

Athlete Ali Isa snatches grand prize



Winners celebrate on the podium

DT News Network
Manama

Athlete Ali Isa snatched the grand prize of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) Showjumping Championship's opening round, posting a time of 41.04 seconds, which is held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment, President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

Season opener featured a line-up of events designed for different categories, but Isa comfortably triumphed in the round's main event, leaving second place to Jalal Jaffari

who was four seconds behind. Coming in third was Ahmed Akbar who clocked in 45.56 seconds.

Mayoof Al Romaihi has continued his strong showings, winning the open amateur competition, while Ali Isa came second in this competition. The winner finished the race in 28.66 seconds, nearly one second ahead of the second place winner. Yousif Mousa finished third in 30.76 seconds.

Meanwhile, veteran Bahrain athlete Sami Ghazwan grabbed the title of the time trial competition, posting a time of 41.66 seconds, nearly 4 seconds ahead of second-placed Fadel Al Haddad. Ahmed Akbar came third in 55.33 seconds.

Nibali, Gaviria to begin 2018 season



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

London

The organisers of the Vuelta a San Juan have revealed the teams and stages for the 2018 race, with Vincenzo Nibali again expected to lead Bahrain-Merida and Fernando Gaviria named as part of the of the Quick-Step Floors team for the early-season stage race in Argentina.

The Vuelta a San Juan will be held between January 21-28 and so offers a less-intense alternative to the WorldTour category Tour Down Under (Jan 16-21) and a warmer weather option to a European start to the season.

The race organisers have

managed to attract the presence of seven WorldTour teams, five Professional Continental teams, seven Continental teams and seven national teams including Italy, Cuba, Colombia and Argentina.

The seven WorldTour team are Bora-Hansgrohe, Lotto Soudal, Movistar, Quick-Step Floors, Trek-Segafredo, UAE Team Emirates and Bahrain-Merida.

The Professional Continental teams invited are Androni-Sidermec, the Israel Cycling Academy, Caja Rural, Wilier Triestina and UnitedHealthcare. (cyclingnews)

SL well-placed to take lead

Kolkata, India

Lahiru Thirimanne and Angelo Mathews compiled contrasting fifties and shared a 99-run partnership that put Sri Lanka in the ascendancy of the Kolkata Test, cutting their deficit to just 7 by stumps on the third day.

They were united with the score on 34 for 2 but neither batsman chose to counterattack considering the plausibility of one delivery beating their defenses. They left well and allowed themselves to be beaten several times by playing the line, not pushing their hands too far in front of them. Soon, India's seamers erred, looking for more than was required, with half-volleys and short and wide offerings and the

boundaries flowed.

Just like for Sri Lanka, India's seamers generated lateral movement from the outset. Bhuvneshwar Kumar produced swing both ways, while Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav used seam off the pitch. In addition to the two early wickets, they found a couple late in the day to ensure they didn't fall too far behind.

Despite sufficient movement, Sadeera Samarawickrama, promoted to open, batted fluently. Displaying a compact technique and languid elegance, he struck three fours on either side of the wicket in his 23. But continuing to hit through the line with

the ball hooping just enough was an approach fraught with risk. Bhuvneshwar duly found his outside edge as he played away from his body.

Thirimanne and Mathews then swung the game in Sri Lanka's favour. Still on this surface, they needed luck. Bhuvneshwar kept penetrating Mathews' inside edge, hitting him on both pads. A shorter length, though, meant he survived lbw shouts due to the extra bounce. Umesh even found Thirimanne's outside edge, but Shikhar Dhawan spilled a simple catch at first

BRIEF SCORE

Sri Lanka 165 for 4 (Mathews 52, Thirimanne 51, Dickwella 14*, Chandimal 13*) trail **India** 172 (Pujara 52, Lakmal 4-26) by 7 runs

slip.

Just after tea though, Umesh hit rhythm and cranked up the pace. An inswinger from around the wicket held its line, took Thirimanne's outside edge and carried low to Virat Kohli's left at second slip, who hung onto a sharp chance. Then, Mathews lost his concentration and chipped a catch to cover, his balance thrown off completely by a transfer of weight on the back foot, anticipating a shorter length. (espnricinfo)



Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews plays a shot (file pic)