

Bahrain showcases global horse racing ambitions at Newmarket Festival

TDI | Manama

Bahrain reaffirmed its growing stature in the world of horse racing during the annual Kingdom of Bahrain Cup at the Newmarket July Festival in the United Kingdom, with senior officials highlighting the sport's role in driving international investment and partnerships.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court and Chairman of the High Authority of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club, emphasized the promising potential of the horse racing sector for attracting significant investment and fostering new partnerships.

HH Shaikh Isa made these remarks while attending the annual Bahrain Trophy race during the July Festival at the Newmarket Racecourse in the United Kingdom.

His Highness asserted that horse racing serves as a vital platform for drawing quality investments and opening new horizons for various sectors.

He highlighted the sport's role in facilitating cooperation and business development through its competitive environment.

HH Shaikh Isa added that Bahrain is committed to strengthening its global standing in the sport, driven by the ambitious vision of King Hamad bin Isa



His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa presents the Bahrain-sponsored Princess of Wales Cup

Al Khalifa and the directives of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince HRH Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

During the festival, the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club signed several agreements with international companies, securing over \$1 million USD in investments for Bahrain-organized horse racing events.

These partnerships are intended to enhance the competitiveness of the races and support the club's development of the sport to meet international standards.

HH Shaikh Isa presented the Bahrain-sponsored Princess of Wales Cup, congratulating Godolphin Stables after their horse, "El Cordobes" won the

main race.

Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif and Bahrain's Ambassador to the UK, Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, presented trophies for the other Bahrain Trophy races.



Bahrain's REHC renews UK training partnership

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club (REHC) has renewed its cooperation agreement with the British Racing School (BRS) to enhance the training and development of Bahraini jockeys.

REHC CEO Yusuf Osama Buheji signed the renewed agreement with BRS CEO Andrew Braithwaite during a recent visit to the UK.

Buheji emphasized the importance of these training programs in developing national equestrian talent, aligning with the directives of the Club's High Committee Chairman, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



REHC CEO Yusuf Osama Buheji signs the renewed agreement with BRS CEO Andrew Braithwaite

The partnership utilizes BRS expertise to elevate the capabilities of the Bahrain Jockey Academy, ensuring jockeys are trained to the highest technical standards.

The renewed collaboration allows for the expansion of the training program in 2025, which follows positive results observed in the performance of emerging jockeys during the 2024 initiative.

The program, which includes intensive theoretical and practical sessions overseen by elite international trainers, aims to prepare participants for regional and international competitions.

Sinner unfazed by French Open collapse as he prepares for Alcaraz rematch

Sinner and Alcaraz to face off in second straight Grand Slam final showdown

- Sinner defeats Djokovic in Wimbledon semi-final
- Alcaraz leads head-to-head 8-4

AFP | London

Jannik Sinner played down the impact of his painful defeat against Carlos Alcaraz in the French Open final as he prepares for a rematch at Wimbledon on Sunday.

The world number one crushed seven-time champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 in under two hours on Friday to set up a title showdown against the Spanish two-time defending champion.

Alcaraz had earlier dispatched US fifth seed Taylor Swift in four sets on Centre Court.

"I think if it would be a lot in my head, I would not be in the situation to play a final again, I guess. I'm very happy to share once again the court with Carlos. It's going to be difficult, I know that"

JANNIK SINNER

Just weeks ago at Roland Garros, Alcaraz came back from two sets down against Sinner, saving three match points to win a fifth Grand Slam.

But Italy's Sinner, 23, played down the lingering impact of that loss in the aftermath of Friday's semi-final win against Djokovic.

"I think if it would be a lot in my head, I would not be in the situation to play a final again, I

guess," he said.

"I'm very happy to share once again the court with Carlos. It's going to be difficult, I know that. "But I'm looking forward to it. I try always to put myself in these kind of situations that I really love. Sundays at every tournament are very special."

The top seed said he would

YOU KNOW WHAT

Alcaraz and Sinner have split the last six Grand Slams between them, marking tennis's first consistent new rivalry since the "Big Three" era

not be able to fully assess the lasting impact of his loss at Roland Garros until he stepped onto the court for his first Wimbledon final.

"I think it's something what you feel before the match and also during the match," he said. "I can give you answers after."

"But no, it's different. Different match. I'm looking forward to it."

Sinner, who has won three majors, said Alcaraz was the favourite to win a third straight title at the All England Club.

Alcaraz on top

The Spaniard has the edge, winning eight of their 12 matches, including the past five.

"He won here two times in a row," said Sinner. "He's again in the final. It's very tough to beat him on grass, but I like these challenges."

"I like to go head-to-head and trying to see what I can do and what I can reach."

Sinner, who has shared the past six Grand Slam titles with Alcaraz, said it was too soon to compare their dominance with the era of the "Big Three" -- Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"You cannot compare what the big three did for 15-plus years. Six Grand Slams are one-and-a-half years. It's not that big yet."

"Of course, we find ourselves, again, in this position. This is the second consecutive Grand Slam that we are in the final and playing each other, which is great from my side."

"I believe it's good for the sport. The more rivalries we have from now on, the better it is, because people want to see young players going against each other."

"I'm happy to be in that position, but let's see in the future. If we can make that happen for the next three, four years, then people can think about. Let's see."



Jannik Sinner