

Sports News

Abdulla takes early lead

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Royal Endurance Team rider Isa Abdulla Ali Al Hazza took early lead in the Season Ending Endurance Horse Ride Championship yesterday.

A group of Bahrain's elite riders took to the Bahrain International Endurance Village in Sakhir for the final event of the 2011/12 season.

The 120km ride, which concluded late last night, featured five stages that were mostly dominated by members of the Royal Endurance Team.

The team, captained by Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, headed into the third night event of the year looking to dominate the podium and end the season on a high note.

Indeed they lived up to expectations, with Abdulla steering ----- to claim first position in the first stage, which was over 30km and covered with red flags.

The Royal Endurance team member completed the stage in one hour and 18 minutes, and with a 23km per hour average speed.

Behind him was Al Khalidia Stable member Mohammed Abdulsamad, riding -----, who came second with an average speed of 24km per hour. Nasser Awwad of Ahmed Al Fateh Stable rounded off the top three at the end of the opening stage on C R.

The ride also featured three more stages, including another 30km for the second, 20km for the third and 20km for the fourth and final stage.

The top three riders were later honoured at the prize-giving ceremony early this morning at the endurance village. Full results will be published in tomorrow's edition.

The ride was organised by Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (Breef), in line with the directives of its president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Earlier yesterday, the riders headed towards the veterinarian area to have their horses examined, just two hours before the start of the race. The veterinary commission comprised nine members, headed by president Dr Yassine Motemri of Tunisia.