

# Beyon Speed Weekend set at BIC

National Day festivities include two international race series, stunning fireworks display in Sakhir

● Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East set for exciting second round of 2023/2024 season

● Formula Cars championship to make highly anticipated debut in Bahrain

● BIC set for Kingdom's huge National Day fireworks display Saturday night starting at 7pm



Fireworks at BIC in previous years (File photo)

YOU  
KNOW WHAT

All are welcome to attend the Beyon Speed Weekend and entry for fans will be completely free of charge on both days of racing. Action is scheduled to take place from 10.15am to 4pm on Friday and from 11am to 4pm on Saturday



Action from the opening round of the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East at BIC last month

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is set to celebrate an incredible National Day weekend with the Beyon Speed Weekend offering two international race series, followed by a spectacular firework display on Saturday night.

Set to be held tomorrow and Saturday as part of BIC's on-track National Day festivities, Speed Weekend is set to feature the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East (PCCME) and the all-new Formula Cars championship. Speed Weekend is a part of

the BIC festivities marking the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day and the Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne.

The celebrations will include Bahrain's biggest fireworks display, scheduled for Saturday starting at 7pm. This awesome annual show of lights and colour will illuminate the Sakhir sky and can be seen from the area surrounding the BIC vicinity. Food vendors will be available at BIC for those coming to watch the firework display in the evening.

On the racing side, the PCC-

ME is a staple on BIC's season schedule, being born and developed in Sakhir in cooperation with Lechner Racing. It will be holding the second round of its 2023/2024 campaign at Speed Weekend.

Formula Cars championship will be making its highly anticipated debut in Bahrain. The upcoming meeting will be the first round of its inaugural season, making for an exciting addition to the long and prestigious list of international, continental, regional and national series to have hit the tarmac at BIC.

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Formerly known as the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East, the PCCME pits its roster of global competitors against one another in identical 510hp Porsche 992 GT3 Cup cars. Races are held at top tracks across the Gulf, highlighted by BIC in Sakhir and including Dubai Autodrome and Yas Marina Circuit in the UAE, as

well as Jeddah Corniche Circuit in Saudi Arabia.

Unlike in previous meetings, this upcoming round will have two separate qualifying sessions, one apiece on Friday and Saturday and each setting the grid for the day's race.

The PCCME's 2023/2024 calendar features six rounds. The season kicked off last month in support of the World Endurance Championship weekend, with another two races set to take place in Bahrain at Speed Weekend.

Meanwhile, the Formula Cars championship is a single-seater

series, with the aim of developing their talents in a professional setting. Weekends are composed of four races each. At this meeting, one race will take place tomorrow in Speed Weekend while the other three races will take place on Saturday.

The Bahrain stop is the first of six rounds in this campaign. The series will also be visiting Losail International Circuit in Qatar in January, Kuwait Motor Town in Kuwait in January and February, and then have back-to-back meetings for its final two events at Jeddah Corniche Circuit in March.

## Riffa to face Oman's Nahda in AFC Cup zonal semis

● Bahrainis to play in West Zonal semi-finals in February of next year

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Bahrain's Riffa Club will be taking on Al Nahda of Oman in the West Zonal semi-finals of the 2023/2024 AFC Cup.

Riffa booked their place in the contest after finishing as winners of Group C in the competition's preliminary round. Nahda, on the other hand, were the top-ranked squad from Group A.

The Zonal semi-finals are scheduled to take place in February of next year.

The other pairing in this stage pits Al Kahrabaa of Iraq against



Riffa players celebrate a win this season

Al Ahd of Lebanon. The winners will move on to the Zonal finals in April.

There will also be Inter-zone play-off semi-finals in March and Inter-zone play-off finals

in April for teams outside the West zone. That will set the stage for this season's AFC Cup final, which is scheduled for May of next year.

The AFC Cup is the annual continental club competition of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the continent's top teams not competing in the AFC Champions League. Riffa are the lone Bahraini outfit in this year's tournament.

They wrapped up their group campaign on Tuesday with a tight 1-2 loss to Al Zawra'a of Iraq, who narrowly missed out on the West Zonal semis.

Riffa are looking to become only the second Bahraini club to win the tournament title. Muharraq won the AFC Cup twice in the past, in 2008 and in 2021, and also finished as runners-up in 2006.

## Head named vice-captain as Australia look to future

AFF | Sydney

Travis Head was reappointed as a vice-captain of the Australian Test side on Wednesday as selectors look to the future, while Pakistan named two debutants for the opening clash in Perth.

Head was added as deputy alongside Steve Smith, skipper Pat Cummins said in announcing a playing XI with one change from their last Test against England at the Oval in July.

That will see fit-again veteran spinner Nathan Lyon, who is four wickets away from joining the elite 500 club, retake his place ahead of Todd Murphy.

David Warner will open the

batting in what is expected to be his last Test series. He is under intense scrutiny after a lean run and questions over whether he deserves to be in the side.

Opening partner Usman Khawaja has also been in the spotlight after indicating he planned to wear shoes during the match starting Thursday with messages highlighting the plight of people in Gaza.

That appears unlikely to now happen, with the International Cricket Council banning any messages during matches that relate to politics, religion or race.

"I spoke to him just quickly and he said he won't be," Cummins told reporters on the eve of the first of three Tests.

## "I will not let you beat me in front of my people in Bahrain" says Hussain Ayyad

TDI | Manama

BRAVE CF's Hussain Ayyad will be the highest-placed Bahraini fighter on the BRAVE CF 80 fight card and he guarantees this won't be added pressure as he prepares for the event, which takes place this Friday, at the Khalifa Sports City Arena.

"Iron" Ayyad has sent a message to Ireland's Gerard Burns, his opponent, and said there's no way he's losing in front of his people in Bahrain.

"I don't know him to be honest

and this is not something that I really will think about it that who is like who is this guy? I will be in my country and you are coming to my country and this is putting more pressure on him. For me I will be happy and there is no way that I will allow you to win in this fight in front of my people in Bahrain", said Hussain.

Ayyad is one of the pioneers of mixed martial arts in Bahrain and is mostly notable for becoming the first-ever Bahraini fighter to win a medal in the IMMAF World Championships and is

now on the verge of a huge comeback following a horrendous injury, which saw him sidelined for several years.



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HUSSAIN AYYAD

Through his injury he has become a fountain of inspiration for being able to return after such a lengthy layoff.



Hussain Ayyad