

## **OPENING DAY PRACTICE FOR A1 TEAM LEBANON IN A1 GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS DUBAI**

9 December 2005.../A1 Team Lebanon completed the first day of practice for the A1 Grand Prix of Nations Dubai at Dubai Autodrome today with both drivers, Khalil Beschir and Basil Shaaban, taking turns behind the wheel for the team's local race. A1 Team Lebanon, as the only Arab country represented in the Series, is expecting strong support on raceday. In the lead up to the race week the drivers have undertaken a hectic programme of promotional events and are now focusing on preparations for race day.

Beschir drove in the two 20-minute testing sessions in the morning and the first of the two one-hour afternoon practice sessions, with Shaaban taking over the duties for the final hour of practice later in the day. With a new engine for the A1 car, the morning was spent completing technical procedures, and the afternoon sessions gave both drivers time to learn the circuit and re-acquaint themselves with the car. Shaaban last drove the car in Australia over one month ago, while Beschir drove three weeks ago at the last round, held at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia. Beschir was 17<sup>th</sup> quickest in the first test session, 19<sup>th</sup> in the second and 24<sup>th</sup> in the first practice hour. Shaaban, who drove in the second hour of practice later in the afternoon also posted 24<sup>th</sup> quickest time. At the conclusion of the day Shaaban was selected to race for the team for this event.

Martin Stone, Racing Manager for A1 Team Lebanon, said after the second practice session, "We've worked through a programme of circuit learning, and car set up options, and both drivers have been in the driving seat today. The third practice session will give Basil the chance to have more track time before qualifying tomorrow and we'll try to improve on the lap times."

The A1 Grand Prix of Nations Dubai continues tomorrow, Saturday, with a morning practice session, an autograph session for fans at lunchtime and qualifying in the afternoon. Sunday is race day, with a 30 minute Sprint race and a one hour Feature race which includes a mandatory tyre-change pit stop. Fans can also take advantage of an all-driver autograph session on race day, followed by the colourful pageant of the traditional A1 Grand Prix drivers parade.

The A1 Grand Prix series has a seasonal break after Dubai, with track action resuming in Sentul, Indonesia from 13 – 15 January next year.

Ends.

A1 Team Lebanon photographs are available for download from [www.a1gp-photo.com/lib](http://www.a1gp-photo.com/lib)

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