

Bahrain Eyes Breakthrough at 3x3 Asia Cup



Bahrain's men's 3x3 team celebrate together at last year's Asia Cup



Bahrain's men lift GBA trophy as women join celebrations in Muscat last November

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TDT | Manama

As the countdown begins for the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup 2026, Bahrain's men's and women's national teams now know the path to the finals in Singapore, hosting the tournament for the fifth straight year and also set to welcome the 2027 FIBA 3x3 World Cup.

Scheduled for April 1-5 at the

Singapore Sports Hub, the event will feature 24 men's teams and 22 women's teams competing for continental supremacy and a spot at next year's World Cup.

Bahrain enters the tournament seeking redemption after their debut at the 2025 Asia Cup, which concluded last March. The men's team secured narrow wins over Indonesia (14-11) and Guam (21-20) but also suffered a heavy 7-21 defeat to Hong

Kong, missing out on the main draw. Meanwhile, the women's squad fell 5-21 to South Korea and 17-12 to Malaysia, exiting early. While the results were disappointing, the experience offered valuable lessons heading into 2026.

In this year's qualifiers, Bahrain's men are drawn in Group D alongside Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, and India. Only the group winner advances to the finals,

where they would join New Zealand and Qatar. Australia, the most decorated nation in Asia Cup history with five titles, including last year's crown, lead a competitive field that also includes former champions Mongolia and Qatar.

Bahrain's women are in Group C with Chinese Taipei, Saudi Arabia, and Hong Kong. Seeded 22nd, they face a challenging path, with the group

winner advancing to a finals pool that includes Japan and hosts Singapore. Australia arrive as defending champions, aiming for a fourth straight title.

Both squads are led by Serbian coach Bogdan Dragovic, assisted by national coach Murtadha Mohammed. In November, on the eve of Bahrain hosting the FIBA 3x3 Manama Final, both teams claimed Under-21 titles.

The coaching duo also guided the men to the GCC Championship title in Muscat, while the women finished in second place.

With national pride, World Cup qualification, and last year's early exits in mind, Bahrain's 3x3 teams are now focusing on Singapore. They'll be determined to surpass their seedings and leave their mark on the continental stage.

Auger-Aliassime, Medvedev march on in Dubai



Russia's Daniil Medvedev in action

AFP | Dubai

Felix Auger-Aliassime stamped his ticket to the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open yesterday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, while Daniil Medvedev put an end to Stanislas Wawrinka's tournament.

Canadian top seed Auger-Aliassime overcame the big-serving Frenchman thanks to an impressive break-point conversion rate as he managed to make the most of three of the five break-points he forced on Mpetshi Perricard's serve.

Consecutive breaks in the seventh and ninth games of the opening set allowed the world number eight to seize the initiative.

Auger-Aliassime pounced again early in the second set to get his nose in front and then managed to serve out to book a meeting with Jiri Lehecka in the last eight.

The Czech eliminated Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 to progress through the round of 16.

In a battle of former Grand Slam winners, Russia's Medvedev beat Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3. The 40-year-old Swiss will retire at the end of the season and was honoured on-court after his defeat.

"It's my last time here, but I always had amazing support from you guys," 2016 champion Wawrinka told the crowd.

"It's always special. The reason why I kept playing for so long is because of those emo-

Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night set for exciting duels in Ramadan edition today at BIC



Manama

Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night returns to light up the strip today at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', in Sakhir.

Motor racing enthusiasts will get to enjoy the exciting thrill of bringing their very own cars or motorbikes for a series of head-to-head battles along BIC's world-class quarter-mile drag strip.

Participants can invite family or friends for an exciting duel in this special Ramadan edition of the event. There, instead of the traditional standing start, they will begin their runs at a rolling speed of 80kph.

Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night thus makes for a unique

experience in the hugely popular category of drag racing, putting fans into an engaging - yet friendly - contest, while getting to push their vehicles to their limit within the secure and controlled environment at BIC.

Thursday's Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night is scheduled from 8.30pm to 1.30am. To book a slot or for more information, visit BIC's official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

The cost to be a part of the night's programme is BD22 for each driver or rider. Spectators can watch from the stands for a fee of BD2.

Just as in all activities at the circuit, safety is paramount for all taking part. Cars and motorbikes must therefore go through scrutineering before being able to hit the BIC strip, which is a



part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association.

For more information on Thursday's Kanoo Motors Rolling Drag Night or other events and activities at BIC, visit the circuit's website, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.