

SPORTS

sports

Title battles set to tighten up as BIC hosts National Race Day on Friday



Cars on track at BIC

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the fifth round of National Race Day on Friday as the battle for podium places and championship points continues to tighten up.

The meeting is set to feature action in two of the kingdom's most popular circuit racing series: the BIC 2,000cc Challenge and the Bahrain Motorcycle Racing (BMR) 600.

With only three rounds remaining in the season, competitors are now feeling the pressure to deliver only positive results, making for plenty of heated and closely contested racing.

All the action will be held along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track. The first session is scheduled to begin at 9.25am and continue all the way until after 3pm. The podium ceremony is set to wrap up the evening's events at approximately 3.30pm.

All are welcome to attend. Tickets are available at the gate at BD2 for adults and half the price for children.

National Race Day has been organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, Circuit Racing Club and Bahrain Motorcycle Club.

The BIC 2,000cc Challenge

is the longest-running circuit racing series in the region. Established in 2007, it follows simple regulations yet is still extremely fun to watch. The drivers are divided into two classes, including the Pro and the Novice.

Following an eventful fourth round held in wet conditions earlier this month, Shaikh Salman bin Isa bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa (Honda Civic) moved into the lead on the championship standings with an impressive double. He now has 150 points, just eight ahead of previous leader Ahmed Bin Khanen (Honda Civic EG4).

The top two enjoy a significant gap from Mohammed Faqih (Honda Civic), who is third on 112 points, while Raed Raffii (Honda S2000) is fourth with 108 points and Tareq Al Tajer (Ford Focus) fifth on 105. Nasser Al Alawi (Honda S2000) rounds out the top six with 103 points.

Each of the challenge's top six drivers are competing in the race's Pro category.

In the title battle for Novice participants, Husain Al Ghanem (Honda Civic) is now in first place with 47 points. Andreas Buelow (Honda Civic) follows with 42 points, while Ali Al Bahrani (Honda Civic) is third on 25 points.

BAS Teams take double podium in 12-hour race

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Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) Motor Sport Team had twice the reason to celebrate over the weekend after claiming a pair of podium places in the gruelling 12-hour third round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Enduro Championship (BKEC).

The event was held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhr and BAS fielded four squads made up mostly of BAS staff members.

The BAS B and C teams were both able to secure a place on the Corporate class podium, having finished the race in second and third place, respectively.

The A team narrowly missed out on the Pro class podium, while stealing the show once again were the BAS F team, composed completely of lady drivers, who illustrated once again that they can hold their own in top-level karting races.

Following the race, BAS Motor Sport Team Manager Tony Smith expressed his delight with his whole team's performance. "We would like to thank our CEO, Mr Salman Al Mahmeed, for supporting the BAS Motor Sport Team in these events and allowing our staff to make BAS proud of their achievements," he said.

"Our teams did fantastically well throughout this very challenging 12-hour endurance race, as the majority of them had never been through such a gruelling challenge. It makes us extremely proud of all of the squad."

The BAS B and C teams excelled in the race's Corporate category. The three-member B squad, comprised of Mahmood Saati, Yusuf Yaqoob and Ziyad Khalifa, completed 543 laps over 12 hours to finish as runners-up



BAS Motor Sport Team members celebrate together on the podium after the awarding

in class; while the six-driver C team were third. They consisted of Saud Alshater, Philip Morais, Don Vinura, Ammar Alghawas, Mohammed Fadhel and Hussain Habib, and they registered a total of 537 laps, which was not far behind the category's winners who finished with 553 laps.

"We are fortunate to be on the podium," said Saati. "It was double the challenge this time, but fortunately, with the support of the company, our CEO, our team manager and everybody around us, we were able to make it a success today."

"We are pleased with our lap

times; they reflect the hard work we put in in practice. But we still have a lot of room for improvement, and hopefully we can continue getting quicker as we train and prepare for the 24-hour final round next month."

Fellow-B team driver Yaqoob was thrilled to be competing with the team for the first time this BKEC season. "I'm a new joiner, but I really love motorsport and I love to race," he said. "I go karting for fun but I take my times seriously."

"I'm really happy I joined and fortunately made it onto Team B. It was a really fun experi-

ence, although very tiring, but the team work we had made it all worth it."

Team C's Vinura described the race to be like "a family challenge". "Everyone knows each other and everyone is very supportive of one another, so it's like a family challenge," he said.

"This was a really big achievement but I can't imagine what the 24-hour race is like. I'm happy for the team and with what we were able to accomplish today."

The BAS A team was spearheaded by young BAS Ambassador Lewis Smith, who shared the driving duties with Gavin Halls and Ahmed Abduljalil. They were sixth overall and fourth in the Pro category – a mere two laps behind the overall and Pro winners with a total of 555 laps over 12 hours.

The A squad had to deal with multiple penalties in the race, which ultimately affected their final classification as they missed out on the Pro class podium by just four seconds.



BAS karters in action during the race

SNCS TransFast rally past Royal Indian

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SNCS TransFast beat Royal Indian by 55 runs in CBA Division C 25 overs League.

SNCS TransFast won the toss and elected to bat first. Opener Vishanu Pillai scored a quick 93 runs in 58 ball that gave them a good start. Other batsmen capitalized the momentum and put a total of 211 at the end of 25 overs. Faizan took four wickets for Royal Indians. Chasing the big target Royal Indians Faizan (58) and Suresh (39) gave some hope but SNCS TransFast bowler's tidy spells restricted the opponent for 156 runs and won the match by 55 runs, Shahalam took three wickets.

SNCS TransFast 211/10 (Vishnu Pillai 93, Shahalam 21, Faizan 4/33) beat Royal Indians 156/9 (Faizan 58, Suresh 39, Shahalam 3/19) by 55 runs

Titans 178/4 in 23.4 overs

(Kamal 85, Jithin 35, Kailash 3/28) beat Union CC 176/8 (Kailash 61, Mohan 3/26, Ibrar 2/18) by 6 wickets

Global Stars 258/7 (shakeel 126, Aim 48, Vijil 3/44) beat FOG CC 171/8 (Noushad 50, Javed 36, Azeem 3/24) by 87 runs

Kooheji Contractors 199/6 (Faisal 61, Zahid 25, Dipak 2/35) beat Lantern Lions 177/10 (Vikiki 43, Arfan Gani 3/31) by 22 runs

Karnataka Royals 242/7 (Ashwin 70, Gajendra 32, Numair 33) beat Honda CC 135/10 (Nabeel 34, Aron 3/11, Vasanth 3/24) by 107 runs

Young Stars 279/6 (Chandarabhan 163, Ansari 36) beat Riffa Stars 197/10 (Hadiyat 47, Waqar 34, Atif 2/32) by 82 runs

Pak CC 167/7 (Zubair 60, Rehman 35, Anil 4/38) beat Sachi CC 143/9 (Ganesh 54, Zaraq 3/25) by 24 runs

Awali Gents 161/9 (Sanito 52, Jameel 32, Rahul 3/46) beat

Mumbai Riders 143/10 (Faizan 28, Shabeer 2/21) by 18 runs

Z-XI 146/7 in 21.3 overs (Asif 28, Wasim 25, Irfan 4/22) beat Waqas Pak 145/10 (Ehtisham 40, Asif 5/22) by 3 wickets

NDC Bahrain 243/7 (Balaji 87, Hemanth 54, Viju 3/37) beat Phoenix CC 212/9 (Rajeev 53, Jayakrishnan 46, SHaji 3/39) by 31 runs

Royal Blasters 126/6 in 18 overs (Raj 24, Aqeel 2/26) beat Patrick York 125/10 (Noman 29, Vinod 2/8) by 4 wickets

CBA Division B 25 overs League

Public Security 176/3 in 21.5 overs (Tanveer 58, Rafay 56, Naveed 32) beat Biyas Bahrain Indians 172/8 (Hari 42, Naveed 3/31, Tajamal 3/36) by 7 wickets

Srilankan Club 105/4 in 14.2 overs (Niroshan 50, Adnan 2/6) beat Mudabar 102/10 (Adnan 31, Kasun 4/18, Gamini 3/13) by 6 wickets.

Ultimate Track Experience to offer supreme thrills at BIC on Saturday

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Motorsport enthusiasts will be able to enjoy one of the most thrilling activities on offer at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) on Saturday in the Ultimate Track Experience.

The event is scheduled to take place from 8am to 4pm along BIC's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Those who take part will be able to choose from a series of drives and passenger rides in some powerful and ultra-quick cars.

On offer in the Ultimate Track Experience are drives in a Clio Cup car and in a Radical SR1 prototype, as well as passenger rides in a Clio and a Radical SR3.

The Clio Cup car is a Renault-manufactured racing



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machine that features a 1.6-litre Turbocharged engine that can generate up to 220bhp and 6,000rpm. The drive can be purchased for BD115.5, while the passenger ride is BD26.5.

The Radical SR1 prototype features a 1,340cc engine which can generate 185bhp. It launch-

es from zero to 100kph in 3.6 seconds. This drive costs BD126, and completing the Clio Cup drive is a prerequisite to taking part in the SR1 experience.

The Radical SR3 passenger ride will be conducted alongside one of BIC's highly qualified driving instructors. It costs BD37.