

# Bahrain riders claim fine win

## ● Shaikh Nasser sets new endurance record



■ Shaikh Nasser is congratulated by team-mates



■ Shaikh Nasser leads a group of Bahraini riders



SHAIKH Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday led five of Bahrain's finest riders to victory at the 120km Endurance Horse Ride at Compiègne, in France.

Riding Picaflor, the Royal Endurance Team captain topped this five-stage race with a total ride time of five hours, 13 minutes and 48 seconds, and 22km per hour speed average.

Shaikh Nasser's finish yesterday has set up a new record in all endurance races held in Compiègne.

The remaining four Bahrainis were also in peak form as they dominated the race stages, with Raed Mahmood steering R P

Sebastbol to second place in 6:26:44 hours and averaging 22km per hour speed.

Mohammed Abdulsamad, riding Lobero, rounded off the podium by coming third in 6:26:44 and with a 22km per hour speed average.

Abdulrahman Al Saad, riding Movisco, and Jafar Mirza on Shamsa, were the other two Bahraini riders in the fray.

It was a sweet victory for the Royal Team after their heartbreaking finishes at the recently-organised Endurance Horse Ride in Poland where their members were forced to make consecutive withdrawals.

The Royal Endurance Team were also the main sponsors of the Compiègne Ride.

Shaikh Nasser highlighted the significance of this event, which was part

of Bahrain's preparations for the FIA World Endurance Championships 2012 that will take place at Euston Park near Thetford in the UK on August 25.

The Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman and president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee said he was delighted with the overall perform-

ance and level of each team member.

He noted the outstanding spirit of his riders and ambition to compete at next month's World Championships.

The World Championships, which is over 160km, will feature a total of six stages, with riders from 44 countries from across the world are expected to participate.

Shaikh Nasser also stressed the continued support of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, whose efforts to develop equestrian sports in Bahrain were lauded.

Shaikh Nasser also congratulated the Bahraini ground jury members on their success in assisting the organisers at the event.

They were Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation Haider Al Zubi, besides Dr. Abbas Al Haiki, Mohammed Dadulla and Dr Mohammed Al Hammad of Saudi Arabia.