

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman chairs REHC High Committee meeting

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His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) High Committee, yesterday chaired a meeting of the REHC High Committee, at Riffa Palace.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman highlighted the unwavering support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in promoting the Kingdom's horseracing sector and advancing it on all levels.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman extended his gratitude to all members of the REHC for their tireless efforts in implementing wide-ranging initiatives and programmes that support the club's goals.



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa chairs the meeting yesterday

During the meeting, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman reviewed a proposal on the REHC's new master plan, which will play a central role in cementing the Kingdom's leading position in the horse-racing sector, noting its importance in realising the club's forward-looking ambitions.

HH was also briefed on the club's unified framework for

priority projects and programmes, which aims to position the club as one of the most prominent entertainment and sports destinations in the Kingdom.

HH emphasised the importance of strategic planning and adhering to tailored and well-defined priorities, in order to strengthen the Kingdom's horse-racing sector locally, and promote it regionally and globally.

The REHC High Committee also reviewed a number of organisational plans, including the 2022-2023 calendar of activities and preparations for the upcoming season.

The REHC High Committee concluded by approving a number of items on its agenda, including proposals for development of the Club's operations, which will improve operational efficiency and productivity.

Royal Endurance Team set for Fontainebleau race

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Preparations are in full swing at Bahrain's Royal Endurance Team to participate in the International Endurance Race of Fontainebleau, France, set to take place this weekend.

Captained by HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Endurance Team aims to build on its recent successes in major European races in which HH had claimed four consecutive titles, namely those of the Royal Windsor Horse Show, the Montalcino international endurance championship in Italy, the World Endurance Champion at Šamorín, Slovakia, and FEI World Endurance Championship for eight-year-old horses in Spain.

The Royal Endurance Team is set to undergo the veterinary examination on Thursday, ahead of the weekend's races, including the senior 160-km, 127-km and 120-km races, the



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

junior 120-km race and the 100-km race.

The Royal Endurance Team are major favourites to win the Fontainebleau championship, as some of its riders had already claimed the title of this prestigious event which always witnesses fierce competition.

In this regard, Royal Endurance Team Director, Dr. Khalid

Ahmed Hassan, affirmed that HH Shaikh Nasser's captaincy of the team will reflect positively on the performance of riders.

He indicated that HH Shaikh Nasser has always been a source of inspiration for Bahraini jockeys, as they have gained experience and distinguished skills thanks to their participation in numerous races alongside HH.

Sitra stun Khaldiya in King's Cup

Underdogs eke out penalty shootout victory against holders to advance to quarter-finals of this year's prestigious single-elimination football tournament

● **Sitra's substitute goalkeeper Godwill Chia Ndang makes important save in shootout**

● **Manama join Sitra in quarter-finals following hard-earned 2-0 win against Bahrain Club**

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Sitra stunned holders Al Khaldiya last night to make it through to the quarter-finals of this season's His Majesty the King's Cup football tournament.

Sitra needed to go the distance to book their seats in a 4-2 penalty shootout win against their heavily favoured rivals.



Sitra's Vincent Emmanuel Ani tries to keep possession against Al Khaldiya's Rafael Henrique Assis Cardoso

Manama, meanwhile, joined Sitra in the last eight after defeating Bahrain Club 2-0 to advance.

Both victors now move on to

face each other in the quarters. They are the fifth and sixth squads to qualify for this stage, following in the footsteps of league champions Riffa, Mu-



Sitra and Manama now move on to the round of eight where they will face one another in an exciting affair

harraq, Al Najma and Al Ahli.

The final two spots will be decided tonight when Al Hala face Tadamon and East Riffa take on Hidd.

The quarter-finals have yet to be scheduled by the Bahrain Football Association.

In Sitra's win last night, both teams had chances to find the

net during regular time but the 90 minutes ended goalless.

That sent the match directly into penalties, and Sitra were dominant from the start.

Bahrain international striker Ismaeel Abdullatif kicked off the shootout with an uncharacteristic miss as his effort bounced off the left post. Sitra's Seydina Laye Dabo then took advantage, sending Khaldiya's Sayed Shubbar Alawi the wrong way.

Khaldiya's Samy Frioui's attempt was then saved by Sitra's substitute goalkeeper Godwill Chia Ndang, and then Ebrahim Ahmed Habib made it 2-0 for his team.

Penalties from Sayed Dhiya Saeed and Sayed Qassim Alawi kept Sitra in full control, and then Mahdi Humaidan reduced Khaldiya's deficit to 2-3 with his effort.

That set the stage for the win-

ner for Mishal Mohammed with one round of attempts still remaining. Mohammed made no mistake, sending the ball into the bottom-left corner of the net past Alawi.

In Manama's triumph, Mahdi Abduljabbar opened the scoring in the 64th minute with a short stab just a metre from goal. Abduljabbar was on the receiving end of a cross from the left of the box and he simply guided the ball into the net.

Manama then sealed the victory in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time with a brilliant counter-attack that ended with Syrian Mohammed Al Hallaq scoring following a fine one-two with Ali Habib.

Tonight's concluding round of 16 matches are both scheduled to kick off at 6pm at separate venues.

Ronaldo to reject improper conduct charge: Ten Hag

Reuters | London

Erik ten Hag said yesterday that Cristiano Ronaldo will reject an improper conduct charge from the Football Association after the Manchester United star was involved in an altercation with an Everton fan last season.

Video footage showed Ronaldo appearing to knock a young boy's mobile phone to the ground after United's 1-0 defeat at Goodison Park on April 9.

The 37-year-old was cautioned by Merseyside Police and the FA last month charged Ronaldo over the incident.

United manager Ten Hag



Erik ten Hag and Cristiano Ronaldo

has spoken to Ronaldo and said the Portugal striker will contest the FA charge.

"We talked about that and he will not accept it," Ten Hag told reporters.

The incident with the Everton fan occurred when Ronaldo was making his way towards the tunnel and the former Real Madrid and Juventus star later issued an apology for his actions.

Mohammed triple lifts Najma against Samaheej

● **Hussain Mohammed buries game-winning three-pointer for Al Najma in 84-82 win against Samaheej in Zain Bahrain Basketball League**

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Hussain Mohammed buried a game-winning three-pointer with 37 seconds to go to lift Al Najma to a hard-earned 84-82 victory over Samaheej last night in their week five game of the 2022/2023 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Trailing by one, Mohammed received a pass from veteran court general Hussain Shaker on the left baseline and fired in the corner shot to give Najma the 84-82 advantage.

That eventually proved to be the

last basket of the game, as efforts from Ahmed Fateel and Basel Adel to salvage the contest for Samaheej came up short.

It was a close game throughout, with Najma going up by 10 in the first half for the biggest lead of the contest. Samaheej were able to go ahead in the fourth and went up 82-81 with 43 seconds left on a pair of Fateel free-throws. But that set the stage for Mohammed's heroics.

Nick Ward top scored for Najma with 33 points and 11 rebounds, while Mohammed Hussain added 15, Ali Jaber 13 and Mohammed 12.

For Samaheej, Stephen Hurt had a monster effort of 21 points and 22 rebounds in the loss, while Hussain Busafwan and Sayed Ali Mahmood each chipped in with 15.

Najma claimed only their second win in four games with the result, while Samaheej suffered their fourth loss to go with one win.

League action continues next week.



Al Najma's Nick Ward looks to score from below the basket against Samaheej last night