

# Equestrian talents shine at Noora bint Hamad dressage championship

HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad Dressage Championship ends with remarkable performances

● Riders from around the region compete in a dazzling showcase of dressage talent

TDI | Manama

In a grand display of equestrian excellence, the HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Dressage Championship came to a close after a successful season of competitions that began in December of last year.

The event, held under the auspices and support of HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Captain of Al Fursan team, saw enthusiastic participation from local stables and jockeys.

The final competition, which crowned a series of championships, was an impressive showcase of the riders' skills as they rode their horses with great poise and control. The high level



Winners celebrate after the event

of competition is a testament to the unwavering support and backing of HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for this sport.

The championship featured various categories, and the results were nothing short of outstanding. Megan Black took home the top prize in the final round with a score of 75% on Jaranero, while Mohammed Almeabad (70.45%) on Mariscador and Oliver Walter (69.85%)

on Judio took second and third place, respectively. In the preliminary section, Camille Lecat (73.93%) finished first on Solo, followed by Marine Roger (68.75%) on Fly and Titouan Roger (63.21%) on Arya.

In the seniors' preliminary class, Faisal Moosa (71.25%) emerged victorious on Osborne, with Oliver Walter (70.89%) on Alfie Moon and Keshia Graham (70.54%) on Jairo taking the second and third spots. Reema

Al Jahromi (67.38%) won the juniors' intro section on Capri Color, with Albane Lecat (66.19%) on Solo and Mohammed Ahmed (64.05%) on Bolero taking second and third place, respectively.

The freestyle category was won by Camille Lecat (72.95%) on Solo, followed by Oliver Walter (72.39%) on Alfie Moon and Faisal Moosa (69.43%) on Osborne in second and third place, respectively.



Action from the event

The HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Dressage Championship was a resounding success, providing a platform for talented jockeys to showcase their skills and compete at the highest level.

The dedication and support of HH Shaikha Noora bint Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for this sport have undoubtedly helped elevate it to new heights, making it a much-anticipated event in the equestrian community.

## Shaw sorry for 'embarrassing' Man Utd collapse at Liverpool

AFP | London

Luke Shaw has apologised for a "completely unacceptable" and "disgraceful" 7-0 loss at Liverpool that he says cannot be allowed to derail Manchester United's season.

A week after winning the League Cup to end a six-year wait for silverware, the Old Trafford giants headed to Merseyside on Sunday full of confidence with talk of a potential quadruple.

But their faint Premier League title hopes vanished in the Anfield annihilation, when United unravelled in a loss that matched their heaviest-ever defeat, conceding six goals in a woeful second half.

"Unacceptable, embarrassing, to be honest," England defender Shaw told MUTV.

"I think out there on the pitch I felt embarrassed for us players, for the fans that were there sup-



Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (R) reacts as he's held by Manchester United's English defender Luke Shaw (L)

porting us, that were watching at home, to watch that second half.

"I can only apologise for that and us as players have to own it, we have to stand up and accept that it was nowhere near good

enough."

Shaw said he felt standards had dropped since United won the League Cup at Wembley by beating Newcastle in the final.

"We need to find the good things we were doing before and

"I think out there on the pitch I felt embarrassed for us players, for the fans that were there supporting us, that were watching at home, to watch that second half

LUKE SHAW

bring them back because this hurts a lot," he said.

"It's really unacceptable what we did in that second half with mistakes.

"We showed no personality, no mentality and for a big team to come here we need to be better."

The 27-year-old said the team needed a big debrief yesterday, with a Europa League match against Real Betis looming on Thursday.

## Van Dijk excited by Liverpool's new-look attack



Manchester United's English striker Marcus Rashford (R) vies with Liverpool's Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk (L)

AFP | London

Virgil van Dijk says he is excited by Liverpool's new-look forward line after the 7-0 hammering of bitter rivals Manchester United. January-signing Cody Gakpo and Darwin Nunez, who arrived last June, both scored twice at Anfield on Sunday while Mohamed Salah also grabbed two goals.

With Roberto Firmino, the other goalscorer, set to leave at the end of the season, only Salah remains from the famed frontline that also included Sadio Mane, now at Bayern Munich.

Nunez has scored 14 goals this season while Gakpo has netted four goals since arriving from PSV Eindhoven.

Defender Van Dijk hailed Liverpool's "world-class" strikes at Anfield, describing Gakpo's first goal as "outstand-

"We should not take these results for granted but there are many more games to play in order to get what we want -- in this case that's Champions League football and that's what we focus on

VIRGIL VAN DIJK

ing". "Obviously it's been a difficult time to come in any club, I think, in the winter for any player but he's settling in very well," he said. "It's a very difficult position to play.

"Obviously he learns from one of the best, I think, each and every day with Bobby Firmino. He has to keep going, keep the confidence, keep the belief and stick together.

## Djokovic withdraws from Indian Wells Masters: organisers

AFP | Indian Wells

World number one Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from next week's ATP/WTA Indian Wells Masters event, organisers confirmed on Sunday with the Serb barred from entering the country.

Djokovic is unable to enter the United States because he is unvaccinated against Covid-19, but he had petitioned US authorities for special permission to enter.

The Indian Wells ATP 1000 event begins next week in the California desert and is followed



Novak Djokovic

The Indian Wells ATP 1000 event begins next week in the California desert and is followed by the prestigious tournament in Miami which Djokovic is now expected to miss unless US authorities have a change of heart

thorities have a change of heart.

The United States still doesn't allow unvaccinated international travellers to enter the country,

with the Transportation Security Administration recently indicating the policy would not change until at least mid-April.

Djokovic's vaccination status saw him deported from Australia shortly before the 2022 Australian Open.

After winning Wimbledon he also missed the US Open last year because of the travel restriction.

He returned to Australia in January, winning the 2023 Australian Open for a record-equaling 22nd Grand Slam singles title.