

## HH Shaikh Nasser expresses confidence in endurance team's ability to excel in Fontainebleau

TDT | Manama

Captained by HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Endurance Team, will participate in the 160-km, 127-km and 120-km races of the International Endurance Race of Fontainebleau in France.

HH Shaikh Nasser will compete in the 160-km races and the other jockeys of the Royal Endurance Team will participate in the other two races.

HH Shaikh Nasser affirmed that the team's participation in the International Endurance Race of Fontainebleau in France will be a renewed opportunity to promote the kingdom and shed light on its wide-ranging achievements, especially in sports, noting that youth riders will represent the kingdom in the event to encourage them and enable them to gain experience.

HH Shaikh Nasser expressed his confidence in the ability of the riders of the Royal Endurance Team to attain positive results, wishing them every success.

His Highness stated that the Royal Endurance Team's participation follows its recent successes in major European races in which HH had claimed four consecutive titles, including those of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, the Montal-



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa celebrates after winning at Samorin International Endurance Championship in Slovakia (file photo)

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cino international endurance championship in Italy, the World Endurance Champion

at Šamorín, Slovakia, and FEI World Endurance Championship for eight-year-old horses in Spain.

HH Shaikh Nasser asserted that the Royal Endurance Team's achievements over the past period are the fruitful outcome of the unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

## HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad commends sponsors' support to Bahrain 1 Racing

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Personal Representative of His Majesty the King, HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the owner of Bahrain 1 Racing, has praised the honorable results brought about by the team thanks to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa also commended the support accorded by the team sponsors, stressing their role in achieving the best results and clinching leading places in the Pro Mod Series. He was speaking as he received today Board Chairman of Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) Shaikh Duaij bin Salman bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Board Chairman of Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of the Strategic Accounts at the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) Abdulaziz Al-Ahmed, and NBB Head of Corporate Communications Hisham Abul Fateh.

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa commended the sponsorship of Alba, Batelco and NBB and its positive impact on the team's performance. He affirmed the international reputation of Bahrain 1 Racing team and its standing as a



HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad with a sponsor

strong competitor in the motorsport world. He lauded the continuous efforts of the team members which confirm the successful strategy to clinch the top places in the drag racing championships.

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa and the audience discussed the strategy of Bahrain 1 Racing to participate in the upcoming local and international competitions and maintain Bahrain's good reputation in the motorsport field. He commended the sponsors' keenness to continue supporting the sport sector and upholding the kingdom's image

worldwide.

HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented commemorative gifts to the sponsoring companies, a trophy of one of the Pro Mod Series championships, a thanked them for their unflinching support to the team.

For their part, the audience thanked HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his efforts and directives to dedicate all capabilities to Bahrain 1 Racing, commending his personal follow-up and support to motorsport races which are growing in popularity in Bahrain and beyond.

# Muharraq, Najma through to King's Cup quarters

Muharraq defeat Busaiteen 2-0 to advance while Najma edge past Budaiya 3-1 in penalty shootout to qualify for last eight

● Mario Fontanella and Hisham Aluqbi on target for Muharraq in win

● Alan Damian Gimenez scores shootout-clinching penalty for Najma

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Muharraq and Al Najma last night marched through to the quarter-finals of this year's His Majesty the King's Cup football tournament.

Muharraq booked their tickets following a 2-0 win over Busaiteen, while Najma ousted Budaiya 3-1 in a penalty shootout after regular time ended goalless.

Muharraq and Najma are the third and fourth teams to make it to the round of eight.

With the results, Muharraq set up a mammoth clash with league champions Riffa in their quarter-final meeting. Riffa had



Action from Muharraq's win over Busaiteen last night

earlier advanced with a win against Al Ettifaq.

Najma, meanwhile, will play Al Ahli in the ensuing phase. Ahli ousted Al Shabab in their

round of 16 clash.

In their win last night, Muharraq opened the scoring in the 43rd minute when Italia Mario Fontanella tapped the ball into

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

With yesterday's results, Muharraq have set up a mammoth clash with league champions Riffa in the quarter-finals, while Najma will play Al Ahli

an empty net.

He was on the receiving end of a fine cross supplied by Brazilian teammate Fabio Gama Dos Santos from the right of the penalty box. Fontanella's opener was enough to give his team the advantage heading into the break.

Muharraq then doubled their advantage in the 76th minute with a rocket free-kick from distance by Hisham Aluqbi. He hit a low effort, which bounced off the pitch close to goal and above

the opposing keeper. That sealed the win and their place in the next stage.

In Najma's triumph, neither side could find the target over 90 minutes, which sent the match directly into penalties.

Najma's Mohammed Jameel kicked things off for his team with a goal, and then Murilo De Souza Felisberto's effort was saved by Najma goalkeeper Ahmed Abdulrasool.

That set the tone for the shootout, as both Najma and Budaiya missed their following spot kicks. Walter Marques Guimaraes Neto was then able to level the proceedings for Budaiya, but they could not keep up and Najma sealed their win with goals from Redha Marhoon and Alan Damian Gimenez.

The round of 16 continues tonight with Manama and Bahrain Club locking horns and Sitra taking on HM the King's Cup holders Al Khaldiya.

Then, tomorrow, the round of 16 wraps up with Al Hala facing Tadhamon and Hidd playing against East Riffa.

## England's Curran appeals for third umpire help on obstruction



England's Sam Curran during nets Reuters | London

England all-rounder Sam Curran says third umpires should be able to rule on players obstructing the field rather than require players to appeal, as debate continued yesterday over Matthew Wade's clash with Mark Wood in a T20 World Cup warm-up.

Wade stuck an arm out to impede Wood as the England paceman ran down the pitch to attempt a catch in Perth on Sunday, sparking criticism of the Australian wicketkeeper-batsman from fans and media pundits.

England captain Jos Buttler declined to appeal for obstructing the field, however, saying later that he did not see the incident clearly and also wanted to avoid controversy at the start of the series.

Curran said his captain had "probably" made the right call under the circumstances but felt similar decisions in future might be better taken out of players' hands.