

Third Nasser bin Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour kicks off today

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The 3rd edition of the Nasser bin Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour will be launched today under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs. Organised by the Bahrain Cycling Association (BCA) in cooperation with Faalyat Company, the four-day tour will take place from November 1 to 4.



Officials during a press conference

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the event, Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Cycling Association, expressed his gratitude to His Highness Shaikh Nasser Hamad Al Khalifa for his support of the tour, adding that His Highness is an inspiration and leader for all athletes.

He explained that the Nasser Hamad Amateur Cycling Tour is

one of the events that the Association is honoured to organise, stressing that many targets have been reached in the first and second editions.

He pointed out that the third

edition will be different from the previous two editions, given the participation of riders and is expected to witness stronger competition and higher levels.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Khalifa Al Khalifa, representing Batelco, spoke at the press conference, emphasising that the company is proud of its continuous support of the Tour. He pointed out that the event enhances sporting and social values among everyone, wishing the participants success.

Furthermore, Major Ahmed Al Ahmed, representing the

Ministry of Interior, confirmed during the press conference that the Traffic Directorate is ready to organise traffic flow for the tour. He noted that everyone will work hand in hand to achieve complete success.

It's worth noting that the Tour comes within the framework of His Highness's keenness to continue the journey of cycling sports by discovering new talents that can further elevate this sport, which has achieved multiple accomplishments in the past.

Bahrain set for WEC spectacle

Stacked 36-car grid to line up at Bahrain International Circuit this weekend in the Bapco Energies 8H of Bahrain

● Thirteen LMGTE Am teams racing in world's most iconic sportscars to hit tarmac, including an all-female squad

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A stacked field of 36 cars will be lining up on the grid at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this weekend for this year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.

The ultra-competitive entry list for the final round of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) is set to be headlined by a record-breaking 12 Hypercars, along with 11 contenders in the Le Mans Prototype 2 (LMP2) class and another 13 in the Le Mans Grand Touring Endurance Am (LMGTE Am) category.

The world-class competitors will be hitting the tarmac at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" as the Spirit of Le Mans makes its presence



Pit crew members of LMGTE Am team D'Station Racing conduct a practice pit stop with their Aston Martin Vantage AMR

felt in Sakhir in a massive way.

The action starts tomorrow with the WEC's first two 90-minute practice sessions to be held behind closed doors.

BIC will then open its gates to fans on Friday and Saturday for them to see endurance motorsport's best teams and drivers in action in their iconic and technologically superior Hypercars and sportscars.

Gates are scheduled to be

open from 11am to 6.30pm on Friday and from 10.30am to 10.30pm on Saturday.

This year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain will yet again be a brilliant spectacle for all those attending and watching on television from across the globe. The race on Saturday will flag off under the afternoon sun and then wrap up beneath the stars while shining brightly under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

With over a decade of racing

history at BIC, the WEC has grown to become a landmark event in Bahrain. The 36-car field is one of the largest for the WEC race since it switched to an eight-hour format in 2019.

This year, the Hypercar category will be more hotly contested than ever. Toyota Gazoo Racing and Peugeot TotalEnergies will be making their return to Bahrain, and they will be joined in the Hypercar battles for the first time at BIC by Ferrari AF Corse, Porsche Penske Motorsport, Cadillac Racing, Floyd Vanwall Racing Team, Hertz Team JOTA, and Proton Competition.

Toyota Gazoo Racing, Peugeot TotalEnergies, Ferrari AF Corse and Porsche Penske Motorsport will each have two cars taking to the track—all Hybrids. Hertz Team JOTA, Proton Competi-

tion and Cadillac Racing will be racing single Hybrid challengers, while Floyd Vanwall Racing Team will compete in their Vanwall Vandervell 680.

A star-studded cast of drivers across the board will be plotting their race strategies. They include former Formula 1 ace Sebastian Buemi, Brendon Hartley, Kamui Kobayashi, Paul Di Resta, Jean-Eric Verge and Antonio Giovinazzi in the Hypercar category; and Robert Kubica and Daniil Kvyat in the LMP2 class, among others.

The LMP2 category will see plenty of heated action amongst

the 11 Oreca 07-Gibsons. United Autosports, Alpine Elf Team, Prema Racing and Team WRT will each have two cars in contention, to be joined by Vector Sport, JOTA and Inter Europol Competition with one car each.

The LMGTE Am category features the WEC's biggest line-up of entries, taking to the track in the most iconic sportscar machinery.

Among the participants is the all-female crew of Sarah Bovy, Michelle Gating and Rahel Frey, who are sharing the duties in their Porsche 911 RSR-19 as the Iron Dames team.

The other squads competing in Porsches are Project 1-AO, Iron Lynx, Dempsey-Proton Racing and GR Racing.

Taking to the track in Ferrari 488 GTE EVO cars are two AF Corse crews, Kessel Racing and Richard Mille AF Corse.

ORT by TF, Northwest AMR and D'Station Racing will each be competing in Aston Martin Vantage AMR challengers; while Corvette Racing will be getting into the fight in their Chevrolet Corvette C8.R.



Twelve Hypercars are set for a record-breaking fight in the World Endurance Championship's top-tier category at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" this weekend

Pakistan down Bangladesh to stay alive at World Cup

AFP | Kolkata, India

Shaheen Shah Afridi grabbed three wickets while openers Fakhar Zaman and Abdullah Shafique cracked half-centuries



Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrates after taking the wicket of Bangladesh's Tanzid Hasan

as Pakistan stormed to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh on Tuesday to stay afloat in the race for a World Cup semi-final place.

Shaheen's 3-23 helped Pakistan dismiss Bangladesh for just 204 in 45.1 overs before Zaman's 74-ball 81 and Shafique's 69-ball 68 guided Pakistan over the line for the loss of three wickets with 105 balls to spare.

The victory revived Pakistan's outside hopes of reaching the semi-finals with six points from seven matches.

They still need to win against New Zealand (November 4 in Bengaluru) and England (Kolkata on November 11) and also hope other results go their way if they are to stay in the tournament.

In contrast, Bangladesh became the first side to crash out of the 10-team

Bangladesh Total: (all out; 45.1 overs) 204

Pakistan	
Abdullah Shafique lbw b Miraz	68
Fakhar Zaman c Hridoy b Miraz	81
Babar Azam c Mahmudullah b Miraz	9
Mohammad Rizwan not out	26
Iftikhar Ahmed not out	17
Extras: (lb2, w2)	4
Total: (for three wkts, 32.3 overs)	205
Did not bat: Saud Shakeel, Agha Salman, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usama Mir, Mohammad Wasim, Haris Rauf	
Fall of wickets: 1-128 (Shafique), 2-160 (Azam), 3-169 (Zaman)	
Bowling: Taskin 6-1-36-0, Islam 4-1-25-0 (1w), Miraz 9-0-60-3, Rahman 7-0-47-0 (1w), Shakib 5.3-0-30-0, Shanto 1-0-5-0	
Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets	

event with just one win from seven games.

"We are trying to win our next two matches and let's see where we stand. We will take a lot of confidence into those matches," said Pakistan skipper Babar Azam who singled out Zaman for special praise.

"We know when Fakhar plays the way he can for 20-30 overs it is a different ball game. So we let him play his natural game and it is good to see."

Needing to improve their net run-rate, Zaman and Shafique cruised to 128 by the 22nd over. Shafique hit nine boundaries

and two sixes as he made his third half century in addition to a hundred in the tournament.

He fell leg-before to spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz while Azam holed out to the same bowler for nine.

Zaman, who recovered from a knee injury to replace Imrul-Haq in one of three changes for Pakistan, smashed seven sixes and three boundaries, his 16th ODI fifty, but first after 11 innings.

He holed out to Miraz in the 28th over but Moham-

Bangladesh fans react

