

## BIC's Open Track is Back!



Participants steer their cars at BIC

TDT | Manama

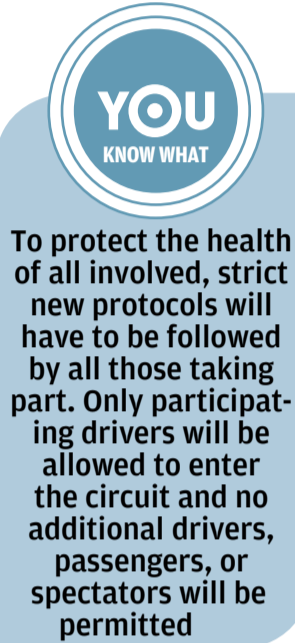
Motor racing fans across the Kingdom need not wait much longer to get back into action at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), as the first Open Track Night of the season takes place Friday in Sakhir.

Pre-booking is essential for the much-anticipated first open track of the season and fans are encouraged to book swiftly to avoid disappointment, as numbers are limited due to health protection measures.

As one of the most popular activities at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", drivers and riders alike will have a chance to explore the limits of their car or motorbike within a safe and controlled environment.

Driver etiquette is of ultimate importance, so there is no close or aggressive overtaking. Overtaking is by invitation between corners and driving is monitored, with poor or dangerous driving being dealt with swiftly by officials.

To protect the health of all involved, strict new protocols will have to be followed by all those taking part. Only participating drivers will be allowed to enter the circuit and no additional drivers, passengers, or



spectators will be permitted. Friday's activity will be taking place along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Registration will be open from 3pm. The sessions will take place from 4pm to 11pm, with a break between 7pm and 8pm. The members' session is scheduled for 11pm to 12mid-night.

Interested participants are able to pre-book a full night's drive costing BD94.5 and a half night's action costing BD68.5. A single session is priced at BD31.5.

# BRX unleashes bespoke Dakar T1 Vehicle at first test

The car was tested to extremes by the experienced duo of Roma and Loeb

● The testing at Millbrook provided a range of conditions found on the Dakar

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX) has completed its first major stage of testing at Millbrook, England, with the team and drivers taking a lot of confidence from how well the car performed throughout the test.

BRX's bespoke Dakar Rally T1 car was tested to extremes by the experienced duo of Nani Roma and Sebastian Loeb, as the BRX drivers familiarised themselves with the vehicle before the Dakar Rally next year. The team achieved nearly 2000km in total – the equivalent to almost four stages of the Dakar Rally.

The testing at Millbrook provided a range of conditions found on the Dakar; from rough gravel terrain and the notorious pave to sustained high speeds – equipping the team with a strong foundation to build on ahead of the rally itself.

Roma and Loeb are no strangers to putting their cars to the test, and pushing the limits when driving, and were buoyed by the vehicle's performance and capabilities, both commenting how easy the BRX T1 car was to drive.

BRX Driver, Sebastien Loeb, commented: "I managed to get a day testing the new car and I



BRX's bespoke Dakar Rally T1 car during the test

could immediately feel that it had good balance and plenty of power. Even in the wet very low grip conditions, it was easy to control and with more testing, I think we can develop its potential. I am looking forward to getting out to the Middle East in November and to begin testing in the sand."

BRX Driver, Nani Roma, commented: "Any driver will tell you that you know whether you have a good car within a few minutes of getting behind the wheel and for me everything was positive:

**400**  
bhp is produced by BRX's Dakar Rally T1 car which is powered by a 3.5 litre turbo-charged petrol V6

the brakes, the steering, the engine, the suspension. Every time we took the vehicle out, we

learnt something new. There is still a lot to do, but this is normal with such a new car. Of course, I did my best to try and break it, but I failed!"

BRX's bespoke Dakar Rally T1 car is a four-wheel drive car, powered by a 3.5 litre turbo-charged petrol V6. The vehicle builds on Prodrive's experience competing at the highest levels of world motorsport for over three decades and has been styled by Ian Callum, one of the world's leading motorsport designers.

## Chelsea cannot rely on scoring four goals a game, admits Azpilicueta

AFP | London

Chelsea captain Cesar Azpilicueta said that he believes the Blues' defensive woes are so bad it feels like they need to score three or four goals a game to win.

Frank Lampard's men drew 3-3 for the second time this season against Southampton on Saturday after twice giving up a lead.

"When you are weak defensively sometimes we feel like we have to score three or four goals every game, which sometimes you cannot do, it's a reality," Azpilicueta told reporters ahead of today's Champions League opener against Sevilla.

Chelsea's £220 million (243 million-euro) splurge in the transfer market has so far yet to see results as they sit seventh in the Premier League having won just two of their opening five games.

Big money signings Timo Werner and Kai Havertz did score their first league goals against Southampton, but Azpilicueta highlighted the need for Chelsea's array of attacking talent to also defend from the front.

## Rajasthan beat Chennai, spoils Dhoni's 200th IPL appearance

AFP | Dubai

Rajasthan Royals spoiled Mahendra Singh Dhoni's landmark 200th appearance in the Indian Premier League by beating sluggish Chennai Super Kings by seven wickets yesterday.

The 39-year-old Dhoni made a run-a-ball 28 before getting run out in Chennai's depressing first-up total of 125-5. The men in yellow yet again put up a lacklustre batting performance to remain at the bottom of the table after their seventh loss in 10 matches.

On a double-paced slow pitch, Rajasthan survived a top order collapse and reached 126-3 in 17.3 overs. Englishman Jos Buttler made an unbeaten 70 off 48 balls and dominated a 98-run match-winning stand with captain Steve Smith by hitting seven fours and two sixes.

"Buttler's innings took the pressure off me at the other end," Smith said after his team jumped to fifth. "It was a really good innings on a wicket that wasn't the easiest."

Smith, struggling to get runs, labored to an unbeaten 26 off 34 deliveries but hung in with



Jos Buttler (R) of Rajasthan plays a shot as MS dhoni of Chennai looks on

**Buttler's innings took the pressure off me at the other end. It was a really good innings on a wicket that wasn't the easiest**

STEVE SMITH

Buttler after Chennai reduced them to 28-3 inside the first six overs of the batting powerplay.

Dhoni's ploy to bowl out his frontline pace bowlers Deepak Chahar and Josh Hazlewood

within the first nine overs worked well momentarily: Ben Stokes played onto Chahar after scoring 19 and Sanju Samson was out for a duck to a Dhoni low one-handed catch.

In between those wickets by Chahar, who finished with 2-18, Robin Uthappa (4) lobbed an easy catch to Dhoni off Hazlewood. Then Buttler took control and earned Rajasthan its fourth win.

Earlier, Dhoni's decision to bat first after winning the toss, didn't go well and Chennai posted the lowest total this season by a team batting first.

## Guardiola challenges Aguero to earn new Manchester City deal

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola says Sergio Aguero must earn a new contract at Manchester City even though he is the club's all-time record goalscorer.

Aguero, who returned from a four-month spell out with injury in Saturday's 1-0 win over Arsenal, has entered the last 12 months of his existing deal.

The Argentine has scored 254 goals for City and been a major part of four Premier

League title triumphs, including his famous last-gasp winner in 2012.

However, Guardiola, who is also in the final season of his deal, believes the 32-year-old needs to prove his fitness and form in the coming months.

"The important thing is that Sergio comes back in good physical condition, starts to get his rhythm, doesn't get more injuries and plays good," Guardiola said.

**AQUA COOL**  
Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

35 YEARS

Easy & Secure Online Ordering of your favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the AQUA COOL App Now

Free Home Delivery

Call Us Now-1787 5098  
www.aquacool.bh

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.  
P.O. Box 1770, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
C.R. No. 14986, Public Health Registration No. 18/0006