

Top stables share victories at Al Raffa race

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Under the patronage and presence of HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister at the Court of the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club, the 27th race meeting of the 2025/2026 horse racing season was held. The event featured competitions for the Al Rawda Cup, Granada Cups, Empire Limo Cup, and Bahrain Airport Services (BAS) Cups at the club's Al Raffa track.

The event witnessed several winners crowned across the races. HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented the BAS Mile Cup to Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of Bahrain Airport Services, after Al Aadiyat Stables' horse "Glorious Sassi" won the fourth race.

Shaikh Nader bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa received the BAS Sprint Cup from Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, while the seventh race cup was presented by Hassan Al Meshimi, Chairman of Granada Real Estate Group, who also awarded the second race cup to Abdullah Khalid Hial Al Khathari.

The third race cup was pre-



sented by Mohammed Najeebi, CEO of Empire Limo, to winning trainer Adel Abdullah, while the sixth race cup was handed over by the company's General Manager Mohammed Amir Ibrahim to Khalid Al Harmas.

Louise Wharton, Arabian Stables official, presented the first race cup to Abdullah Fawzi Nas.

The meeting featured highly competitive races, with victories shared among several stables across the ten-race card, reflecting strong competition throughout the event.



Bahrain face tough title defence in Asia



Bahrain captain Nasser Anan lifts the inaugural 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Cup on home soil

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TDT | Manama

Bahrain will enter the 2026 AVC Men's Volleyball Cup in India, beginning on June 20, as reigning champions, having won the inaugural edition in 2025. This time, they aim to prove their success was no one-off achievement.

Now competing in the second edition of the competition, the Kingdom faces a stronger field as they look to confirm their status at the continental level.

The draw has placed Bahrain in one of the tournament's most competitive groups. Group A includes hosts India, alongside Australia (ranked 33rd in the world), Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand, setting up a demanding test for the de-

fending champions from the outset.

Australia stands out as a proven powerhouse in Asian volleyball, while Kazakhstan and Chinese Taipei bring consistency and physicality. New Zealand's international experience and India's home advantage further intensify the competition, making Group A one of the tournament's most unpredictable pools.

Bahrain arrives under French head coach Arnaud Josserand, carrying momentum from their 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup triumph on home soil at Isa bin Rashid Hall. They are the reigning champions of the inaugural edition, having defeated Pakistan 3-1 in the final on June 24, 2025 to secure their first-ever AVC title. Qatar

finished third in that tournament. Mohamed Anan was the top scorer in the final with 27 points.

That campaign also delivered individual recognition, with Mohamed Abdulla Yaqoob named Most Valuable Player and selected in the Dream Team alongside teammates Mahmood AlAffia and Ali Khamis Ebrahim.

The current squad retains a settled core, including Mohamed Anan, Hassan Al Warqaa, Mohamed Yaqoob, Ali Ebrahim, Mahmood Abdulwahid, Mohammed Jassim, and Sayed Hashim Isa, ensuring continuity and cohesion.

A significant boost comes with the return of captain Nasser Anan after a disciplinary suspension, adding depth

and firepower to Bahrain's attack.

Beyond the Nations Cup success, Bahrain's rise is reinforced by their victory in the 23rd Arab Men's Volleyball Championship, reflecting steady regional progress. They now sit 40th in the world rankings and face a sharp rise in quality against higher-ranked opposition.

Group B features Qatar (ranked 21st in the world), South Korea (ranked 26th), Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Oman, completing a balanced but highly competitive 12-team field.

For Bahrain, the focus is no longer on breakthrough success, but on confirmation. The challenge in Ahmedabad is whether they can establish themselves as consistent Asian contenders.

Slot feels 'complete support' from Liverpool chiefs despite slump



Liverpool manager Arne Slot
AFP | London

Arne Slot says he feels "complete support" from Liverpool's hierarchy despite mounting pressure on the Dutch manager after a disastrous season.

Liverpool have lost three games in a row, including a 4-0 hammering by Manchester City in the FA Cup and a 2-0 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

Last year's Premier League champions, who host Fulham on Saturday, face a battle even to qualify for next season's Champions League.

But Slot told reporters yesterday he was confident he had the backing of the club's owners and fans despite a run of just two wins in eight games.

"I'm repeating myself a lot, but I've said it many times, I feel a lot of support, but not only from the owners and from Richard (Hughes, the sporting director) and Michael

(Edwards, CEO of football)," he said.

He added: "As weird as it might sound, I also feel the support of the fans. We were going out in Paris when the players went out for the warm-up, and the fans, after a 4-0 loss (to City), immediately started singing, 'We love you, Liverpool'."

"And after we were, I think it's fair to say, outplayed over 90 minutes, we went to the away end and they were still singing for us and clapping for us, so that's support I've felt, we've felt constantly."

"And I think, but I've said this many times as well, the club knows in which period of time we are in, and in the meantime I feel complete support."

The Reds are fifth in the Premier League table, with the top five teams guaranteed Champions League football next season. They are just a point ahead of Chelsea, with Brentford and Everton also snapping at their heels.