

# Al Balooshi powers Bahrain1 to victory

● **Khalid Al Balooshi triumphs in third round of Bahrain drag racing at BIC**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain1 Racing were amongst the victorious teams over the weekend as Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted an exciting third round in the 2019/2020 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship in Sakhir.

Bahrain's Khalid Al Balooshi triumphed in the ultra-competitive Pro Mod category to register his second successive win in the region's leading series.

Al Balooshi was part of a field of 132 participants from all over the world who competed in the meeting, organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Drag Racing Club, Bahrain Motorcycle Club and the Bahrain Motor Federation.

From the entrants, 97 were competing in cars while 35 were on bikes.

Al Balooshi won the Pro Mod class with a 3.772 seconds pass in the final at a speed of 325.20kph. He defeated Saad Al Muran, who had a mark of 3.986s at 305.02kph. Muslim Al Qallaf finished in third place.

In the other competition categories, four Bahrainis managed to claim the top spot on their respective podiums.



Khalid Al Balooshi with other winners on the podium

Zakariya Alkuwari won in the Outlaw FWD class with a time of 8.307s at 287.20kph. He beat Ahmed Alsaeei in the final, while Ahmed Zaman claimed third place.

Nawaf Almanni won the Outlaw 6-Cylinder category in 4.587s at 253.74kph. He beat Mohammed Haji, who had a red light in the final. Jassim Zaman came away with third.

Hussain Mohammed was another Bahraini to triumph. Contesting the Super Street V8 class, he won his final round with a



**Four Bahrainis managed to claim the top spot on their respective podiums in the other competition categories**

pass of 4.359s at 271.58kph, narrowly beating Abdulla Alshamsi who had a 4.376s finishing time at 273.69kph. Khalid Saif finished third.

Ali Rabea completed the quartet of local winners, taking first place amongst the Index 10.5 runners. He won the final with a pass of 10.683s at 190.53kph, beating the 10.861s at 191.58kph marks of Ali Abdulla. Abdulla Aldoseri finished in third.

Meanwhile, participants from Saudi Arabia also enjoyed a pos-

itive evening, taking victories in five classes.

Abdulwahab Al Mutaib won the Index 9.5 category with a 9.510s time at 217.37kph in his final round. Al Mutaib beat Faded Hameed, who had to settle for being a close runner-up with a time of 9.587s at 217.91kph. Yousef Khamiri finished third.

Majed Alshwesh followed suit by winning the Index 8.5 division. He had a final pass of 9.130s at 264.34kph, defeating Sayed Hussain Al Hadad who had a red light. Ahmed Alkhan took the third podium step.

The three other wins for Saudi participants were in bikes classes. Fadi Abu Jamus won the Street Fight Bikes ahead of Theeb Alqahtani with Mohammed Al Taitoon finishing third. Khalid Aldoseri was first in the Index 8.5 Bikes class, finishing

ahead of Nawaf Al Dosary and Ali Bahram; while Mishari Al Turki triumphed in the Super Street Bikes ahead of Jehad Al Jamal and Bader Alawwad.

Elsewhere on the night, Kuwaitis Fawaz Ebrahiem Ali and Mohammed Alawwad won in the Competition 4.5 cars class and the Pro Bikes, respectively. Ali finished ahead of Obaid Al Blooshi and Abdulla Alhatem, while Alawwad won with Bader Alawwad in second and Ahmed Belal third.

Following all the action, the winners were awarded their respective trophies in the podium ceremony.

The championship is now headed to the last two rounds of the 2019/2020 season. The penultimate meeting will be from February 4 to 7, to be followed by the championship finale from February 25 to 28.



A car in action at BIC

## Inter stall in Lecce as Rebic lifts AC Milan

AFP | London

Inter Milan's Serie A title push hit another stumbling block yesterday after a 1-1 draw at lowly Lecce as Ante Rebic fired city rivals AC Milan to a last gasp 3-2 win over Udinese.

Antonio Conte's Inter looked to be bringing home maximum points from his hometown team, where he started his footballing career in the 1980s, when Alessandro Bastoni headed the away side in front with 18 minutes remaining.

But Marco Mancosu grabbed a precious point for the south-ersners five minutes after going behind. Inter have won just two of their last six league games but are one point behind leaders Juventus, who can however open up a four-point advantage when they host Parma later yesterday.

Conte's side are now also under threat from Lazio who are just two points behind with a game in hand after hammering



Inter Milan's forward Martinez (C) challenges Lecce's Cristian Dell'Orco (L) and Jacopo Petriccione

Sampdoria 5-1 on Saturday.

Earlier Ante Rebic hit a brace, including the stoppage time winner, against Udinese that snatched a dramatic win that gave troubled AC Milan back-to-back league victories.

Star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic got his first start at the San Siro after scoring last weekend

at Cagliari.

The 38-year-old Swede did not get to celebrate on front of the home crowd but he has provided a confidence-boost for the seven-time European champions, who have taken seven points in three matches since his return.

"We started a little tense," said

Milan coach Stefano Pioli.

"But I'm satisfied with our performance, we put our heart and soul into winning it."

"The arrival of Ibrahimovic has given us even more depth and conviction, which has helped us."

However, Pioli's side needed to fight back after Jens Stryger Larsen opened the scoring in the seventh minutes for the away side, who were coming off a run of three consecutive wins.

But the hosts upped the pace in the second half with former Eintracht Frankfurt player Rebic coming on after the break to equalise minutes later.

Theo Hernandez put Milan ahead with a powerful volley on 72 minutes, to take his tally to five league goals this season.

Kevin Lasagna got Udinese back level five minutes from time but Rebic had the final word deep into injury time to lift Milan to eighth, two points off the Europa League places.

## Lewandowski strikes again as Bayern go second in Bundesliga

AFP | Berlin

Robert Lewandowski hit his 20th league goal this season as Bayern Munich climbed to second in the Bundesliga yesterday with a 4-0 romp at Hertha Berlin to trim RB Leipzig's lead to four points.

Having seen RB Leipzig go five points clear with a 3-1 win over Union Berlin on Saturday, Bayern climbed a place in the table with second-half goals by

Thomas Mueller, Lewandowski, Thiago Alcantara and Ivan Perisic.

"We eventually made Hertha tired, but we were too patient in the first half," said Mueller who set up Perisic to claim his 12th league assist this season.

"We raised the tempo after the break and once we got the breakthrough, Hertha didn't fight back."

After Leipzig's Germany striker Timo Werner had edged

ahead of him as the league's top scorer with two goals against Union, Lewandowski drew level with his main rival's tally of 20 by converting a penalty.

Lewandowski and Werner are now the first players in Bundesliga history to have scored 20 goals after 18 games in their challenge to Gerd Mueller's record of 40 goals in a Bundesliga season, set in 1971/72.

After a groin injury last month, Lewandowski proved

his fitness with a lively display at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

He now has 31 goals in 26 games in all competitions, including 10 in just five Champions League games.

There was good news before kick-off for Hertha coach Jurgen Klinsmann as the German Football Association (DFB) confirmed his coaching licence is valid after doubts emerged last week over whether the certificate earned in 2000 had expired.

## BIC set for Drag and Drift Nights



A car in action at BIC

AFP | Madrid

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights returns to action today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Those who take part will have a chance to drive their cars or ride their motorbikes through BIC's world-class drag strip or around the circuit's Vehicle Dynamics Area, or even both!

The double-header remains one of the most popular activities on offer at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

BIC's quarter-mile strip hosts the drag racing action. BIC is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network, and it is where some of the region's best, World record-breaking drag racers go head to head in the national championship. Meanwhile, the drifting will take place at the circuit's Vehicle Dynamics Area, which 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.

Registration on Monday begins at 5pm and will be open until 9pm, while the action will be held from 6pm to 11pm.

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, and the action will be held from 6pm to 11pm.

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.

Also as part of the evening's drag racing programme, BIC is offering the immensely thrilling Dragster Xperience. This is one of the circuit's most unique and ultimate-adrenaline activities, as it gives participants a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster. The Dragster Experience costs BD42.

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