

## Indian women's team to travel to Bahrain for international friendlies



Indian team during a training Sportstar | New Delhi

After setting up camp in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand for around a month, the Indian Women's Team will travel abroad on an exposure tour as part of its preparation for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, which is set to take place in India next year.

The Indians, who are ranked 57th in the world FIFA rankings, are set to leave for UAE on Thursday, September 30, where they will play two friendlies against the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia.

After the two friendlies in the UAE, the Indian Women's Team will then travel to Bahrain to play two more friendlies against Bahrain and Chinese Taipei.

# Bahrain go down fighting to Poland

Junior men's national team suffer second successive loss in World U21 World Championship in Bulgaria-Italy

● **Sayed Amin Ebrahim was the leading scorer for Bahrain with 13 points**

● **Bahrainis play last preliminary round game against Cuba today**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain lost to Poland 0-3 (21-25, 20-25, 21-25) yesterday in the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2021, being co-hosted by Bulgaria and Italy.

The nationals suffered their second straight defeat in Pool B of the competition's preliminary round.

They had previously lost to the home side Bulgarians in their first game in straight sets.

Cuba and Bulgaria are the other two teams in their group and they clashed in yesterday's other Pool B contest.

Sayed Amin Ebrahim was the leading scorer for the Bahrainis against Poland in the loss. He scored 13 points as the only player in double figures.

Abdulla Ebrahim and Mujtaba Alshakhoori added four apiece, while three players scored two points each including Hasan Alaiwi, Sayed Hashem Ali and Ismaeel Almansoori.

Bahrain will be looking to end their preliminary round campaign on a positive note today in their last Pool B fixture against Cuba. The match is scheduled for a 1pm start, Bahrain time.

The Bahrainis are out of contention for a place in the top eight, and will play in the lower classification round.

There are a total of 16 nations taking part in the competition divided into four pools for this opening stage.

After a single round-robin, the pool winners and the pool runners-up will continue their quest for the medals in two new pools, while the remaining eight teams form two other pools to fight for the distribution of the



Bahrain's Ahmed Mohammed hits a spike against Poland during their match yesterday

places from ninth to 16th.

The matches in the four second-round groups will take place

from Monday to Wednesday and

the pool standings will distribute the participants further into



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semi-final fixtures within the four different classification levels in the final standings.

The title, the rest of the medals and all remaining positions in the final standings will be determined on the last competition day on October 3.

Bahrain qualified for the under-21 worlds based on their FIVB U21 World Ranking. They reached the quarter-finals in the previous edition of the under-21 worlds, which was held in Bahrain in 2019.

## Bottas bests Hamilton in Russian GP practice as Verstappen heads to back of grid



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas drives out of the pit lane AFP | Sochi

Valtteri Bottas deprived Lewis Hamilton of the honours for a Mercedes 1-2 in yesterday's Russian Grand Prix practice at Sochi where Red Bull announced Max Verstappen will have to start Sunday's race at the back of the grid for fitting his car with a new engine.

Verstappen, who leads by five points going into the 15th round of the white-knuckle title fight with Hamilton, has already used up the season's quota of three power units.

The team announced the Dutch driver would take the hit in a race where he was already facing a three-place grid penalty.

That sanction stems from an incident in the last race in Monza where he was found "predominantly" to blame for a crash with Hamilton.

The seven-time champion began the weekend where he is targeting his fifth Sochi win and 100th overall being shaded by his Alfa Romeo-bound



Formula One leader Max Verstappen will start at the back of the grid at the Russian Grand Prix after the team confirmed he would use a new engine and accept the resulting penalty

teammate.

The second session went the way of the morning's opening practice with the Finn leading the time sheets with a 1min 33.593 lap at the circuit in the Olympic Park.

AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly, Lando Norris for McLaren, and the Alpine of Esteban Ocon completed the top five.

Verstappen, 1.28 off the pace, took sixth.

The Dutch driver will have Charles Leclerc for company at the back of Sunday's grid after an engine change to his Ferrari.

It was a routine two sessions for most of the drivers but not McLaren's Lando Norris who crashed on the way back to the pits in the morning and Alfa Romeo's Antonio Giovinazzi after lunch.

The Italian crashed at Turn Nine, bringing out the red flag.

One man happy to be back on the track despite only posting the 12th fastest time in second practice was Kimi Raikkonen after the Alfa Romeo driver missed the last two races following a positive Covid-19 test.

The sessions were blessed with sunshine but heavy rain is forecast for Saturday's third practice and qualifying.

With the washed-out Belgian Grand Prix still fresh in the mind, organisers have taken steps to ensure lightning doesn't strike twice by arranging for qualifying to be staged on Sunday morning should it be impossible to go ahead in its traditional slot.

## Riffa, Al Najma through to King's Cup quarters

● **Riffa edge past Al Hala 2-1 in come-from-behind win**

● **Najma push through with 3-0 victory over Busaiteen**

TDT | Manama

Riffa and Al Najma punched their tickets to the quarter-finals last night in His Majesty the King's Cup football tournament.

Riffa battled back from a goal down to defeat Al Hala 2-1 to advance, while Najma were 3-0 winners over Busaiteen.

In Riffa's win, Isra Amer Hamouya opened the scoring for Hala. But Sayed Hashem Issa was later able to equalise, setting the stage for the second-half winner fired in by Hazza Ali.

For Najma, on target in their match were Ali Munir, Ayman Abdulmir and Angolan professional Aguinaldo Mendes.

Meanwhile, East Riffa and Manama were also through to the quarter-finals.

East Riffa defeated Bahrain Club in a penalty shootout 4-2 after the match was tied at 1-1 at



Riffa's Kumail Alaswad battles for possession of the ball with Al Hala's Ebrahim Alobaidli

the end of regular time.

Manama marched on after beating Galali 2-0.

Tonight, three matches are scheduled to take place. Muhar-

raq play Malkiya, Al Khaldiya battle Budaiya and Al Ahli take on Al Ettifaq. Tomorrow, the Round of 16 wraps up with Hidd playing Sitra.

## PSG boss Pochettino hopes Messi fit for Man City clash

AFP | Paris

Lionel Messi has been ruled out of Paris St Germain's match against Montpellier as he has not fully recovered from a bone bruising injury, but manager Mauricio Pochettino hopes

he returns for their midweek match against Manchester City.

Messi suffered a knock on his left knee and an MRI scan earlier this week confirmed signs of a bone contusion. He missed PSG's 2-1 victory at Metz on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Argentine forward, who joined the French club from Barcelona on a two-year contract in August, will be assessed again on Sunday -- ahead of the Champions League home game against City on Tuesday.