Shwartzman claims pole-to-flag F2 win

Prema Racing driver triumphs in 23-lap Sprint Race at BIC for fourth victory of 2020 season

- **Nikita Mazepin and Louis Deletraz join race winner Shwartzman on podium**
- **Guanyu Zhou claims fifth place after defending position well from hard-charging Christian Lundgaard, Michael Schumacher and Felipe Drugovich**

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Robert Shwartzman won an exciting Formula 2 Sprint Race from pole yesterday, held as part of the weekend's events in the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Shwartzman, driving for Prema Racing, started at the front of the field due to F2's reverse grid rule, following Saturday's Feature Race.

He made the most of the opportunity and did well to hold on to his lead at the lights. He later was pressured by Hitech Grand Prix's Nikita Mazepin right behind him after a virtual safety car, but was able to extend his gap the rest of the way with clean air in front.

Shwartzman claimed the chequered flag after 23 laps in a total winning time of 43 minutes 15.992 seconds. it was his fourth win of the F2 season and his second in a Sprint Race.

Mazepin followed 5.283 seconds behind as the runner-up to make it a Russian one-two, while taking third was Louis Deletraz of Charouz Racing System, who made a brilliant late charge to secure his podium place 6.472s back.

Marcus Armstrong, who started beside Shwartzman on the front row, came fourth for ART Grand Prix.

Guanyu Zhou of Uni-Virtuosi was an impressive fifth, fending off an exciting challenge from the three cars behind him. They included Christian Lundgaard in ART's other car, Shwartzman's Prema teammate and championship leader Mick Schumacher, and Feature Race winner Felipe Drugovich of MP Motorsport, who were engaged in some exciting wheel-to-wheel battles. They were classified sixth through eighth, respectively, completing the points scorers.

Early in the race on lap seven, Callum Ilott in the other Uni-Virtuosi car collided with Jehan Daruvala, forcing the Carlin man into an early retirement. Ilott was later handed a drive-through penalty for the incident, dropping him to 18th.

The F2 field returns to action at BIC next weekend in support of the F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix, which will be the final round of its 2020 season. Racing will be held along BIC's 3.543km Outer Track then.

Robert Shwartzman lifts the winner's trophy during the F2 Sprint Race podium

Robert Shwartzman takes the chequered flag for Prema Racing

YOU KNOW WHAT

With yesterday's Sprint Race result, Mick Schumacher was able to extend his lead on the F2 drivers' championship standings to 14 points heading into next weekend's final round supporting the F1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix

Evans secures Porsche Sprint double

Porsche's race two podium with, from left, Simmenauer, Evans and Hanses

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Jaxon Evans capped a spectacular first round in the 2020/2021 Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East yesterday, held in support of the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC)..

Evans won the series' second race of the weekend, securing a brilliant double victory to kick off the new campaign.

After starting from the front row alongside pole-sitter Julian Hanses, Evans was able to power to first place on lap one and went on to win the 12-lap event in a total time of 25 minutes 11.958 seconds.

He finished 3.396 seconds ahead of Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer, while Hanses finished third 9.089s behind. Each of the top three were competing in the championship's GT3 class Pro category.

17
cars competed over the weekend in the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East

Winning the Pro-Am category while finishing fourth overall was Lucas Groeneveld, while Eddy Waldhier was the victor amongst the Am competitors.

Bahrainis Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa (Pro-Am) and Shaikh Jaber bin Ali Al Khalifa were ninth and 10th, respectively.

A total of 17 cars competed over the weekend in the Porsche Sprint Challenge Middle East.

Jaxon Evans and Julian Hanses lead the field into turn one at the start of race two

Bahrain defeat India in FIBA Asia Cup qualifiers

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Bahrain wrapped up their campaign as hosts of this window's FIBA Asia Cup 2021 qualifiers with a resounding 88-72 victory over India last night at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Isa Town.

After trailing by double digits in the first quarter, the Bahrainis were able to battle back before taking control of the contest in the second half.

The win preserved their perfect record in Bahrain this week, having earlier defeated Iraq on Friday. It was also their second against India in this stage of the qualifiers, having taken their first meeting in February.

Mohammed Hussain and naturalised big man CJ Giles led a balanced attack for the home team with 17 points apiece. Mohammed Kuwayed added 15 and young Muzamil Ameer and Maitham Jameel each chipped in with 12.

Bahrain's CJ Giles dunks the ball during their win against India last night

Vishesh Bhriguvanshi top scored for India with 18.

In yesterday's other game, Lebanon defeated Iraq 78-69. The Lebanese used a dominant third period, when they outscored the Iraqis 30-11, to help secure the win.

Wael Arakji top scored for the victors with 25 points while Demario Mayfield paced Iraq with 22 in the loss.

The qualifiers in Bahrain conclude today with just one game on schedule. The Philippines will be looking for a repeat of their win earlier this week against Thailand when the two teams face off at 4pm at the same venue.

BRAVE CF 2020 Year of Change Awards - voting starts today!

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Despite the numerous challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, BRAVE Combat Federation stood strong and put on 12 events throughout 2020, as it has done in the last two years, maintaining its commitment with the fans, fighters and MMA industry. And the fastest-growing organization in the world is set to celebrate yet another milestone year with the BRAVE CF Year of Change Awards.

Starting today, the promotion will announce nominees and the categories which will be judged through fan vote. On BRAVE CF's official Instagram account (www.instagram.com/bravemmaf), the fans will have the opportunity to make their voices heard by voting on their favourite performances, fights and fighters from 2020.

BRAVE CF had a momentous year despite the challenges, putting on several historic fights and witnessing the rise of new champions, several contenders, as well as upcoming young fighters destined for stardom.

The voting will end on December 7th, and the fans will know the winners in a special announcement to take place online, on BRAVE CF's social media platforms.