

Horse show begins



Manama

The championship of the Late Shaikh Faisal bin Hamad Al Khalifa for locally Purebred Arabian Horses got underway at the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club.

The event is being held under the patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, Honourary President of the Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF).

Shaikh Nasser stated that holding such tournaments stems from the keenness to highlight the beauty of

purebred Arabian horses and

Bahrain's distinction in having the finest types of them, commending the good competitive level demonstrated by the participants on the first day of the championship.

Dr Khalid Ahmed Hassan, Chairman of the Championship's Organising Committee, commended Shaikh Nasser's sponsorship of this championship and the support of Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

Results (owner, points):

Mares of age 1 year A1:

- 1) Ruya Al-Layal owned by Saeed

- Mohammed Abdullah (91.56 points),
- 2) Bint Al-Noor (Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, 90.44),
- 3) Ak Aliya (Ali Ahmad Abdullah, 90.13).

Mares of age 1 year B1:

- 1) Amlia Al-Khawalid (Khalid Yaqub Al-Mas, 90.56),
- 2) Al-Anoud Al-Zain (Bashar Mustafa, 90.25),
- 3) Shaikhat Al-Anoud (Sharaf Al-Din Abdullah, 89.06).

Mares of age 2 years:

- 1) Jawaher bint Bashir (Abdullah Ahmed, 90.25),
- 2) Aliya Al-Zain (Dr Bashar Mustafa, 89.94),
- 3) Jood Al-Amir (Asmar Stable, 89.06).

TCR added to Bahrain GP

Manama

Leading touring car championship, the TCR International Series, has been added to the support race programme of the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix to take place at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir from April 14 to 16.

The weekend's support programme now features a pair of top-class international series, namely the FIA Formula 2 Championship and TCR; to go along with the leading one-make regional championship, the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East.

TCR will be holding the second of 10 rounds in its 2017 season at Bahrain.

The championship kicks off on April 1 and 2 at Rustavi International Motorpark in Tbilisi, Georgia, with other events scheduled for Spa (Belgium), Monza (Italy), Salzburgring (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Oschersleben (Germany), Sochi (Russia), Buriram (Thailand), Zhejiang (China), and Yas Marina

Circuit (Abu Dhabi).

There are 13 teams competing this season, led by defending champions Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing.

Now in its third year, TCR International Series was conceived and launched by Marcello Lotti, the man who revived the FIA World Touring Car Championship back in 2005. He envisioned a new class that could fill a gap at the bottom of the Touring Car pyramid, one that was affordable for car manufacturers and independent teams alike and was capable of offering close and exciting races.

Seven leading brands of car manufacturers are to be represented at in the series' races in Bahrain – Audi, Volkswagen, Honda, SEAT, Alfa Romeo, Opel and Kia.

The addition of the TCR International Series adds to the many attractions already lined up for this year's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

Gilbert shines at De Panne



Belgian cyclist Philippe Gilbert of Quick-Step Floors celebrates as he crosses the finish line

Brussels

Belgian Philippe Gilbert took a solo victory in yesterday's opening stage of the final warm-up event ahead of Sunday's prestigious Tour of Flanders.

The 34-year-old Quick Step Floors rider finished 17 seconds ahead of Australia's Luke Durbridge with Simone Consonni of Italy another 17 seconds further back in third at the end of the 205km first stage of Three Days of De Panne.

It was the former world champion's first victory of the season and came after recent near misses on a pair of cobbled classics -- Gilbert was second

at both E3 Harelbeke and Dwars door Vlaanderen last week.

The Ardennes Classics specialist is targeting the cobbled classics this season as he bids to win the 'Monument' Tour of Flanders for the first time.

A winner of all three Ardennes Classics -- Amstel Gold, Fleche Wallonne and Liege-Bastogne-Liege -- Gilbert's best previous finish at Flanders was third in 2009 and 2010.

He made his winning move on the Mur de Grammont climb 16km from the finish and never looked back.

Wednesday's second stage is a hilly 193km ride from Zottegem to Coxyde.



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports deputy General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar received a cable of thanks from Al Ahli Club chairman Khalid Kanoo for his support to the volleyball team at the 35th Arab Clubs Championship in Bahrain. Above, Al Ahli Club celebrating after winning the Arab Clubs Volleyball Championship in Bahrain



Bahrain's National Athletics female team have been congratulated by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of West Asian Athletics Federation, President of Bahrain Athletics Association after finishing in third position and winning the bronze medal, in the 42nd IAAF World Cross Country Championships held in Uganda. The team composed of runners Ruth Jebet, Rose Chelimo, Eunice Chumba and Desi Mokonin (58 points) managed third position in the 10km cross country race, behind Kenya (10) in first position, with Ethiopia (45). Jebet (32 minutes 49 seconds) achieved the best position among Bahraini runners by finishing in seventh position behind the top six all from Kenya. The mixed relay team of composed of Sadik Mikhou, Dalila Abdulkadir, Benson Kiplagat Seurei and Tigist Gashaw came in fifth position in 23 minutes 30 seconds.