



Toto Wolff and Lewis Hamilton celebrate on the podium at the Turkish Grand Prix earlier this month

Mercedes to give 'best shot' in Bahrain

German manufacturers vow to go all out despite already securing double world titles with three races to go in 2020 F1 World Championship

● 2020's final three races include the Kingdom's F1 double-header—starting with the Bahrain Grand Prix—and the championship-finale in Abu Dhabi

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There will be no relaxing for Formula 1 champions Mercedes this weekend at the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, as team principal Toto Wolff says that they will continue to keep their foot on the gas, despite having already secured both of the season's world titles.

2020's final three races include the Kingdom's F1 double-header—starting with the Bahrain Grand Prix—and the championship-finale in Abu Dhabi.

The German manufacturers now have little to fight for after already sealing the constructors' crown two races ago in Imola, and Lewis Hamilton capturing the drivers' world title at the

previous Grand Prix in Istanbul. But Wolff says that they will still be giving it their "best shot" at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) as they look to finish the 2020 campaign on a high note.

"Both titles may have already been decided, but we're still going to give it our best shot," Wolff said.

"We witnessed something truly remarkable at the last race in Turkey with Lewis winning his seventh drivers' championship,



Mercedes have won four of the last six races at BIC, including thrice for Hamilton in 2014, 2015 and 2019 and the other for Nico Rosberg in 2016. Bottas was the runner-up in last year's race

and the way in which he did it was spectacular.

"In general, it was a difficult weekend for us as a team and a big challenge for everyone, but Lewis did an outstanding job to come from sixth on the grid to take the victory and he has cemented his position among the all-time best sportspeople in the world.

"We had some mixed fortunes as it was a tough weekend for Valtteri [Bottas], but we know how resilient and strong he is. I know he will bounce back stronger in these final three races." Wolff said that Mercedes are looking forward to racing at BIC and will be hoping to continue their strong performances at the desert track.

The Austrian noted that the Bahrain Grand Prix poses a unique challenge for F1 teams, with sessions taking place both during the day and at night, which makes for varying conditions.

"We've enjoyed some strong performances in Bahrain in the past and it's always a track that produces interesting racing," Wolff said.

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TOTO WOLFF
MERCEDES TEAM PRINCIPAL

peratures between the sessions. "FP1 and FP3 are held in the warmer daytime temperatures, but FP2, qualifying and the race take place in the cooler evening climate. This makes it challenging to set up the car and gather the right information when it counts."

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The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020 marks the 15th of 17 rounds in this year's F1 World Championship. It will be the front-end of the first-ever F1 double-header in the Kingdom.

The Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix takes place the very next week-



Lewis Hamilton on his way to victory at the 2019 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix

Mercedes at the Bahrain Grand Prix

	Starts	Wins	Podiums	Poles	Fastest Laps	DNF
Mercedes	9	4	12	5	4	0
Hamilton	12	3	8	2	1	0
Bottas	7	0	3	1	1	0

end from December 4 to 6 at BIC with a completely different track layout, offering the sport's competitors an all-new challenge and fans an additional spectacle. Both races are being held at night under the brilliance of BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

The Kingdom's F1 double-header will be taking place with all precautionary guide-

lines in place issued by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs and the Ministry of Health. Although both events are closed to the general public, frontline health workers and first responders, along with members of their immediate families, have been invited to join.

For more information, visit bahraingp.com.

Mercedes F1 team with F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix fact file

- » Bahrain International Circuit's complex is located in the middle of the desert on a former camel farm and features 1,120 palm trees.
- » Despite the track's rural location, surrounded by sandy desert, the sand does not present the cars with any major issues and the circuit surface can clean up very quickly.
- » - 495 lighting posts are used to illuminate the track for FP2, Qualifying and the 57-lap race.
- » - Bahrain International Circuit has one of the roughest surfaces of the season, which can lead to higher tyre degradation as a result.
- » Turn 10 is one of the trickiest corners because it has a long, combined corner-entry that gets tighter towards the apex, which is blind over a crest. Drivers begin to apply the brakes while also negotiating the wide corner arc of Turn

- 9 and the track drops away at the apex. All of these factors cause the front-left tyre to go light and increase the risk of a lock-up. The balance is on a knife-edge through this sequence, as drivers battle cornering and braking, which is why there are often mistakes at this point on the track.
- » Because FP1 and FP3 are run in daylight, they hold little value when it comes to car balance and set-up work for Qualifying and the race, which take place at night. However, FP1 and FP3 can still prove useful for work on other items such as testing new parts or understanding the tyres.
- » FP2 is a crucial session for the teams, in order to properly prepare for the race weekend's main events.



- » When it comes to set-up, the focus is very much on tuning the car for low and medium-speed corners, because the high-speed sections of track are easily taken flat-out. Mechanical grip is an important area in Bahrain, to propel the cars out of the slow turns.
- » Bahrain International Circuit has the joint-second highest gear change figure per lap of the 2020 season, with drivers shifting gear 58 times. This is behind Sochi and tied with Abu Dhabi.
- The Bahrain Grand Prix is always punishing on the brakes, with seven braking events and three of those being classified as 'heavy' by engineers, meaning the driver is braking for 0.4 seconds or longer, with 4G or more. The Sakhir Grand Prix, which will be around the Bahrain International Circuit's Outer Track, is expected to be even tougher on the brakes.

Porsche Sprint Challenge ME kicks off new season at Bahrain GP

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The Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East, the region's leading one-make championship that is based at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), will be holding the first round of its 2020/2021 season this weekend in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

The Porsche Sprint Challenge joins Formula 2 as part of the action in Sakhir.

Launched in 2009, series competition returns for a landmark 11th campaign. It was created to give the region's home-grown



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driving talent an opportunity to realise their potential while enhancing personal circuit experience. It has now established itself as the region's most popular circuit championship for drivers and fans alike, featuring real racing and genuine rivalries on the track.

Participants battle it out in the powerful and dynamic Porsche 911 GT3 Cup cars. A highly competitive grid of 17 drivers hailing from all over the world is set to take part this weekend at BIC.

Among them is the Team Bahrain pair of Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa and Shaikh Ali bin

Mohammed Al Khalifa. Both Bahrainis will be competing in the championship's GT3 class, with Shaikh Jaber driving in the Am category and Shaikh Ali racing in the Pro-Am.

Other GT3 drivers include Jesse Van Kuijk from the Netherlands, Julian Hanses and Richard Wagner from Germany, JB Simmenauer of France and Jaxon Evans from New Zealand in the Pro category; Daan Van Kuijk and Lucas Groeneveld from the Netherlands in the Pro-Am category, and Eddy Waldhiser and Robert Sulma from Germany in the Am field.

The championship's GT4 class features six racers on the grid, including Fawaz Algosaihi, Bandar Alireza and Bandar Alesayi from Saudi Arabia, Leo Willert and Freddy Fast from Austria, and Franz Dziwok from Poland.

This weekend's action in the Porsche Sprint Challenge will include two Practice sessions on Friday at 11.25am and 7.55pm, respectively. Qualifying will then be held on Saturday at 11am, setting the starting positions for the round's first 12-lap race later that afternoon at 3.50pm. Race two will then be held on Sunday at 2.20pm.