

HH Shaikh Nasser hails '2 Seas Motorsport' team's victory



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

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HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has expressed deep pride in the success of "2 Seas Motorsport" team, captained by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in clinching the title of the Gulf 12 Hours, held at Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

"We are very proud of this achievement," HH Shaikh Nasser posted on his Instagram account.

HH Shaikh Nasser indicated that the victory adds to Bahrain's rich record of accomplishments at international sports gatherings, adding that it will be a catalyst for the team to continue its successes in the coming period.

Loeb records stunning Dakar stage win to keep alive BRX victory hopes

Sebastien Loeb takes Dakar seventh stage to cut into Nasser Al-Attiyah's advantage

● Loeb claimed his second stage victory of the 2022 Dakar Rally

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Sebastien Loeb recorded a spectacular Dakar Rally stage win for Bahrain Raid Xtreme to keep alive his hopes of a first triumph in the event.

The nine-times World Rally Champion in the BRX Prodrive Hunter won the 402-km seventh stage from Riyadh to Al Dawadimi by a stunning 5 mins 26secs from Nasser Al Attiyah to reclaim second place overall.

The result reduced the Qatari's outright lead to 44 mins 59 secs, and while the gap is still considerable, Loeb and Fabian Lurquin have served a reminder that the battle for victory could go all the way to Friday's finish in Jeddah, which is five stages and 1,567 km away.

The French duo notched up the third BRX win in seven stages, and their second of the rally, on a day when team-mates Orlando Terranova and Dani Oliveras in another Prodrive Hunter set the 11th fastest time to rise again to sixth place in the standings.

Completing a rewarding day for BRX, Nani Roma and Alex Haro recorded the ninth best time on the stage as the 44th



Sebastien Loeb drives his BRX Prodrive Hunter during the seventh stage

Dakar resumed following the rest day in Riyadh.

Loeb, whose car's spare wheel hatch flew open on the stage, said: "Only half of the rally is done but we tried to push today even though we were a little unlucky towards the end of the stage with a problem when the car stopped. We were very slow at the end and could have gone even quicker."

Roma finished the stage to say: "Not a bad day at all, but what was difficult was passing one of the buggies, as then he passed us back and kicked up a load of

dust with stones, cutting corners, driving all over the road. So for us the navigation was not easy at all.

"However it's brilliant that there has been another victory for the team with Sebastien and Fabian to make win number three, so that's great to see in the eyes of everyone at BRX when we arrived at the bivouac."

Terranova, who started first after winning the previous stage, said: "I think that it was the hardest day for opening the stage. The piste and the tracks were not visible with stones and a lot of changes of



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SEBASTIEN LOEB

directions so in all I think we did a good job but we need to work on improving finding our way again when we make a mistake. That's a challenge for us."

Gus Beteli, the BRX Team Principal, said: "A great win for Seb and Fabian with another five minutes taken out of Nasser. It's still a long way to go, but we keep trying every kilometre to take a little bit, so not a bad day at all after the rest day."

Ettihad open Silver League with big win

● Brian Bridgeforth and Ahmed Ghanim combine for 52 points to spearhead Al Ettihad in 51-point victory over Isa Town

● Nuwaidrat eke out narrow seven-point win over Sitra for second straight triumph in this stage of competition

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Al Ettihad opened their campaign in the Silver League of the 2021/2022 Zain Bahrain Basketball League with a lopsided 121-70 victory over Isa Town last night at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Ettihad were in control of the game from the opening tip. They took a 27-16 lead at the end of the first period and extended their advantage to 61-36 at the break. They maintained their high scoring in the second half, scoring 30 points in each of the final two quarters, and enjoyed their biggest lead of 54 points late in the contest.

Brian Bridgeforth and Ahmed Ghanim combined for 52 points to spearhead the winners. Bridgeforth top scored with 27 markers and grabbed 16 rebounds while blocking four blocked shots. Ghanim added 25 with nine rebounds



Al Ettihad's Brian Bridgeforth goes for a two-handed slam dunk during their game against Isa Town

and five assists. Mohamed Ghazwan chipped in with 15 while Hashem Alwadaie came off the bench to score 13.

Hussain Mahdi led Isa Town with 24 points and 10 rebounds in the loss. Mansoor Jaber added 18.

Isa Town suffered their second successive loss of this stage.

Meanwhile, Nuwaidrat edged past Sitra 78-71 in yesterday's other Silver League game.

Hassan Abbas and Hussain Hasan buried four pressure-packed free-throws with just under a minute remaining to help stretch Nuwaidrat's lead after Sitra cut it down to three.

Sitra tried valiantly to narrow

the gap but Nuwaidrat did well to keep it a multi-possession game.

Hasan finished with 21 points while Abbas scored 20. They buried eight three-pointers between them, with Hasan alone firing in five. Anthony Walker was held to just nine points before fouling out but he had 15 rebounds and four blocks.

Marcel Jones scored 35 for Sitra, which included five triples. Hussain Safar was their only other player in double figures with 15. They suffered their first loss to go with a win in their opening game.

Action in the Silver League is scheduled to resume on Friday.



Husain Hasan finished with 21 points to lead Nuwaidrat against Sitra while Hassan Abbas added 20. They buried an impressive eight three-pointers between them, with Hasan alone firing in five

Canada sweep past Spain to win maiden ATP Cup title

AFP | Sydney

Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime stormed through a gripping clash with Spanish star Roberto Bautista Agut for a massive victory that earned his country a maiden ATP Cup title yesterday.

Their Sydney showdown followed Denis Shapovalov ending Pablo Carreno Busta's winning start to the season 6-4, 6-3 to set the scene for a crunch second singles rubber.

World number 11 Auger-Aliassime beat third-ranked Alexander Zverev during the tournament and again showed his class to down 19th-ranked Bautista Agut 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 and seal the tournament for Canada.

The Novak Djokovic-led Serbia won the inaugural edition of the teams event in 2020, when the Rafael Nadal-led Spain also had to settle for second, with Daniil Medvedev's Russia earning the title last year.

"The emotions are unbelievable, there is no better feeling than winning, we left everything out there," said Auger-Aliassime.

"We lost our first four matches in this competition, but never stopped believing.

"We trust each other, Denis and I and everyone on the team, and I think that is very important. I'm super thrilled for everyone on the team, and



Canada's Denis Shapovalov in action during his final singles match



Canada, the first team in the ATP Cup's three-year history to have lost a tie en route to the final, were swept by the United States in their group opener and also lost their first match against Britain

of course myself.

"Spain is always difficult, they've been the best nation in the world for some time."

Canada earned their place in the final after stunning defending champions Russia on Saturday.