

Sakhir Rotax MAX karting finale set

Bahrain International Karting Circuit set to host final two rounds of inaugural season in Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge this weekend, with back-to-back days of action

● **First-ever champions of all-new Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge to be crowned this weekend**

● **Karting action to begin in afternoon and end under floodlights at world-class karting facility**

TDT | Manama

The third and fourth rounds of the all-new Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC) will wrap up the championship's inaugural season this weekend at Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) world-class karting facility.

Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) will be the stage for two-action packed days of exciting grassroots racing tomorrow and Saturday, with some of the Kingdom's most prolific karters of different ages and nationalities returning to the track to battle it out along the 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track.

This is the first year of the SRMC and it is being held alongside the long-established Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), which is scheduled to kick off later this 2021/2022 season at BIKC.

Following an exciting opening two rounds held earlier this month, the se-



Action from a previous round at BIKC (File photo)

ries is set for more heated action with the inaugural titles in five different race classes on the line.

Luca Houghton has been the star man so far in the SRMC, winning the Junior Max category in both of the first two meetings.

Alexander Christov and Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa shared the honours in the Micro MAX class of the first and second rounds, respectively, as did Charlie Goddard and Shaikh Rashid bin Salman Al Khalifa in the Mini MAX.

In the Senior MAX category, Fahad Alkhaled was the winner in round one and Fahad Almuqla in round two.

The season's third round will take place on Friday followed by the championship finale on Saturday. Both meetings will follow the same schedule of sessions.

Kicking things off will be Qualifying Practice for all classes, starting with the Micro and Mini MAX together at 3pm. The junior competitors will then get out on track at 3.13pm, followed by the

seniors at 3.26pm and the DD2 karters at 3.39pm.

The Pre-Finals then get underway at 4pm with the Micro and Mini classes over seven laps. The sessions for the juniors (4.17pm), seniors (4.42pm) and DD2 (5.07pm) follow over 11 laps apiece.

After a break, the Micro and Mini Final over nine laps will flag off at 6pm. The juniors (6.20pm), seniors (6.55pm) and DD2 (7.30pm) Finals are to be held after, set over 15 laps each.

Following all the action, the podium ceremonies awarding each category's top three finishers will take place in the presence of BIC, BIKC and Bahrain Motor Federation officials.



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Highly competitive fields of karters in each category are expected to take part in the back-to-back events.

In the Micro class, Alexander Christov and Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa will once again be duelling for race victories, while in the Mini category Charlie Goddard, Shaikh Rashid bin Salman Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar and Ainis Vibrantis will be in the fray.

The Juniors grid will include Luca Houghton, Gracie Rose Grantham, Vedant Menon, Mohammed Alhassan, Santiago Biagi, Sari Al Zubi, Abdulqader Qasem, Muhammad Wally, Louis El Nabulsi, Tye Mejia, Alexander Skjelten, MUSAAD Albassam and Matthijs Terlouw.

The Seniors will see Fahad Alkhaled, Fahad Almuqla, Shaikha Haya bint Saqer Al Khalifa, Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Najashi Rashdan, Abdulla Jaweed, Yousif Mathkooor and Ahmed Musalam; and the DD2 class will feature Shaikh Salman bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Anthony Hogg, Henrijs Grube and Ilja Aloskins.

The participants are representing some of the biggest international karting teams, including Praga ME, BirelArt, Forza Bahrain and NorthStar.

For more information on the SRMC or on karting at BIKC, visit the official BIC website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 or the BIKC Hotline on +973-17451745.

Kasumov looks to continue climbing toward BRAVE CF bantamweight gold

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It has been more than 12 months since Kasum Kasumov last stepped foot in the BRAVE Combat Federation cage, but he has never lost sight of his long-term goals in the sport of mixed martial arts.

Recovering from an injury that sidelined him for long, Kasumov is poised to make a big splash in his return to action.

He is set to collide with Mochamed "The Beast" Machaev at BRAVE CF 55, which emanates from Rostov-on-Don, Russia on November 6th in association with PRO FC.

The Russian submission artist has been turning heads since he made his promotional debut, forcing Rany Saadeh to tap with



Kasum Kasumov

the rare Von Flue choke in the second round of their November 2019 clash before strangling Dimitar Kostov with a first-round arm-triangle choke in October 2020.

Kasumov could take another step towards the top prize at 135 pounds if he gets an impressive

win over Machaev, who seeks his first win as a bantamweight after losing to Gamzat Magomedov via 54-second knockout at BRAVE CF 52: Bad Blood last August.

Despite being only one of many top Bantamweights going for a chance at the elusive world title, Kasum Kasumov is confident he can stand out from the pack and hopes a flawless performance against Machaev will get him near a title shot.

BRAVE CF 55 is headlined by a pivotal Flyweight Tournament Semi-Final bout between Jose "Shorty" Torres and Ali "Puncher King" Bagautinov and will be broadcasted live from Rostov-on-Don, Russia on Saturday November 6th at 1:00PM GMT.

Bahrainis take close fight to UAE in loss

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The pairing of Abdulkarim and Hasan Abdalnabi were able to win their doubles match but Bahrain still lost to the UAE 1-2 yesterday in Asia/Oceania Group IV action in the Davis Cup 2021, being held at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) courts in Isa Town.

The Abdalnabi siblings triumphed against Mahmoud Nader Al Blooshi and Abdulrahman Al Janahi after the Emirati duo retired in the second set. Abdulkarim and Hasan were leading at that point 7-5, 2-0.

That result gave hosts Bahrain their first match win of this year's Davis Cup group, which is being held in the Kingdom with the participation of



Bahrain's Elyas Abdalnabi in action

14 teams.

In yesterday's other matches against the UAE, Bahrain's Elyas Abdalnabi went down fighting in a three-set thriller that lasted nearly three hours against Hamad Abbas Janahi 3-6, 6-4, 2-6; and then Yusuf Qaed bowed to Omar Alawadhi in straight sets 0-6, 0-6.

With the result, Bahrain

dropped to a 0-2 win-loss record in Pool A of the event's preliminary round, while the UAE went to a 2-0 mark. Saudi Arabia also boast a 2-0 record while Guam are the other team in the group. They are also winless after two match-ups.

Elsewhere yesterday, Turkmenistan beat Mongolia 3-0 in Pool B and Iran defeated Yemen 3-0 in Pool C.

Today, the UAE and Saudi clash for first place in Pool A, while Turkmenistan face Oman and Iran take on Cambodia.

Following the ongoing round-robin, the top two nations in each pool will play off to determine the three national teams that will be promoted to Asia/Oceania Group III for 2022.

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