

High-stakes drag racing roars into Sakhir

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship returns to BIC strip for plenty of high-intensity battles



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, hosts this week the second round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship in Sakhir.

The region’s biggest and most competitive drag racing series returns with plenty of high-intensity action along BIC’s quarter-mile drag strip from today to Friday.

The meeting follows a thrilling season-opener held last

month, which attracted nearly 200 competitors from Bahrain and across the region.

The top drag racing teams and drivers will once again be going head-to-head along BIC’s world-class quarter-mile drag strip – part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The championship, which is sanctioned by the NHRA, is being organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and

the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

The competing drag racers will be battling in their respective competition categories to crown the champions at the end of the campaign, each of whom will take home a prestigious ‘Wally Trophy’, awarded only to title winners of NHRA events worldwide. The ‘Wally’ is drag racing’s most prestigious accolade. Named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, it has been handed out since the 1969 NHRA season in the US.

This week’s events get under-



way with just a single night of Test and Tune today from 6pm to 12midnight. Qualifying will then be held on Wednesday, which will set the elimination ladders for the races on Thursday and Friday. Action on all those days is scheduled to be held from 4pm onwards.

Fans looking to attend the round can watch the excitement unfold on the strip from the Start Line Grandstand or from BIC’s Beyon Grandstand. Tickets for the Start Line Grandstand are BD5 apiece, while tickets for the Beyon Grandstand for Test and

Tune are BD2 each, and for qualifying and race days are BD3 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

There are 13 classes in this season’s Bahrain Drag Racing Championship. They include the Index 10.0, Index 9.0, Index 8.5, Outlaw 6, Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Comp 4.5, Outlaw 4, and Pro Mod for cars; and Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5, Pro Street, and Outlaw for motorbikes.

The 2025/2026 calendar of

the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship features five rounds. Following this week’s events, rounds three and four will take place on back-to-back weekends from 6 to 9 January and 13 to 16 January next year, while the grand finale is set for 3 to 6 March.

For more information on the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official social media channels.

Sitra face Al Qadisiya in Gulf club clash

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s sole representatives in this year’s AGCFF Gulf Club Champions League, Sitra, face Al Qadisiya today at Mohammed Al Hamad Stadium in Kuwait.

The two sides met in matchday 3, with Sitra held to a 0-0 draw against 10-man Al Qadisiya, despite creating several chances. The stalemate highlighted Sitra’s difficulty in converting opportunities, but keeps the Bahrainis in contention as they aim for their first win of the tournament.

After earlier draws against Zakho (0-0) and a 1-4 defeat to Al Ain in Round 1, Sitra will aim to make a statement and climb the standings, while Al Qadisiya look to avenge their previous stalemate.

Sitra’s head coach Isa Al Saadoun has called up a 22-man squad for the game: Ahmed Sanad, Ali Nasser, Ali Al Asfour, Jasim Khudhair (GK), Yusuf Habib (GK), Abbas Ahmed (GK),



Sitra squad departs for Kuwait ahead of Al Qadisiya clash

Ahmed Al Hedi, Abdulwasea Al Matari, Othman Iso, Othman Al Hajj, Ibrahim Jamal, Mohammed Akram, Juda Aguir, Maicon Douglas, Carlos Cavafe,

Mohammed Hussain, Kennyd de Lima, Rayan Khalid, Yassine Al Chamakhi, Vincent Emmanuel, Ramzi Abdallah, Karl Namnganda.

Kick-off is at 8PM local time, with Bahrainis hoping for a result to boost their Gulf Club Champions League campaign.

Liverpool fear Isak has broken leg: reports



Liverpool forward Alexander Isak is helped from the pitch after suffering an injury

AFP | London

Liverpool are awaiting scan results they fear will confirm record signing Alexander Isak has suffered a broken leg after he was injured in their win against Tottenham, reports said Yesterday.

The Sweden forward was hurt in the act of scoring the opening goal in Saturday’s 2-1 victory in London after a sliding challenge from Spurs defender Micky van der Ven.

Isak, 26, who had come on as a second-half substitute, was unable to celebrate with his teammates and left the pitch in considerable distress.

Immediately after the game Liverpool boss Arne Slot admitted the injury was “not a good thing”.

“If a player doesn’t even try to come back, that is usually not a good thing but I cannot say anything more than that,” he said.

“That is just gut feeling and nothing medical... let’s not be too negative yet. We don’t know yet. Let’s hope he is back with us soon.”

The Athletic and Sky Sports reported Yesterday that Liverpool fear Isak has broken his leg, which would mean a lengthy period on the sidelines.

Japan’s Minamino injures ACL six months out from World Cup

AFP | London

Monaco’s Japanese attacking midfielder Takumi Minamino has suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee, the Ligue 1 club

announced on Monday, casting serious doubts over his ability to take part in the 2026 World Cup.

The former Liverpool player was injured during Monaco’s 2-1 win in their French Cup tie against Auxerre on Sunday.

The 30-year-old was stretched from the field of play with his face in his hands.

Minamino, who has 26 goals in 73 caps for the Samurai Blue, is one of the key men in coach Hajime Moriyasu’s side.

Japan have been drawn in World Cup Group F alongside the Netherlands, Tunisia and a European play-off winner to be determined between Poland, Sweden, Ukraine and Albania.