

Breath of Air wins feature race

Jockey Lee Newman saddles seven-year-old gelding to Late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Cup victory for Al Adiyat Racing and AM Smith



Winners from yesterday's races

● **Mayaas claims second Late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Cup of the day for Al Hassanain Racing, Ali Jan and Ebrahim Nader at REHC**

● **Arctic Emperor, The Parent and Carina win the three other cups up for the taking on yesterday's racecard**

TDT | Manama

Breath of Air triumphed in the feature race yesterday to headline an exciting nine-race card at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhr.

The seven-year-old gelding powered to the finish in the seven-furlong, BD5,000 event to triumph for owners Al Adiyat Racing and trainer AM Smith, while saddled by Lee Newman.

Breath of Air's connections thus lifted the Late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Cup (sponsored by AA Nass and Sons Co WLL and Sarens Nass Middle East).

Taking second place was Guma for Al Mohamediya Racing and Fawzi Nass, while ridden by Anas Al Siyabi; and in third was Mehmento for Al Afoo Racing, Mohammed Hasan and Nathan Crosse.

Another Late Abdulla Ahmed Nass Cup (sponsored by AA Nass and Sons Co WLL) was up for the taking in yesterday's third race, held over a six-furlong straight with a BD3,000 total prize fund. Mayaas took the win for Al



Other winners from yesterday's packed nine-race programme were Sahara Spear for Al Remah Stable, Jbarah for Al Afoo Racing, Ghaarah for Al Bastaki Racing and Al Hamdany 1810 for Victorious

Hassanain Racing, Ali Jan and Ebrahim Nader; while Talha was second for Al Mohamediya Racing, Osama Hashim and Anas Al



Action from the nine-race programme

Siyabi. Rosa Mystica came third for Al Afoo Racing, Jaber Ramadhan and Nathan Crosse.

Three other trophies were claimed during the day's action.

In race eight, held over nine furlongs with a BD4,000 prize, Arctic Emperor was the winner for Al Mohamediya Racing, Fawzi Nass and Anas Al Siyabi as they lifted the Nass Corporation BSC Cup.

West Suffolk followed for HH Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Abdulrahim Jasim; and Malakye was third for Al Jasmi Stable, Bader Al Abed and Ebrahim Nader.

The seventh race for the Gulf City Cleaning Company Cup was

won by The Parent, competing for Al Adiyat Racing and AM Smith while saddled by Gerald Mosse. The three-year-old colt took the eight-furlong event with a BD3,000 prize ahead of Al Mukhtar Star, racing for Al Afoo Racing, Jaber Ramadhan and Nathan Crosse. Kinks was third for Isa Mahmood Al Seddiqi, Osama Hashim and Anas Al Siyabi.

Carina lifted the Applied Science University (ASU) Cup in race six. The four-year-old filly took the eight-furlong race, carrying a BD2,000 total prize, for Fateel Brothers Syndicate, Basem Mahdi and Carlos Henrique. Sharid was the runner-up for HH Shaikh Hamad bin Ab-

dulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haidar Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal; while Rider on the Storm was third for M and E Racing and AM Smith, while saddled by Andrew Elliott.

Elsewhere yesterday, Sahara Spear won race five for owners Al Remah Stable and trainer Abdulla Kuwaiti, while ridden by jockey Abdulrajim Jasim; Jbarah took race four for Al Afoo Racing, Mohammed Hasan and Nathan Crosse; Ghaarah won the second race for Al Bastaki Racing, Salahuddin Albastaki, and Carlos Henrique; and Al Hamdany 1810 triumphed in race one for Victorious and Yousif Taher, while saddled by Adam Al Balushi.

Bahrain get tough group for Asian handball event

● **Kingdom's senior men's national team drawn in Group D with UAE, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan**

● **Bahrain to host tournament, which acts as a qualifier for world championship, from 11 to 22 January**

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Bahrain's senior men's national handball team were last night drawn in a tough Group D for the 21st Asian Men's Handball Championship.

The Bahrainis are in the same pool as the UAE, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan for the preliminary round of the continental competition, which is scheduled to be held 11 to 22 January in the Kingdom.

The event is not only a tournament to determine Asia's best, but it also acts as a qualifying competition for the 2025 IHF World Men's Handball Championship.

A total of 16 nations are competing in the championship, with the top five securing places in the worlds.

Group A features defend-



Bahrain skipper Hussain Al Sayyad in action for the national team in the recent continental qualifiers for the Paris Olympics 2024

ing champions Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Chinese Taipei. Group B includes Iran, South Korea, China and New Zealand; and Group C is composed of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India and Japan.

The draw was held yesterday. A number of Bahrain's greatest handball players took part in the ceremonies, some of whom were Dr Nabeel Taha, Saeed Johar, Jaffar Abdulqader, and current national team captain Hussain Al Sayyad.

Also present was Bahrain Handball Association president Ali Issa.

Bahrain is hosting the con-

tinental competition for the fourth time in its history. It previously also staged the event in 2016, 2014 and 1993.

The Bahrainis have never won the Asian men's title, but have claimed the silver medals five times in the past and also won the bronze medal once.

The nationals claimed their silver in 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018 and in last year's championship. Their bronze medal was won in 1995.

Qatar are the reigning champions. They have won the gold medal the last five editions of the tournament.

Etame goal gives East Riffa derby win

● **Abbas Jaafar Sabt scores in 98th minute to lift Al Ahli to last-gasp 3-2 victory over Manama**

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Jerome Mpacko Etame fired in a sensational winner to help lift East Riffa to a 1-0 victory over Riffa last night in a hotly contested derby in the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Etame scored the match's lone goal with a brilliant solo effort in the 26th minute. He outspurred five Riffa defenders in his charge towards goal and then slotted home past Riffa goalkeeper Abdulkarim Al Fardan.

It proved to be enough to be the difference between the two sides after more than 100 minutes of open play, and East Riffa propelled themselves to the top of the league standings after improving to 12 points with their fourth win in six games.

Riffa tried valiantly to find an equaliser in the contest but could not finish. They suffered just their first loss in five outings and stayed on 10 points.

In another match yesterday, Al Ahli pulled off a dramatic,



East Riffa's Jerome Mpacko Etame, left, and Riffa's Sayed Redha Issa vie for possession during their derby last night

Riffa tried valiantly to find an equaliser in the contest but could not finish. They suffered just their first loss in five outings and stayed on 10 points

Ebrahim Luthfallah.

Ebrahim Al Khattal then put Manama ahead with an effort in the face of goal in the 32nd minute off a great pass from teammate Elvis Marley Aparecido Bittncourt. But Abdulla Al Hashash was able to level the scores in the 67th minute, and then Abbas Jaafar Sabt scored the winner for Ahli in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time to come away with the win.

Ahli went to eight points following only their second win in six matches, while Manama suffered their third loss in six games and stayed on five.

last-gasp 3-2 win over Manama.

Mohammed Amin opened the scoring for Ahli with a header off a cross in the 14th minute. But Manama equalised in the 21st through Facundo Agustin Tobares, who scored on a one-on-one with Ahli's