

Hamilton wins in Qatar with Verstappen second



Lewis Hamilton
Reuters | Doha

Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton won the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix for Mercedes on Sunday to cut Max Verstappen's overall Formula One lead to eight points with two races remaining.

Red Bull's Verstappen was second, after starting seventh following a five-place grid drop for failing to respect warning flags in Saturday's qualifying, but took a bonus point for fastest lap.

Double world champion Fernando Alonso was third for Renault-owned Alpine, the 40-year-old Spaniard's first podium finish since 2014.

"It was pretty straightforward, it was pretty lonely at the front," said Hamilton, who led from pole position and was never challenged over the 57 laps of the floodlit night race.

Bahrain's Arab Cup squad named

Head coach Helio Sousa shortlists 23 players for 16-nation regional competition starting at the end of the month in Doha

● Bahrainis scheduled to begin local gathering today ahead of departure for Qatari capital on Friday

● Nationals to kick off Arab Cup campaign on November 30 against tournament hosts

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Bahrain's final squad of 23 players that will be competing in the FIFA Arab Cup starting at the end of the month was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Football Association (BFA).

The call-ups of senior men's national team head coach Helio Sousa are scheduled to gather today to begin their final lead-up to the tournament.

The Bahrainis are then scheduled to fly to Doha on Friday just a few days ahead of the start of the competition on November



Bahrain's national team prior to their friendly against Kyrgyzstan earlier this month (File photo)

30. The national team roster is set to be spearheaded by young stars Mahdi Humaidan, Ali Madan, Abdulwahab Al Malood, Jassim Al Shaikh, Komail Alaswad and Mohammed Jassim Marhoon, among others.

It also includes top veterans Sayed Dhiya Saeed, Isameel Abdullatif, Mohammed Al Romaihi, and goalkeeper Sayed Mohammed Jaafar.

The rest of the team features other big local talents such as Mohammed Abdulwahab, Sayed

Shubbar Alawi, Ahmed Bughammar, Mohammed Hardan, Ahmed Nabeel, Ammar Abbas, Abbas Ayyad, Madhi Abduljabbar, Waleed Al Hayam, Rashid Alhooti, Abbas Fadhel, Sayed Redha Isa and Sayed Baqer.

One of the bigger names not included in the squad is forward Abdulla Yusuf. According to sources, a conflict in schedule with his club FC Slovan Liberec in the Czech Republic is the reason for his exclusion.

The Bahrainis played two friendly matches earlier this

Group Stage

Group A: Qatar, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain

Group B: Tunisia, UAE, Syria, Mauritania

Group C: Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Palestine

Group D: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan

month in preparation for the tournament ahead. They first lost to Morocco in a unique tune-up that was held over four 30-minute quarters, and then defeated Kyrgyzstan in their other exhibition game.

Bahrain are in Group A for the Arab Cup, which is set to feature 16 participating nations in all. The other teams in the Bahrainis' group are hosts Qatar, Iraq and Oman.

The nationals begin their campaign against the home team on opening night, before taking on Iraq on December 3 and then facing Oman on December 6. There are four groups in all for the preliminary stage. The top two squads at the end of a sin-



gle round-robin advance to the knockouts.

The Arab Cup will help Bahrain prepare for their campaign in the third round of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2023, which is set for June next year.

The tournament is being delivered by FIFA as a prelude to the FIFA World Cup 2022. It is seen as a vital opportunity to test operations and facilities ahead of next year's global showcase.

The FIFA Arab Cup is taking place in the same time slot as the World Cup, with the finals of both competitions to be held exactly one year apart.

Bahrain Cricket Federation honours team

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The new Bahrain Cricket Federation (BCF) announced that it a remarkable journey in the last few months and have risen to qualify for the 2022 T20 World Cup Global Qualifiers to be held in Oman in February next year. Bahrain is now in Top 24 T20 teams Globally among 100+ International Cricket playing nations.

The BCF, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, organized a facilitation ceremony to honour the victorious Bahrain National Cricket Team led by Anasim Khan and coached by Miraza Azeem Ul Haque at Crown Plaza Conference Hall in Diplomatic.

The felicitation event was well attended by families, cricket fans, sponsors, business owners and media persons.

Welcoming the guests, Hatim Dadabai, President of the Bahrain Cricket Federation, said: "We would like to thank His Highness Shaikh Khalid for his continued support to the board and also to the General Sports Authority. We selected and pre-



Bahrain's players during the event

pared the Bahrain national team for this tournament. All of us have worked hard and we have achieved the impossible in such a short time. Under Anasim Khan's captaincy and the direction of national team coach, Azeem Ul Haque, the squad has played fantastic cricket."

Speaking on occasion, Chief Guest of the evening Mohamed Hasan Ali Al Nusuf, Secretary-General of Bahrain National Olympic Committee applauded Bahrain National Cricket Team's performance and said that all the teams representing Bahrain is 'Team Bahrain' and has made the Kingdom proud.

The Guest of Honour, Mohammed Shahid - CEO KHK Sports, President BRAVE CF, Founder Bahrain MMA, Advisor to President, Bahrain Olympic Committee joined the stage along with the Chief

Guest.

Speaking on occasion, Mohammed Mansoor, Chairman of Cricket Board Advisory Group, congratulated the Team, dedicated this success to His Highness's Vision, and thanked Shahid for his continuous support and guidance. He also praised the effort of the BCF Board under the leadership of Hatim Dadabai and urged them to follow the BRAVE MMA model and strategy, which is one of the fastest-growing sports in the Martial Arts field. He stressed the need to provide better facilities for practice such as grass grounds and turf pitches to develop Cricket.

Bahrain topped the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier Asia A beating hosts Qatar, Maldives and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain, playing against Qatar, recorded an impressive eight wicket win restricting Qatar on their home ground to 133 for 5 and won the match in 13.1 overs through their openers Mohammad Younis's unbeaten 82 and Sarfaraz Ali's 42.

They then went on to restrict Maldives for a paltry 88 for 9 in the next match and win by seven wickets. Their star performer was captain Anasim Khan, who took three wickets for 15 runs and also hit an unbeaten 23.

In the well-fought match against experienced Saudi Arabia, Bahrain won by 18 runs. Bahrain posted 179 for 9 through opener Sarfaraz Ali's 67 and restricted Saudi Arabia to 161 for 6.

Though Bahrain lost to Kuwait, they topped the points table with six points. Kuwait could muster only four points. Although Qatar too finished with six points, Bahrain had the better run rate.

Among the top performers for Bahrain in the qualifiers were Mohammad Younis and Sarfaraz Ali. Bahrain skipper Anasim Khan, Satya and Waseeq are the best bowlers and wicketkeeper Imran Ali Butt was second among most dismissals with three catches and two stumpings.

Luca crowned vice-champion in MENA nations karting



Luca Kane Houghton, second from right, with the rest of the Bahrain team

● Luca crowned vice-champion in MENA karting

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Talented Bahrain-based karter Luca Kane Houghton was crowned vice-champion in the Mini Max category at the MENA Karting Nations Cup 2021, held at Muscat Speedway Circuit in Oman.

Representing the Kingdom and karting team Birel ART Bahrain, Luca was the team's sole participant to step onto the podium in the event's various competition categories.

He finished his 15-lap final 5.068 seconds behind winner Christopher El Feghali from Lebanon, while also doing well to pip Conor Clancy from the UAE by 0.220s to claim his runner-up classification.

Three other of Bahrain's top young karters were competing in the meeting.

In the Junior Max final, Fahaad Almuqla was sixth 9.175s from winner Hamza Al Fayed from Jordan, while Abdulqader Qasem finished 12th in the same race 36.231s from first place.

In the Max category final, Shaikha Haya bint Saqer Al Khalifa was classified in 24th place.

More than 200 karters from 19 countries took part in the regional event, which was organised by the Oman Automobile Association (OAA). The participating nations included Libya, Lebanon, Cyprus, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco, Turkey, Bahrain and hosts Oman.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) championship is a major competition for young up-and-coming drivers under the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the world body for motorsports. The inaugural edition took place in February of 2020.



Officials during the press meet

