

BREEF gears up for HH Shaikh Nasser show jumping championship

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, and Honorary President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF), the Show Jumping Championship of His Highness will be held on Saturday, at the Arena of the Military Sports Federation in Al Raffa, at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club.

On this occasion, Shaikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Head of BREEF Show Jumping Committee, expressed the Committee's pride of HH Shaikh Nasser's sponsorship of the championship, which is expected to witness the strongest competitions of the season and is eagerly awaited by the athletes.

Shaikh Abdullah praised the initiatives of HH Shaikh Nasser in supporting equestrian sports in general and show jumping in particular, hailing His Highness's directives to allocate three cars as prizes for the public and



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

BD10,000 for athletes.

Commenting on the occasion, Shaikh Abdulla stated: "We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa for the continuation of his initiatives in support of show jumping sports in the Kingdom, significantly contributing to the advancement of this traditional sport. In the Show Jumping Committee, we value the initiative and support of His Highness by allocating prizes to the public and participants, as such supportive



Action from a previous show jumping event

initiatives from His Highness constitute a distinctive addition to the success of this important tournament and will contribute to enriching the show jumping competitions."

Shaikh Abdulla added that the Committee will spare no effort to ensure the success of the Championship in cooperation with the Organising Committee and the other committees.

Meanwhile, the Organising

Committee of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Show Jumping Championship opened the door for registration for the fans to win the prizes presented, including three brand new cars.

The Committee clarified that those wishing to enter the draw must register via the website: www.endurancebahrain.com/btc/, with the need for those registered to be present during the time of the championship.

Bahrain Jewellery Centre sponsors show jumping championship

Bahrain Jewellery Centre has announced their sponsorship of the upcoming Show Jumping Championship of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Abbas Abdulmajeed Shirazi, Managing Director of Bahrain Jewellery Centre, expressed pride in sponsoring HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Show Jumping Championship, noting to the great efforts exerted by His Highness to develop equestrian sports in general and show jumping in particular.

Shirazi explained that the support of Bahrain Jewellery Centre for athletes and sporting events is considered a national duty and even a social responsibility towards the community, stressing that it is an integral part of the company's policy towards the society and adding that the Centre will continue to provide all forms of



Abbas Abdulmajeed Shirazi

support for the various youth and sports activities and events in the Kingdom.

He added, "We are honoured to support and sponsor His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Show Jumping Championship, and we have complete faith and confidence in the importance of this support and the generous initiatives of His Highness, which contributes to the advancement of equestrian sports in general and the sport of show jumping in particular."

Ten Hag sticks with Fernandes as United captain after Liverpool pain



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes (L) talks to the team's manager Erik ten Hag during a training session (file photo)

AFP | London

Erik ten Hag launched a robust defence of Bruno Fernandes yesterday after the Manchester United captain was branded a "disgrace" for his attitude in last weekend's humiliation against Liverpool.

Fernandes was accused of giving up and showing poor body language as Liverpool scored six times in the second half of their historic 7-0 victory at Anfield on Sunday.

The Portugal midfielder appeared to push one of the assistant referees and clashed with Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold, leading some fans to call for him to be stripped of the captaincy.

Former United star Roy Keane called Fernandes a disgrace, but Ten Hag said the 28-year-old was the right man to lead the team and would remain skipper when club captain Harry Maguire does not play.

Bruno Fernandes was fiercely criticised by former United skippers Gary Neville and Roy Keane for his body language during the game and there have been calls for him to be stripped of the captaincy

He's pointing and coaching players. He's an inspiration for the whole team but no one is perfect. Everyone has his mistakes and everyone has to learn. I have to learn and he will learn as well because he's intelligent

BRUNO FERNANDES

Hailing Fernandes as an "inspiration" ahead of Thursday's Europa League last 16 first leg against Real Betis at Old Trafford, Ten Hag told reporters: "I think he's playing a brilliant season.

"He's had a really important role in why we're in the position where we are because he's giving energy to the team.

"He's pointing and coaching players. He's an inspiration for the whole team but no one is perfect. Everyone has his mistakes and everyone has to learn.

"He will learn as well because he's intelligent. I'm really happy to have Bruno Fernandes in my team and I am really happy that Bruno Fernandes, if Harry is not on the pitch, is our captain."

United forward Marcus Rashford also backed Fernandes, insisting he was a role model for the rest of the team.

Najma make winning start to Gulf handball

Bahraini defending champions score resounding victory over Al Salmiya of Kuwait in opening game of 39th Gulf Clubs Men's Handball Championship

● Al Arabi of Qatar beat Al Ahli Sidab of Oman 30-23 in other Group B fixture

● Bahrain's Al Ahli open tournament campaign today against Kuwait SC at 7pm

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Defending champions Al Najma Club of Bahrain made a winning start last night to the 39th Gulf Clubs Men's Handball Championship, being hosted by the Kingdom.

Najma posted a resounding 27-22 victory over Al Salmiya of Kuwait in their opening Group B fixture, played at the Khalifa Sports City Arena in Isa Town.

Meanwhile, also triumphant yesterday were Al Arabi of Qatar, who beat Al Ahli Sidab of Oman 30-23, also in the same preliminary round division.

Eight teams from across the region are taking part in the tournament, which continues until 17 March.

Bahrain is represented by Najma and Al Ahli, who are joined in the competition by teams from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

Bahrain's Ahli are in Group B for the preliminaries alongside Kuwait SC of Kuwait, Sharjah of the UAE and Al Safa of Saudi.

Today's fixtures will see Bahrain's Ahli take to the court for the first time, facing Kuwait SC of Kuwait in their Group B clash at 7pm. At 5pm, Sharjah of the UAE face off with Al Safa of Sau-



Al Najma's Hassan Kaddah looks to score against Al Salmiya during their match last night

di Arabia.

Najma held a narrow 12-11 lead at the half in their game against Salmiya, and then did well in the final 30 minutes to

extend their advantage on the way to the final whistle.

Najma were led by their top players including goalkeeper Mohammed Abdhussain, Mo-



Action from Al Arabi's win over Al Ahli Sidab



Eight teams from across the region have been divided into two groups for the competition's preliminary round. After a single round-robin, the top two in each move on to the semi-finals

ammed Habib Mohammed, Mohammed Mirza, Ahmed Al Maqabi, Egypt national team standouts Hassan Kaddah and Ahmed Alahmer, and tournament signees Mohammed Habib, Qassim Qambar and Qassim Al Shuwaikh.

The preliminaries continue until Monday next week, after which the semi-finals will take place with the top two clubs from each of the two groups advancing.

Najma won last year's Gulf handball title after defeating Saudi outfit Mudhar in the tournament final in Kuwait City.

It was the sixth time the Bahraini side claimed the coveted championship. Their triumph also ended a two-decade title drought, as their previous victories came in 2001, 1998, 1990, 1985 and 1984.

Najma had also won the competition's silver medals thrice in 2006, 2004 and 1999; while taking bronze twice in 2003 and 1982.