

## Medal Winner lifts GPIC Cup in day's main race at REHC



Action from one of yesterday's races

TDT | Manama

Medal Winner of Al Mohamediya Racing clinched the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) Cup in yesterday's main race at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

The Hussain Aldailami-trained four-year-old lifted one of the three GPIC Cups up for grabs on the day's race card. Graphite Storm and Dirab won the other two in the seventh and sixth races, respectively.

Medal Winner was ridden by Paddy Mathers for the eighth and final race of the day and they triumphed in a time of two minutes 02.655 seconds in the 10-furlong event, claiming the lion's share of the BD3,000 total prize.

Jazeel followed two-and-a-quarter lengths behind for Victorious, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan, while third place was claimed by Desert Lion, representing Isa Mahmood Al Seddiqi, Hesham Al Haddad and Callum Rodriguez.

In race seven, held over six furlongs, Graphite Storm was the victor for Al Hassainain Syndicate, Mohammed Sammak and Andrew Elliott, taking first place in 1:12.693 and the biggest share of the BD4,000 prize.

Dark Shadow came in second four-and-a-half lengths behind for Al Mohamediya Racing, Osama Hashim and Callum Rodriguez, while Sonja Henie was third for Victorious, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan.

The sixth race was held over seven furlongs with a BD3,000 prize, and Dirab emerged triumphant for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Abdulla Faisal. Pulp Fiction was second three-and-a-half lengths back for Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and Gerald Mosse, while Breathtaking came third for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan.

Meanwhile, Al Fajir Mukbile lifted the Late S Sharaf Al Alawi Cup in the day's fifth race held over eight furlongs with a BD2,000 prize. The race winner competed for Raed Ahmed Yousif Alboainain and Yousif Boainain, and was ridden by Ahmed Maki. Finishing three-and-a-quarter lengths behind was Suspect Package, competing for Victorious, Alan Smith and Abdulrahim Jassim; while third was Gateway competing for Mustafa Jaffar Ali Omran, Osama Hashim and Abdulla Al Hawaj. A total of 14 horses competed in the race.

Elsewhere yesterday, Daleel triumphed for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Abdulla Faisal in the nine-furlong fourth race; Teenar took first place for Al Mohamediya Racing, Hussain Aldailami and Callum Rodriguez in race three, held over six furlongs, and Afrah was the top finisher in race two held over five furlongs competing for Al Awlad Syndicate, Naylor and Adnan Jaffar.

The first race of the day, also covering a five-furlong distance, was claimed by Al Mlolesh 1748.

# Tsunoda secures F2 pole

Carlin driver tops Qualifying and will start in front of 22-car grid in penultimate feature race of 2020 season

● Nikita Mazepin secures other front row grid position, while Jehan Daruvala and Robert Shwartzman to start from row two

● Championship leader Mick Schumacher collides with Roy Nissany late in Quali, forced to start towards back of field

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Yuki Tsunoda captured pole position last night for the last Feature Race of the 2020 Formula 2 season, to be held as part of the weekend's events in the Formula 1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

Tsunoda registered a fastest lap of one minute 02.676 seconds in F2's 30-minute Qualifying session around BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer Track.



Yuki Tsunoda in action on track during F2 practice

It was his fourth pole of the season with his team Carlin, and it earned him four crucial points on the drivers' championship standings.

Tsunoda was a mere 0.122s quicker than Hitech Grand Prix's Nikita Mazepin, who took the other front row position on the grid. Carlin teammate Jehan Daruvala (+0.131s) and Prema Racing's Robert Shwartzman (+0.146s) will start on row two, while the top eight is completed by Felipe Drugovich (+0.165s) of MP Motorsport, Christian Lundgaard (+0.173s) of ART Grand

Prix, Artem Markelov (+0.271s) of BWT HWA Racelab, and Dan Ticktum (+0.278s) of Dams.

The session was suspended with around four minutes to go after Hitech's Luca Ghiotto spun off and stopped in the run-off area. After the re-start, championship leader Mick Schumacher of Prema and Roy Nissany of Trident collided in the session's closing moments, with Nissany running over the back of Schumacher's car.

That left them having to settle for 18th and 19th on the grid for today's 48-lap Feature Race,

which is scheduled for a 3.10pm start.

Earlier in the day, Tsunoda got things off to a positive start by setting the fastest lap in the round's lone F2 Practice.

It was the final F2 Practice of 2020 and it was cut short after Markelov's car went up in smoke down the main straight with just under five minutes to go, bringing out the red flag.

Tsunoda had set the fastest lap of 1:03.267 before the stoppage while Daruvala in the other Carlin with a 0.228s gap for a Carlin one-two. Ghiotto was third 0.315s behind.



Yuki Tsunoda has clinched pole position three other times in the 2020 F2 season, and also has two race victories and three other podium finishes

## Guven, Simmenauer top Porsche practice sessions

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Ayhan Guven became the first-ever driver to top the timesheet in a session held along Bahrain International Circuit's Outer Track, after setting the pace yesterday in the first practice of this weekend's Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East.

Held in support of the F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix, the opening practice kicked off the day's schedule.

Guven, who did not compete in last weekend's events, immediately showed his quickness with a best lap of one minute 14.634 seconds to kick off



Guven in action during yesterday's first Porsche practice

the second round of Porsche's 2020/2021 season.

Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer

followed 0.502s behind, while Richard Wagner was third 1.019s adrift along the 3.543-kilometre

circuit layout. Each of the top three are competing in the series' GT3 class Pro category.

Leading the Pro-Am runners was Lucas Groeneveld, while Eddy Waldhier topped the Am participants.

Bahrainis Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa (PA) and Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa (A) were classified ninth and 10th, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the second practice session held late last night, Simmenauer was fastest with a best lap of 1:14.714.

The Porsche field now head for qualifying at 2pm today, followed by the weekend's first 17-lap race at 6.30pm.

## BRAVE CF announces Fighter Of The Year nominees

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The year of 2020 was full of inspiring stories and victories for the ages at BRAVE Combat Federation. But who were the five athletes who stood out from the pack and made these challenging times also a time to shine?

BRAVE Combat Federation's 2020 Year of Change Awards announced the nominees for one of its most important categories: Fighter of the Year. The list is composed by a mix of World Champions, former World Champions, and fighters in the hunt of ultimate glory.

The first nominee is arguably one of the most popular and beloved Middle Eastern athletes of all time: Mohammed "The Latest" Fakhreddine. After being struck by personal and public tragedies, Fakhreddine managed to make the year of 2020 as the year he finally became the world champion, capturing



The second nominee, Amin Ayoub, also got his first international MMA belt in 2020 and did it in the most competitive division of any Mixed Martial Arts promotion, the Lightweight. Ayoub challenged the champion Cleiton "Predator" Silva and got a knockout in the fourth, after a solid and decisive performance.

The third name on this list

is a former world champion who found again the passion for fighting and made 2020 the year of his comeback. After losing his title to Jarrar Al Silawi in 2019, Abdoul Abdouraguimov rose from the ashes and submitted Carl Booth and Louis Glismann to become, yet again, the Welterweight number one contender.

Another veteran who got back to the top in 2020 was Philippines' Rolando Dy. With two huge wins, against Maciek

### Nominees

Abdoul Abdouraguimov  
 Mohammad Fakhreddine  
 Sam Patterson  
 Rolando Dy  
 Amin Ayoub

Gierszewski and John Brewin, "The Incredible" became the heavily favorite to be the next Lightweight world title challenger.

The last nominee is also the youngster among all. 24-year-old British prospect Sam Patterson is undefeated in his last six fights and recently got the biggest win of his professional career, knocking out the veteran Felipe Silva in less than two-and-a-half minutes.

The 2020 Fighter of the Year will be announced based on the results from the fans who cast their votes at BRAVE CF's official Instagram account ([www.instagram.com/bravemmaf](http://www.instagram.com/bravemmaf)).

## Coach Vieira sacked by Nice: club

Reuters | Paris

Nice have sacked coach Patrick Vieira following a string of poor results, the Ligue 1 club said yesterday.

Nice lost 3-2 at home to Bayer Leverkusen on Thursday in the Europa League, leaving them third in Group C with three points and without any hope of reaching the knockouts.

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