

# HH Shaikh Nasser triumphs in Montalcino international ride

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa achieves new feat in European championships as Royal Endurance Team dominates in Italian event

● Dahess Del Falot has won the Award of the Best Horse Condition behind HH Shaikh Nasser's guidance

● Royal Endurance Team's Mohammed Abdulsamad wins 120km race, while teammates Yusuf Al Jaburi and Khalifa Jamal Al Sendi in top three

● Abdulrahman Al Khateri successfully completes 100km juniors' race, while Mohammed Al Ruwaie comes fourth in 120km juniors' ride

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs and Captain of the Royal Endurance Team, added another success to his bright record in the endurance sport at



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa celebrates after his victory

the European level after winning the 160km race of the Montalcino International Endurance Championship yesterday, which featured a wide participation of elite riders from several European countries, held in Italy.

Present at the event was HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for the Environment, Vice President of the High Committee of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club, and member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa competes during the 160km ride

Meanwhile, the Royal Endurance Team dominated other races too that took place as part of the competition.

Commenting on this, HH Shaikh Nasser affirmed that the Royal Endurance Team's participation in the Montalcino International Endurance Championship proved successful after meeting all the objectives set out, including getting the team members

ready for the upcoming World Championship, explaining that winning top places in the 160km race and the 120km contest reflects the team's high position at the European level and its great capabilities.

"The results achieved in the championship confirm the capability of the Bahraini endurance sport and its lasting prosperity thanks to the vision that the



The Royal Endurance Team's junior riders compete in their race

team is following," HH Shaikh Nasser said.

"The jockeys gained great experience from this Championship," HH Shaikh Nasser added. "The stages were tough in light of the different racecourse of this Championship, compared to

the other competitions."

HH Shaikh Nasser continued: "Winning in this Championship will be a great motivator to achieve more successes, as the team has great experience in the European arena, and it will be an advantage for our riders."

It is worth noting that Dahess Del Falot has won the Award of the Best Horse Condition, thanks to HH Shaikh Nasser's guidance.

Meanwhile, the Royal Endurance Team's Mohammed Abdulsamad has won the 120km race after clocking six hours, 10 minutes and 32 seconds.

His teammates Yusuf Al Jaburi and Khalifa Jamal Al Sendi came second and third respectively. They posted six hours, 10 minutes and 33 seconds and 7 hours, 29 minutes.

Abdulrahman Al Khateri successfully completed the 100km juniors' race, while Mohammed Al Ruwaie came fourth in the 120km juniors' ride.



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- HH SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

## Leclerc takes pole in Spain after Verstappen loses power

● Charles Leclerc produces immense lap to claim pole at Spanish Grand Prix

● Max Verstappen on front row of grid, Carlos Sainz third

● George Russell and Lewis Hamilton finish fourth and sixth

AFP | Madrid

Formula One's early season pacesetter Charles Leclerc survived intense pressure yesterday to beat world champion Max Verstappen, who suffered a late loss of power, to pole position for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix.

The Ferrari driver had spun his car on his opening run in the third part of qualifying, but responded with a fast, nerveless and improved lap to regain top spot ahead of the Dutchman who was unable to respond.

It brought Leclerc his first pole position in Spain, his fourth of the season and the 13th of his career.

"I only had that one lap, but it went extremely well," said the



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc celebrates after qualifying in pole position with second placed Red Bull's Max Verstappen and third placed Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr.

24-year-old Monegasque.

Verstappen qualified second ahead of local hero Carlos Sainz in the other Ferrari and a resurgent George Russell for Mercedes, Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

"I feel very good," said Leclerc.

"It was a very, very difficult session, especially in Q3, when I made a mistake on the first run so I only had one lap."

Verstappen said: "I couldn't do my final run. Either the DRS (Drag Reduction System) didn't open or I lost power. It's a bit of a shame, but overall to be on the front row here, looking at the whole weekend, it was a good

achievement."

Red Bull confirmed it was the DRS system that had failed.

Sainz, cheered by the big sellout crowd, said: "It's been a tough weekend so far. The conditions have not been easy with the heat and wind, but we managed a decent lap."

Valtteri Bottas qualified seventh, ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas, Daniel Ricciardo of McLaren and Mick Schumacher in the second Haas.

On a hot, dry afternoon in Catalonia, Guanyu Zhou was the first man on track in Q1 in which Perez and Verstappen both topped the times before the Ferraris took over and the Mercedes men slotted in fourth and fifth.



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MAX VERSTAPPEN

Schumacher took part after a great effort by his Haas team to repair his car following the brakes blaze that stopped him in third practice.

He repaid them with a lap that lifted him briefly to ninth and beyond danger while, to the crowd's dismay, Fernando Alonso was one of two former world champions dumped out in Q1.

### Show of confidence

The veteran Spaniard, now 40, was 17th in his Alpine and joined both Aston Martin drivers Lance Stroll and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, 18th and 16th respectively, in being eliminated along with the two Williams of Alex Albon and Nicholas Latifi.

## Mbappe chooses to stay at PSG in Real snub

AFP | Paris

Kylian Mbappe has decided to stay at Paris Saint-Germain despite weeks of speculation linking the forward to a move to Real Madrid, according to widespread reports yesterday.

The French World Cup winner has made up his mind to remain faithful to PSG and is poised to sign a three-year extension to his contract which ends on June 30, L'Equipe in France and Spanish sports paper Marca reported.

The player's entourage refused to elaborate but reports suggest PSG could make a statement later yesterday when the club are playing Metz in their final match of the season at the



Kylian Mbappe

Parc des Princes.

The 23-year-old's 'will-he-won't-he' move to Madrid has kept fans and the two clubs on their toes over the past few months.

Mbappe has made no secret of his desire to play one day for Real, who will play Liverpool in the Champions League final next weekend after securing a 35th Spanish title.

## Ronaldo to miss United's final game of the season

Reuters | London

Forward Cristiano Ronaldo will miss Manchester United's final game of the season away to Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Sunday due to a hip injury, British media reported yesterday.

The club refused to comment when contacted by Reuters.

Ronaldo, who missed matches in January and March with hip flexor trouble, is United's top scorer this season with 24 goals in all competitions.

United are sixth in the league on 58 points, two points above seventh-placed West Ham United, and they need a win at Selhurst Park to be certain of securing a place in next season's Europa League.