

SPORTS

Al Salam Bank, REHC Cups up for grabs

REHC to witness seven races today

TDI | Manama

Seven races are set to be held today at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa.

Four of the sprints will be for Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cups while another two will be for REHC Cups.

The seventh and final race of the day, for an Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup, will be over 10 furlongs with a prize of BD4,000 to be shared between the top four, including BD2,400 going to the winner. A total of 13 imported horses rated zero to 95 are entered in the event.

Race six is also for an Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup, and it will be over eight furlongs with a prize of BD3,000, with BD1,800 going to the winner. Fifteen imported horses rated zero to 80 are entered in the sprint.

In race five, which is for an REHC Cup, seven horses will be competing over eight furlongs for the right to claim the lion's share of the BD4,000 total prize, which is BD2,400 for the winner. This race for local breeds has three horses tipped with a chance to win, including Al Nimra owned by Abdulla Fawzi Nass, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and to be ridden by Paddy Mathers; Ramani owned by Al Afoo Racing Stable, trained by Mohammed Saeed and to be ridden by Lee



Action from a previous meeting at REHC (file photo)

Newman; and The Dark Knight owned by Victorious, trained by Alan Smith and to be ridden by Paul Hanagan.

Race number four also features a strong field of 15 horses for another Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup. It will be contested by imported horses rated zero to 75 over a distance of six furlongs. The total prize is BD2,000, with BD1,200 going to the winner.

The third race for an Al Salam Bank Bahrain Cup will be over 12 furlongs with a prize of BD2,000, with the winner pocketing BD1,200. Six locally bred

horses are entered.

Race two for an REHC Cup will see a field of 12 competing over a seven-furlong course. The total prize purse is BD3,000, with BD1,800 going to the victor. Tipped to have a chance at the victory are Pulp Fiction, owned by Al Adiyat Racing, trained by Alan Smith and to be ridden by Paul Hanagan; Saraab, owned by Al Afoo Racing Stable, trained by Mohammed Saeed and to be ridden by Lee Newman; and Jazla, owned by HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, trained by James Naylor and

to be ridden by Andrew Elliott.

Race one for the day will be over seven furlongs, with a total prize of BD1,500, and the winner taking home BD900. Six horses are entered, with three tipped to have a chance. They are Al Mlolesh 1748, owned by Victorious, trained by Yousif Taher and to be ridden by Abdulla Faisal; Al Krush 1751, owned by Al Sakhir, trained by Jaffar Marzooq and to be ridden by Andrew Elliott; and Al Musannah 1724, who will be competing for Al Riffa Yousif Alboainain and Hasan Al Saffar.

Peterhansel sneaks stage win as Sainz takes lead into Dakar finale



Overall car leader Sainz in action yesterday in the Dakar Rally's penultimate stage

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The 2020 Dakar Rally car battle is set to go down to the wire after Stephane Peterhansel and co-driver Paulo Fiuza of Bahrain JCW X-Raid Team won the 11th and penultimate stage yesterday in Saudi Arabia.

Competitors battled it out in the event's last super-long leg, at 744km, which went from Shubaytah to Haradh with over 379km of it being special.

Peterhansel and Fiuza triumphed in a time of four hours 14 minutes and 11 seconds, just 10 seconds ahead of Nasser Al Attiyah and Matthieu Baumel of Toyota Gazoo Racing.

With their classification, they cut down the gap to overall car leader Carlos Sainz, driving the other Bahrain JCW X-Raid car alongside Lucas Cruz.

Two-time winner Sainz had carved out a healthy lead of more than 18 minutes over Al

Attiyah and Peterhansel heading into yesterday's events, but his two main rivals who have 10 Dakar titles between them made sure the inaugural Saudi edition goes undecided until the very last stage.

Sainz and Cruz were third on stage 11, just a little over eight minutes behind the winners.

They now have just a 10-minute lead over their two rival cars on the general ranking.

Peterhansel, 54, admitted: "We pushed all day long and we gained some time, but not enough. Now, if Carlos can bring it home, it'll be great for the team."

Sainz, 57, added: "It's good to have put the marathon stage behind us. Just one day to go. I'll keep an eye on the gaps and stay focused for tomorrow."

The 12th and final stage will see the rally head from Haradh onto the home straight, with a relatively modest 447km, and 374km of special stages, to the finish in Qiddiya.

Regulations, weights of 'GCC Strongest Man Championship' qualifiers approved

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The organising committee of the GCC Strongest Man "Heavyweight" Championship, headed by the Director of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office Ahmed Al Shaikh, yesterday announced that it has approved the cate-

gories, weights and regulations of the qualifying rounds for the participants from GCC countries in the first edition of the championship for heavyweights.

The final stages of the championship will be held from April 9, 2019, to April 11, 2019, under the patronage of Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, under the slogan #GCC_Challenge at the open area near Bahrain International Circuit. The revenues generated from the championship, which comes within His Highness's initiatives to support the

humanitarian and sports fields. will be allocated to support cancer patients.

The qualifying rounds will witness three stages, which include "lifting the trunk", "the farmer's walk" and "lifting the car". Participants will be given a minute to finish each of the three stages.

The committee confirmed that it will begin its visits by the end of this month to the brotherly GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, the first destination, followed by Kuwait, the UAE and Oman, respectively, in order to meet the youth who are interested in taking part in the championship.

The committee had previously announced that a website has been allocated for the registration for the championship on www.gccstrongestman.com, in addition to an official page for the championship on Instagram (@gccstrongestman), in which inquiries will be received through direct messages.

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Stokes, Pope regain advantage for England in third Test

AFP | Port Elizabeth

World cricketer of the year Ben Stokes survived three reviews by South Africa as he and Ollie Pope regained the initiative for England on the first day of the third Test at St George's Park on Thursday.

England were 224 for four at the end of an attritional day during which South Africa had briefly claimed the advantage.

England were 148 for four when Stokes and Pope came together, in danger of failing to capitalise on batting first on a placid pitch on a hot,

sunny day.

But the pair added 76 without being parted and were able to lift a slow scoring rate after England were able to score only 117 for two in 58 overs before tea. Stokes was unbeaten on 38 at the close while Pope made 39 not out.

Stokes came into the match a day after being named player of the year by the International Cricket Council and on the back of a man-of-the-match performance when England levelled the four-match series by winning the second Test in Cape Town by 189 runs.

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