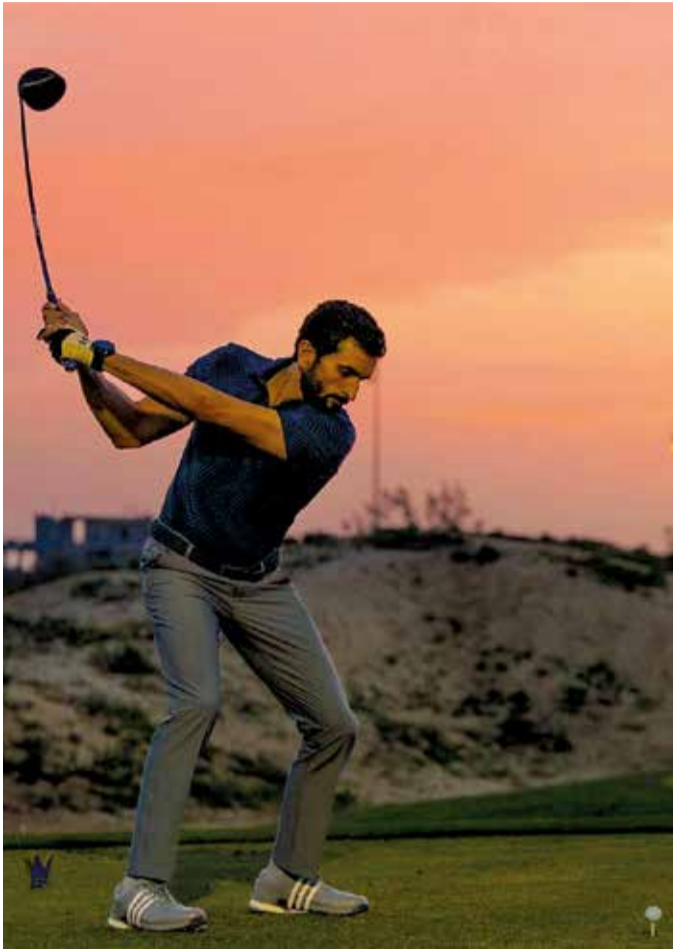


HH Shaikh Nasser tees off at Royal Golf Club opener



His Highness Shaikh Nasser plays shot at golf championship

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa joined competitors at the opening round of the fifth Late Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Golf Championship at the Royal Golf Club.

The tournament opened in a competitive nine-hole format.

Now in its fifth edition, the event honours the legacy of the late Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. It recognises his contribution to the development of sport in Bahrain, particularly golf.

Shaikh Nasser's participation added a symbolic presence to the opening round. It also reflected his continued

engagement with the sport and his support for competitive golf in the Kingdom.

Speaking during the event, he highlighted the commemorative significance of the championship. He said it stands as a tribute to the late Shaikh Abdullah's role in strengthening Bahrain's sporting landscape and supporting the growth of golf.

He praised the organisers for a well-run opening round. He said the conditions and atmosphere helped set a strong tone for the competition.

With the opening round complete, attention now turns to next week's final stage. Competition is expected to intensify as players compete for top positions.

Future Stars Finale



TDT | Manama

Excitement and live spectators will return to the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club as the 28th race meeting of the 2025-2026 season takes place on Friday, April 17. The event will feature the

Cup of Al Qasr Projects Company along with several club cups at the Al Raffa racecourse.

The meeting will also host the third and final round of the "Future Stars" Championship for Bahrain-bred horses, sponsored by Bank of Singapore Gulf. The final two races of the series

Race card highlights

Race 1: Arabian Purebred Horses, 1000m (8 horses)
Race 2: Handicap (Bahrain-bred), 1000m (13 horses)
Race 3: Al Qasr Projects Cup, Bahrain-bred, 1200m straight (8 horses)
Race 4: Rashid Equestrian Club Cup (Imported sprint), 1200m straight (14 horses)
Race 5: Future Stars Sprint Cup (sponsored by Bank of Singapore Gulf), 1000m (6 horses)
Race 6: Future Stars Champions Cup, 1600m (10 horses)
Race 7: Imported horses (Class 3 & 4 & maidens), 1400m (13 horses)
Race 8: Rashid Equestrian Club Cup (Imported handicap), 2200m (11 horses)
Race 9: Final handicap (Bahrain-bred), 2200m (12 horses)

will determine the champion of the championship's second edition.

The club welcomed the return of spectators to the stands, highlighting their key role in enhancing the racing season's success by creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere that adds to the sport's excitement.

Racing fans can expect an action-packed evening featuring 95 horses competing across nine

racers, promising strong competition for the featured trophies and cups.

Tickets are available through the official website of the club, Bahrain Turf Club, or at the entrance gates on race days.

The Future Stars Championship reaches its decisive conclusion, promising a lively atmosphere and strong competition across all categories amid growing anticipation from racing fans.

Iraola says now is 'right moment to step away' from Bournemouth

AFP | London

Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola said "this is the right moment for me to step away", as the Premier League club announced yesterday he would leave when his contract expires at the end of the season.

The Spaniard joined the south coast club in 2023 and led them to their equal highest top-flight finish of ninth last season, earning their largest points tally of 56, and reaching the FA Cup quarter-finals.

"It has been an honour to manage AFC Bournemouth and I am proud of what we have achieved together," said Iraola, who replaced Gary O'Neil as Bournemouth boss, in a club statement confirming his de-



Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola reacts during a match (file photo)

parture.

"I'm thankful to the players and staff that I've worked with, as well as Bill (Bournemouth

chairman Bill Foley), who have all made my time here so special.

"As for the fans, you have con-

tinued to show your fantastic support to myself and the team, and for that I will always be grateful. I feel this is the right moment for me to step away, but I will always carry fantastic memories of this club."

Yesterday's announcement came just days after Iraola, who has six games left at Bournemouth this season, oversaw a superb 2-1 win away to Premier League leaders Arsenal last weekend.

Foley, in the same statement, said: "Andoni has been instrumental in shaping the direction of this football club over the past three seasons. He brought intensity, innovation, and a clear philosophy that elevated AFC Bournemouth both on and off the pitch.

F1 reviews Gulf race schedule

TDT | Manama

Formula One's 2026 calendar has been thrown into turmoil after the cancellation of the Bahrain Grand Prix, scheduled for April 10 to 12, and the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, originally set for April 17 to 19. Both events were called off due to ongoing regional conflict, forcing the sport into a late re-think of how, or if, the Gulf will feature later in the season.

The immediate impact is significant. A five-week gap now separates the Japanese Grand Prix from Miami, while the overall schedule has been reduced from 24 races to 22. Formula One initially dismissed the idea of rescheduling, but discussions have now resumed, with Saudi Arabia emerging as the most realistic option for a late-season return.

Former driver and Abu Dhabi Grand Prix ambassador Robert



Action from the race at Jeddah Corniche Circuit (file photo)

Doornbos suggested December 6 as a possible date for a race at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit. That proposal would directly affect the closing stages of the season and could trigger a reshuffle of the final rounds.

The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at Yas Marina Circuit is currently scheduled for December 4 to 6. To accommodate a revised Saudi round while keeping Abu Dhabi as the season finale, Formula One is considering moving it to December 13.

If approved, the final phase of the championship would become one of the most intense in recent memory. Las Vegas, Qatar, Jeddah and Abu Dhabi could run across four consecutive weekends.

The implications extend beyond the track. Abu Dhabi's Grand Prix is closely tied to tourism, hospitality and entertainment. Even a one-week delay would disrupt hotel bookings,

airline schedules and major event planning, highlighting how deeply Formula One is embedded in the city's wider economy.

Saudi Arabia's potential return also reflects its growing influence in global motorsport. Backed by long-term investment from Saudi Aramco, the country continues to position itself as a central player in Formula One's future.

While Bahrain has also been mentioned as a possible rescheduling option, its role within the sport remains secure. The Sakhir circuit is one of Formula One's most established venues and continues to serve as a cornerstone of the Gulf's presence on the calendar.

For now, uncertainty remains. As Formula One weighs its options, the shape of the 2026 season, particularly its closing weeks, is still very much in flux.