

Happy Craf lifts Al Jasra Cup

Jockey Edinson Rodriguez saddles five-year-old contender to victory for M and E Racing and AM Smith, to win sixth £50,000 race in prestigious Bahrain Turf Series at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club

● **Rashed Racing takes double with Lahoug and Overseas, both for a Lexus Cup**

● **Jockey Marvin Grandin wins two of the day's races riding Lahoug and Tall Order**

● **Trainers AM Smith and Yousif Alboainain claim two wins apiece with their horses**

TDT | Manama

Happy Craf lifted the Al Jasra Cup yesterday for a second victory in the prestigious Bahrain Turf Series at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

After clinching the Al Manama Cup last December in the series' first event, the M and E Racing-owned, AM Smith-trained five-year-old took the honours in the sixth of the 10 £50,000 races, saddled by Edinson Rodriguez.

Happy Craf finished first after seven furlongs and was followed by Byline, who was competing for Al Adiyat Racing, AM Smith and Charles Bishop, while Koolasice came third for Mark T Griffins, Ross O'Sullivan and Gary Halpin.

In attendance at yesterday's races was REHC High Commit-



The Al Jasra Cup awarding ceremony taking place

tee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

There were eight events in all on the day, with five Lexus Cups to be won in the eighth, sixth, fourth, third and second events.

In race eight, Tall Order captured a smooth victory for Al Mallah Syndicate, Abduljaleel Al Mallah and Marvin Grandin over a 12-furlong distance to claim the lion's share of the BD4,000 prize. Wild Hero was second for HBR Racing, Hareb Almalki and Husain Makki, while Law of One finished third for Al Afoo Racing, Mohammed Saeed and Hasan Al Saffar.

In the sixth race of the day held over seven furlongs with a BD2,000 prize purse, Lahoug came first for Rashed Racing, Yousif Alboainain and Marvin Grandin. Wewonitsixtimes took second for M and E Racing,

AM Smith and Charles Bishop, while Wahaaj was third for Al Nuwayef Racing, AM Smith and Abdulrahim Jasim.

Chimgan was the winner in the fourth race's Lexus Cup, carrying a BD2,000 prize, for Al Mohamediya Racing and Osama Hashim, saddled by Paddy Mathers. Second over the six-furlong straight was Instinctive Move, representing Al Adiyat Racing, AM Smith and Charles Bishop, while Altai came third for Al Mohamediya Racing, Osama Hashim and Jimmy Quinn.

In race three, held over five furlongs with a BD2,000 prize, Overseas emerged victorious for Rashed Racing, trained by Yousif Alboainain and ridden by Marcialis Jaures. Wafiah was the runner-up for Al Nayefaat, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Abbas Ebrahim, whereas Remiah was third for Al Afoo Racing, Mohammed Saeed and Hasan Al Saffar.



Happy Craf became the second horse to have won two of the six races held so far in the all-new Bahrain Turf Series so far, having claimed both the Al Manama Cup and Al Jasra Cup. The other horse is Mars Landing, who won the Al Muharraq Cup and Al Dana Cup

The day's second race saw Batmobile take the Lexus Cup over six furlongs for a share of the BD2,000 prize. The Victorious-owned horse is trained by AM Smith and was ridden by Hasan Asghar. Magdsood came second for Zahra Ebrahim Abdulla, Samir Dawood and Husain Makki, while Safwa was third for HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Ebrahim Nader.

Elsewhere yesterday, the seventh race for the REHC Cup was lifted by Ecosystem for MKAR Racing and Haider Ebrahim, while saddled by Ebrahim Nader. Jamais Assez was the runner-up for Al Mallah Syndicate, Abduljaleel Al Mallah and Mar-



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, right, at yesterday's races

vin Grandin, while Apres Dark was third for HBR Racing, Hareb Almalki and George Wood.

The first race was held over six furlongs for the Hasan bin Saleh Al Rowai Cup, carrying a BD1,500 prize. KHK Racing's Kuheilan Umm Zorayr 1797

clinched the win for trainer Hesham Al Haddad while ridden by Husain Makki. Al Jellaby 1791 came second for Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Charles Bishop, while Kuheila't Al Adiyat 1782 was third for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Anas Al Siyabi.



Action from yesterday's events

Bahrain kick start main round bid in Asian handball

● **Kingdom's senior men's national team set to take on Kuwait in Group II, which also includes Iraq and Iran**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national handball team take on Kuwait today to kick start their main round campaign in the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship, being held in Saudi Arabia.

The Bahrainis are in Group II in this stage of the competition alongside Kuwait, Iran and Iraq.

Their first game today against the Kuwaitis is scheduled for a 6pm start at the Ministry Sports Hall in Dammam.

The nationals play their second game against Iraq on Monday, and then go head-to-head with Iran on Wednesday.

The Bahrainis must finish amongst the top two in their group to advance to the semi-finals. Should they finish third, they will play for fifth place overall, and if they finish last in the group, they will contend for seventh place overall.



Bahrain's Mohammed Mirza in action during the preliminaries (File photo)

The teams in Group I are South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Uzbekistan.

The tournament also acts as the continental qualifying event for the 2023 IHF World Men's Handball Championship. The top five-ranked teams earn an automatic berth to the worlds.

The nationals qualified for this main round after sweeping their three preliminary round games and taking first place in Group D.

Coached by Icelandic tactician Aron Kristjansson, the Bahrainis are in the competition gunning for their first Asian title with an 18-player squad that

includes skipper Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Abdulhusain, Mohammed Mirza, Bilal Basham, Ali Eid, Mahdi Saad, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Hassan Al Samahiji, Mohammed Ali Abdulredha, Abdulla Ali, Hussain Mahfouz, Mohammed Habib, Ahmed Al Maqabi, Ali Mirza, Ali Abdulqader, Ahmed Jalal, Qasim Qambar and Hisham Ahmed Issa.

In the previous Asian championship held in January of 2020, the Bahrainis finished fourth overall. Bahrain have been runners-up four times in the last six editions and bronze-medallists once.

Al Rumaihi, Yahya triumph in youth showjumping

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Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi continued his impressive displays in the current showjumping season as he won the first competition for young jumpers, while Faris Yahya broke Al Rumaihi-Charlotte Tecquin dominance in their respective categories, topping the podium of the second competition, held in Al Raffa, Sakhir.

Al Rumaihi and Tecquin had ruled the youth contests this season which had never seen a



Action from yesterday's events

first place winner in the youth competitions since it's beginning other than them. However, Yahya stepped up and won the second competition in 31.55

seconds after collecting the full points of 44 points. Hassan Hani Al Yabes came second in 36.30 seconds (39 points), while Al Rumaihi was third in 31.17 seconds (39 points). This event featured 110cm hurdles.

Al Rumaihi was unstoppable in the first contest for youth as he occupied the first and third places after deciding to participate on two different horses. His first attempt saw him clocking 33.31 seconds, while he reached the finish line in 36.14 seconds in the second one. Tecquin settled for second place after posting a time of 35.33 seconds.

The showjumping season is being organised by the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF).

Magnificent Malan leads South Africa to ODI series win over India

Reuters | Johannesburg

Opener Janneman Malan scored 91 as South Africa chased down a victory target of 288 for a comfortable seven-wicket win over India and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series after the second One-Day International

at Boland Park yesterday.

India chose to bat in sweltering conditions, with the mercury rising above 40 degrees Celsius for much of the day. The visitors posted 287 for six in their 50 overs, which looked a good total on a slow wicket that should have favoured them.

But South Africa paced their

reply superbly, with Malan and fellow opener Quinton de Kock (78 from 66 balls) putting on 132 for the first wicket.

Malan, who now has three hundreds and three fifties in his 12 ODI innings, put on another 80 with captain Temba Bavuma (35) before he was bowled by Jasprit Bumrah.