

Sports News**Abdulrahim lifts endurance title**

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AHMED Jaffar Abdulrahim led a trio of Royal Endurance Team riders on to the winners' podium yesterday in the Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Endurance Horseride Championship, held at Bahrain International Endurance Village in Sakhir.

Abdulrahim claimed first place after completing the gruelling 100-kilometre ride in four hours, three minutes and 40 seconds on his horse Shardell Silverado.

He finished comfortably ahead of teammate and runner-up Gurden Singh, who was on Happy Jack and clocked 4:05:09.

Jaffer Mirza claimed third place with a finishing time of 4:13:10. Mirza was riding Sumara, and he completed the cast of Royal Endurance Team

members atop the event's final rankings.

Yesterday's championship was the fifth ride of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (Breef) season. It was held under the patronage of Breef president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who was present at the event.

The ride featured four stages, beginning with a 30-km first-leg and followed by another 30-km stage. The third was over 25 kms while the final-leg covered 15 kms.

Abdulrahim was in the lead throughout the event, displaying his class against a highly competitive field.

He raced at an average speed of 24.624kmph, which was well faster than the other competitors.

Singh had a speed of 24.475kmph in finishing almost a minute-and-a-half behind, while trailing the victor by more than 10 minutes was Mirza, who raced at 23.700kmph.

Salman Isa Al Radhi representing Hawar Stables finished in fourth place overall. Riding Tirroan, Al Radhi completed the event in 4:20:15.

Abdulla Al Khatri on RS Asrar claimed fifth place in 4:25:06; while Abdulrahman Al Ali from Al Asayel Stable, riding SS Omnia Leroy, took sixth place in 4:25:06.

Bagat Singh, another Royal Endurance Team member, finished seventh overall in 4:27:14 riding Danon Jabeen; while Khalifa Saad Mubarak on GE Lady, representing Al Asayel, rounded out the top eight in 4:27:59.

They were among 21 participants who successfully completed the race.

With his victory, Abdulhamid claimed the rolling trophy of Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President Shaikh Nasser.

Both Shaikh Nasser and Shaikh Khalid presented the winners their respective awards.

Meanwhile, an 85-km qualifying event was also held as part of yesterday's championship.

Isa Fawzi Al Doseri from Al Shawamek Stable emerged the winner. Riding Hondo, Al Doseri did well to rally from behind and complete the race in 4:02:18.

Royal Endurance Team's Abdulla Khalid Al Dosseri on Alandell Kahal was the runner-up just nine seconds behind; while his teammate Narendra Singh riding Ronan was third in 4:17:06.

Seven riders completed the qualifying ride, which was mainly for new riders seeking endurance ride experience. The event comprised three stages, including two opening legs of 30 kms each, and a 25-km closing stage.