

A1 TEAM LEBANON SET FOR A1 GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS INDONESIA RACES TOMORROW



A1 Team Lebanon completed final practice and qualifying at the A1 Grand Prix of Nations, Indonesia today with Basil Shaaban selected to drive for the team after both drivers had completed practice sessions yesterday. In qualifying Shaaban finished 20th fastest.

The weather for the morning practice was dry, bright and sunny, in stark contrast to yesterday's rainstorms. It changed the track conditions and required Shaaban to learn the lines to take on a drier track, with the handling characteristics of the Lebanese car requiring the team to change the setup to suit these circumstances. At the conclusion of the session Shaaban posted 17th quickest time.

In the afternoon Shaaban drove conservative runs in the first two segments of qualifying, settling himself in to the single 'flying lap' format used by A1 Grand Prix. With the weather threatening to turn from warm and cloudy to thunderstorms, all the teams were anxious to be out on track early for the third of the four segments and Shaaban was among them. He put in his quickest lap, but the rain intervened before he could improve on it.

Martin Stone, Racing Manager, A1 Team Lebanon, added, "Basil has made progress this weekend and is certainly gaining more more confidence in the car. We've had two completely different days with the changing weather and he has coped well in both the dry and the wet. We expect at least one of the races to be wet tomorrow, so the racing should be very exciting."

Aside from driving duties, the A1 Team Lebanon drivers and representatives from each of the A1 Grand Prix teams attended a Gala Dinner yesterday evening, an event hosted by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and attended by over 300 dignitaries, held at the Jakarta Convention Centre.