# orts of bahrain THE tribune

# Golden Year for Bahrain Sports

Record-breaking 2025 builds momentum for Kingdom's future in sport

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rom continental football ┥ glory to hosting Asia's biggest multi-sport event, 2025 was a year that Bahrain will not soon forget. It was a season of triumphs, festivals, and defining moments that brought the Kingdom to the centre of the global sporting stage.

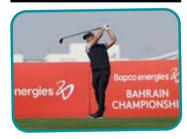
# **January 4**

### **National Team Success**

The year began with a familiar thrill for Bahraini football fans. On 4 January, memories of the golden 2019 campaign returned as Bahrain lifted the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup, defeating Oman 2-1 in a closely contested final. The national team's success reignited celebrations across the Kingdom and set the tone for a year defined by ambition and excellence.

### **January 30 - February 2**

# **Bahrain Championship Tees Up Community**



Bahrain also made its mark on the fairways early in the year. The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship at the Royal Golf Club, held 30 January – 2 February, saw England's Laurie Canter triumph in a three-man playoff, with free admission promoting community engagement. Building on this success, the 2026 edition is set to return from 29 competition and community involvement.

# February 17

# Community and Sporting **Initiatives**

Opening ceremony of 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain

brought communities together with activities promoting health and fitness. A charity football match featuring legends like John Terry and Roberto Carlos combined entertainment, sport, and social engagement, linking grassroots participation to national achievement.

# **April 11-13**

# Formula 1 in Sakhir



By April, the roar of engines took over. The Bahrain Grand Prix, held at the Bahrain International Circuit—a staple on the F1 calendar since 2004—delivered drama under the desert lights. McLaren's Oscar Piastri January – 1 February, promis- claimed victory, with George ing another showcase of elite Russell second and Lando Norris third. His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Bahrain's dedication. McLaren later secured the Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship, Sport in Bahrain is about more completing a historic double and than elite competition. Bahrain cementing Bahrain's reputation Sports Day, held on 17 February, as a hub for elite motorsport.

# **May 18**

# **Football Supremacy**

Muharraq carried momentum onto the pitch, dismantling Manama 6-1 on 18 May to seal the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League title. Their consistent leyball national team, as hosts, excellence across sports highlighted both club ambition and the depth of talent in Bahraini football.

# June 15

# Basketball Brilliance

As engines cooled, attention turned to indoor arenas. Muharraq Club thrilled fans in the Zain Bahrain Basketball League Finals, edging Al Ahli 80–76 in a dramatic Game 5 on May 31, and followed up with a Khalifa bin Salman Basketball Cup win to complete a celebrated double. Bahrain also hosted the Arab Basketball Championship in late July, drawing top regional teams and reinforcing the Kingdom's

# **Local Silverware**

Later in June, Bahrain's vol-

won their first AVC volleyball title by defeating Pakistan in the final. The landmark victory energized fans across the Kingdom and highlighted Bahrain's growing strength in regional sport, complementing achievements in football, basketball, and other disciplines.

# October 22-31

# **3rd Asian Youth Games**

In October, Bahrain successfully hosted the 3rd Asian Youth Games (BAYG 2025). Delivered in just over ten months from planning to execution, the Games welcomed over 4,000 athletes from 45 nations, held at world-class venues includreputation as a hub for coming Exhibition World Bahrain Bahrain International petitive basketball. Muharraq's and Isa Sports City. Under the Khalifa presented the trophy, simultaneous success in football motto "Inspire Dreams, Build praising McLaren's perfor- and basketball showcased a rare a Legacy," the event showcased mance as a reflection of Team level of multi-sport excellence. Bahrain's commitment to youth pion captured the Bahrain Inter- sport-it excelled in it, invested

staging major competitions at short notice.

# November 6-8

# **Endurance Racing**



November proved packed with excitement. Motorsport continued at the Bahrain International Circuit with the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain, the FIA World Endurance Championship season finale from 6–8 November. Hypercars and LMGT3 machines raced under floodlights, with championship titles decided in dramatic fashion. Supporting events such as the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East added to the festival atmosphere, drawing record crowds

# **November 14**

# **Trophy**

and women's sports, earning national Trophy at the Rashid in it, and inspired through it. praise for excellent organiza- Equestrian & Horseracing As the final whistle blew on a tion and sportsmanship. The Club, ridden by James Doyle remarkable year, one message successful delivery reinforced and trained by Karl Burke. The was clear: Bahrain shaped sport Bahrain's reputation as a leading horse surged late to deny Galen in 2025, and its legacy is only just sports destination capable of in the \$1 million Group 2 feature, beginning.

the most valuable race run in the Kingdom, drawing a high-quality international field and global attention

# November 7-21

# **Islamic Solidarity Games**

Also in November, Bahrain delivered a historic performance at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh. The Kingdom achieved a record 34 medals-16 gold, 11 silver, seven bronze-finishing sixth overall. Bahrain excelled across athletics, para-athletics, wrestling, weightlifting, volleyball, table tennis, and esports. Standout moments included the men's handball gold medal victory over hosts Saudi Arabia and Winfred Yavi's 5,000m gold, reflecting Bahrain's depth in both team and individual disciplines.

# November 21-22

### FIBA 3x3 Final



Manama also hosted the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Final later in November, delivering fast-paced basketball action and packed stands. High-energy games and global stars turned the capital into a celebration of urban sport, reinforcing Bahrain's versatility as an international host.

# A Year to Remember

From lifting the Arabian Gulf Cup in January to record medal success in Riyadh and hosting the Asian Youth Games in October, 2025 was a year of triumph, ambition, and national pride. On 14 November, Royal Cham- Bahrain did not simply host



Bahrain opens 2025 with Gulf Cup victory



McLaren's Oscar Piastri lifts Bahrain Grand Prix trophy