

Kingdom gears up for star-studded Bahrain International Cup

Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club readies world-class facilities ahead of Friday’s prestigious international fixture

- Event now upgraded to Group 2
- Elite horses from four nations competing
- Bahrain’s “Kalif” leads home hopes

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The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club is stepping up preparations to host the seventh edition of the Bahrain International Cup on Friday evening, welcoming elite horses, trainers, and jockeys from across the globe. Organizers said intensive work is underway to ensure the event’s success at the Sakhir course, with global sponsors lending support. Held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Court of the Prime Minister, the event has grown into one of the region’s most prestigious international racing fixtures. The cup’s upgrade to Group 2 status and an increase in prize money have reinforced Bahrain’s position as a rising destination in global horse racing. The 2025 edition carries additional significance, bringing together some of the highest-ranked horses and leading jockeys. The international



Participating horses continue their preparations

al field includes entries from the UAE alongside Bahrain’s representing Victorious Forever Britain, France, Ireland, and own contender “Kalif,” rep-



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The event’s prestige has been elevated as it has been upgraded to Group 2 status, a higher classification that reflects the quality of the competition and attracts a more elite field

ers are the UAE’s “Military Order,” Britain’s “Lions Pride,” “Persica,” “Pride of Arras,” and “Royal Champion,” France’s “Bright Picture,” and Ireland’s “Gallen.” The main race will be supported by a series of competitive events, including the Gulf Air Cup for purebred Bahraini Arabian horses, the Brown Advisory Cup for locally bred horses, and additional contests such as the Lexus Cup, Bayonne Cup, Bapco Energies Cup, and Economic Development Board Cup. Spectators can expect a festive evening filled with both top-class racing and family-oriented entertainment. Organizers said the event highlights Bahrain’s growing reputation as a host of world-class sporting occasions while promoting sports tourism and showcasing the Kingdom’s cultural heritage. Tickets for the Bahrain International Cup are available through the club’s official website, Bahrainturfclub.com, with seating options ranging from family areas to premium track-side sections. International horses and racing delegations have already arrived in the Kingdom and are training ahead of Friday’s marquee event.

Muharraq Snap Winless Run with Late Surge Against Ittihad

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Muharraq Club finally got off the mark in the 2025–26 FIBA West Asia Super League, edging Saudi Arabia’s Ittihad Club 84-79 in a fascinating contest at the BBA Arena yesterday. The Group A clash saw Muharraq overcome an early deficit and produce a late flourish to secure their first win after back-to-back losses to Kazma SC and Shabab Al Ahli. The Red Wolves entered the game riding high on momentum from their recent domestic success, having claimed the 2024–25 Super Cup by defeating Manama. Ittihad, meanwhile, sought to extend their perfect start in the Gulf League, having already beaten Shabab Al Ahli 94-88 and Kazma 92-81. Muharraq stormed out of the blocks, posting 36 points in the first quarter, only for Ittihad to recover with 22 points in the second. The seesaw battle continued through the third, with Muharraq holding a 69-65 advantage heading into the final period. In the closing minutes, Hamilton and Mohammed Ameer



Mohammed Hamoda celebrates as coach Schomers rallies Muharraq

stepped up. With the score tied at 79-all, Hamilton converted a three-point play with 1:21 remaining before feeding Ameer for a decisive underbasket finish with 24.3 seconds left, sealing the win and spoiling Ittihad’s 3-0 bid. Top performers for Muharraq included Nick West with 25 points and 8 rebounds, Hamilton’s near triple-double of 20 points, 10 rebounds, and 8 assists, and Kerwin Roach Jr., who added 18 points, 10 assists, 6 rebounds, 5 steals, and a block. “We had some really good fastbreaks and stops when it counted, and that made the difference,” said head coach Peter Schomers. Muharraq now look ahead

to their next fixtures: they host Kuwait’s Kazma on Bahraini National Day, December 16 at 7:30pm at the BBA Arena, then welcome UAE’s Shabab Al Ahli on January 12 at 7:30pm, aiming to avenge their earlier defeat, before closing the Group A phase against Saudi Arabia’s Ittihad in Jeddah on January 19 at 8pm.

‘Fired-up’ Fritz sees off Musetti in ATP Finals

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Taylor Fritz got his bid for a first ATP Finals crown off to the best possible start with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-4 win over home favourite Lorenzo Musetti in Turin yesterday. The 28-year-old American, who lost in last year’s final to Jannik Sinner, was out of the blocks quickly in the Jimmy Connors group match, taking an early break and holding on to pocket the first set. The crowd did their best to lift a visibly fatigued Musetti

who was a late addition to the line-up. He only qualified for the Finals on Saturday after Novak Djokovic pulled out with injury, shortly after beating the Italian in the final of the Athens event. Winning 84 percent of his first serves and giving away just four break point chances, none of which were taken, Fritz continued to control the match. The American broke to go 3-1 up and served cleanly all the way to the line.

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