

Encourage lifts National Day Cup

Al Mohamediya Racing contender takes feature race as one of five wins yesterday at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club

● Jockey Neil Callan claims four victories on day

● Trainer Hesham Al Haddad clinches hat-trick

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Encourage lifted yesterday the prestigious National Day Cup, sponsored by the Ministry of Information Affairs, to headline an exciting eight-race card at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Sakhir.

Owned by Al Mohamediya Racing, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and saddled by Neil Callan, Encourage triumphed in the 12-furlong event carrying a BD10,000 total prize.

Rayounpour claimed the runner-up spot for Al Adiyat Racing, Allan Smith and JH Davies, while Recovery Run was third once again for Al Adiyat and Smith, with JP Hamagen in the saddle.



Winners from yesterday's races

Also triumphant yesterday was Chingan to lift the Ebrahim bin Saad Al Romiahi Cup.

Ridden by Neil Callan, Chingan won the eight-furlong race with a BD3,000 prize in 1:38.619 for Al Mohamediya Racing and Osama Hashim.

Al Fajir Mukbile clinched second place for Raed Ahmed Yousif Alboainain, Yousif Alboainain and Abdulla Faisal; while Prince Elzaam came third for Al Mohamediya Racing, Taleb Ali and Liam Keniry.

Meanwhile, Mudallal and Bond's Boy won the two Al Ha-

Owned by Al Mohamediya Racing, trained by Hesham Al Haddad and saddled by Neil Callan, Encourage triumphed in the 12-furlong event to claim the lion's share of the staggering BD10,000 total prize

waj Cups on offer yesterday. Both horses are owned by Al Mohamediya Racing and were both saddled by Neil Callan.

Mudallal clinched the Al Hawaj Cup in the day's sixth race, held over eight furlongs with a BD2,000 prize. The four-year-old, trained by Hesham Al Haddad, won in 1:41.209.

Taufan was the runner-up for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal; while Manama Girl came third for Ramadhan Stable, Jaber Ramadhan and Jerome Moutard.

In the day's fifth race, Bond's Boy won the Al Hawaj Cup over 10 furlongs to take the lion's share of the BD3,000 prize. The



Action from the meeting

Osama Hashim-trained five-year-old triumphed in 2:06.247, narrowly beating out Dark Lion representing owners Victorious and Fawzi Nass and trainer Hesham Al Haddad, while ridden by Rosie Jessop. Jazeel finished third for Ahmed Al Isa, Hesham Al Haddad and Stephane Ladjadj.

Yesterday's other trophy was the Al Wasmiya Cup in the first race, held over five furlongs with a BD1,500 prize. Al Hamdany 1810 won in 1:11.338 for Victorious, Yousif Taher and Salem Alajmi; Obeyan 1867 came sec-

ond for Al Wasmiya, Abdulla Kuwaiti and Jerome Moutard; while Tuwaisan 1844 was third for Al Riffa, Yousif Alboainain and Adnan Jaffar.

Elsewhere yesterday, Aahad clinched first place in the fourth race for Al Khaldiya, Hesham Al Haddad and Stephane Ladjadj; Sir Henry Cotton won race three for Al Mohamediya Racing, Abbas Al Malawi and Liam Keniry; and Athba clinched the second race for HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa, Haider Ebrahim and Abdulla Faisal.

Khaldiya, Hala triumph in football league



Al Khaldiya's Obus Prince Aggreh looks to create a play against Bahrain Club

● Mahdi Humaidan scores winner for Al Khaldiya against Bahrain Club

● Hala beat Hidd; Baba Diop, Mahmoud Al Haiki, Alain Eyenga on target

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Al Khaldiya and Al Hala were both victorious to wrap up the seventh week of play in the 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Khaldiya defeated Bahrain Club 1-0 while Hala overcame a tough challenge from Hidd 3-2.

In Khaldiya's triumph, Mahdi Humaidan fired in the match's lone goal. His strike helped his team come away with their fourth win as they improved to 14 points for sec-

Standings

	P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Muharraq	7	5	2	0	11	17
Al Khaldiya	7	4	2	1	6	14
Riffa	7	4	1	2	2	13
Manama	7	3	3	1	7	12
Al Ahli	7	3	2	2	1	11
Al Hala	7	1	5	1	0	8
Sitra	7	1	4	2	-1	7
Al Shabab	7	2	1	4	-1	7
East Riffa	7	1	4	2	-3	7
Hidd	7	2	1	4	-6	7
Bahrain Club	7	1	3	3	-1	6
Budaiya	7	0	2	5	-15	2

ond place on the league standings.

Bahrain Club suffered their third loss to stay on six points in the bottom half of the table.

In Hala's victory, Baba Diop, Mahmoud Al Haiki and Alain Eyenga were on target for the winners. On the opposing end, Mohammed Abdulwahab scored Hidd's two goals.

Hala claimed only their first win of the season as they improved to eight points, while Hidd were dealt their fourth loss and stayed on seven.

Morocco's run is like Croatia's four years ago, says coach Dalic

Reuters

Croatia are preparing for a "huge" match against Morocco in Saturday's World Cup third-place playoff with the African team's surprise run to the semi-finals reminiscent of Croatia's own success at the 2018 tournament, said coach Zlatko Dalic. Morocco, punching above their

weight, beat Belgium and Canada in the group stage before eliminating 2010 world champions Spain on penalties in the last 16 and then beating 2016 European champions Portugal in the quarter-finals.

Morocco's dream run ended in the last four against France, who had beaten surprise finalists Croatia in the 2018 World Cup final, but they

still became the first African and Arab country to reach a World Cup semi-final.

African football had suffered a crisis of confidence after the last World Cup in Russia, when none of the five teams made it out of the group phase, but that has now all changed with the performance of Walid Regragui's team.



Zlatko Dalic

Drama at BRAVE CF 68 weigh-ins! Lutterbach shaves head, but doesn't make weight for headliner

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BRAVE Combat Federation's return to Germany has already been filled with plenty of drama even though no punches have been thrown just yet.

During the official weigh-ins for BRAVE CF 68, Joilton Lutterbach went to extremes to make weight for his interim championship fight against Mihail Cotruta - but failed to do so, even though he shaved his hair to see if it would make a difference.

In the end, 100g stood between Lutterbach and the title shot. The main event goes on at Super Lightweight, but only Cotruta can win the interim belt now.

If Joilton wins, there's no interim champion crowned. "Peregrino" will also have to give up 20% of his purse to Cotruta.

In the co-main event of the evening, more drama, as Ismail Naurdiev initially weighed in north of the Super Welterweight limit, and came in with less than a minute to spare in the weigh-in window to finally make weight and confirm his bout against Vadim Kutsyi.

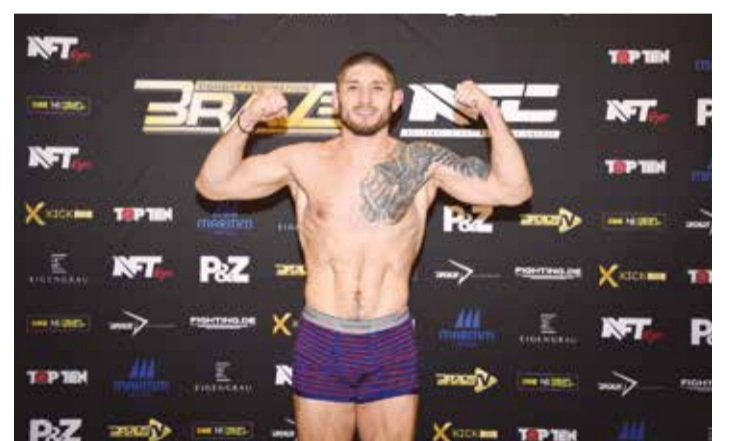
Max Holzer didn't make



Joilton Lutterbach shaved his hair to try and make weight

weight for the curtain-opener of BRAVE CF 68/NFC 11 but his fight against Andrey Tyshchenko goes on.

Florim Zendeli vs Tamirlan Dadaev and Maurice Adorf vs Anastasios Chatzigorgiadis have been scrapped from the fight card altogether.



Mihail Cotruta had no trouble making weight for the BRAVE CF 68 headliner

BRAVE CF 68 / NFC 11 Weigh-In results

Main card

BRAVE CF Interim Super Lightweight Championship: Joilton Lutterbach (74.94kg)* vs Mihail Cotruta (74.7kg)

Super Welterweight: Ismail Naurdiev (79.5kg) vs Vadim Kutsyi (79.7kg)

Lightweight: Husein Kadimagomaeov (70.74kg) vs Agshin Babaev (70.54kg)

Featherweight: Mohammed Trabelsi (66.22kg) vs Pantelei Taran (66.22kg)

Catchweight 77kg: Axel Sola (76.8kg) vs Matheus Miranda (76.96kg)

Preliminary Card

Middleweight: Julian Pennant (83.96kg) vs Aleksandar Djukic (84.4kg)

Lightweight: Christian Mach (70.14kg) vs Gokhan Aksu (70.78kg)

Featherweight: Ali Guliyev (65.76kg) vs Jefferson Oliveira (65.04kg)

Bantamweight: Max Holzer (61.82kg)* vs Andrey Tyshchenko (61.54kg)