

Bahrain Victorious finish as team runners-up in Valencia tour



Bahrain Victorious rider Luis Leon Sanchez, centre, celebrates at the end of the race after finishing seventh overall on the general individual ranking

● Bahrain Victorious come up 31 seconds shy of team title

● Luis Leon Sanchez finishes in top 10 of overall individual rankings

TDI | Manama

Bahrain Victorious narrowly missed out on the team title yesterday at the conclusion of the Volta a la Comunitat Valenciana in Spain.

The event, commonly known as the Tour of Valencia, wrapped up with a 92-kilometre fifth and final stage. The riders completed a total of 786.5km in the race.

Bahrain Victorious finished second overall in the teams category with a combined race time of 56 hours 56 minutes and 31 seconds. That was just 31 seconds behind the winners, British outfit Ineos Grenadiers.

Luis Leon Sanchez finished as Bahrain Victorious' best individual rider after taking

seventh overall in the general classification. He was classified a minute and 14 seconds behind first place.

Teammate Matej Mohoric followed in 11th overall 2:54 from the winner. Pello Bilbao was just a second behind Mohoric in 13th, while Dylan Teuns came 17th, 3:50 back.

Jan Tratnik finished 20th 4:51, while Yukiya Arashiro rounded off the Bahrain Victorious riders in 58th place.

In yesterday's final stage, Mohoric was their best-placed rider in 34th, followed by Tratnik in 38th, Bilbao in 46th, Sanchez in 63rd, Arashiro in 64th, and Teuns in 78th.

The Volta a la Comunitat Valenciana was part of the newly established UCI ProSeries, under the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

The race was founded in 1929 and since then has played host to 72 editions of road cycling racing.

The race was an important season-opener for Bahrain Victorious in understanding where the team is and wants to be.

Around 170 cyclists from more than 20 countries competed over five days.

Najma outclass Bahrain Club in basketball league

Shane Osayande spearheads balanced attack as Najma claim first victory after three games in Top Six of 2021/2022 Zain Bahrain Basketball League

● Shane Osayande, Ali Jaber and Kenny Ejim combine for Najma's 78 points, while Mohammed Buallay dishes out 16 assists

● Dexter Pittman scores 31 while Kenny Gasana has triple-double for Bahrain Club in loss

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Al Najma claimed their first victory in the Top Six division of the 2021/2022 Zain Bahrain Basketball League last night following a hard-earned 101-91 victory over Bahrain Club at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town.

Najma were in control for much of the contest but Bahrain Club kept battling until the final buzzer, staying within striking distance till the end. Najma, however, had a reply each time their opponents threatened to fight back, and they were able to come away with their first win in this stage of the season after back-to-back losses in their two previous games.

Bahrain Club were playing their opening fixture in this stage.

Najma had a slow start to yesterday's affair and Bahrain Club took advantage, going ahead with a slim, one-point lead, 22-21, at the end of the first quarter. But Najma came alive in the second period, outscoring their rivals 28-19 to head into the half



Bahrain Club's Nasser Almosawi looks to make a pass as he is closely guarded by Al Najma's Mohammed Buallay during their game last night

Top Six

	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	2	2	0	36	4
Al Najma	3	1	2	-52	4
Al Ahli	1	0	2	34	2
Al Hala	1	0	1	-8	1
Bahrain Club 1	0	1	-10	1	1
Muharraq	0	0	0	0	0

up 49-41.

They continued to raise their play in the third quarter when they enjoyed their biggest lead of 19 points, 74-55, following an alley-oop from Mohammed Buallay to Canadian import Shane Osayande. Najma then took a 74-63 advantage into the final period, where they con-

tinued to keep the lead but not without Bahrain Club attempting to make things interesting.

They were able to cut the deficit to single digits, 80-88, following two free-throws by Rwandan professional Kenny Gasana, but that was as close as they got and Najma were able to close things out for the double-digit win.

Osayande top scored for Najma with 36 points. He also had 19 rebounds but fouled out late in the game. Ali Jaber chipped in with 22 markers, while Nigerian Kenny Ejim scored 20, including four three-pointers.

Buallay helped orchestrate Najma's offence in the game,

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Several games have been postponed recently in both the Top Six and Silver League due to multiple players on teams testing positive for COVID-19. Both divisions will be in action tonight at separate venues

finishing with 16 assists while contributing nine points.

For Bahrain Club, former NBA champion Dexter Pittman had 31 points and 13 rebounds. Gasana finished with a triple-double in the loss with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, while Ali Abbas came off the bench to score 15, all from beyond the three-point line.

A few games in the league's Top Six have been postponed due to multiple players testing positive for COVID-19 prior to their fixtures.

Action is scheduled to continue tonight with defending back-to-back champions Al Ahli facing Al Hala at 7pm at the same venue.

Also this evening, play in the Silver League will resume, with Sitra going up against Al Ettihad. That game will be held at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam with a 5.30pm tip-off.

Al Khateri fifth in Al Sharjah international showjumping

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Bahrain's Khalid Al Khateri finished fifth in the Al Sharjah International Showjumping Championship (three stars), which was organised by Al Sharjah Equestrian Club in collaboration with the UAE Equestrian Federation and under the supervision of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

The event featured an elite pool of participants representing 25 Arab, western and European countries who competed for prizes totalling 171,9000 euros with the presence of 320 horses. Al Khateri's display was outstanding, coming fifth in the 130m hurdle round following stiff competition.



Khalid Al Khateri in the Sharjah event with officials

Commenting after the event, he thanked HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation

(BREEF) for the continued support towards all the athletes, stating that it embodies His Highness' backing and interest in showjumping.

Bastianini fastest on last day of Malaysia MotoGP test

AFP | Kuala Lumpur

Italian speedster Enea Bastianini was fastest on day two of the MotoGP pre-season test

yesterday, clocking a new lap record at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia.

Outpacing 26 rivals, the Gresini Racing rider took

the lead with a lap time of 1min 58.131sec, beating second-placed Aleix Espargaro by a mere 0.026 seconds.

Al Thawadi named new FIA Volunteers and Officials Commission chief

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Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF) general manager Abdulaziz Al Thawadi has been named the new president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Volunteers and Officials (FIA VO) Commission.

This was announced by the commission.

Al Thawadi is highly regarded in the world of motorsport volunteers and officials, the commission said. His volunteering career began in 1986, and he has since moved up the ladder.

Al Thawadi is a Super License holder as the Clerk of the Course of the Formula 1 Sakhir Grand Prix in 2020. He was also instrumental in the success of the inaugural F1 Jeddah Grand Prix, serving as part of the Race Organising Committee and Deputy Clerk of the Course mentoring the locals.

Al Thawadi has been a mem-



Abdulaziz Al Thawadi

ber of the FIA VO Commission since 2011 and he expressed his excitement with the new appointment.

"I am very proud to represent the volunteers and officials worldwide in this appointment and very honoured to be given this opportunity," Al Thawadi was quoted as saying on FIA VO social media.

"My passion for our VOs is something very close to my heart and I hope, with my fellow commission members, we can continue to make great strides in ensuring our volunteers and officials are well taken care of, and recognised around

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ABDULAZIZ AL THAWADI

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin Syn, our former president on his hard work during his term, BMF President Shaikh Abdulla [bin Isa Al Khalifa] for his trust and support, and also FIA President Mr Mohammed Ben Sulayem for his confidence in entrusting this role to me."