

De Vries lifts HH Shaikh Nasser Cup

● **Adrie De Vries completes hat-trick at REHC**

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Dutch jockey Adrie De Vries stole the show yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), winning three of the seven races including the main event for the HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Cup.

His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Work and Youth Affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa along with REHC High Committee Deputy Chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, were on hand to enjoy the day's action along with many other high-ranking VIPs.

De Vries won the seventh and final race on the card riding New Show, who was one of the pre-race favourites. The event was 11 furlongs in distance for imported horses aged three years and up, and it carried a whopping total prize of BD10,000.

Owned by Victorious and trained by Hesham Al Haddad, New Show claimed the impressive victory in two minutes 17.317 seconds.



HH Shaikh Nasser with one of the competing horses

Finishing half-a-length behind in second place was Macaque while third was Vale de Sol, both also owned by Victorious and trained by Hesham Al Haddad. Al Haddad was another to have a superb day at the track, with many of his horses taking top places.

Macaque was ridden by Abdulla Faisal while Vale de Sol was steered by Husain Makki. Coolagh Forest completed the top four for Mohammed Khalid Abdulrahim, Paul D'Arcy and John Egan.

De Vries also triumphed in the sixth race of the day, which was also for a HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Cup. Riding Pulsar, De Vries completed the 11-furlong event for local breeds aged three and up in 2:20.735. The Abdulla Fawzi Nass-owned and Hesham Al Haddad-trained winner came away with the lion's share of

the BD5,500 prize, finishing two lengths ahead of Al Tariq, who was also owned by Abdulla Fawzi Nass and trained by Hesham Al Haddad, but ridden by Paddy Mathers.

News Breaker was third for Victorious, Alan Smith and Lee Newman while Good News came fourth for M and E Racing, Alan Smith and Rosie Jessop.

De Vries won race five to kick off his eventually successful bid for a hat-trick. The race was over seven furlongs for imported three-year-olds and up, and it had a BD5,500 prize with the winner taking the HH Shaikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup.

De Vries was riding Gomat, owned by Abdulla Fawzi Nass and trained by Hesham Al Haddad. They secured first place in 1:24.237, winning with a length-and-a-half's gap in front of Prince Elzaam, who was competing for Al Mohamediya Racing, Jaber Ramadhan and Andrew Elliott.

Chatham House came third



HH Shaikh Nasser presents one of the winners their trophy

for Hasan Mefareh Alajmi, Yousif Taher and Abdulla Faisal, while Sunsprite was fourth for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohamed Saeed and Lee Newman.

Earlier in the day, Magsood won race three, which was also for a HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Cup. It was over a straight of five furlongs for locally bred three-year-olds and up, with a BD3,000 prize. Magsood won in 1:03.229 for Zahra Ebrahim Abdulla, Samir Dawood and Hussain Makki.

Wilayah was second for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott.

Shomukh came third for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Abdulla Faisal, white fourth was Katie Elder for Al Adiyat Racing, Alan Smith and Rosie Jessop.

The fourth race of the day was for the HH Shaikha Sheemah bint Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup. It was over a straight of five furlongs for imported three-year-olds and older, with a BD3,000 prize.

Langavat was triumphant in



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1:01.417 for Al Mohamediya Racing, Alan Smith and Abdurrahim Jasim. A length-and-a-quarter behind as the runner-up was Pont Vert for Jassim Mohammed Asad, Ramzi Al Baqlawa and Jacob Clark; while third was Boragh Steps for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott. Jedlaan was third for Mohamed Salah Mahdi, Salah Mahdi and Marcialis Juares and Snake Eagle came fourth for Mansoori Syndicate, Yousif Alboainain and Abdulla Faisal.

In the day's second race for the HH Shaikh Hamdan bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup, Al Saida won the nine-furlong,

BD2,000 race for three-year-old local breeds in 1:54.864. Al Saida was competing for owners Al Mohamediya Racing, trainer Abbas Al Mawali and jockey Paddy Mathers; while Murjani came second a neck's length behind for HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Andrew Elliott. Jedlaan was third for Mohamed Salah Mahdi, Salah Mahdi and Marcialis Juares and Snake Eagle came fourth for Mansoori Syndicate, Yousif Alboainain and Abdulla Faisal.

The day's opening sprint was for the HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Cup. The WAHO event was over eight furlongs with a BD3,000 total prize.

Victorious owned the top two horses, with both also trained by Yousif Taher. Kuheilan Afas 1708 was the winner, ridden by Abdulla Faisal to the win in 1:53.425. Al Jellaby 1544 was second with jockey Marcialis Jaures, finishing four lengths behind. Al Saqlawy 1564 was third for Al Wasmiya, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Adnan Jaffar, while Al Jellaby 1683 was fourth for Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Hasan Al Saffar.



HH Shaikh Isa at the races with other VIPs



Action at the start of one of the races

Sarhan triple gives Bahrain win over India in a thriller

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Hesham Sarhan buried a go-ahead three-pointer with 1.2 seconds to go to lift Bahrain to a dramatic, come-from-behind 68-67 victory over India last night in their opening game of the 2021 Fiba Asia Cup qualifiers.

Sarhan fired in the winning basket from the left corner off an assist from court general Mohammed Hussain, sending the home crowd that packed the Khalifa Sports City arena into a frenzy.

India had a chance to win the game after calling a timeout and advancing the ball into their own half, but a desperation triple by Jagdeep Singh as the buzzer sounded was well off the mark.

Sarhan's heroics helped the Bahrainis open their campaign in Group D of Fiba Asia Cup qualification in style. They now hope to build on their fine start

in their next assignment on Monday when they face regional powerhouses Lebanon in Beirut.

"India played a tough game; they have some big guys especially on the inside, and they were physical and fast," said Bahrain head coach Sam Vincent in his post-game Press conference.

"Our team does not have a whole lot of international experience, but they showed tonight a lot of fight, a lot of courage, and a lot of determination to come back; and they made a big play at the end of the game.

"I am proud of our guys; they are young, but they will only but get better and better."

Sarhan finished with nine points coming off the bench for Bahrain. Hussain led all scorers with 18 points, including six assists. He also had two key free-throws with 11.9 seconds remaining to bring the Bahrainis to with-



Hussain leads a fast-break for Bahrain in their win against India

in one possession and set the stage for Sarhan's end-game basket.

Naturalised big man CJ Giles had a monster effort for the hosts with 15 points and 15 rebounds. He teamed up

well to man the paint with hard-working Ameer brothers Muzamil and Mohammed, who finished with 12 and 11 points, respectively. They both also had six rebounds.

Amritpal Singh was India's top scorer with 17 points and seven rebounds, while Muin Bek Hafeez added 13 points and eight boards. Prasanna Venkatesh Sivakumar had 12 and Vishesh Bhriugvanshi added 11 to round out those in double-figures for the visitors.

Bahrain had a good start to the game and took a 19-14 lead at the end of first quarter, but a sub-par second saw them fall to a 28-38 hole at the half. The Bahrainis did well to battle back to within a point in the third, but two baskets in the last minute helped India go ahead 52-47 heading into the final canto.

Bahrain were able to tie it at 58-all with just over six minutes left in the contest, but turnovers and unlucky misses let India go up 65-60 with just a minute-and-a-half remaining. That set the stage for the thrilling ending and Sarhan's game-winner.

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