

Bahrain beat Lebanon in Asian U-17 qualifier

● Sami Bassam scores for Bahrain from penalty spot in 68th minute

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Bahrain defeated Lebanon 1-0 to make a winning start in the qualifiers for the 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup, currently being held in Muscat.

Sami Bassam scored the winning goal from the penalty spot in the 68th minute of action.

That was enough to separate the two sides in the Group C clash, as the Bahrainis came away with all three points.

In yesterday's other divisional fixture, Qatar defeated Iraq 2-1.

The nationals will next take on their Qatari counterparts when they return to the pitch tomorrow. Bahrain then play Oman on Wednesday, before facing Iraq in their concluding game on Friday.

There are 44 nations in this stage of the qualifiers. They have been divided into 10 groups—four with five teams and six with four teams.

In each group, teams will play each other once at a centralised venue. The ten group winners and the five best runners-up will qualify for the final tournament.

Royal Endurance Team all set for worlds

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa spearheads last training session in presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad bin Hamad Al Khalifa

● Covering 120km in distance, event expected to feature wide participation

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Under the leadership of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Captain of the Team, the Royal Endurance Team is set to participate in the World Endurance Championship for eight-year-old horses, which will be held in Spain.

Covering 120km distance, the event is expected to feature wide participation.

HH Shaikh Nasser was keen to spearhead the last training session of the team upon his arrival at the endurance village in the presence of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad bin Hamad Al Khalifa in Spain

Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee. HH Shaikh Nasser and HH Shaikh Khalid followed the veterinary examination which took place yesterday ahead of the race.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser stressed that the World Endurance Championship for eight-year-old horses represents an important opportunity for the Royal Endurance Team to affirm Bahrain's ability and its

continued development with its permanent presence in the largest championships after a series of positive results achieved in the past period.

His Highness explained that Bahrain has accomplished many achievements during the last period, and the presence of the Royal Endurance Team in the World Championship is an extension of the successes made by the Bahrain's endurance in European competitions, the last of which was winning three

consecutive titles this season, starting in the Windsor Festival and going down to the Monte Sino International Endurance Championship and then the Slovakia International Endurance Championship.

Successes

HH Shaikh Nasser indicated that these successes achieved by the team in the past months will be a great motivation to achieve the desired results and goals in this context, which will give the riders a rich experience and will increase harmony among

them in light of the participation of the Royal Endurance Team with fresh faces who are capable of carrying the flag of Bahrain in the future. Moreover, His Highness indicated that he is keen to support and encourage young riders, wishing the team all success.

It is worth noting that HH Shaikh Nasser will lead the team which also includes Mayoof Al Rumaihi, Sultan Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Isa Al Enzi, Mohammed Khalifa Al Ruwaie and Khalifa Mubarak Sabt.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his horse during training in Spain

Bahrain bow out of Futsal Asian Cup



Action from the match

● Bahrainis lose 1-6 to Uzbekistan in final Group B game

● Nationals end tournament campaign with just a single point

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Bahrain were eliminated from further contention in the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2022 last night.

The Bahrainis bowed out from the competition following a disappointing 1-6 loss to Uzbekistan in Kuwait City.

The defeat was their worst result from the tournament and it was their second in three outings. They had previously

lost 3-4 to Tajikistan and then drew 4-4 with Turkmenistan.

The nationals thus finished the championship in third place in Group B with just a single point.

The Bahrainis were one of 16 teams from across the continent taking part in the competition, which is being held for the 17th time.

There are four groups in the opening stage. Each of the top two teams from all four groups move through to the quarter-finals following a single round-robin.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan advanced from Bahrain's group. The Bahrainis booked their tickets to this year's Asian Cup after finishing second in their group in the West Zone qualifying tournament held last April in the UAE.

Solid start for Loeb in Morocco

● Battle begins in earnest tomorrow as Bahrain Raid Xtreme star looks to build on lead in world title race

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Sebastien Loeb made a solid start to the Rallye Du Maroc today as he set out to extend his lead in the World Rally-Raid Championship with Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX)..

Loeb recorded the third fastest time on the opening day in his BRX Prodrive Hunter, as Qatar's Nasser Al Attiyah in a Toyota Hilux set the pace on the 8.67 km prologue, which served as a warm-up for the main action to follow over the next five days.

Orlando Terranova, Loeb's BRX team-mate, finished the stage in fifth place, one spot adrift of

French driver Guerlain Chicherit in another Prodrive Hunter.

Loeb started the rally leading Al Attiyah by one point in the race to become the first FIA World Rally Raid champion, with the final round, the Andalusia Rally, to follow in Spain from 18-23 October.

The nine-time World Rally Champion and fellow Frenchman Fabian Lurquin snatched



Sebastien Loeb



Sebastien Loeb steers his Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter during the Rallye Du Maroc

”The choice is tricky. We know the navigation will be difficult tomorrow so being first on the road is a bit dangerous, but being behind some slower cars can also be hard. We were the first car on the road today so we had to make the track (for the cars behind), but we had a good stage. There was nothing more that we could do

SEBASTIEN LOEB

that slender advantage during the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge back in March, and they know that one small mistake or twist of misfortune could decide the title race.

The prologue was little more than a sprint for the three Prodrive Hunters and the other 80 starters in the cars and trucks category, before the rally begins in earnest tomorrow with the first of five long desert stages, a 316-kms competitive section from Agadir to Tan-Tan.

The route covers more sand than in previous years, with bivouacs at Tan-Tan and Laayoune, and stages that are similar to those seen in Saudi Arabia in recent years for the Dakar Rally. Argentine Terranova, who

took his BRX Hunter to a fine fourth place finish in this year's Dakar back in January, said: “I am happy to be back again rallying.

“My personal target is to do a good rally and get quicker as the rally progresses. This is a big test for the Dakar, as Morocco is a tough rally, but one that I enjoy too.”

Chicherit, partnered in the third BRX Hunter by fellow Frenchman Alex Winocq, said: “Rallye du Maroc is very hard for the cars and for the crews.

“In short, one kilometre in Morocco counts double or triple in normal conditions. I will do everything I can and if we are in the game, it will give us confidence for the Dakar.”