

World's elite horses gather in Bahrain

Top horses and trainers ready for Bahrain International Cup as anticipation builds



● **Britain's "Royal Champion" is the pre-race favourite**

● **Extensive entertainment and fan games available**

TDT | Manama

The Rashid Equestrian and Horse Racing Club is finalising preparations for the seventh edition of the Bahrain International Cup, set

to take place on Friday.

The highly anticipated event will feature elite owners, trainers, jockeys, and horses from around the world.

As the international race draws near, excitement is mounting among fans and experts alike. The Bahrain International Cup will feature some of the world's most accomplished horses, including Britain's "Royal Champion," a pre-race favourite with a strong record of international wins.

Bahrain will be represented by "Kalif" from Victorious Forever Stables, who finished third



The event will feature jockey Diane McMonigle, who is set to make her highly anticipated Bahrain racing debut alongside other top international riders

in the previous edition and is aiming for a podium finish once again.

The draw for starting positions will be held today.

The event will also feature an extensive entertainment program designed to engage fans and families. Spectators can purchase tickets via bahrainracingclub.com, with multiple seating options and on-site ticket sales available on race day.

Fans can take part in the popular "Select 6" prediction competition, which returns this season with major cash prizes,

or join the newly launched "Horse Racing Fantasy" game, available on both Apple's App Store and Google Play, offering an interactive experience for racing enthusiasts.

The Bahrain International Cup will attract some of the sport's biggest names, including top international trainers such as Joseph O'Brien, John Gosden, Charlie Appleby, and André Fabre, alongside Bahraini trainer Fawzi Nass. Among the jockeys confirmed are William Buick, James Doyle, Oisin Murphy, Robert Havlin, Maxime Guyon, and newcomer

Diane McMonigle, who will make her Bahrain racing debut.

In addition to the main event, seven supporting races will take place for various sponsors' cups, featuring 66 horses from Bahraini and international stables, including locally bred and purebred Arabian entries.

The combination of world-class competition, entertainment, and fan engagement is set to make this year's Bahrain International Cup one of the most exciting sporting spectacles on the Kingdom's calendar.

Yamal released from World Cup qualifiers by 'upset' Spanish federation

AFP | Madrid

Lamine Yamal has been released from the Spain squad for their upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifying matches after undergoing treatment, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced yesterday.

The federation's medical team announced "their surprise and upset" after discovering on Monday that the 18-year-old "had undergone an invasive radiofrequency procedure to

treat his pubic discomfort that same morning", a statement yesterday said.

Yamal had been due to report for international duty on Monday for the start of the Spain team's training camp.

"This procedure was performed without prior notification to the national team's medical staff, who only learned of the details through a report received... last night (Monday)," the statement added.

The recommended recovery time after such a procedure is seven

to 10 days, according to the RFEF statement, with the federation deciding "to release the player from the current squad" to prioritise Yamal's "health, safety and

Lamine Yamal

Al Binkhalil claims overall victory as Saleh takes medal at Awali Golf Club Tournament

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Yousif Ali Al Binkhalil claimed the overall title, and Nasser Yaqoob Saleh secured the prestigious Medal award following a competition marked by exceptional scores, attributed to ideal November weather conditions. Prizes for the event were presented by Captain Steve Newall and Tournament Director Rashed Al Qutami.

Al Binkhalil emerged as the overall winner, recording a "colourful" scorecard that featured an eagle, four birdies, and six pars. Saleh, the "grandmaster," won the Medal with an impressive gross score of 70, successfully beating three competitors who finished two strokes behind him.

In the divisional competitions, Wendy Doherty secured



TD Rashed Al Qutami, winner Yousif and Captain Steve Newall

the Division Three winner's title with a net 68, a result she noted has significantly changed her confidence regarding her ability to perform well in Medal competitions, having previously focused on Stableford.

Zsuzsar Madarwala finished runner-up in the division with a net 70.

In Division Two, Matthew Deakin continued his strong season by winning on countback with a net 69, edging out runner-up Adnan Mohammed Al Sowaidi, who also shot a net 69.

Lee Mclear took the Division One title with a net 69, highlighted by five birdies, while Mohamed Ali Al Kowari, who carded 15 pars, was runner-up with a net 70. The club announced that the next event on the calendar will be the Banz Fourball.

Atalanta turn to Palladino after Juric sacking

AFP | London

Atalanta announced the arrival of Raffaele Palladino as coach yesterday, following on from the sacking of Ivan Juric.

The 2024 Europa League

winners said in a statement the former Italian international had signed a contract until June 30, 2027.

Palladino, 41, cut his coaching teeth at Monza, first with the youth teams before taking charge

of the first team in 2022 and competing in two seasons in the top flight.

He then joined Fiorentina, finishing sixth in Serie A before surprisingly departing last July after only one season in charge.



Raffaele Palladino

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