

Ride for safety

'Cycle safe Bahrain'

Manama

The Cycle Safe Bahrain held its inaugural ride yesterday with around 400 cyclists participating from a broad spectrum of society in the kingdom and brought together riders using road bikes, mountain bikes and everyday bikes.

This initiative was under the patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee and Captain of the Bahrain Royal Endurance Team.

Shaikh Nasser said, "It is a fantastic initiative which will reinforce the rules that already exist. The campaign will bring awareness to all road users, both cyclists and motorists to share the road safely and respect each other on the road."

Redia Castillo, General Manager of PowerUp led the programme of the event.

"We would like to thank Shaikh Nasser for making this possible. It was always his vision and love for sports which pushed us to finally turn this into action. We would also like to thank the official pilot cars of the ride, Nissan, for their support throughout the whole ride."

Abdulmohsen Algosaibi, co-owner of TriLife who joined and led the Level 2 ride said, "It was such a great day for a ride and we were overwhelmed by the support that we have received. We hope that the message behind this campaign be passed on to more people in Bahrain to keep its road users safe."

Haitham Assem, Complex Director of Marketing at Westin Bahrain City Centre said, "This was such a beautiful day for all. This is just the first step and we plan to carry on with these efforts moving forward."

The event was also joined by Kolja Koracak, Brand Director of Bahrain Merida Pro Cycling Team and Michael

Gilliam, Director of Bahrain Endurance 13 who showed their full support.

Cycle Safe Bahrain intends to spread awareness among cyclists and motorists on how to share the roads safely. This is truly an important mission as it does not only promote sports culture in the Kingdom but it also highlights giving back to the community in the hope of inspiring others to follow the lead. This is just the beginning for Cycle Safe Bahrain. They will be holding regular weekly rides in different areas all over the island not only road bike users but also mountain bikes and kids' rides as well.



Participants during a group photo session

Valentino Rossi leaves hospital after crash

Rome

MotoGP star Valentino Rossi has been discharged from hospital in Rimini where he was admitted after a training accident, his Yamaha team said yesterday.

The 38-year-old Italian suffered chest and stomach injuries in a motocross training accident at Mondavio in Pesaro Urbino near Rimini on Thursday and was taken to hospital.

"Valentino Rossi has returned home from the 'Ospedale Infermi' in Rimini, having successfully completed routine diagnostic tests that were scheduled earlier this afternoon," said Yamaha in a statement.

"With the attending doctors confirming the findings shared in this morning's medical bulletin, the nine-time world champion left the hospital at 5.30pm, accompanied by his staff.

"He will continue the recovery process in his own surroundings."

Rossi crashed out of the French Grand Prix at Le Mans on the last lap last weekend handing victory to teammate Maverick Vinales and lies third in the world championship standings.

It is not clear whether Rossi will be fit enough to take part in the Italian Grand Prix at Mugello next week.



Italy's rider Valentino Rossi

Saving my fingers biggest battle, says Petra Kvitova

Paris

Petra Kvitova will return to tennis at the French Open having already won her biggest battle -- saving the fingers so badly damaged fighting off a knife-wielding burglar.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova, 27, a semi-finalist at Roland Garros in 2012, suffered career-threatening injuries to her left playing hand when she tackled an intruder at her home in the eastern Czech town of Prostějov in December.

The terrifying attack left the popular Kvitova fighting to save her hand and her career.

But almost six months on, she is ready to return to the sport, claiming that the nightmare incident has left her with a fresh perspective on life.

"I actually already won my biggest fight. I stayed in life and I have all my fingers," the 6ft (1.82m) Kvitova told reporters at a sweltering Roland Garros on Friday. She still carries the physical and mental scars.

"I didn't sleep well the days after. I don't really have nightmares," she added.

"I was always staring at the guys and looking to see if there are no strangers there. With time, it's better. But of course I'm more actively watching the people around me."

Kvitova was told by her doctors that she may never play tennis again as a result of the attack.



Czech Petra Kvitova attends a press conference