

Loeb sends out title warning

Sebastien Loeb keeps Bahrain Raid Xtreme in championship hunt as stage ends in drama

● **Loeb finishes second in the third stage**

TDI | Manama

Sebastien Loeb delivered a powerful reminder yesterday that he will battle Nasser Al Attiyah all the way in the World Rally-Raid Championship as the Qatari's bid for a fourth victory in the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge was threatened by a dramatic crash.

Loeb and co-driver Fabian Lurquin in the Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter were second fastest on the day to Al Attiyah, who finished the 266 km third stage with the rear bodywork, roof and windscreen



Sebastien Loeb and Fabian Lurquin in their Bahrain Raid Xtreme Prodrive Hunter



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ripped off his Toyota. At that point, the defending

champion held a 27 mins 3 secs overall lead from Saudi Arabia's Yazeed Al Rajhi in another Toyota, but his mechanics faced a major task to get his car to the start of tomorrow's penultimate stage.

Just 48 hours earlier, Loeb's BRX technicians had kept the nine-time World Rally Champion in the Desert Challenge by fitting a new engine to the Prodrive Hunter in record time.

After he bounced back with the second fastest time on Tuesday, Loeb later suffered a 15 minute penalty for missing a waypoint through a digital road book failure.

Quickly shrugging off that setback, he kept up the hunt for world championship points yesterday, clocking a time within

48 seconds of Al Attiyah, who recovered to complete the stage after his accident in the last few kilometres.

Martin Prokop lies third overall in his Ford Raptor, with Denis Krotov in a Mini, Seth Quintero in a CAN-AM Maverick X3 and the Toyota of Argentinian Juan Yacopini completing the top six.

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Yesterday brought another reminder, although the Frenchman is certainly due a trouble-free run through the last two days, based on his misfortunes of the first two long desert stages.

Sitra claim crucial win over Hidd in football league

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Sitra posted a crucial 2-0 victory over Hidd last night to kick off week 15 in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Meanwhile, current league leaders Manama were held to a 1-1 stalemate by defending champions in last night's other fixture.

The two matches were played simultaneously at separate venues.

In Sitra's win, Barfo Ernest and Seydina Laye Dabo were on target for the victors.

Ernest opened the scoring in the third minute of play with a header from close range. Sitra held on to their single-goal advantage for the remainder of regular time until they were awarded a penalty in the first minute of second-half stoppage time, when Osama Yahya was brought down in the box by Hidd's Sayed Mohammed Adnan. Dabo stepped up to take



Manama's Mohammed Nabeel looks to keep possession of the ball against Riffa's Mohammed Al Rumaihi

the spot kick and he made no mistake with his effort. With the result, Sitra claimed

their seventh win as they improved to 27 points to go second on the league table. Hidd suf-

Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Manama	15	8	4	3	14	28
Sitra	15	7	6	2	8	27
Al Khaldiya	14	7	3	4	9	24
Muharraq	14	6	6	2	9	24
Riffa	15	7	4	4	7	25
Al Ahli	14	5	5	4	0	20
Hidd	15	5	4	6	-8	19
Al Hala	14	4	6	4	0	18
East Riffa	14	3	6	5	-4	15
Al Shabab	14	4	2	8	-4	14
Bahrain Club	14	3	4	7	-5	13
Budaiya	14	1	2	11	-26	5

fered their sixth loss and stayed on 19 points.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Kamel and Sayed Hashem Issa were on target for their respective sides in Manama's draw with Riffa.

Kamel opened the scoring in the 34th minute for Manama, but then Issa was able to net a late equaliser in the 88th minute for Riffa.

Manama stayed in solo first

place after rising to 28 points, while Riffa improved to 25 markers on the standings.

League action continues tonight and tomorrow. This evening, Budaiya take on Al Shabab while Al Khaldiya face off with Al Ahli, both at 6.30pm. Tomorrow, East Riffa play Bahrain Club and Muharraq lock horns with Al Hala. Each match is also scheduled for 6.30pm kick-offs.

World Cup finals record goal-scorer Just Fontaine dies



Just Fontaine

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Just Fontaine, the all-time top scorer in a single World Cup finals with 13 goals, has died aged 89, his family told AFP on Wednesday.

Fontaine achieved the record in the 1958 finals in Sweden where France reached the semi-finals for the first time in their history, losing to Pele's Brazil.

ISB wins overall championship in Bahrain Athletic Meet



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) has bagged the Overall Championship in the Athletic Meet organized by Bahrain School and Collegiate Athletic Association by winning 16 medals. The Indian School athletic team emerged victorious in the meet organized by the Association on 24 and 25 February at the National Stadium. The ISB performed remarkably well in the intermediate level bagging a total of 16 medals and winning the overall championship in the Intermediate Category. ISB Chairman Prince S Natarajan, Secretary Saji Antony, EC Member-Sports Rajesh MN and Principal VR Palaniswamy highly praised the students, Head of the Department Saikat Sarkar, Athletic M.O Benny and all the Physical Education teachers for making the institution proud and appreciated them for keeping up the school's commitment to excellence