

Bahrain karatekas eye Asian glory in Jordan



TDT | Manama

Eight Bahraini athletes will take on some of Asia's leading young karate talent at the 2026 Asian Cadet, Junior and Under-21 Karate Championships in Jordan from September 7 to 11.

Representing the Ahmed Al Ahmad Karate Centre, the athletes are undergoing intensive preparations under international coach Ahmed Abdulkarim as they target strong results at the continental championship.

Abdulkarim said the team had successfully completed all phases of preparation in accordance with the planned technical programme, with training focused on sharpening technical skills

EIGHT BAHRAINI ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN JORDAN NEXT MONTH

The Ahmed Al Ahmad Karate Centre will be represented by eight athletes across various age categories and weight divisions:

1	Dana Mohammed Fazi	Under-21, Under 75kg
2	Mohammed Ahmed	Under-21, Under 75kg
3	Mohammed Hamid Faraj	Cadet (Under-17)
4	Mohammed Nabil	Under-21, Under 60kg
5	Abdullah Fawaz Al Marbati	Under-17, Under 58kg
6	Abdulghaffar Al Marbati	Under-15, Over 70kg
7	Zakariya Mohammed Shuwaiter	Under-16, Under 50kg
8	Waleed Waheeb Al Nasser	Under-15, Under 50kg

ASSISTANT COACH: Khalid Hamad

and improving physical fitness. The players are in high spirits and highly motivated to perform at their best during the

championship," he said.

"This tournament offers an important opportunity to gain valuable international experience by competing against some of Asia's top karate athletes."

Abdulkarim expressed confidence that the team could produce commendable results and showcase the technical standards achieved by the centre.

The championship will feature competition across 39 categories, bringing together leading young karate athletes from across Asia.

The Ahmed Al Ahmad Karate Centre said its participation reflects its commitment to developing young talent and preparing athletes for continental and international competition.

Hamilton proud of recovery after hitting rock bottom a year ago

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

Lewis Hamilton expressed pride in himself and Ferrari on Thursday when asked to reflect on last year's Hungarian Grand Prix when he described himself as "useless" and suggested Ferrari should "sign another driver".

The 41-year-old seven-time world champion admitted he was at rock bottom when he made those comments after qualifying and finishing 12th while team-mate Charles Leclerc took pole and finished fourth.

"I'm proud of everyone in the team and I am proud of myself," he said. "For digging myself out of that place that I was in."

"One day, when I do my documentary, I will tell you all about that weekend and what led up to it, but to come from there and into this week... I arrive now worlds away from where I was last year."

Hamilton is second in the drivers' championship, 45 points behind Mercedes' 19-year-old

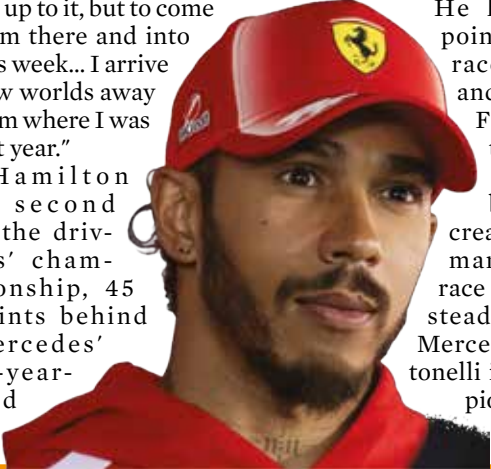
Italian Kimi Antonelli, after claiming five podiums including his first Ferrari triumph, in Spain, this season.

"I am grateful for how we've developed as a team, the pieces to the puzzle that I am moving, coming together, and now we are here with a great car and a great package that we can fight with."

Hamilton has a good chance of improving his position and securing a record-increasing 107th victory on one of his favourite circuits on Sunday in his 20th consecutive Hungarian race.

He has won eight times at the slow, twisting and technical track, 25 km north of Budapest, has been on pole position a record nine times and holds the record for most laps led by a single driver at any venue with 487.

He has scored points in all ten races this year and revelled in Ferrari's return to form with reliability and increasing performance race by race as they have steadily pursued Mercedes and Antonelli in the championship.



Arab champions Bahrain chase Asian Cup return

Hussain Al Maskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Under-18 national basketball team departed for Doha yesterday ahead of the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) U18 Championship 2026, which gets underway tomorrow and runs until July 30.

The regional tournament was originally scheduled for earlier this month before being postponed, with Qatar now set to host the five-team competition at Al Gharafa Sports Club Arena in Al Rayyan. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman will join Bahrain and the hosts in the race for the title, while the UAE will not participate. Beyond the regional crown, the tournament also serves as the qualifying event for the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026, with three qualification places available for the continental finals, scheduled to take place in Ahmedabad, India, from August 13 to 23.

Bahrain head into the competition with confidence after



successfully defending their Arab U18 Championship title earlier this month in Tunisia, continuing a strong run under head coach Salman Ramadan. The national team is expected to feature a squad similar to the one that lifted the Arab

trophy, led by tournament Most Valuable Player Somto Patrick Onoduenyi and fellow standout Hassan Abdulkadir, who formed one of the competition's strongest frontcourt partnerships.

Bahrain completed their preparations with intensive training sessions at the Bahrain Basketball Association Arena in Um Al Hassam Sports Complex before departing for Doha.

The tournament will be played in a single round-robin format, with Bahrain opening their campaign against Saudi Arabia tomorrow at 6pm Bahrain time. They will then face Kuwait at 4pm, Oman at 4pm, before concluding their schedule against hosts Qatar at 6pm.

The young Bahrainis will be aiming to secure a return to the Asian stage after finishing third in the previous Gulf qualifiers in 2024. A successful campaign in Doha would mark Bahrain's first appearance at the FIBA U18 Asia Cup since the 2018 edition in Thailand.

Russell says Mercedes have solved his power problems mystery

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

British driver George Russell yesterday claimed that Mercedes have found the cause of his car's power management problems and dismissed all suggestions that the team favour Kimi Antonelli.

Speaking to reporters ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix, Russell said the team had found something that was "embedded in the cali-



British driver George Russell

bration" of a code in his car's power unit management that had resulted in him losing speed.

The problem undermined him at last Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix where he lost power on the opening lap and collided with former team-mate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari.

Antonelli went on to win the race and move 50 points clear of Russell, now in third place, in the drivers' championship while Hamilton battled on to finish fourth and move into second, 45 points behind the Italian teenager.

"There was just something deeply embedded in the calibration of the code," said Russell. "I mean, it's almost impossible to see unless you knew exactly what to look for."

"So, I'm glad we have found it. Of course, it's frustrating, but

I'm just looking forward now and that's how the game goes."

He added: "Really, it's just numbers on a computer screen and it has been infinitely harder for the team to understand, with these new regs and some different regulation changes and less sensors in certain places."

F1's new 'hybrid era' racing has this year introduced power units split 50-50 between battery power and combustion engine, requiring careful AI-assisted computer software controlled re-charging of the battery during racing.

Garnacho joins Villa on season-long loan from Chelsea

London, United Kingdom

Alejandro Garnacho has completed a season-long loan move to Aston Villa from Premier League rivals Chelsea, it was announced yesterday.

The winger is Villa's fourth signing of the summer transfer window following the arrivals of Johan Manzambi, Joao Gomes and Modou Keba Cisse at the Europa League champions.

"We are delighted with Ale-

jandro," said Villa manager Unai Emery. "He is so talented, young and he showed us his wish to help our project. We are really happy."

Earlier this month, Garnacho was reportedly told by new Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso he would not be guaranteed regular game time at Stamford Bridge.

The 22-year-old leaves the London club after a poor first season following his move from Manchester United.