

Balestra triumphs in main race at REHC



HH Shaikh Isa at yesterday's events



One of the day's hotly contested races

BD3,000 total prize, and it was over 12 furlongs for imported horses aged three and up. Jazeel triumphed in 2:32.429, two-and-a-half-lengths ahead of runner-up Port Douglas, owned by Al Hassanain Syndicate, trained by Mohammed Al Sammak and ridden by Abdulla Faisal. Macaque came third to make it two horses in the prizes for Victorious and Hesham Al Haddad, while being ridden by Paddy Mathers; while Saajid came fourth for Shamtoot Syndicate, Taleb Ali and Hasan Al Saffar.

In the fifth race of the day for one of two Porsche Cups, Yaoud was the winner amongst just four locally bred horses aged three years old and up, who were contesting for the their shares of the BD3,000 total prize. Owned by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa and trained by James Naylor, jockey Andrew Elliott rode Yaoud to the victory in 1:25.561. He won the seven-furlong event by a head's length in

front of Ramani, competing for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Lee Newman. Harash was third and Sadara fourth to make it three horses in the top four for His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa and James Naylor. Harash was ridden by Paddy Mathers while Sadara was steered by Abdulla Faisal.

The fourth race was also for a Porsche Cup. It was over seven furlongs with a BD3,000 prize for imported horses three years old and up. A huge field of 17 participants were in the fray, with none quicker than race winner Five Angels and jockey Abdulla Faisal. The Victorious-owned, Yousif Taher-trained victor completed the distance in 1:24.750 – one-and-three-quarters length ahead of runner-up Gold Spinner, owned by Al Afoo Racing, trained by Mohammed Saeed and ridden by Lee Newman. Android was third for Al Mallah Syndicate, Abduljaleel Al Mallah and Andrew Elliott, while

Punk came fourth for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and Adrie De Vries.

The third race of the day for the Chevron Cup covered a distance of six furlongs, and it carried a prize purse of BD2,000. The WAHO race was for three-year-olds and older, and Al Saqlaawy 1772 ridden by Marcialis Jaures took first place. Owned by Al Riffa and trained by Yousif Alboainain, the winner completed the race in 1:24.683. Tuwaisaan 1762 owned by Victorious, trained by Yousif Taher and ridden by Abdulla Faisal finished in second place one-and-three-quarters lengths behind, while in third was Al Krush 1751, competing for Al Sakhir, Jaffar Marzooq and Adnan Jaffar. Al Mlolesh 1748 rounded out the top four for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Husain Makki.

The first race of the day for a Bahrain Jewellery Centre Cup over 10 furlongs with a BD2,000 featured six locally bred horses three years old and above.



Balestra won the Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup after beating eight other entered imported horses

Gharaieb won in 2:08.125 for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Lee Newman. Five lengths behind in second place was Dushanbe, competing for His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Abdulla Faisal; while in third was Pink Ribbon Girl for M and E Racing, Alan Smith and Rosie Jessop. Valentine finished fourth for Abdulla Fawzi Nass, Hesham Al Haddad and Paddy Mathers.

In the second race of the day, held over six furlongs with a BD2,000 prize, Shajer won amongst the nine competing local breeds aged three and up. Owned by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, trained by James Naylor and ridden by Abdulla Faisal, Shajer took the win in 1:13.025. Blue Angel finished second for Victorious, Alan Smith and Jacob Butterfield, while completing the top four and the prize winners were Safwa for His Highness Shakh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott, and Richard Cranium, competing for Victorious, Alan Smith and Hasan Al Mawali.

TDT | Manama

Balestra lifted the Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup yesterday after winning the day's main race at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa.

REHC High Committee Deputy Chairman HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa was on hand to watch all of yesterday's action.

Owned by Al Mohamediya Racing, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and ridden by Adrie De Vries, Balestra won the eight-furlong race in one minute 35.706 seconds to claim the lion's share of the BD3,000 total

prize and beat the eight other entered imported horses aged three years and older.

Balestra was one-and-a-half-lengths in front of Coolagh Forest at the finish. The second-placer was competing for Mohammed Khalid Abdulrahim, Paul D'Arcy and John Egan. Tamerlane came third for Al Mohamediya Racing, Ali Al Ansari and Paddy Mathers; while Starboy was fourth for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Husain Makki.

The sixth race of the day made it back-to-back victories for Hesham Al Haddad and Adrie De Vries. Their horse Jazeel was the winner for owners Victorious. The sprint also carried a



REHC Executive Director Shaikh Salman bin Rashed Al Khalifa, right, with Irish Thoroughbred Marketing's Jeremy Greene



Winners receiving their trophies

French Open to be Federer's only claycourt appearance in 2020

Reuters | Mumbai

Roger Federer will make his only appearance on clay this season at Roland Garros, his agent has told Reuters.

The Swiss skipped the entire claycourt season in 2017 and 2018 and last year played only two tournaments on the surface before arriving in Paris for the French Open.

There was speculation that Federer would include the Madrid and Rome Masters in his truncated schedule for 2020 but his agent, Tony Godsick,

said that was not the case.

"As his schedule states, he plans on playing just Roland Garros," Godsick told Reuters.

The 38-year-old has been cutting down on the number of tournaments he plays over the last few years in a bid to prolong his career.

Unlike his main rivals, Federer, who won the last of his 20 Grand Slam titles in 2018 at Melbourne Park, opted out of the inaugural ATP Cup in Australia to spend more time with his family before launching his 22nd season on Tour.

Chelsea's Pulisic to miss Man Utd clash, says Lampard

Reuters | London

Chelsea forward Christian Pulisic has stepped up his recovery from an adductor injury but Monday's Premier League game against Manchester United comes too soon for the American, manager Frank Lampard said yesterday.

Pulisic has not played since the 1-1 draw at Brighton & Hove Albion on New Year's Day.

Striker Tammy Abraham (ankle) will be assessed before the game while midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek (Achilles) is close to returning.

"Christian trained with the under-23s today, so won't be fit. Ruben won't be fit for this game... he's getting closer... it's great to have him nearly back," Lampard told reporters.

"Tammy's still feeling the effects. He trained today... we're hopeful but he's to be assessed over the weekend."

Lampard earlier said

winger Hakim Ziyech will add the spark that has gone missing from their midfield after the club agreed to sign the Morocco international from Ajax Amsterdam.

The 26-year-old will join the Premier League team in the close season after the two clubs agreed an initial deal for 40 million euros (\$43.36 million) on Thursday.

"He's cer-

tainly a player we hope can bring that bit of creativity," Lampard said.

"He scores goals, assists... he's got a great left foot and plays generally off the right side but can play behind the front man. Probably when you look at us this season, there have been game where we may have maybe struggled to unlock the door."

Chelsea, who successfully appealed a one-year transfer ban, did not sign any recruits in January and Lampard was asked if more arrivals were expected at Stamford Bridge.



Christian Pulisic

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