

# Nibras Bounty lifts Lexus Cup

*Nibras Bounty triumphed in day's main race at REHC*



Action from one of the races

TDT | Manama

**N**ibras Bounty lifted the Lexus Cup in the eighth and main race of the day yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa.

Owned by Abbas Ahmed Yousif Abdulla and trained by Jaffar Marzooq, jockey Hasan Al Saffar steered Nibras Bounty to the win in the seven-furlong event for imported horses aged three and up. The victor triumphed in a time of one minute 26.891 seconds to take the lion's share of the BD3,000 total prize.

Finishing in second place two-and-a-half-lengths behind was Prince Bonnaire, who was competing for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Anas Al Siyabi. Third was Archaic for Hasan Mefareh Alajmi, Yousif Taher and Ebrahim Nader; while in fourth was Gold Spinner for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Lee Newman.

In the day's seventh race, also



Winners receive their Cups from yesterday's events

for a Lexus Cup and featuring imported three-year-olds, Inclination took the win for Al Afoo Racing Stable and Mohammed

Saeed. Jockey Lee Newman rode Inclination to first place in 1:54.283 over a distance of nine furlongs.

Pont Vert was the runner-up for Jassim Mohammed Asad, Ramzi Al Baqlawa and John Egan; while Bint Soghaan was



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third for newcomers FF Racing, Khalid Hilal and Abdulla Faisal. Forward Thinker of Aradous Racing, A Kuwaiti and Brett Doyle was classified fourth to take the last share of the race's BD3,000 total prize.

There were three other races offering a Lexus Cup. In the fifth event of the day, covering six furlongs and offering a BD2,000 total prize, Light Angel of Al

Afoo Racing Stable claimed first place in 1:13.360.

The second race was over a straight of six furlongs with a BD2,000 prize, and it was claimed by Aryaaf, also of Al Afoo Racing Stable, in a time of 1:14.540. The first race over a five-furlong straight with a BD2,000 prize was clinched by Murjani, owned by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, in 1:03.587.

Meanwhile, Antar won the Royal Golf Club Cup, offered in race six over eight furlongs, in 1:41.935. The Haitham Salah Abdullatef-owned horse took home the biggest share of the BD2,500 prize.

In the third race of the day, Krayaan 1706 lifted the Fatees Al Hajeri Cup. It was over six furlongs with a BD1,500 total prize, with Krayaan 1706 winning in 1:25.362.

The fourth race of the day over six furlongs and a BD2,000 prize was won by Mohaayedah, owned by Victorious in 1:15.052.

## Lukaku says split from Man Utd was 'right decision'

AFP | Milan

**R**omelu Lukaku believes he made the right decision to leave Manchester United for a new challenge at Inter Milan, saying he had to "re-find" himself after a difficult time at Old Trafford.

The Belgium striker joined United from Everton for 75 million euros (\$98 million) in July 2017, scoring 42 goals in his two seasons at the club before moving to Inter in August last year.

He has been in superb form for Antonio Conte's side, scoring 18 goals to help the club sustain a challenge for the Serie A title.

Those performances, and United's reported interest in signing a striker this month after Marcus Rashford's back injury, have raised questions as to the wisdom of allowing Lukaku to leave Old Trafford.

But, in an interview with Sky Sports News, the 26-year-old said the decision was his and it had worked out well for United as well.

"I think I had to re-find myself," he said. "Last year was difficult for me on the professional side because stuff was not going how I wanted and I was not performing as well... and I just came to the conclusion that it was time for me to change environment."

"I made my decision around March, and I went to the manager's office (Ole Gunnar Solskjaer) and I told him it was time for me to find something else."

"I think I made the right decision and I think Manchester United now has made space for the younger players to come through so I think it was a bit of a win-win situation for both of us," he added.

The Belgian was signed for United by Jose Mourinho and had an excellent first season, scoring 27 goals as United finished second in the Premier League.

But Mourinho was sacked in December 2018 after a disappointing start to the season, with Lukaku also unable to discover his best form.

Former Chelsea manager Conte has managed to bring the best out of Lukaku this season, pairing him with Argentine forward Lautaro Martinez to lethal effect.



Romelu Lukaku

## Iyer fireworks give India win in T20 opener

Reuters | Wellington

**S**hreyas Iyer guided India to a six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first Twenty20 international at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday as the tourists showed few signs of fatigue or jet lag.

Iyer scored his second Twenty20 international half century with 58 not out and finished the game with his third six as India reached 204-4 to chase down New Zealand's 203-5 with an over to spare.

KL Rahul and captain Virat Kohli put on 99 runs in 50 deliveries for the tourists, who only arrived in New Zealand on Tuesday after completing a 2-1 one-day series victory over Australia on Sunday.

Rahul was brilliantly caught by Tim Southee at midoff for 56 before Martin Guptill produced an even more spectacular



Shreyas Iyer plays a shot

catch at deep midwicket to dismiss Kohli for 45 to give the hosts a sniff of an upset.

India's deep batting lineup, however, ensured that they cantered home with a measured run chase full of quality.

New Zealand's innings included half centuries for Colin

Munro, Ross Taylor and Kane Williamson.

After Munro put on 80 for the opening wicket with Guptill (30), the loss of the left hander for 59 and Colin de Grandhomme within the space of three deliveries stalled New Zealand's momentum.



Williamson (51) and Taylor (54 not out) however prospered after two fielding errors by Yuzvendra Chahal and the pair scored 61 runs in 28 deliveries to put their side in a strong position at 178-4 with three overs remaining.

Some superb death bowling by Jasprit Bumrah, who rolled his ankle badly when he stood on the seam of the drop-in pitch, and Mohammed Shami ensured they did not kick on.

## Dier denies negative vibes at Spurs under Mourinho

AFP | London

**E**ric Dier has dismissed rumours that Tottenham's players are already growing tired of life under Jose Mourinho just two months into

his reign.

Reports have emerged that Spurs players believe they are regressing under the Portuguese while defender Danny Rose is said to have clashed with him after being left out of the match-day squad.

But England midfielder Dier has denied the claims and says

any unhappiness only stems from frustrating results on the pitch.

"Any club, when results aren't going well, is not a happy atmosphere," he said. "But it definitely isn't a negative atmosphere."

"I don't feel anything along those lines personally and I think everybody has been train-

ing very well, training hard, enjoying themselves in the same way as always."

When asked about the training methods, which were described in Wednesday's article in the Sun newspaper as "like lower-league sessions", Dier was quick to defend Mourinho and his staff.