

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman meets Alba, NBB chairmen

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Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) High Committee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa received yesterday at Riffa Palace Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) chairman Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa and National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) board of directors chairman Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed in separate meetings.

In speaking with Shaikh Daij, HH Shaikh Isa highlighted the role played by the private sector and Bahraini companies, including Alba, in supporting the development of the Kingdom's horseracing sector.



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, right, with Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa during their meeting

HH Shaikh Isa noted the importance of supporting efforts to organise horseracing competitions and championships, to advance the Kingdom's regional and international standing in

organising these races.

Areas of cooperation between REHC and Alba, and ways of strengthening mutual development, were discussed.

For his part, Shaikh Daij ex-



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, right, meets with Farouk Yousuf Khalil Almoayyed

pressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman, and noted Alba's support for the sports sector and its commitment to strengthen cooperation with

REHC, which will support the club's programmes and plans.

Meanwhile, in his meeting with Almoayyed, HH Shaikh Isa commended the private sector's unwavering support to the King-

dom's regional and international initiatives and event, particularly in sports.

HH Shaikh Isa and Almoayyed reviewed areas of cooperation between REHC and NBB, which will contribute to further realising the club's goals.

HH Shaikh Isa highlighted the private sector's ongoing support for horseracing on a regional and international level, stressing that the club plans to further promote horseracing throughout the Kingdom.

For his part, Almoayyed expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HH Shaikh Isa and affirmed NBB's commitment to supporting the club's programmes and initiatives.

Stellar card set at Sakhir horseracing track

Eight races, headlined by first two of 10 events in the all-new Bahrain Turf Series, to offer thrills tomorrow at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club

● **Al Manama Cup and Al Muharraq Cup to be won in first two races of Bahrain Turf Series, carrying £50,000 apiece in prize money**

● **Three HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cups on offer, with two of them featuring BD10,000 prizes each**

● **National Day Cup, sponsored by the Ministry of Information Affairs, to be final race of the day, also with a BD10,000 prize**

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A stellar eight-race programme, headlined by the first two of 10 events in the all-new Bahrain Turf Series, is set to be held tomorrow



REHC set for packed race schedule tomorrow (File photo)

row at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

The Bahrain Turf Series races are scheduled to be the third and fourth of the day, with each offering a staggering £50,000 in prize money.

In race three, the Al Manama Cup will be up for the taking. It is an event for imported horses rated 80 to 100, and it will be held over seven furlongs.

Fourteen contenders are entered, including Kinks, Maystar,

Mission Boy, Sonja Henie, Breath of Air, Happy Craf, Mobaadel, Al Fajir Mukbile, Tamerlane, Wonder Elzaam, Inveigle, King's Knight, Natural Path, Yousini, Al Maquina and Zezenia.

Meanwhile, the fourth race will be for the Al Muharraq Cup, which is also for imported horses rated 80 to 100.

Fifteen contenders are in the fray for the event, including Dawaam, Classical Wave, Howzer Black, Macaque, Magical Wish, Bond's Boy, Dark Lion,

Forbidden Land, Ace Rothstein, Arqoob, Giustino, Mars Landing, Wait Forever, Brains and The Emperor Within.

The entrants of both events are representing a number of top owners, including Victorious, Al Mohamediya Racing, Al Adiyat Racing, Abdulla Fawzi Nass, MKAR Racing and George Baker Racing Bahrain Syndicate, to name a few; as well as leading trainers such as George Baker, Hesham Al Haddad, AM Smith, JS Moore, Charles Hill, Michael Bell, Jamie Osborne, Haider Ebrahim and Jaber Ramadhan, among others.



The Bahrain Turf Series consists of 10 £50,000 handicaps with the final race taking place on February 18 of next year

A number of renowned jockeys are competing in both races, including Martin Seidl, David Egan, John Egan, Paddy Mathers, Lee Newman, Neil Callan, Abdulla Faisal, Hussain Makki, Eoin Walsh and Saffie Osborne.

Prestigious

Elsewhere tomorrow, the six other races will each have on offer a prestigious cup, along with impressive prizes.

In the eighth and final race, the National Day Cup, sponsored by the Ministry of Information Affairs, will be held over 12 furlongs with a BD10,000 prize. Among the competing imported horses dubbed with a chance to win are Medal Winner of Al Mohamediya Racing, Recovery Run of Al Adiyat Racing, and Hold Sway of Ramadhan Stable.

In the seventh race, also for imported horses, a HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup will be up for grabs. It will be held over a distance of eight furlongs with a BD10,000 prize, and the three pre-race favourites are Byline of Al Adiyat Racing, Coolagh Forest of MKAR Racing and Beauchamp Bagenal of KHK

Racing.

The sixth race is also for a HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup, and it is to be held over a six-furlong straight with a BD10,000 prize. Buffer Zone representing Victorious, Dark Shadow of Al Mohamediya Racing and Ibn Arabi of Al Afoo Racing are tipped to have a chance amongst the field of imported horses.

Another HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup will also be won in the day's first race, set over eight furlongs with a BD3,000 prize. Kuheilal Afas 1708 owned by Victorious, Kuheilal Afas 1695 of Al Wasmiya, and Al Saqlawy 1772 of Al Riffa are the favourites.

The other two races of the day offer the HH Shaikh Faisal bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup in race five, to be held over 11 furlongs with a BD4,000 prize. Campolina, Living Art and News Breaker are the favourites. In race two for the HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup over six furlongs and a BD3,000 prize, Breathtaking, Ramani and Shamikh are tipped with a chance.

Cummins savours 'dream start' as England slump to 147 all out

AFP | Gabba

Pat Cummins took five wickets in a scintillating start to his captaincy as Australia routed England for 147 on the opening day of the Ashes at the Gabba yesterday.

After England skipper Joe Root won the toss and opted to bat, the Australian pace bowling trio of Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood ran riot to bundle the tourists out in just 50.1 overs.

Cummins, in his first game as Test captain since taking over from Tim Paine, claimed 5-38, while Starc took 2-35 and Hazlewood 2-42 as the English batters failed to adapt to the bounce and movement of a Gabba green top.

England made a disastrous



Pat Cummins

start to the series when they lost Rory Burns to the first ball of the match, Starc bowling the left-hander around his legs.

Dawid Malan, who scored six, and Root, for a duck, quickly followed as a shell-shocked England slumped to 11-3.

"It was a dream start really -- it wasn't a bad toss to lose and I thought we all bowled really well and did our jobs," Cummins said.

"To keep them to 150 was a tremendous start. I was really proud of how consistent and composed everyone was.

Bahrain bids to host 2023 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup

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Bahrain is bidding to host the 2023 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

This was announced yesterday by the Bahrain Football Association (BFA), who have already submitted an official request to football's international governing body FIFA.

Bahrain is one of five countries hoping to win the rights to stage the event. The others are Colombia, the UAE, Seychelles and Thailand.

BFA president Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa affirmed that the request to host the competition comes in line with the visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown



Bahrain in action in a past Asian qualifier for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup

Prince and Prime Minister, who are keen to further Bahrain's status as an important destination for various major sporting events.

Shaikh Ali said that the Kingdom has already achieved great success in hosting international football competitions in the past, and that he has great con-

fidence in the capabilities of the country and its people in hosting another major event for the first time.

Shaikh Ali noted that the BFA will spare no effort in its bid for the 2023 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup at the organisational, administrative, technical, marketing and media levels.

The FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is currently being held every two years. This year, it took place in August in Moscow, with 16 nations taking part.

Bahrain have appeared just twice in the competition, first in 2006 and then again in 2009. The Bahrainis reached the quarter-finals in their debut appearance, but then did not make it through in their return to the competition three years later.