

## Sports News

# Riders gear up for tough race

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RIDERS lined up for the First World Military Endurance Horseride Championship, set to take place in Bahrain over the weekend, have stepped up the pace yesterday for the upcoming race, scheduled to take place on Saturday.

Representatives of 19 teams taking part were present at the Bahrain International Endurance Village in Sakhir, where some riders conducted their first training session.

Teams in the fray are the UK, Italy, Spain, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Uruguay, Brazil, Ecuador, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Morocco and Bahrain.

Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (Breef) is organising this first-of-its-kind global gathering in co-operation with the International Military Sports Council (CISM).

Yesterday's training was witnessed by members of the Organizing Committee, being headed by Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as well as the International Military Sports Council and teams delegations' officials.

The organising committee, meanwhile, has finalised its preparations with only three days remaining for the start of this 120km ride.

Rehearsals for the event, scheduled for tomorrow, continued yesterday at the village under the supervision of Royal Endurance Team manager Dr Khalid Ahmed Hassan. The final rehearsal to round off the preparations will take place today.

The media guests invited to attend and cover the event for their respective publications, will start arriving today. The championship has received significant attention from sports media worldwide.

More than 15 media representatives are coming to Bahrain for this purpose, including Italy's Luca Giannangeli, Eena Vanni and Giorgio Biffi, German photographer Barbara Miller, Brigitta Ernst of Germany's Dillingen, Alessandra Durazzano of Italy, Elise Wilson of Gulf News and Germany's Heidi Bernsdorff, photographer Julian Wagner.

Regional media representatives include Jordan's Munem Fakhoury, UAE's Baha Eldin Atta, Essam Al Sayed of UAE's Al Ittihad, Khaleej Times' Hisham Bader, besides Mohammed Khalifa and Mohammed Omar of Al Adiyat Magazine.

### Coverage

They will be meeting Media Committee chairman Tawfeeq Al Salhi to co-ordinate for the coverage plan and the facilities to be provided to them during their stay in Bahrain.

Advertisements in both Arabic and English languages will start showing from today on Bahrain TV Sports Channel, as well as two daily bulletins.

The channel will begin live transmission at 6.30pm through an analysis studio, and will also provide live telecasting of the veterinary examination.

Meanwhile, Chief of Staff Major General Shaikh Daij bin Salman Al Khalifa expressed pride for having this event to be organised for the first time in Bahrain, noting the significance of endurance sport as a discipline for militants to further boost means of co-operation and ties among the staff.

Shaikh Daij said the Bahrain Defence Force has been working effortlessly to provide a healthy environment and an incentive for its staff to practise various sports activities, as sport has become a major part of military duties that contribute to maintaining fitness and health, and ensuring efficiency and integration of its members.

"The Bahrain Defence Force has adopted a number of steps that will improve the sport factor, as several sporting facilities were built, with international standards, in addition to providing all the equipment and modern methods in this regards," said Shaikh Daij.

"Many sporting tournaments and competitions involving different Bahrain Defence Force staff representing all units were also organised, in order to improve their skills, and explore their talents. We are all proud to see the flag of the Kingdom of Bahrain flutters in regional, continental and global championships."

On his part, tournament director and Breef board member Shaikh Daij bin Salman Al Khalifa said the organising committee has reached an advanced stage of readiness to conduct this world event through preparing the working committees and arranging all the facilities for the event by making the endurance village technically equipped to be at its best level of readiness to host the championship.

