

Sports News

Congratulations!

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BAHRAIN Royal Endurance Team captain Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa was last night congratulated by His Majesty King Hamad after finishing on the podium in yesterday's FEI Open European Endurance Championship held in Most, Czech Republic.

Shaikh Nasser claimed third place overall in the gruelling 160-kilometre race, finishing behind the victorious Emirati pair of Sheikh Rashid bin Dalmook Al Maktoum and Ali Al Jahouri.

Shaikh Nasser also received congratulations from Al Khalidiyah Stables leader Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who also competed in yesterday's ride but could not finish due to an injury to his horse, and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation president Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, who attended the event and watched Shaikh Nasser's fine performance from the sidelines.

Shaikh Nasser was in close contention for the overall victory but in the end Sheikh Rashid was in superb form en route to claiming the victory for the UAE.

Riding his horse Yamanah, Sheikh Rashid completed the ride in a total time of seven hours 24 minutes 44 seconds. He was nearly 20 minutes faster than the rest of the field, as Al Jahouri claimed second place on his horse Farak in 7:42:19.

Shaikh Nasser, riding his horse Dhab, had his own brilliant outing, completing the event just eight seconds behind Al Jahouri in 7:42:27.

The race was divided into six stages. The first phase was 31km in distance, the second was 25km, the third 35km, the fourth 31km, and the final two phases were 19km each.

Shaikh Khalid was forced to withdraw from the event after the fourth stage as his horse Moro Famayev sustained an injury. Four other Bahrain Royal Team riders took part, including Ghazi Al Doseri riding Pegase d'Altus, Raed Mahmoud on Quenzo, Jaffar Mirza on Persepolia Larzac and Isa Abdulla Al Hazza riding Raja du Roc'h.

Competed

Many of Europe's best riders competed in yesterday's event, as well as several others from across the globe.

Classified behind Shaikh Nasser on the final standings was Spain's Dachs Jaume Punti, who finished in 7:42:40.

Frenchman Jean Philippe Frances was then fifth overall in 7:45:25, and Poland's Kart Kamila sixth in a time of 7:58:24.

Rounding out the top eight were Philippe Tomas (7:58:26) and Melody Theolissat (8:12:14), both of France.

Oman's Abdulah Al Siyabi was another rider from the GCC to do well in the event.

He finished 22nd overall in a time of 9:47:59.