

# Cloud Drift lifts Tylos Plastic Industries Cup

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club hosts action-packed, eight-race card with eight trophies won

● **Jockey Abdulla Faisal claims hat-trick of victories, including both Tylos Plastic Industries Cups**

● **Trainers Allan Smith, Haider Ebrahim and James Naylor each win two races**

TDT | Manama

Cloud Drift headlined the winners yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC), taking the eighth and final race to lift the Tylos Plastic Industries Cup.

The Gunners Racing four-year-old, trained by Allan Smith and saddled by jockey Abdulla Faisal, won the lion's share of the BD5,000 prize, after completing the eight-furlong event for imported horses in one minute 35.713 seconds.

REHC High Committee chairman His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa was on hand to watch Cloud Drift race to victory along with other high-ranking officials.

Shebil Aljazira was the runner-up two-and-a-quarter lengths behind for Al Mohamediya Racing and Osama Hashim while ridden by Ebrahim Nader, and Al Fajir Mukbile came third for Raed Ahmed Yousif, Yousif Alboainain and Husain Makki.

Joining Cloud Drift as a win-



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman watches the races from the stands

ner of a Tylos Plastic Industries Cup was Duwaliya, who was competing in the day's fourth race, held over seven furlongs with a BD2,000 prize.

Owned by HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa and trained by James Naylor, Duwaliya won in 1:27.103, giving jockey Abdulla Faisal another victory.

Madaar followed as the second horse for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa and James Naylor in the race, while ridden by Andrew Elliott; and Navy Blue was third for Victorious, Allan Smith and Maria Asconiga.

Meanwhile, in the day's seventh event, Litigator won the REHC Cup for MKAR Racing and Haider Ebrahim. Daniel Tudhope rode the 104-rated four-



**Each of the three winning horses ridden by Abdulla Faisal yesterday had different owners and different trainers**

year-old to first place in 2:03.649 over a 10-furlong distance to claim the largest share of the BD2,000 prize.

Al Mohamediya Racing challengers followed in second and third, respectively, with Medal Winner the runner-up, trained



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman with the winners of the final race, during the trophy presentation

by Hussain Aldailami and saddled by Paddy Mathers, and Caledonian Crusade in third for trainer Jaber Ramadhan while saddled by John Egan.

Elsewhere in the meeting yesterday, each of the five other races offered a Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) Cup.

In race six, held over a six-furlong straight with a BD2,500 prize, Clareyblue won for Al Afoo Racing Stable, Mohammed Saeed and Andrew Elliot.

Ecosystem triumphed in race five (seven furlongs, BD2,000) for MKAR Racing, Haider Ebrahim and hat-trick winner Abdulla Faisal.

Cutlass was the victor in race three, held over nine furlongs with a BD2,500 prize, for Al Adiyat Racing, Allan Smith and Abdulrahim Jasim; while Kaila-



Action from one of yesterday's races

ra won race two (five furlongs, BD2,000) for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, James Naylor and Paddy Mathers.

The BBK Cup in the first race

(five furlongs, BD2,000) of the day was claimed by Al Suwaity M671 for Al Mohamediya Racing, while trained by Abbas Al Mawali and saddled by Marcialis Jaures.

## Bahrain sets up Ukraine friendly

● **Proposed match venue is the Metalist Oblast Sports Complex stadium in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv**

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Bahrain is set to play an international friendly match against European giants Ukraine in May, a national team official has confirmed.

The tune-up is scheduled for May 23 and the proposed venue is the Metalist Oblast Sports Complex stadium in the city of Kharkiv.

The game will be part of both teams' preparations for their upcoming matches.

The national team official told TDT that the contest would be a great experience for Bahrain's internationals, given the high quality of the opposition.

It is currently the third friendly scheduled for the Bahrainis in the coming months. They are also set to play Syria on March 25 and then Jordan on March 30, both at home.

Bahrain's national team are currently in a week-long local training gathering, which concluded yesterday.

National team head coach Helio Sousa decided to end the local gathering one day early so



Bahrain national team players during their ongoing training



**Among the key competitions Bahrain are preparing for is their joint-qualifying campaign for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023**

that the players can rejoin their respective clubs, which are gearing up for a crucial period in the national football season.

The training was the first time they had come together in 2021.

Among the key competitions Bahrain are preparing for is their joint-qualifying campaign for the FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

Bahrain are in Group C of the joint-qualifiers alongside Iraq, Iran, Hong Kong and Cambodia. They have three games to play against Cambodia, Iran and Hong Kong, all of which are likely to be played in June later this year.

## Manama advance to BBA Cup final

● **Muharrag-Al Najma semi-final postponed after three Najma players test positive for COVID-19**

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Manama punched their tickets to the final of the 2020/2021 Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) Cup last night following a 83-72 victory over Bahrain Club.

The final four contest was played at Zain Basketball Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Manama now face the winner of the other semi-final between Muharrag and Al Najma, which was also supposed to be played yesterday but was postponed by the BBA due to COVID-19 concerns.

The BBA announced that three Najma players had tested positive for the coronavirus—a situation that warrants a postponement according to BBA protocols.

The revised date of the game has yet to be decided. The BBA Cup final, which was originally slated for Monday, will likely also be moved to a new date.

In last night's contest, both teams were evenly matched for much of the first half, with Manama taking a slim 17-16 lead at



Manama's Ali Hussain goes for a lay-up

the end of the first quarter and extending it to a 41-37 advantage at the break.

Bahrain Club were then able to go ahead in the third before Manama closed the period strong. They stayed in front at 62-58 heading into the final canto.

The victors built a double-digit lead in the fourth but Bahrain Club continued to battle until the final buzzer. They got to within five points, but

came no closer, as Manama did well to close things out.

Manama were paced in their win by young stars Ali Hussain, Sadeq Shukrallah, Ahmed Najaf and Ammar Mohammed. They were playing with a professional.

Bahrain Club were led by Bosnian-Serbian import Dragan Tubak, and Bahraini talents Abbas Jawadi, Ebrahim Al Basri, and Khalid Ali, to name a few.