



**Cofidis' French cyclist Nacer Bouhanni celebrates**

**Igualada**

**F**rench sprinter Nacer Bouhanni won the fourth stage of the Tour of Catalonia on Thursday after it was shortened by 60km due to snow.

The 26-year-old beat Italy's Davide Cimolai and Daryl Impey of South Africa in a sprint finish as American Tejay Van Garderen maintained his overall lead.

But treacherous conditions on a long descent meant to start the stage resulted in the day's racing being shortened to just 134km.

A short category two climb near to the finish saw the race explode into life as several overall contenders, including France's Romain Bardet and Alejandro Valverde of Spain, attacked in a hope of gaining some time.

And while most specialist sprinters were dropped from the leading group at that stage, Bouhanni hung on before comfortably winning the sprint.

Spain's Samuel Sanchez remains in second place, 41 seconds behind his BMC teammate, while Britain's Geraint Thomas of Team Sky is third at 44sec.

Three-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome is fifth at 49sec.

Friday's 182km fifth stage is likely to be decisive as it finishes with an 8.4km climb to Lo Port de Tortosa at an average nine percent gradient.

# Bouhanni sprints to Catalonia stage win

## Inter Hotel cricket: Domain Hotel win

**Manama**

**T**he Domain Hotel and Spa edged out the Sheraton by one run in the latest matches of The Ritz Carlton Bahrain Sixth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament 2017 at the Ritz-Carlton Staff Recreation area.

Batting first, The Domain Hotel and Spa scored 47 for five in six overs with Rohan (11 off 5 deliveries) top scoring and Rahul (one for eight) returning the best bowling figures.

In reply, Sheraton missed out scoring 46 for three in six overs despite a fine effort by Anoop (26 off 13, 2x6) and an excellent over by Raj (two for



The Domain Hotel and Spa team six to help secure victory.

24 teams are in the fray playing round-robin group matches followed by the

knockout stage with the final set for 28 March.

This year's official charity is the Child Wish Society.

**Other Results:**

1) Movenpick scored 48/2 in 5.4 (Raja Ram 27 off 12, RajaRam 1/3) bt The Ritz-Carlton (B) 42/4 in 6 overs (18 off 9, 1x6, Saleem 1/7) by four wickets.

2) Intercontinental Regency (A) 91/4 (Yasir 35 off 10, 2x6, 5x4, Azam 1/1) bt Swiss Bell 22/5 in 6 (Malinga 6 off 2, 1x6, Azhar 1-10) by 69 runs.

3) Best Western 51/4 in 6 (Punkaj 21 off 14, 1x6, 2x4, Ritesh 1/3, Mahi 1/3) bt Four Seasons 47/6 in 6 (Mahi 14 off 8, 1x6 balls 1x6) by four runs.

## Karting set for enticing battles

**DT News Network Manama**

**R**acing is set to intensify at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) today as the penultimate round of the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC) takes place in Sakhir.

The BKSC will see battles in both round five of the 2016/2017 Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge (BRMMC) and round seven of the 2016/2017 Bahrain SWS Sprint Championship (SSWS).

Competing drivers will have plenty to fight for as only one meeting remains before the end of the current season with all the action held along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting track.

The first group of karters

on track at 3.45pm, will be the BRMMC participants in a Free Practice session. The SSWS runners follow at 4.10pm as they go straight into qualifying with the BRMMC's qualifying session be held right after at 4.30pm. The SSWS Pre-Final is then scheduled to flag off at

4.50pm, with the BRMMC Pre-Final at 5.15pm and both will be held over 11 laps.

This paves the way for the SSWS Final, starting at 5.40pm. The BRMMC Final will then be on the track for a 6.15pm start and both finales are to be held over 15 laps.



File picture showing a previous race

Heading into Friday's racing, Mohammed Mattar (121 points) holds a narrow lead over Hussain Hassan (117) in the BRMMC's Senior Max category after five rounds of competition, with Khaled Alsaie (94) a distant third.

In the BRMMC's Junior Max class, Luca Santiago (73) is in first place, followed by Sulaiman Alkanderi (67) with Anas Lecaillon (62) in third, while the BRMMC Max Masters, Anthony Genocchio (90) holds a commanding lead over Mohammed Faqihi, with Faqihi (25) way behind in third.

In the SSWS, Abdulla Buhindi (171) is the current championship leader, followed by Rashid Almuammari (159) in second and Ahmed Ebrahim (122) in third.

## Horse racing: Six races today

**Manama**

**S**ix Cup and one support race are scheduled today with BD16,500 in prize money up for grabs starting from 2.45pm in the 20th race meeting of the season at the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in Sakhir. The three richest races worth BD3,000 each are for the Shaikh Sultan bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 4pm, National

Guard Cup at 4.50pm and the Silver Cup sponsored by the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club at 5.15pm.

Other races are at 2.45pm for the Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup, a support race at 3.10pm, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 3.35pm and Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup at 4.25pm.

## Newcastle sign Sami Mavinga

**London**

**N**ewcastle have signed French prop Sami Mavinga from Top 14 side Lyon in time for next season, the English Premiership club announced Thursday.

Also arriving at the northeast club is Jersey flanker Gary Graham, the son of former Newcastle prop George.

Mavinga impressed Falcons

boss Dean Richards while playing for Lyon against Newcastle in the European Challenge Cup earlier this season.

"That put him on our radar, and from there it has been a case of watching more of him in action and getting a fuller picture of what Sami can offer," said Richards in a club statement.