

Al Balooshi triumphs in Drag Racing

Bahrain1 Racing's Khaled Al Balooshi makes it two wins in a row in Bahrain Drag Racing Championship at BIC

● **Bahrain's Hussain Al Mahroos, Faisal Al Arab and Hussain Ali among winners**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain1 Racing's Khaled Al Balooshi maintained his winning ways in the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship after taking first place in the Pro Mod class for the second round of the 2021/2022 season, held last week as part of Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) spectacular National Day celebrations.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" attracted more than 200 of the top drag racers from across the Gulf and beyond to battle it out in 13 competition categories, including nine for cars and four for motorbikes.

The meeting was organised and run by BIC, in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF) and Bahrain Drag Racing Club (BDRC).

Behind the wheel of Bahrain1's Gen 3 Camaro Blower, Al Balooshi powered the NHRA champions to victory with a pass of 3.743 seconds at 319.06mph in the final. It was his second successive triumph of the new



Bahrain1 Racing's Khaled Al Balooshi in action

campaign, and he beat Hani Hussain Ali, who had a time of 5.003s. Muslem Alqallaf claimed the other podium place.

Meanwhile, three Bahrainis emerged as winners in the meeting. They included Hussain Al Mahroos in the 8.5 Index class, Faisal Al Arab in the Outlaw 6-Cylinder category and Hussain Ali among the Pro 29.5 V8s.

Al Mahroos took the 8.5 Index with an 8.534s run in the final at 257.61mph, defeating opponent Sayed Hussain who had a red light. Abdulla Qassim Alajaji claimed third place.

Al Arab won the Outlaw 6-Cylinder class with a pass of 4.609s at 244.94mph in the final, where Taleb Abdulla Alshehi did not register a time. Nawaf

Almannai was third.

In the Pro 29.5 V8 category, Ali had a winning time of 4.007s at 307.21mph, overcoming the 4.965s time of Suliman Alqureshi. Abdulla Waleed Al Hatem rounded off the podium placers.

Elsewhere in the round, six drivers from Kuwait and three from Saudi Arabia were able to take their respective classes.

Amongst the Kuwaitis, Ali Hussain Alqallaf won the 9.0 Index with a time of 9.056s at 232.94mph to beat Faisal Al Ahmed. Hamdan Juma came third. Ahmed Al Saai clinched first place amongst the Outlaw 4-Cylinder competitors with an 8.963s final run at 212.91mph, defeating Mahmood Saleh.



The Bahrain Drag Racing Championship will be back in action in the new year with round three, scheduled for 4 to 7 January. The fourth and fifth rounds will then take place on back-to-back weekends from 8 to 11 February and between 15 and 18 February

Sayad Hussain Al Hadad followed suit in the 7.5 Index class with an elapsed time of 7.698s at 287.58mph to outpace Mohammed Suliman in the final, while Abdulla Al Oqab took the other podium step.

Ebrahim Abdulla won the Competition 4.5 class with a 4.531s mark at 242.49mph, beating Fawaz Karam. Obaid Al Balooshi came away with third place. Shehab Burabaa beat Mohammed Hasan to win the 8.5 Index Bikes category with



Winners celebrate on the podium

a time of 8.518s at 253.16mph, while Ali Bahram came third. Mohammed Al Awwad took the Outlaw Bikes win with a 7.989s time at 168.87mph against Bader Al Awwad, while Khalid Al Fowzan finished third.

The winners from Saudi included Ali Alajaji in the 10.0 Index class, where he beat Abdulrahman Asker in the final despite both having break outs. Ali Baslar was ranked third. Fadi Abu Jamus beat Yousef Al Holi to claim the Street Fight Bikes 9.5 win with an elapsed time of 9.597s at 203.51mph, with Waleed Al Badeen completing the top three. Mishari Al Turki won the Pro Street Bikes category with a 4.409s mark at 273.90mph to beat Jehad Al Ja-

mal. Bader Bin Edan took the other podium place in third.

Following all the action, the top three in each class were awarded their respective trophies in their podium ceremonies attended by BIC, BMF and BDRC officials.

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For more information on the series, visit bahraingp.com, follow BIC's social media accounts or call the circuit's hotline on +973-17450000.

BIC's Fitness on Track for runners and cyclists set for tomorrow



Participants ride cycles during a Fitness on Track event at BIC (file photo)

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts tomorrow its widely popular Batelco Fitness on Track programme at the world-class Sakhir facility.

The activity offers members of the public the chance to maintain their health and wellbeing in a fun and safe environment, either on foot or on a bicycle. All those taking part can train or simply casually exercise within BIC's secure and controlled setting, while getting a bright and early start to the Christmas weekend between 6am and 10am.

Batelco Fitness on Track is one of the most subscribed activities at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", attracting large numbers of participants each time and selling out tickets days in advance.

This is expected to be the same this Friday, therefore runners and cyclists of all ages are being invited to secure their participation today for this unique chance of maintaining or improving their physical fitness along a Formula 1 Grand Prix circuit.

All those wishing to participate must pre-register and pay in advance on BIC's official website bahraingp.com. The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Those under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

Under the current Government traffic light system, which is yellow, entry is restricted to those with a green shield on the BeAware app. Children under 12 are permitted entry as long as they are accompanied by an adult showing a green shield.

The running and cycling will take place on separate track layouts. Runners and walkers will be utilising the 2.550-kilometre Inner Track, while cyclists will be able to ride their bikes along BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer circuit, with a dedicated area for children's cycling.

Additional facilities provided on site include food and beverage trucks available, as well as water stations.

For more information on the Batelco Fitness on Track programme, visit bahraingp.com or call the circuit hotline on +973-17-450000.

Hala stun East Riffa, Hidd hold leaders Manama

● **Isra Amer Hamouya scores winning goal in 1-0 win for Hala over East East Riffa**

● **Tariq Kada supplies equaliser with a minute left in regular time to salvage 2-2 draw for Hidd against Manama**

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Al Hala came away with a surprising 1-0 victory over East Riffa last night while table-toppers Manama were held to a late 2-2 draw by Hidd to kick off the seventh week of action in the 2021/2022 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Isra Amer Hamouya scored the winning goal for Hala in their match. He found the net



Manama goalkeeper Ammar Mohamed Abbas looks to clear the ball while Hidd's Khalid Jamal Abdulrahman attempts to challenge for possession

in the 58th minute as he sent the ball home with a header from close range off a cross from a right corner-kick.

That was enough to separate the two sides in the contest, as Hala came away with only their second win in six matches to rise to fifth on the league table with eight points. East Riffa suffered only their second loss in seven games and stayed in third place with nine points.

Meanwhile, substitute Osa-

ma Mahmoud Omari opened the scoring for Hidd in their stalemate with Manama with a goal from inside the box in the 25th minute, but Manama were able to equalize through Mahdi Abduljabbar in the 39th minute when they were awarded a penalty after Abduljabbar was taken down in the area. He slotted home into the bottom-right corner of the net past Hidd's Abbas Ahmed.

Abduljabbar then put Mana-

ma in front just a minute before half-time with a header in the face of goal off a fine cross by Mohamed Yahya Alhallak.

That gave Manama the slim lead at the break and they appeared to be headed towards a victory after maintaining their advantage for much of the second half. That was until the 88th minute, however, when Tariq Kada supplied the late equaliser after a long pass from Sayed Mohammed Adnan found its way into the box. Kada did well to collect the ball and tap it in with his second touch.

Manama stayed atop the league standings with 15 points despite their third draw in seven matches, while Hidd claimed their fourth draw and rose to seven points for seventh place.

League action continues tonight with Al Ahli playing Al Khaldiya at 5.30pm, followed at 8.05pm by Muharraa facing Budaiya Club.

Bahrain to face Uzbekistan in Asian handball opener

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Bahrain's senior men's national handball team are set to begin their campaign in the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship against their counterparts from Uzbekistan on January 18.

The schedule for the competition's preliminary round has been released by the Asian Handball Federation (AHF), and the nationals are set to play four Group D games.

Following their opening fixture, the Bahrainis face their counterparts from Hong Kong on January 19, before taking on Vietnam the next day. They then have a rest day on January 21 and then play their last



Action from Bahrain's match against Morocco

group match against Japan the following evening.

Bahrain must finish in the top two in their group to make it through to the main round. The bottom three squads face off in the consolation bracket for the Martyr Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah Cup.

Coached by Aron Kristjansson from Iceland, the Bahrainis are currently preparing for the Asian championship. They recently played three international friendly matches in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, which they wrapped up with a resounding 34-23 win over Morocco.

Bahrain will be one of 17 teams in the continental competition, which is to be hosted in Dammam and Qatif.