

Toyota win Japan as Bapco 6 Hours of Bahrain nears at BIC

Sakhir

Toyota Gazoo Racing earned a one-two finish at its home race in Japan on Sunday as the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) inched closer to the season-ending Bapco 6 Hours of Bahrain.

An eventful and rain-affected 6 Hours of Fuji marked the seventh round of the nine-meeting season, and it was the trio of Sebastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson and Kazuki Nakajima who triumphed.

The result earned them their third race win of 2017 in their no. 8 TS050 Hybrid. It was also Toyota's fifth victory in six events at Fuji Speedway.

Mike Conway, Kamui



Representative image

Kobayashi and Jose Maria Lopez in the no. 7 car took second place on a day that the TS050 Hybrid showed its strong performance in wet conditions.

Rain intensified and fog descended on the track,

causing several interruptions to the race. The heavy wet conditions and differing fuel strategies removed any advantage during safety cars, the final order of the podium was unpredictable.

And with the 75 per cent mark approaching, after which full World Championship points would be awarded, more heavy fog came and another safety car was called.

"This a great result for the team and also for our home

fans here at Fuji; thanks to them for such great support, especially considering the weather," said Buemi.

Neel Jani, Andre Lotterer and Nick Tandy of Porsche took the final place on the overall podium. All three were also the top three amongst LMP1 cars.

The LMP2 class was won by the trio of Julien Cana, Nicolas Prost and Bruno Senna of Vaillante Rebellion driving an Oreca/Gibson.

The LMGTE Pro category was claimed by James Calado and Alessandro Pier Guidi of AF Corse driving a Ferrari. Thomas Flohr, Francesco Castellacci and Miguel Molina of Spirit of Race, driving a Ferrari, won the LMGTE Am

category.

The WEC now heads to the penultimate round of the season, the 6 Hours of Shanghai on November 5.

It will then head to the FIA WEC Bapco 6 Hours of Bahrain at Bahrain International Circuit on November 17 and 18.

Tickets are now on sale at BD10 apiece for the two-day extravaganza, which will feature both top-class racing and off-track entertainment.

The weekend will also have more racing thrills aside from the WEC. Being held as part of the support programme are the MRF Challenge, the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East and the highly acclaimed World Series Formula V8 3.5.

CBA Division C: Sultan beat Eagles



Faris - Unique



Jagan Bapco



Saeed - ACL



Shabeer - Bapco



Rana - Union

Manama

Sultan Palace defeated Muharraq Eagles by 37 runs in CBA Division C.

After winning the toss, Sultans elected to bat first. Anoop scored a quick 63 in 28 ball including 6 consecutive sixes in an over which helped his team to reach 203 runs in 20 overs. Suresh and Anees scored 47 each for Sultans.

In second innings Eagles were all out for 166 runs. Azhar was the top scorer with 37 runs for Eagles, while Anil took 3 wickets for Sultans.

Other results:

NDC Bahrain 107/7 in 18.4 overs (Mahesh 21, Irfan 3/18) beat Falcon 106/10 (Arjun 33, Ajeesh 3/20, Mahesh 3/26) by 3 wickets.

LuLu 127/8 (Nishad 46, ANoop 24) bt SNCS Transfast 101/10 (Anu 17, Anoop 2/13) by 26 runs

Pristine 151/9 in 20 overs (Sajid 36, Zaki 2/14) bt Riffa Star 68/10 (Zaki 25,

Azim 2/6) by 83 runs

Kerala XI 187/5 in 20 overs (Satheesh 55, Justin 47, Sajeer 37, Kinsley 3/37) bt Tornado A 76/10 (Vipin 18, Anoop 3/18, Suraj 3/17) by 111 runs.

Unique 166/3 in 19.4 overs (Faris 56, Jijo.C 40) bt Awali Camel 161/5 (Sahil 36, Jijo.K 3/29) by 7 wickets.

ACL 153/6 (Saeed 65, Atif 2/31) bt Young Star 127/10 (Imran 41, Waqas 2/23) by 26 runs

RKCT 122/10 (Guru 46, Imran 4/11) bt Fateh Curtain 95/10 (Anas 16, Guru 2/20) by 27 runs

Bahrain Indians 141/10 (Nijith 43, Rameez 3/24) bt Titans 129/6 (Saleem 25, Nijith 2/17) by 12 runs.

Union Group 160/8 (Rana 60, Siva 49, Rajesh 2/32) bt Karnataka Royals 106/6 (Yatish 40, Mohsin 2/15) by 54 runs.

Awali Bapco 164/2 in 14.3 overs (Jagan 82, Irfan 31) bt Lanterns 162/10 (Asif 34, Chameela 33, Shabeer 5/30) by 8 wickets

FIFA World Ranking released

Zurich

Germany remain top of the latest FIFA World Rankings, with the October update taking into account the latest round of World Cup qualifiers and friendlies that have played out around the planet at international level over the course of the last month.

Overall, there have been no changes to the top six at all, with Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium, and Poland all staying firm between 2nd and 6th.

France, seen as one of the favourites for next summer's World Cup

FIFA World Rankings: October 2017:

Rank	Country
1	Germany
2	Brazil
3	Portugal
4	Argentina
5	Belgium
6	Poland
7	France
8	Spain
9	Chile
10	Peru
63	Saudi Arabia
125	Bahrain

risen one place to 7th. Neighbours Spain have broken back into the top 10 after rising three places to 8th.

Back-to-back defending Copa America champions Chile stay put in 9th place, despite recent results confirming they will definitely miss out on the World Cup in Russia after finishing as low as 6th in the CONMEBOL qualification standings.

Peru are the notable new addition to the top 10 after rising two places to 10th. (90min.com)

given the incredible disposal of head coach depth of talent at the Didier Deschamps, have

Khawaja criticises Australia's selection policy

Sydney

Australia batsman Usman Khawaja has criticised the country's selection policy and says the constant team changes hampered his attempts to develop his all-round game.

The 30-year-old left-hander scored 55 runs in four innings during Australia's 3-0 Test series defeat in Sri Lanka in 2016 before being dropped for the third Test.

He then scored half-centuries in six consecutive home Tests but did not play in the four-Test series in India this year.

Khawaja was brought back for the first Test in Bangladesh, only to be dropped for the second match of the series.

"They never used to do it before, I'm not really sure why they do it now," Khawaja told ABC Radio of



Usman Khawaja

the selection policy.

"It creates a lot of instability in the team I reckon, going in and out for everyone.

"You hear things like 'the players are playing afraid' or whatnot, but that's what happens when you drop

players all the time. We've been doing that a fair bit lately."

The Pakistan-born cricketer has played 24 Tests since making his debut in the 2011 Ashes series against England and has scored five hundreds, averaging over 45. (Reuters)