

Bahraini pair to race in cycling worlds

Kingdom's top riders Ahmed Madan and Ahmed Naser to fly Bahrain flag in 2022 UCI Road World Championships in Wollongong, Australia

● **Ahmed Madan, Ahmed Naser to both compete in 28.8km men's under-23 individual time trial**

● **Bahrain set to have one of the two cyclists take part in the 129.8km men's under-23 road race**

TDT | Manama

Up-and-coming Bahraini cyclists Ahmed Madan and Ahmed Naser will be flying the Kingdom's flag in the upcoming 2022 UCI Road World Championships.

The prestigious road cycling event, held by the sport's global governing body the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), is scheduled to take place September 18 to 23 in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia.



Bahrain's Ahmed Madan, left, and Ahmed Naser at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Konya, Turkey last month (File photo)

Madan and Naser will be among more than 1,000 riders from over 70 countries taking part in the meeting's various categories. They will both be competing

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Bahrain's Ahmed Madan and Ahmed Naser will be among over 1,000 riders from more than 70 countries taking part in the various categories of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships

in the men's under-23 class—with each racing in the individual time trial, while only one of them will be taking part in their age group's road race.

The individual time trial will be held on September 19 and it will cover a 28.8-kilometre distance. The course features several technical turns and a searing

final sprint in the Wollongong city centre.

The road race, on the other hand, is scheduled for September 23 and it will be held over a 169.8km distance. The route will take the riders through the city centre and along a number of local suburbs, and it includes a steady ascent with an average gradient of 7.7 per cent and a maximum of 14 per cent to reach a maximum elevation of 119 metres.

According to Madan, both he and Naser earned qualification tickets to the individual time trial, but Bahrain only secured one place for the road race.

"For the road race, we have only one seat; so for now, I think I will be doing both events, but we will make the final decision there when we arrive in Australia," Madan told TDT yesterday prior to his departure for Australia.

Madan is fresh from making national sporting history at the Islamic Solidarity Games in

Konya, Turkey, last month, when he won the gold medal in the men's individual time trial. He clinched his title after completing the event's 25km distance in 30 minutes 18.977 seconds. Naser was also competing, and he placed 10th overall with a time of 31:54.791.

"It is a great opportunity for both of them to race in the world championship," said Bahrain Cycling Academy sports director Axel Costa. "It is a step forward for Bahrain cycling."

The 2022 UCI Road World Championships will be the 101st edition of the event, and it will mark only the second time it is being held in the Southern Hemisphere.

This year's meeting will also feature time trials and road races for elite men and elite women, junior men and junior women, and a mixed relay time trial.

The UCI Road World Championships, Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France form the Triple Crown of Cycling.

Althawadi, Alobaidli win top title in Let's Padel tournament

TDT | Manama

The duo of Khalid Althawadi and Rashid Alobaidli were crowned champions of Men's Category A in the Let's Padel National Tournament, held at the Let's Padel Bahrain premises in Seef.

Bahrain Olympic Committee vice-president His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa attended the competition's concluding evening along with other officials.

Althawadi and Alobaidli clinched their title after defeat-



The Men's Category A top three celebrate with their prizes on the podium

ing Yusuf Qaed and Omar Qaed taking third place in the class 6-3, 7-5 in a hotly contested final. They were Abdulla Mohammed and

Hassan Abdulredha.

Along with their champions' trophy, Althawadi and Alobaidli won a cool BD4,000 in prize money. The Qaed brothers came away with BD2,500 while Mohammed and Abdulredha won BD1,200.

In Men's Category B, Isa Alqattan and Yousif Ghunaim were the winners after defeating Mohamed Sayyar and Abdulrahman Shehab in the final via walkover. Isa Alshaikh and Mohammed Althawadi claimed third.

Khaled Adnan and Abdulla Aldosseri were triumphant in

Men's Category C after beating Ali Adnan and Salman Alhazaa 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the final. Ebrahim Alshamlan and Osama Selaif took the final podium place.

Other winners in the tournament were Mahmood Alali and Maryam Al Qallaf in the Mixed Doubles category, Maryam Al Qallaf and Mariam Alamma in the Women's Category A, and Muneera Aldoseri and May Bukamal in Women's Category B.

All the winners each also took home prize money to go along with their trophies.

Nadal hints at extended break after US Open exit

Reuters | New York

Rafael Nadal said he needed to "fix things" and was unsure about his return to competitive tennis after his bid for a men's record-extending 23rd Grand Slam title ended in the fourth round of the US Open on Monday.

It was Nadal's first tournament at Flushing Meadows since he lifted his fourth US Open title in 2019 and he arrived for the hard-court major without much match practice and doubts hanging over his fitness.

"I need to go back," Nadal said, crediting his 24-year-old opponent for being the better player on the day.

"I need to fix things, life, then I don't know when I (am) going to come back. I (am) going to try to be ready mentally. When I feel that I will be ready to compete again, I will be there."

Nadal, who is expecting his first child with wife Mery Perello later this year, is scheduled to turn out for Team Europe during the Sept. 23-25 Laver Cup in London alongside his great rivals Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray.

The Mallorcan added the Australian Open and the French Open to his tally of major titles in 2022 but the season has also been blighted by a spate of injuries.

Nadal arrived in Melbourne having not played a competitive match for five months but then went on a 20-match winning spree, a run that included the Australian Open victory.

He captured a record-extending 14th French Open title, playing with a pain-killing injection before every match to deal with a chronic foot injury.

Tiafoe stuns Nadal in major US Open upset

AFP | New York

Rafael Nadal fell to his earliest US Open loss in six years on Monday when he was knocked out by Frances Tiafoe while Carlos Alcaraz survived a five-set epic to reach a second successive quarter-final in a tie which finished at 02:23 a.m. Tuesday.

Four-time US Open champion Nadal, bidding for a 23rd Grand Slam title, lost 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the last-16 to 26th-ranked Tiafoe.

The American's big-hitting performance conjured up 18 aces and 49 winners past a sluggish Nadal.

For Australian and French Open champion Nadal, it was a first Grand Slam loss of 2022 after an abdominal strain forced him to forfeit his Wimbledon semi-final.

His defeat came just a day after world number one and defending champion Daniil Medvedev was knocked out by Nick Kyrgios.

"I wasn't able to push him back. Tennis is a sport of positions a lot of the time," said 36-year-old Nadal.

"You need to be very quick and very young. I am not in that



Frances Tiafoe hits to Rafael Nadal

moment anymore."

Tiafoe, 24, will face Andrey Rublev, who he defeated over five sets in the third round in 2021, for a place in the semi-finals.

"I don't know what to say, I'm so happy. He's one of the greatest of all time and I played unbelievable tennis today," said Tiafoe who had only previously reached one Slam quarter-final in Australia in 2019.

"Something special happened today. Honestly when I first came on the scene I wasn't ready for it mentally and mature enough.

"I've been able to develop and I have a great team around me. With you guys, it's been great."

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FRANCES TIAFOE

Alcaraz defeated 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in a match which was just three minutes short of equalling the record for the latest finish at the tournament.

In a gruelling three-hour and 54-minute encounter, Cilic was under siege, having to save 12 of 18 break points while committing 66 unforced errors.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz, seeded three and seen as the title favourite after the elimination of Nadal, will face Jannik Sinner of Italy for a semi-final place.

Sinner holds a 2-1 advantage over Alcaraz with both wins

coming this year at Wimbledon and Umag.

"I believed in myself, it was pretty tough," said Alcaraz.

"I was a break down in the fifth set. It was tough to come back after losing the fourth set."

Italian 11th seed Sinner reached his third Slam quarter-final of 2022 with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win over Ilya Ivashka of Belarus.

The pair served up 27 double faults between them and 119 unforced errors.

Seventh seed Rublev breezed past Cameron Norrie to reach the quarter-finals for the third time with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win.

Swiatek history

Rublev, who also made the last-eight in New York in 2017 and 2020, will be playing in his sixth quarter-final at the majors but has yet to progress further.

French Open champion and world number one Iga Swiatek became the first woman to reach the US Open quarter-finals.

Swiatek recovered from a set and a break down to see off 108th-ranked German opponent Jule Niemeier, 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.

In a mistake-riddled clash on

With the win, Tiafoe snapped Nadal's streak of 17 straight majors where he reached the quarter-finals or better

Louis Armstrong Court, there were a total of 15 double faults, 12 breaks of serve and 76 unforced errors.

"It's really satisfying. This is my first quarter-final in New York so I am really proud of it," said Swiatek.

Wimbledon quarter-finalist Niemeier hadn't won a hardcourt match in her career before coming to New York.



Rafael Nadal waves to fans after his loss