

Saudi Arabian dunes to host Dakar Rally 2022



Kamaz Master's team members wave during the finishing podium ceremony of the Dakar 2021 rally in Jeddah (file photo)

AFP | Jeddah

The Dakar rally will be raced across the daunting deserts of Saudi Arabia again in 2022 with organisers yesterday revealing the full route that exploits the depths of the Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter).

The January 1-14 endurance test will be a third Dakar rally in Saudi Arabia, a country accused by the international community of a poor human rights record.

But it will also be the 44th edition of the rally itself, with 1,065 participants aboard 578 vehicles racing across 8,375km of treacherous routes in the various categories.

The landscape and backdrop of the course is similar to the last edition, and it begins and ends after 12 stages in the port city of Jeddah.

From canyons and cliffs in the Neom region to stretches of dunes surrounding Riyadh, the race also takes in the Red Sea coastline and the mysteri-

1065

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ous Empty Quarter.

Hybrid vehicles make their debut with top contenders Stephane Peterhansel, a 14-time winner, and Carlos Sainz winner in 2010, 2018 and 2020 behind the wheel in the new category.

In the motorbike race previous champions Toby Price, Sam Sunderland, Matthias Walkner, Ricky Brabec and Kevin Benavides will all also be at the start line.

Motorbike and quad racers will be kitted out with airbag vests, which can minimise the consequences of high-speed impact.

Bahrain juniors lose to Yemen

Kingdom's youngsters fall 0-1 and get eliminated from final contention in West Asian Football Federation U18 Boys Championship in Iraq

● Bahrainis concede ninth minute penalty for match's lone goal

● Nationals ranked fourth, could drop to fifth on final Group A standings

TDT | Manama



Action from the match

Standings

Group A						
	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Kuwait	4	2	1	1	0	7
Iraq	3	2	0	1	6	6
Yemen	4	2	0	2	-2	6
Bahrain	4	1	1	2	-4	4
Palestine	3	1	0	2	0	3

Group B						
	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Lebanon	3	2	1	0	2	7
Jordan	3	2	0	1	3	6
Syria	3	1	0	2	-2	3
UAE	3	0	1	2	-3	1

minute, and the Bahrainis could not recover despite a few chances to equalise.

Bahrain are in Iraq with a delegation headed by Bahrain Football Association board member Ayman Al Fardan.

The team is being guided by head coach Adel Al Nuaimi.

Twenty-three players were on the Bahrainis' roster in the competition, including Mohammed Arhama, Khaled Khalil, Abdulla Al Aker, Sayed Mahmood Almosawi, Talal Sami, Ahmed Diaa, Ramzi Abdulla, Mahmood Al Bannai, Ali Mohammed, Mahmood Al Hamrani, Ali Al



Bahrain needed to win by at least four goals to have any chance of topping Group A, and also hope that Iraq would lose to Palestine in the other divisional fixture last night, which was the last match of the preliminary stage

Busaid, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Hashem Luay, Moayyad Aldesoki, Saad Abdulla, Sayed Ali Hassan, Salem Al Dosari, Mubarak Mohammed, Sayed Jassim Majid, Abdulrahman Hameed, Abdulla Al Subaie, Hassan Samir and Mustafa Mohammed.

Bahrain made a winning start following a 2-1 win over Palestine on opening night, but then a 0-4 loss to Iraq and 1-1 draw with Kuwait put them in a precarious position heading into yesterday's clash with Yemen.

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Jorginho redemption as Chelsea rescue Man Utd draw

AFP | London

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho rescued a 1-1 draw against Manchester United as the Italian's penalty atoned for the blunder that allowed Jadon Sancho to put the visitors in front on Sunday.

Thomas Tuchel's side dominated for long periods at Stamford Bridge but fell behind when Jorginho's poor control presented Sancho with the chance to score early in the second half.

Jorginho made amends for that mistake as he stroked home a penalty after Aaron Wan-Bissaka fouled Thiago Silva.

It was the least Chelsea deserved after they laid siege to United's goal and saw David de Gea make a series of fine saves.

Chelsea, unbeaten in their last 11 games in all competitions, remain top of the Premier League but are now just one point ahead of second-placed Manchester City, who defeated West Ham earlier on Sunday.

United, in eighth place, are 12 points adrift of the leaders but this gritty display was something to build on after a traumatic period.

Michael Carrick was in charge of United for a second successive game after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's sacking, with the appointment of Ralf Rangnick as interim manager until the end of this season expected to be confirmed shortly.

United are in discussions with Rangnick, who is working as director of sports and development at Lokomotiv Moscow.



Manchester United's Jadon Sancho scores their first goal

“I felt danger almost the whole game. We defended well and they missed some big chances. It's not enough to draw but we're in a tough moment so it's a good result”

DAVID DE GEA

But in the meantime Carrick had overseen a vital win at Villarreal in the Champions League on Tuesday and he used the same defensive blueprint to frustrate Chelsea.

Given Rangnick's preference for an intense pressing gameplan that may not suit Cristiano Ronaldo, it was intriguing to see the sometimes diffident Portugal striker left on the bench by Carrick until the 63rd minute.

With Bruno Fernandes as the false nine and Marcus Rashford and Sancho on the flanks, Unit-

ed set up for a point and got exactly that.

Hakim Ziyech found space in the United area early on but his low shot was saved by De Gea, setting the tone for the rest of the afternoon.

Moments later, Marcos Alonso's header from Silva's long pass caught Victor Lindelof and Wan-Bissaka out of position.

Callum Hudson-Odoi seemed certain to score when he pounced on the loose ball, only for De Gea to repel the forward's close-range effort with a superb save.

Manchester United technical director Darren Fletcher was on the bench wearing an earpiece, sparking suggestions he was in contact with Rangnick.

Rangnick is regarded as the godfather of 'gegenpressing', the tactics copied so successfully by Tuchel and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, and United had spells when they closed down Chelsea with more authority than they showed in the final weeks of Solskjaer's reign.

India strike early after setting NZ 284 in first Test

AFP | Kanpur

India set New Zealand 284 runs to win after a lower order fightback from the Kiwi demolition of the hosts' top batters on the fourth day of the first Test yesterday.

Ravichandran Ashwin then took the first Black Caps wicket in the day's penultimate over when Will Young fell leg-before for 2 in unfortunate circumstances.

Young, who scored 89 in the first innings at Kanpur, failed to review an umpire's call before the clock ran out -- and the Ashwin delivery was missing his stumps.

The final day will resume with Tom Latham on 2, and spinner William Somerville yet to score.

Shreyas Iyer -- the first Indian to score a century and a fifty on their debut -- bolstered his side's second innings with 65 after key partnerships with Ashwin and Wriddhiman Saha, who was unbeaten on 61 runs when the hosts declared at 234-7 after tea.

India had started in a commanding position with a 63-run lead at 14-1, after Axar Patel's five-for wrapped up the Black Caps innings at 296 on Saturday.

But New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson and Tim Southee turned the tables with crucial wickets to leave India reeling at 51-5.

Iyer, who scored his maiden Test century in the first innings, helped pull India out of trouble after a 52-run partnership with



India's Ravichandran Ashwin plays a shot



Shreyas Iyer becomes the first Indian to score a century and a fifty on his debut

Ashwin, who left the pitch after chopping a rising Jamieson delivery.

Jamieson had triggered the Indian top order collapse with Cheteshwar Pujara's wicket for 22 in the 12th over of the innings.

India then lost stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane at 41 after he fell leg-before to left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel.

Southee returned for an inspired bowling spell and took two wickets in his maiden over.

The veteran pacer first removed opener Mayank Agarwal for 17 after he edged to Tom Latham at second slip.

One ball later, Southee took all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja leg-before for a duck to leave India 51-5.

A stubborn lower order performance on an uneven surface saved the hosts further embarrassment as they reached 167-7 at tea.

“The idea was to play session by session,” Iyer said.

Coach Rahul Dravid “said that I need to stay out in the middle for as much as possible and build on the score,” he added.

Iyer built a 64-run partnership with Saha before falling to Southee, who took three wickets in his 22 overs for 75 runs.

Saha then played a gritty innings with Axar Patel, unbeaten on 28, to stitch an unfinished 67-run partnership before the Indian declaration.