

Rayounpour wins main event to lift Alba Cup

Al Adiyat Racing's five-year-old victor upsets race favourites to clinch stunning victory at REHC

● Rayounpour wins ahead of Desert Lion and New Show

● Aleko claims Alba Cup in penultimate race of the day

● Kuheilhan Umm Zorayr 1797 clinches Al Raffa Cup for KHK Racing

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Rayounpour stormed to an impressive victory yesterday to lift the Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) Cup in the day's main race at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa.

The trophy was one of four Alba Cups to be won on the seven-race card, and the Al Adiyat Racing five-year-old claimed a stunning result against heavily favoured opposition.

Trained by Alan Smith and saddled by Gerald Mosse, 93-rated Rayounpour won the 12-furlong event in a time of two minutes 31.982 seconds to claim the winner's share of the BD5,000 prize.

Rayounpour won by a head against Desert Lion, the 102-rated runner-up ridden by Paddy Mathers and competing for Isa Mahmood Al Seddiqi and Hesham Al Haddad, who was one of the more successful trainers yesterday.

New Show came in third place for Victorious, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan.

Rounding out the race classification from fourth through 10th, respectively, were Across the Stars, Macaque, Port Douglas, International Man, Zymyran, Speak Out and Proposed.

Meanwhile, Aleko triumphed in the penultimate race of the day, held over



Some of the winners with officials

seven furlongs and also for an Alba Cup with a BD5,000 prize.

The Naser Ali Naser Al-moamen-owned, Ali Nasser trained nine-year-old was jockeyed by Marcialis Jaures to first place in 1:23.669, winning by a short head over Kinks, competing for Isa Mahmood Al Seddiqi, Hesham Al Haddad and George Wood. Graphite Storm was third for Al Hassanain Syndicate, Ali Jan and Andrew Elliott.

Breath of Air and Gold Spinner were classified joint-fourth while Boragh Steps was fifth, while seventh through 13th were Aurag, Alabar, Sir Viktor, Aluqair, Nibras Bounty, Amaan and Sutter County.

The other two Alba Cups, each offering a BD2,500 prize, were won by Teenar and Paco Man. Teenar was the victor in the fifth race for Al Mohamediya Racing, Hussain Aldailami and Paddy Mathers, finishing ahead of Tulip Fever and Powertrain. Paco Man took the win in the third race for Abdulla

Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and Ali Moosa, with Wilayah and Shaddad right behind him.

Meanwhile, in the day's first race, Kuheilhan Umm Zorayr 1797 clinched the Al Raffa Cup, which was the other silverware up for the taking, and also



Some of the winners with officials

took the lion's share of the BD1,500 prize.

Competing for KHK Racing and Hesham Al Haddad, Rosei Jessop saddled the five-year-old to the win. In second and third were Kuheilhan Umm Zorayr 1766 and Al Hamdany 1746.

Elsewhere yesterday, Henry the Horse won race four for M and E Racing, Alan Smith and Abdulrahim Jasim, while Khaalida won race two for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and David Egan.



Six horses trained by Hesham Al Haddad were in the top three of their respective races yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club



Action from one of yesterday's races

Manama, Ahli triumph in football league

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Manama and Al Ahli both claimed much-needed victories last night in the 2020/2021 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Manama were 1-0 winners over Budaiya while Ahli defeated Al Najma with a similar 1-0 score line, giving both victors a positive start to the new calendar year.

Mahdi Abduljabbar scored the deciding goal for Manama. He converted from the penalty spot in the 62nd minute after an alleged handball in the box. Abduljabbar made no mistake with his low effort, which he sent straight to the bottom-right corner of goal.

The result gave Manama their second win in four matches and it helped propel them to seven points to tie table-leaders East Riffa, Hidd and Riffa. Budaiya, on the other hand, suffered their second loss in four games and stayed on four points in the middle of the table.

Meanwhile, Jamal Rashid supplied the winning goal for Ahli against Najma. It came off a brilliant forward-lob pass in the 60th minute from Nigerian teammate Emmanuel Edmond, who came on as a substitute.

The win was the first for Ahli



Al Ahli's Jamal Rashid vies for the ball against Al Najma's Ebrahim Ahmed Habib

in four matches, ending their rough start to their league campaign. They are now tied on four points with Najma, who were handed their second loss.

League action continues tonight with three matches on

the card, highlighted by defending champions Hidd taking on Riffa. Muharraq play Malkiya and current table-toppers East Riffa face Busaiteen in the other games. All matches kick off at 6pm.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
East Riffa	3	2	1	0	4	7
Hidd	3	2	1	0	3	7
Riffa	3	2	1	0	2	7
Manama	4	2	1	1	1	7
Busaiteen	3	1	1	1	4	4
Budaiya	4	1	1	2	-1	4
Al Ahli	4	1	1	2	-4	4
Muharraq	3	0	2	1	-1	2
Al Najma	4	0	2	2	-2	2
Al Malkiya	3	0	1	2	-6	1

Muharraq win again, hand Hala first loss

● Mohammed Juma'a scores 28 to pace Muharraq, who took to the hardwood with an all-Bahraini side, being without a professional player

● American Marcel Jones erupts for 51 points to lead Al Ettihad over Isa Town, overcoming the eight three-pointers from opposing guard Mansoor Jaber

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Muharraq defeated Al Hala 80-70 last night to register their sixth successive victory in the 2020/2021 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

A three-pointer by Mohammed Juma'a and a fast-break led to double digits with just over a minute remaining. But then back-to-back triples from Abdulrahman Ghali and Sayed Kadhem Majed brought Hala back to within five.

Mohammed Kuwayed, how-



Isa Town's Joyner Marquez goes for a basket from close range

ever, responded with his own basket from beyond the arc and that helped ice the win with 11 seconds left on the game clock.

Juma'a led all scorers with 28 points and 11 rebounds. Malabes chipped in with 19 for Muharraq, who were playing with a professional.

Canadian Keanau Post had 19 to pace Hala, while Hussain Salman and Hasan Gerashi finished with 13 apiece.

With the result, Muharraq stayed undefeated and hand-

ed Hala their first loss in four games.

Meanwhile, American import Marcel Jones scored 51 points to spearhead Al Ettihad to a 114-06 win over Isa Town.

Ettihad had a strong second quarter where they outscored Isa Town by 15, 32-17, to turn a 28-32 deficit at the end of the first quarter to a 60-49 lead at the half. They did well to hold on to their advantage from there to claim only their second win in six outings.

Jones was red hot from the field, firing in 22 field goals including five three-pointers. He also took down 29 rebounds and dished out six assists. Hassan Fahad added 19 and Ahmed Ghanim 15 for Ettihad.

Mansoor Jaber had 31 points, including an impressive eight three-pointers, to pace Isa Town in the loss. Joyner Marquez chipped in with 26 and 20 boards. Isa Town suffered their sixth straight defeat and stayed on the bottom of the standings as the league's only winless team.

In games played on Thursday night, Sitra defeated Samaheej 97-91 behind 34 points and 15 rebounds from Diallo Aboubaker. Manama were also winners, beating Bahrain Club 99-76, with Hasan Nowrooz scoring 24.