

Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge finale set

Bahrain International Karting Circuit to host final two rounds of hotly contested championship on Friday and Saturday in Sakhir

● **Levin Barbier, Isa Almoayed, Luca Kane Houghton and Lewis Smith on pole in respective championship races**

TDT | Manama

The 2022/2023 Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC) wraps up this weekend at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) in Sakhir with its final two rounds taking place on back-to-back days Friday and Saturday.

The Kingdom's vibrant karting community will once again descend on the world-class grassroots motor racing facility of Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIC), with all still to play for in this SRMC campaign and the newest champions set to be



Action from a previous round (File photo)

crowned.

Competition will be held in five categories, including the Micro MAX, Mini MAX, Junior MAX, Senior MAX and Senior Masters MAX.

Both meetings feature identi-

cal timetables, with Qualifying Practice kicking off the on-track action at 2.50pm. The Pre-Finals will then be held from 3.54 pm and then the Finals from 5.05pm.

The Micro and Mini classes will be taking to the track to-

gether for each session, while the Juniors will be running alone. The Seniors and the Senior Masters will also hit the tarmac at the same time for all the sessions.

The karting action will be tak-

ing place along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA Track. It will be followed by the podium ceremonies, set for an estimated 5.35pm start.

The SRMC is a top-class local series that will see the competitors line up on the grid in their very own Rotax-powered karts. This campaign marks its second season as it builds on the momentum gained by the opening championship.

Following a hugely exciting opening two rounds, Levin Barbier, Isa Almoayed, Luca Kane Houghton and Lewis Smith are on pole in their respective championship races.

Barbier has 69 points atop the Micro MAX class, followed by Ali Almoayed with 50 and Mohammed Waleed with 24.

Isa Almoayed leads a very tight battle in the Mini MAX category with 62 points, just a single point ahead of Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa. Rashid Ka-

noo is also not far behind with 53 points in third place.

Houghton tops the Junior MAX class with 68 points—10 ahead of Gracie Rose Grantham and 18 from Mohammed Alhasan. Smith is in first place in the Senior MAX category with 68 points, trailed by Oliver Kruglov with 54 and Tijl Joep Huisman on 39.

After the completion of this weekend's racing, the SRMC will then set the stage for the Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC), which will flag off just a few weeks after in November with the first of eight fantastic rounds.

The racing is being organised by BIKC in cooperation with BIC and the Bahrain Motor Federation.

More information on the BRMC can be found on bahraingp.com, by calling BIKC on +973-17451745 or on the social media channels of BIKC and BIC.



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Allen smacks six sixes as New Zealand power past Pakistan



New Zealand's Finn Allen plays a shot
AFP | Christchurch

Finn Allen showed his form ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup by top-scoring for New Zealand with a disciplined batting display in their nine-wicket romp over Pakistan in Christchurch yesterday in the tri-series.

Allen blasted six sixes in his 62 off 42 balls as the Black Caps chased down their target of 131 with ease at Hagley Oval.

The victory leaves the hosts and Pakistan each with two wins and one defeat before the Black Caps next face Bangladesh on Wednesday, also in Christchurch.

The three nations are using the week-long tournament to fine tune for the T20 World Cup in Australia which begins later this month.

An improved bowling performance saw Pakistan restricted to 130 for seven in their 20 overs before Allen and Devon Conway's rapid opening partnership of 117 set up a comfortable victory.

After Allen was stumped by Mohammad Rizwan, captain Kane Williamson saw New Zealand home with three overs and five balls to spare.

"It was an improvement again from the last game," said Williamson, referring to New Zealand's eight-wicket win over Bangladesh on Sunday.

"The condition weren't easy, but we were nice and clinical with the ball.

“It was an improvement again from the last game. The condition weren't easy, but we were nice and clinical with the ball. Finn really broke the back of the chase by being super aggressive and Devon complemented him nicely

KANE WILLIAMSON

"Finn really broke the back of the chase by being super aggressive and Devon complemented him nicely."

Following his unbeaten 70 against Bangladesh, Conway struck five fours in compiling 49 not out off 46 balls.

"We need to discuss our mistakes ahead of the next match," said Pakistan captain Babar Azam, whose side play Bangladesh on Thursday.

"We had a bad day, we just weren't up to the mark with our batting."

New Zealand bowler Michael Bracewell was named man-of-the-match after removing prolific opening pair Rizwan, for 16, and captain Babar Azam, for 21, in his superb two for 11 from four overs.

"I was a bit fortunate in that first over with a couple of short, wide ones which went straight to fielders," said Bracewell.

Kuldeep shines as India crush South Africa to clinch ODI series

● **Kuldeep Yadav leads spinners' show as South Africa fall for 99**

AFP | New Delhi

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav's 4-18 shone during a superb Indian bowling attack that clinched their one-day series against South Africa with a crushing seven-wicket win yesterday.

The hosts skittled South Africa for 99 in 27.1 overs in the third-match decider, after electing to bowl on a pitch dampened by days of rain in New Delhi.

Shubman Gill made 49 as India chased down their target in 19.1 overs, winning the series 2-1 with a second-string side after Rohit Sharma and team departed for the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

Kuldeep, a left-arm wrist spinner, came into the attack with South Africa five down and wiped off the tail, striking twice on successive balls before ending the innings with the wicket of Marco Jansen.

Once a regular in the Twenty20 side, Kuldeep was not picked for the World Cup starting October 16, but the 27-year-old said he was "not disappointed".

"I am not disappointed at all. I am concentrating on my process and looking to get better with every match," the man of the match told reporters.

"The players who have been selected are the best and my best wishes are with them."

Spinner Washington Sundar, who bowled the first over and returned with two wickets, helped set up the second



India's Sanju Samson embraces teammate Kuldeep Yadav, as South Africa's Bjorn Fortuin walks back

“In hindsight, the kind of schedule that we have had... we saw the benefits of that as the Indian side, which we played against, were fresh. Our guys were maybe a little bit fatigued

SOUTH AFRICAN COACH MARK BOUCHER

straight win for the hosts. Sundar was handed the new ball and the lanky off-spinner struck in his second over to send back Quinton de Kock, caught at short third man for six.

Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj rattled the top order with the wickets of Janneman Malan, for 15, and Reeza Hendricks, for three, to put South Africa on the back foot.

'Fatigued' South Africa

The Proteas slipped further to 43-4 after Aiden Markram's departure as the batsman fell

caught behind off left-arm spinner Shabbaz Ahmed for nine.

Heinrich Klaassen, who top-scored with 34, attempted to rebuild with David Miller, who was making his captaincy debut with regular skipper Temba Bavuma and Keshav Maharaj both unwell.

But Sundar bowled the left-handed Miller for seven and the rest of the batting quickly caved in.

Shabbaz, who made his ODI debut in the previous match, bowled Klaassen before -- in between the change of batsmen -- a dog walked on the field, providing some light relief to the crowd.

It was South Africa's fourth-lowest total in 50-over matches, after their 69 all out in Sydney and then twice being bowled out for 83.

"In hindsight, the kind of schedule that we have had... we saw the benefits of that as the Indian side, which we played against, were fresh. Our guys were maybe a little bit fatigued," South African coach Mark

Another series defeat was not the only setback for South Africa. It remained at risk of failing to automatically qualify for the 2023 Cricket World Cup. The Proteas were still 11th in the standings, far below the West Indies in eighth, the cutoff point. South Africa could end up having to add to its schedule the World Cup qualifiers in June

Boucher said.

"No excuses for that though. It's quite difficult because we don't have the depth that India has in their cricket. We are also under pressure to win every game in the one-dayers to qualify (directly) for the World Cup."

The defeat leaves South Africa on the brink of missing a direct qualification for next year's ODI World Cup in India.

They languish at 11th in the Super League table. Only the top eight teams (seven and hosts India) earn direct qualification to the 2023 tournament.

India had little trouble in reply, despite skipper Shikhar Dhawan getting run out on eight and Ishan Kishan falling for 10 off left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin.

Liverpool's injured Diaz set to be sidelined until late December

Reuters | London

Liverpool forward Luis Diaz is expected to be out of action until late December after picking up a knee injury in the first half of Sunday's 3-2 Premier League defeat at leaders Arsenal, British media reported.



Luis Diaz receives medical attention

The 25-year-old Colombia international does not need surgery but will likely miss 10 matches in Liverpool's packed schedule ahead of the World Cup, which starts on Nov. 20.

The Reds will hope to have Diaz back for their visit to Aston Villa on Dec. 26 in their first

match after the World Cup, which Colombia have not qualified for. Liverpool's England defender Trent Alexander-Arnold also sustained ankle damage in Sunday's match and manager Juergen Klopp said after the match that both injuries did not look good.