

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship continues at BIC and concludes Friday

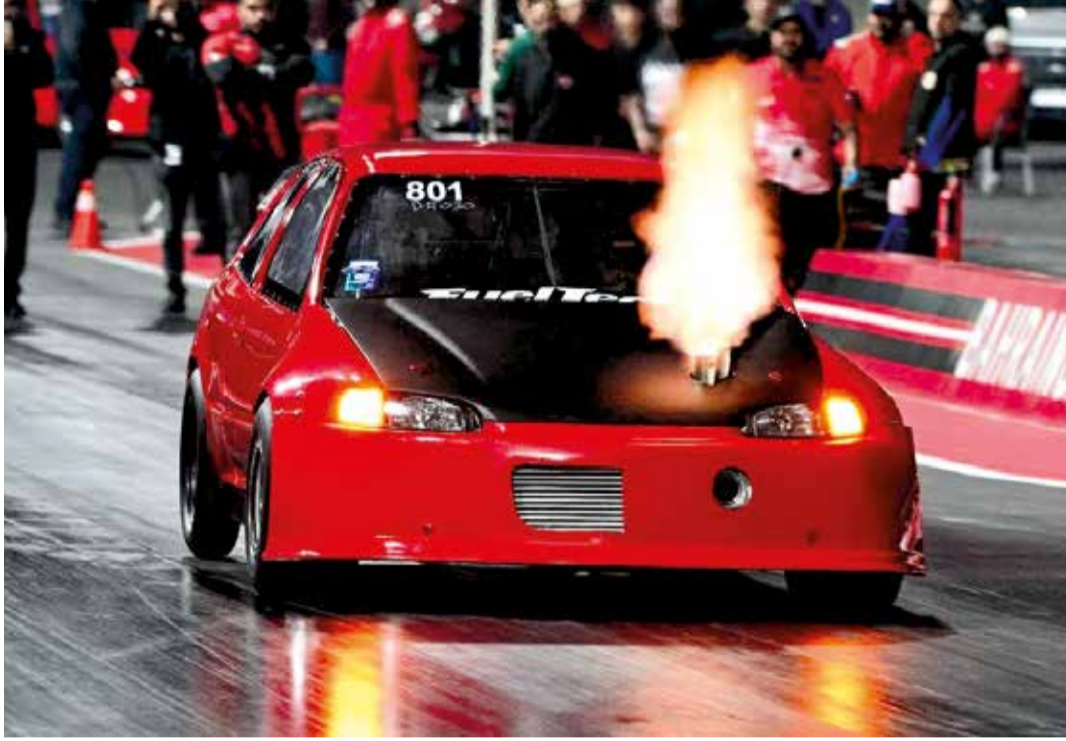
Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', is hosting the fifth and final round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship, the region's most popular drag racing series, which runs until Friday, 1 May.

This highly competitive series stages its much-anticipated season finale in Sakhir, bringing to a close another exciting campaign that has featured intense action along BIC's quarter-mile drag strip, part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The round is set to determine the new national champions in drag racing, with each winner receiving the prestigious 'Wally' trophy. The championship is sanctioned by the NHRA and organised by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

This week's programme continues with a Test and Tune session on Wednesday from 5pm



to 11.30pm. Qualifying will then take place on Thursday to set the elimination ladders, with racing continuing later Thursday night and on Friday, with action starting from 5pm onwards on both days.

Fans are invited to attend the season finale at BIC, where they can watch the races from the Start Line Grandstand or the Beyond Grandstand. Tickets for the Start Line Grandstand are BD5, while Beyond Grandstand tickets are BD2 for Test and Tune and BD3 for qualifying and race day. Tickets for children aged three to 12 are offered at half price.

Tickets can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, via the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000,



or at the gate.

Drivers from Bahrain and across the GCC are taking part in this round, following strong participation in the previous four rounds, competing across 13 classes for both cars and motorbikes. Car classes include 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, while motorbike classes include Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5, Pro Street, and Outlaw. Competitors will be vying for

the coveted 'Wally', awarded exclusively to NHRA event champions worldwide. The 'Wally' is the most prestigious accolade in drag racing, named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, and has been awarded since the 1969 NHRA season.

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.



Shamil Sharipov celebrates his bronze medal at Sanya Bay Yuhai Club

Sharipov takes bronze in Asian beach wrestling

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Shamil Sharipov won the bronze medal in the men's +90kg category at the sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya yesterday, producing a controlled performance in his final bout against Kyrgyzstan's Muzafar Alimovich Zhappuev.

Sharipov dictated the contest from the start and closed it out quickly with a 2-0 vic-

tory by VSU in just 1:09. He established technical superiority early, building a three-point advantage that triggered the VSU rule, which ends a match once a wrestler gains a clear scoring lead.

The gold medal went to Iran's Seyedamirreza Sahraeimahali, who defeated China's Lu Da 3-0 in the final. Lu finished with the silver medal after coming up short in the title bout.

Standing 185cm tall and

competing across both beach and freestyle disciplines, the 28-year-old Sharipov continues to be one of the Kingdom's most consistent international wrestlers.

He is a former Individual World Cup gold medallist, having claimed the 125kg title in Belgrade in 2020, and has remained active on the UWW Ranking Series circuit. In recent seasons, he secured gold medals in Zagreb (2026) and Budapest

(2025), along with a silver in Tirana the same year.

Sharipov has also delivered steady results on the continental stage, reaching the podium twice at the Asian Championships with bronze medals in Bishkek (2024) and Amman (2025).

More recently, he added a World Championships bronze in the 125kg category in Zagreb in 2025, further underlining his consistency at the highest level.

Thailand deny Bahrain beach handball bronze

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's beach handball team finished fourth at the Asian Beach Games after a 2-0 defeat (18-16, 23-18) to Thailand in the bronze medal match at Tianya Haijiao.

The contest opened at a frantic pace, with neither side able to establish early control. Bahrain struck first through Komail Mahfoodh, but Thailand's response was immediate as Kannarong began to assert himself with a series of specialist finishes. The opening exchanges quickly became a back-and-forth scoring duel, with Bilal Askani and Mahdi Ali repeatedly keeping the Bahrainis level.

Midway through the first period, the match remained perfectly balanced at 10-10, but Thailand began to edge ahead through sharper execution in key moments. A run of goals from Kannarong, combined



Mahdi Ali goes for goal

with an inflight finish from Puapan, shifted momentum. Bahrain stayed within reach through Askani's spin shots, yet a late Thai push secured the opening period 18-16.

The second period followed a similar pattern but with greater intensity from Bahrain, who briefly threatened a comeback. Askani continued his strong scoring form, supported by

Adam Alnasheet and Mahdi Ali, as the nationals repeatedly cut the deficit back to two and three points. At one stage, they closed the gap to 14-12, then 16-14, keeping the pressure on Thailand.

However, every Bahrain surge was met with a decisive response. Kannarong once again proved pivotal, while Prueprak and Srinamkham delivered key finishes as Thailand rebuilt their cushion. A missed Bahrain opportunity to reduce the gap further proved costly, and a late Thailand scoring burst effectively ended the contest.

Thailand closed out the second period 23-18 to secure bronze, with coach Hussain Al Qaidoom's side left to reflect on missed chances in a match that remained competitive throughout.

In the tournament final, Thailand went on to win gold, while Qatar secured silver.

Buckner boosts Bahrain basketball squad

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's national basketball team have strengthened their roster with the addition of American center Eric Buckner ahead of the 4th GCC Games, scheduled for May 15-20 in Doha, Qatar.

Buckner arrives following a strong season in Turkey's TBL with Final Spor Bursa, where he averaged 14.6 points, 9 rebounds, 2.5 assists, 1.0 block, and 0.8 steals per game. At 2.08m (6ft 10in), the 34-year-old brings size, rim protection, and interior scoring to Bahrain's frontcourt.

Primarily operating as a center with the ability to slide into the power forward spot, Buckner adds valuable versatility and experience to a Bahraini side looking to compete



with the Gulf region's strongest teams.

Upon arrival at Bahrain International Airport, Buckner expressed clear enthusiasm for the new chapter, saying he was "excited about the opportunity." He also admitted he did not know much about Bahrain prior to his move, noting he had been told the kingdom is "a beautiful country with good people," offering a glimpse into his first impressions as he joins the national setup ahead of the tournament.