characters including "||-Rodman-||", controlled by Jassim Ali, "Clutch-69gamer" (Hussain Alban-



Action from Bahrain's first game against Saudi Arabia yesterday

6 teams battled it out in the South East Asia, Africa and Middle East Conferences; while North and Central America had eight sides apiece. South America had seven teams while 28 played in the Europe Conference

Rodman_LL-Rodman" (Ali Al-showaikh).

The FIBA Esports Open III came to a close yesterday after seeing 60 national teams from around the world take part over three days of action. The online tournament comprised six regional conferences.

Six teams battled it out in the South East Asia, Africa and Middle East Conferences; while North and Central America had eight sides apiece. South America had seven teams while 28 played in the Europe Conference.

na), "BlackCobra_Z" (Salman Sharaf), "Kampoop" (Yaqoob Seyadi), "Bu_Mohd19_BH" (Ahmed Shareeda) and "LL-



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