Uncharted Losail track adds intrigue to title battle

By Sabah Almophe

The Losail International Circuit, which will host the inaugural Formula One Qatar Grand Prix this weekend, will offer drivers an unchartered territory for the Formula 1 season. Of those on the current grid, only Valtteri Bottas has previously raced at the track, in GP2 Asia series. While other drivers have turned to simulators, only two practice sessions will be scheduled for today will they be able to get a taste of the track.

A night view of the Losail International Circuit.

“Nothing has really been part of it,” said Hamilton, who delivered a spectacular against-the-odds victory to trim his Red Bull road championship advantage to 14 points, with three races remaining. “Of course, I am aware of it, it’s not something that I’ve experienced before in my time, but I am just trying to give all of my energy into this weekend, making sure we are as strong as possible here as we don’t want to get any points for the other guy.”

Hamilton spoke during a round of news conferences ahead of Sunday’s race at the Losail International Circuit, being used by Formula One for the first time, where the review dimensions were taking place. The incident under scrutiny would be the first time the use of the QMMF official added.

The Dutchman defended his position vigorously and was a lot faster. When asked about the incident, he replied: “I think it’s going to be a different approach to keep the pace from the first, but we don’t know how it will turn out. It’s going to be, I’ve got no idea just yet. But it’s going to be interesting.”

Despite the fast nature of the track, the Losail International Circuit executive director Amr al-Mazepine be

While the two title contenders will be the key factor here with Pirelli choosing the three hardest tyre compounds in its range for this week’s race. The Italian tyre manufacturer has stated its simulations and data points to Losail being a high-safety circuit with very demanding corners – similar to Malaysian or Bahrain – and given the hard rubber choice.

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Formula One Qatar Grand Prix

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Pakistan look to keep momentum in Bangladesh T20s

Momentum always matters in cricket and we would like to carry that momentum

Pakistan aim to keep up momentum from their strong T20 World Cup showing with a largely unchanged squad for this two-match T20 series against Bangladesh, where they will look to clinch their maiden T20 World Cup title.

The Pakistan team, led by Babar Azam, is looking to build on their solid performances in the T20 World Cup, where they reached the semi-finals. The team is currently ranked third in the T20I rankings and will be eager to strengthen their position ahead of the upcoming series.

Pakistan lost their opening match against Australia but bounced back with a victory against New Zealand in their second game. Babar’s side is expected to field a similar squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh.

Pakistan will be aiming to retain their winning momentum and secure a series victory to boost their confidence ahead of the World Cup Qualifier in November. The series will be a tough test for the Pakistan team, as they face a well-organized Bangladesh side who reached the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup recently.

The Pakistan team will be looking to make the most of their strong bowling attack and the experience of their top-order batsmen, including Babar Azam, who is currently the highest run-scorer in the T20 World Cup.

The Bangladesh team, on the other hand, will be looking to take advantage of their home conditions and create opportunities to pick up wickets. They will be looking to build on their T20 World Cup semi-final performance and cement their place in the top-10 T20I rankings.

The series promises to be a thrilling contest between two strong teams, with each looking to make a statement in their respective teams. It will be a great opportunity for both teams to showcase their skills and test their abilities in preparation for the World Cup Qualifier.
**FOOTBALL**

**Villa not stepping stone to Liverpool job, says Gerrard**

Steve Gerrard has dismissed as “hypothetical” the talk of Villa becoming the stepping stone to Liverpool for his managerial career.

The Scot, who spent 17 years in between his midfield and goalkeeping roles at Anfield, has been linked to Villa by many sources.

However, the 43-year-old’s immediate aim is to lead the Villa side to an automatic Premier League Champions League qualification place, a feat that would mean the club qualify for Liverpool.

But Gerrard says there are many challenges ahead for Villa and they are not stepping stones to the Merseyside club.

He said: “I’m at the beginning of my managerial journey, and this is a fantastic club, and so is Liverpool.

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**GOLF**

**McIlroy takes two-shot lead in Dubai**

Rory McIlroy shot a nine-under-par 63 for a two-shot lead after the first round of the European Tour’s season-ending World Cup of Golf at the Jumeirah Golf Estates.

The 30-year-old from Northern Ireland carded nine birdies in a thrilling round to finish two shots clear of the rest of the field at 13 under par.

McIlroy, who is defending the title he won last year with partner Graeme McDowell, started strongly with birdies on the second, third and fifth.

But the Northern Irishman kept his momentum going and added six more birdies on the back nine, with his eagle on the 18th hole sealing the victory.

He carded a bogey on the 12th hole, his only flaw in an otherwise perfect round.

McIlroy’s compatriot Graeme McDowell shot a five-under-par 67 to finish one shot behind McIlroy.

Germany’s Alexander Zverev shot a 69 to finish third on one under par.

Bubba Watson of the USA shot a 70 to finish four shots behind McIlroy.

**MONACO**

**McIlroy had ‘no idea’ but will extend World Cup title defence**

The European Tour confirmed that Rory McIlroy will defend his title in the World Cup of Golf in November.

The tournament, which sees teams of four players from each nation compete, has been played in various locations around the world since its inception in 1998.

This year, the tournament will be held in Jumeirah, Dubai, and will feature 24 teams from around the world.

McIlroy, who won the tournament in 2015 with partner Graeme McDowell, said he was “thrilled” to be able to defend his title.

He said: “I’m excited to be back in Dubai and to have the opportunity to defend my title in the World Cup of Golf.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge of competing against some of the best players in the world, and I’m confident that we can put in a strong performance.”

**GOLDFLECK**

**McIlroy makes seven birdies in a row to card 63 at Dubai**

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**SPORTS**

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By Sports Reporter

Zyzyzya wins Barzan Cup; Djafar claims Purebred Arabian Guineas

QATAR OREDOO WORLD PADEL CHAMPIONSHIP

Defending champs Argentina in semis

Brazil also reached the semi-finals after beating Chile in straight sets

The Brazilian pair of Bruna Falcão and Alice Meidetsdorff, defeated Rebeca Salas and Nati Perea of Spain 7-6, 7-5, to reach the semi-finals of the Qatar Open 2022 World Paedel Championship at the Aspire Tennis Complex, in Doha. Other quarter-final results were:

- Argentina 7-6, 7-5 over France
- Ukraine 7-5, 7-6 over Portugal
- Indonesia 7-6, 6-3 over Pakistan
- Egypt 7-6, 7-5 over Tunisia

Argentina will face Indonesia in the semi-finals,
while Spain and Egypt will also contest the other semi-final.