

WEC drivers begin arriving in Bahrain

Bahrain International Circuit welcomes participants ahead of this weekend's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain

● **Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain set for this Friday and Saturday in Sakhir**

● **On-track action to begin Thursday with sessions held behind closed doors**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", has begun to welcome to the Kingdom the star drivers, officials and team members of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), who will be participating in this weekend's highly anticipated Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The Spirit of Le Mans is set to make its presence felt in Sakhir at the fast-approaching WEC season-finale, taking place Friday and Saturday.

The visiting WEC contingent were received upon their arrival at Bahrain International Airport by members of BIC's Meet and Greet Team.

Large containers of the WEC teams' cars, parts and equipment have also already arrived at the circuit. The race to get ready for the start of on-track action



Prema Racing's LMP2 driver Bent Viscaal with a BIC Meet and Greet Team member upon his arrival

on Thursday has thus begun, with team members unpacking their crates and setting up their respective garages along the BIC Pit Lane.

Thursday's sessions will feature a pair of 90-minute practices for the WEC's contenders, to be held behind closed doors. Fans will be able to watch the WEC's protagonists in action in their iconic and technologically superior Hypercars and sports cars on Friday and Saturday.

Gates are scheduled to be open from 11am to 6.30pm on Friday and from 10.30am to 10.30pm on Saturday.

Tickets to the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain remain available and those looking to

attend are urged to purchase theirs today for this unmissable occasion at BIC.

Tickets cost just BD5.500 for adults and BD2.750 for kids for the two-day weekend programme. They can be bought online at BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. Tickets are priced as one of the most affordable ways to witness a world championship motorsport event.

Hospitality packages are also available for the BIC Spirit of Le Mans Club Experience, where guests can experience exclusive cuisine and incredible views in BIC's Paddock hospitality. Packages are also available to



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purchase online or via the BIC Hotline.

This year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain will yet again be a brilliant spectacle for all those attending and watching from across the globe. The race on Saturday will flag off under the afternoon sun and then wrap up beneath the stars while shining brightly under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

A record number of 12 Hypercars flying the flags of eight teams and six manufacturers



Action from the start of last year's WEC race at BIC

will be lining up on the grid, making for the largest-ever entry in the WEC's top-tier category to hit the tarmac at BIC.

Aside from the WEC action, there will also be top-class racing from the region's leading one-make series, the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East.

Off the track, there will also be loads of family entertainment, plus a WEC-exclusive Open Paddock experience—a unique feature which allows fans to enjoy behind-the-scenes access, getting right next to the teams' garages and possibly see some of the sport's star drivers in person.

Furthermore, following the tremendous success of the ground-breaking Green Ticket initiative introduced for last year's WEC race, BIC and Bapco

Energies, in cooperation with the Government of Bahrain, are bringing it back for the 2023 event.

For every WEC ticket sold, a proportion of the revenue, matched by Bapco Energies, will be donated to a fund which will directly support the planting of new mangroves in Bahrain. This programme supports the national target of quadrupling mangrove coverage across the Kingdom by 2035.

All this and so much more await race-goers at this coming weekend's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

For more information on the WEC's 2023 season-finale or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

Al Khaldiya held by Manama in football league

● **Busaiteen take lead twice, Al Ahli equalise both times in 2-2 stalemate**

TDT | Manama

Defending champions Al Khaldiya were held to a goalless draw last night by Manama in their week five match of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Meanwhile, Busaiteen and Al Ahli also played to a stalemate, with the two sides sharing the points in a 2-2 outcome.

Both Khaldiya and Manama had a number of chances to take the victory but neither could come up with the decisive touches.

Khaldiya posted their second draw and went to 11 points on the league standings, while Manama also had their second stalemate to go to five points after five games.

In last night's other fixture, Busaiteen twice took the lead but Ahli equalised both times to come away with the draw.

Ali Bashmani opened Busaiteen's account in the 23rd minute when he headed home from close range off a cross from the right wing. Jamal Rashid was able to equalise on the stroke of half-time with a brilliant curling free-kick.

Busaiteen then went back ahead in the 77th minute with a



Al Ahli's Abbas Ayyad rises above Busaiteen's Mamadou Lamine Diawara to head the ball away during their match last night

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rocket by Robson Da Silva from well outside the box, but Ahli levelled the proceedings once more through Abdula Al Hashash in the 80th minute, with a header in the race of goal.

Busaiteen went to two points while Ahli improved to five points on the table, both following their second draws in five games.

Al Najma, Manama triumph in basketball league

● **Joshua Caldwell scores 25 points to spearhead Al Najma in win over Nuwaidrat**

● **Sir'Dominic Pointer leads balanced Manama attack in big win against Al Hala**

TDT | Manama

Al Najma and defending champions Manama were both victorious last night in their week two games of the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Najma posted a come-from-behind 101-88 triumph over Nuwaidrat to claim their second successive win in the new season, while Manama also stayed undefeated after outclassing Al Hala 77-58.

Najma used a strong second-half against Nuwaidrat to turn a 48-53 deficit at the break to the 13-point winning margin. The victors outscored their opponents 28-15 in the third and held on to their advantage until the final buzzer.

Joshua Caldwell had 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists to spearhead Najma, while Mohammed Buallay added 22 markers. Elijah Robinson



Manama's Mohammed Ameer goes for an uncontested lay-up during their game against Al Hala last night

chipped in with 18 while taking down 11 boards and also dishing out six assists.

For Nuwaidrat, Sameen Swint was their leading scorer with 29 while Lamar Mallory contributed 21 in the losing effort.

Najma improved to a 2-0 win-loss record while Nuwaidrat dropped to a 1-1 mark.

Meanwhile, Manama were in control of their game against Hala from the start but

stretched their lead to as many as 21 late on. They held Hala to just eight points in the final period as they sealed their second straight triumph to begin their back-to-back title-defence.

Sir'Dominic Pointer led a balanced attack with 18 points for Manama, who had five players in double figures. Mohammed Ameer added 17 while brothers Mustafa and Ali Hussain each scored 11.