

SPORTS  
sports**Tsitsipas defends Marseille trophy, extends Auger-Aliassime title**

AFP | Marseille

Stefanos Tsitsipas successfully defended his Marseille title yesterday with a straightforward victory over Canadian teenager Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Greek star Tsitsipas eased to a 6-3, 6-4 win to leave Auger-Aliassime still waiting for his maiden ATP title after his fifth consecutive final defeat.

Tsitsipas, who had arrived in southern France with a 3-4 losing record this season, enjoyed an emphatic return to form as he clinched his fifth ATP trophy.

Auger-Aliassime would have been confident of finally ending his wait for tournament success after two wins from his three previous meetings with Tsitsipas, but has still failed to even win a set in his five Tour-level finals.

World number six Tsitsipas, the ATP Finals champion, broke in the third game and saved three break points to serve out the opening set.

The second seed got the better of a run of three successive breaks in the second set to move 4-3 in front and only dropped one more point on serve.

**BIC to giveaway premium F1 passes**

BIC offers fans a chance to win F1 Paddock Club passes worth nearly US\$10,000

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is offering the unbelievable chance to take home a pair of Formula 1 Paddock Club three day passes worth almost US\$10,000 in an exciting new raffle. This is the first time this prestigious prize has ever been offered for the Bahrain Grand Prix.

All those who purchase a Main Grandstand ticket to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020, on or before March 7, will be entered into a draw. Those who have already secured their Main Grandstand seats have also already been entered automatically.

The grand prize of two Formula 1 Paddock Club passes will give the winners access to one of the most exclusive locations from where to enjoy this year's Bahrain Grand Prix, which takes place March 19 to 22 at BIC.

There, they will be able to watch all the racing in a luxurious, first-class setting and indulge in a wide variety of premium food and beverages throughout the whole three days of F1. Plus, they will have a chance to rub shoulders with a whole host of VIPs, and without doubt will



F1 cars in action at BIC

get to see Formula 1 star drivers from past and present.

Only Main Grandstand ticket-holders will be entered in the raffle. Winners will be announced within the week follow March 7.

Those who have yet to purchase their tickets must do so at the soonest in order to be eligible for the draw. A four-day Main Grandstand seat costs BD150. The Main Grandstand offers a spectacular view of the

race track, including the Grand Prix circuit's start and finish lines, its main straight, the Formula 1 Pit Lane and the podium.

Tickets to this year's Bahrain Grand Prix have been selling fast but are still available. They can be bought online at BIC's official website [www.bahraingp.com](http://www.bahraingp.com), through the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at BIC's City Centre Bahrain stand located on the ground floor near gate number three in the West Court.

Aside from the Main Grandstand, tickets can also be purchased for four other grandstands, but they will not be entered into the raffle. A Batelco Grandstand ticket for all four days is BD120, while there are also Batelco Grandstand tickets for only Saturday and Sunday priced at BD100 apiece; and also Friday-only tickets at BD60 each.

Furthermore, a four-day ticket to the Turn One Grandstand costs BD100; whereas University



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and Victory Grandstand four-day tickets are BD60 apiece.

It is worth noting that Bahrain Grand Prix tickets are among the most affordable on the Formula 1 season calendar. BIC has also covered the Value Added Tax (VAT) on all event tickets, saving fans from any additional expense.

This year's Bahrain Grand Prix is the second of a record 22 rounds on the 2020 FIA Formula 1 World Championship. It will be the first night race of the season and BIC will be joining Formula 1 and national carrier Gulf Air in commemorating their 70th anniversaries.

**BIC all set for E K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights today in Sakhr.

The event is one of the most popular on offer for motoring fans at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East". It gives participants the chance to take their very own cars or motorbikes and push them to their limit either down BIC's



A car in action at BIC

world-class drag strip or around the circuit's Vehicle Dynamics Area, or both!

BIC is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Worldwide Network, and its quarter-mile strip is highly regarded as one of the best across the globe.

Meanwhile, the circuit's Vehicle Dynamics Area 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.

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.



A bike in action at BIC

Both the drag and the drifting

**Boult fired up as New Zealand have India on the ropes**

AFP | Wellington

New Zealand quick Trent Boult declared himself "happy to be back" as he bagged three wickets to leave India struggling for survival at stumps on day three of the first Test in Wellington yesterday.

India, faced with a 183-run first-innings deficit, were 144 for four at the close, still 39 in arrears after rollicking innings

by Boult and Kyle Jamieson pushed New Zealand to 348.

Ajinkya Rahane was unbeaten on 25 with Hanuma Vihari on 15, and spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said India were far from raising the white flag, although with only six wickets remaining, he saw a score around 350 as necessary to save the Test.

Boult, back in Test cricket after breaking a hand during the



Trent Boult goes on a celebratory run after bowling Cheteshwar Pujara

Boxing Day Test in a disastrous series for New Zealand in Australia, took a back seat in India's first innings when Jamieson and Tim Southee took four wickets apiece to roll the tourists for 165.

But he came to the fore on day three, first with the bat and then with figures of three for 27 as India, the world's top-ranked side, looked lost in New Zealand conditions.

**Union CC edge Awali Camels**

TDT | Manama

Tabasum's all-round performance helped Union CC to beat Awali Camels in CBA Division C 25 overs League.

Union won the toss and elected to bat first. Tabasum (50) and Sohail's (51) half centuries helped Union to put a fighting total of 189 at the end of 25 overs. In second innings Tabasum's five wickets and Sohail's three wicket spells helped Union to restrict Camels for 167 runs and win the match by 22 runs.

Union CC 189/4 (Tabasum 50, Sohail 51, Shiva 35) beat Awali Camels 167/9 (Sanjay 61, Tabasum 5/34, Sohail 3/31) by 22 runs

Punjabi Boys 270/4 (Majid 147, Raja Adnan 43) beat Infonas 204/10 (Syed 50, Shead 41) by 66 runs

Riffa Stars 193/8 in 23.5 overs (Abdulmanan 65, Faisal 37, Bilal 3/15) beat Hempel Paints 189/7 (Manish 62, Nadeem 34) by 2 wickets

FOG CC 157/4 (Vijil 55, Shahid 22) beat NDC Bahrain 154/9 (Balaji 35, Jayan 4/23) by 3 runs

Legends CC 200/6 (Nimesh 56, Sumesh 50) beat SNCS TransFast 162/6 (Vishnu 47, Vijesh 3/27) by 38 runs

TISCA Stars 183/10 (Omer 36, Asif 29, Waqas 2/27) beat Waqas CC 93/10 (Faraz 33, Vipin 4/22, Sameer 3/30) by 90 runs

Karnataka Royals 200/10 (Vasanth 32, Gajendra 30, Ganesh 3/43) beat Sachi CC 74/10



Nimesh - Legends



Suresh - Royal Indians

(Arun 34, Ashwin 4/18) by 126 runs

Global Stars 113/4 in 16.3 overs (Waheed 26, Farrukh 24) beat Pak Eagles 112/10 (Majid 20, Sunny 22, Ashfaq 3/11) by 6 wickets

Royal Indians 173/6 in 22.4 overs (Suresh 52, Christy 31, Waheed 2/30) beat Mumbai Riders 172/10 (Wahed 60, Arun 3/24) by 4 wickets

Pak CC 203/6 (Zubair 50, Noman 52, Shoaib 47) beat Lantern Lions 114/7 (Vikki 27, Fareed 2/14) by 89 runs