



## All eyes on Al Attiyah at Qatar International Baja

**Nasser to drive borrowed Toyota Hilux flown in from Portugal**

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
LUSAIL

DESPITE badly damaging his Toyota Hilux in a high-speed barrel-roll near the end of a selective section at the recent Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, Qatar's Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah has agreed a deal to drive a borrowed Toyota and starts as the favourite to win this weekend's Qatar International Baja.

The event is the second round of the 2023 FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas and Al Attiyah and co-driver Mathieu Baumel head to prevent formalities at the Lusail Sports Complex with eight-point advantages in their respective Drivers' and Co-Drivers' Championships, courtesy of outright victory at the Saudi Baja-Ha'il last month.

FIA T3 and T4 cars have graced the top 10 on numerous cross-country events in the last few seasons: American Seth Quintero finished third at the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge in a T3 Can-Am and Poland's young Eryk Goczal won the Dubai International Baja last December in a T4 Can-Am. But no T3 or T4 machine has ever won in Qatar. That means Al Attiyah and his six rivals in the latest T1+ machines and three drivers of older specification T1 cars should battle it out for overall victory.

Way back in 2004 when the Qatar Baja was based out of Sealine, south of Doha, the Qatari secured victory with Frenchman Didier le Gal in a Chevrolet Pro Truck and he repeated the feat the following season with Alain Guehennec in a BMW X5.

The event didn't run again until 2011 when it took place to a Baja-type format as a candidate for inclusion in the 2012 FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies. Al-Attiyah won again, this time with Spanish co-driver Lucas Cruz in a SAM Mercedes 35CC.

As a round of the five-day FIA World Cup, Al Attiyah won with Cruz in a Toyota in 2012, with Mathieu Baumel in a Mini



Qatar's Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah and his French co-driver Mathieu Baumel.



Krzysztof Holowczyc and Lukasz Kurzeja.



Denis Krotov.



Juan Cruz Yacopini.

### FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas – Standings after round 1:

**Drivers**

1. Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah (QAT) 40pts
2. Juan Cruz Yacopini (ARG) 32pts
3. Krzysztof Holowczyc (POL) 24pts
4. Saleh Al Saif (SAU) 19pts
5. Fernando Alvarez (ESP) 16pts
6. Pau Navarro (ESP) 13pts
7. Kees Koolen (NLD) 12pts
8. Dania Akeel (SAU) 11pts
9. Jeremie Warnia (FRA) 8pts
9. Santiago Navarro (BRA) 8pts
11. Otavio Sousa (BRA) 7pts
12. Michele Cinotto (ITA) 5pts
13. Ricardo Ramilo (ESP) 4pts

**FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas – Standings after round 1:**

**Co-drivers (top 3 only)**

1. Mathieu Baumel (AND) 40pts
2. Daniel Oliveras (ESP) 32pts
3. Lukasz Kurzeja (POL) 24pts, etc

**FIA Middle East Cup for Cross-Country Bajas – Standings after round 1:**

**Drivers**

1. Yasir Seaidan (SAU) 40pts
2. Hamad Al Harbi (SAU) 32pts
3. Abdullah Al Shegawi (SAU) 23pts

**FIA Middle East Cup for Cross-Country Bajas – Standings after round 1:**

**Co-drivers (top 3 only)**

1. Alexey Kuzmich (ANA) 40pts
2. Dmytro Tsyro (UKR) 32pts
3. Waleed Al Shegawi (SAU) 23pts.

All4 Racing in 2014 and 2015 and with Baumel in a Toyota again in 2016. Further wins followed with Baumel and Toyota in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2022. There was no car event in 2021, the year the event became a shorter Baja again.

This year, Al Attiyah will drive a Hilux that has been flown in especially from Portugal and will then be rebuilt in time to be used by Lithuanian driver Benediktas Vanagas at Spain's Baja Extramadura in mid-April. Vanagas's Hilux normally runs under the Toyota Gazoo Racing Baltics banner and the car has been provided to Toyota Gazoo Racing for Al-Attiyah to use in Qatar. The five-time Dakar winner will then use a new DKR Hilux for the Sonora Rally in Mexico next month.

Al Attiyah said: "Obviously

we are grateful to Benediktas and his team for supplying the car. This is my home event and it is so important to me that I can perform well in front of the local fans and continue my run of success here in Qatar."

Al Attiyah was joined by several of his main rivals and leading motorcyclists for the official pre-event press conference at the Lusail Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

The Qatari's Argentinean team-mate Juan Cruz Yacopini is his closest challenger in the title race after round one and drives the second of four Toyota T1+ Hiluxes and the first of three running under the Over-drive Racing banner. Denis Krotov switches to the Toyota that was used by South Africa's Henk Lategan at the recent Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge and Frenchman Ronan Chabot

returns to cross-country action to drive the fourth car.

Krzysztof Holowczyc is a formidable opponent and the experienced Pole drives the sole Mini JCW Rally Plus in the field. He holds third in the points' standings alongside co-driver Lukasz Kurzeja.

The event has also attracted a pair of official Baic ORV BJ40s that have been built in China and will be driven by Guoyu Zhang and Yunliang Zi. The cars appeared at the recent Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge and are registered for FIA World Cup Baja points.

Saudi Border Guard team driver Khalid Al Feraihi is chasing FIA Middle East Cup points in his Nissan Patrol and again teams up with Frenchman Sébastien Delaunay. He holds seventh in the Drivers' Championship after a disap-

pointing opening round. Italy's Stefano Moro (Mitsubishi) and local driver Abdullah Al Rabban (Chevrolet) wrap up the T1 field.

There are three T2 Nissan entries in the category for series production cross-country machines and all three are for Saudi drivers. Ibrahim Al Muhanna and Ahmed Al Shegawi are chasing FIA Middle East Cup points and Majed Al Thunayyan is registered for the FIA

World Cup.

Thursday sees competitors complete any late scrutineering checks before the competitive action gets underway with a 9.08km Prologue stage from 14.40hrs (motorcycles) and 15.40hrs (cars) onwards.

This precedes the ceremonial start at a new location on Lusail Boulevard, starting with the motorcycles and quads from 19.20hrs.

## Record participation in Qatar Baja T3 and T4 categories as entrants look to overcome navigational challenges

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
LUSAIL

THE Qatar International Baja, organized by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) and to be held this weekend over three days, has a record 105 entries from 31 countries in the T3 (lightweight prototype cross-country vehicles) and T4 (modified Rally Raid vehicles) categories.

"We have a record 105 entries from 31 countries this time at the Qatar International Baja and we are proud. This shows that we are on the right track of development in motor rallying," said QMMF's Executive Director Amro Al Hamad during a media briefing with the drivers and riders ahead of the event at the QMMF headquarters at Lusail Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

QMMF President Abdulrahman Al Mannai was also present on the occasion.

The Qatar International Baja (March 16-18) constitutes the second round of the FIA World Cup and the Middle East for Baja Cross Country, and the second round of the FIM Baja World Cup. Among these are 47 cars, 51 motorcycles and 4 quads in various categories. This is besides the participation of a list of 21 vehicles in T3 and 13 others in T4 category.

The drivers and riders echoed the navigational challenge in overcoming the deserts of Qatar. "No matter how experienced you are, it is always a different and tough challenge in Qatar," they said.



Drivers and riders with Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) Executive Director Amro Al Hamad during a media briefing ahead of Qatar International Baja at the Lusail Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Qatar-based Australia Martin Chalmers, said, "I have been racing in the region for the last 10 years and Qatar is the toughest terrain to navigate. You can get lost as the track is rocky and there are too many edges. I have not participated in Europe, so I don't know how difficult it is, but the Qatar Baja I am sure is one of the toughest in the world."

UAE's star rider Mohammed Ba-

looshi, said, "I would like to thank the QMMF for this amazing event. This competition gives all the Arab riders a push."

"The navigation part at the Qatar Baja is tough and the key here is to go slow, so you can go a little bit faster. For me this is a unique round since I failed to win last year after a close contest. This year we are well prepared and we will like to do our best

this time."

The competition is fierce particularly in the T3 "VIA" category where Spaniard Fernando Alvarez has a golden opportunity to seize the lead in the general standings, in the absence of Saudi Saleh Al Saif. Alvarez is ranked second after the first round in Saudi Arabia and is only 8 points adrift.

Dania Akeel finished as runner-up

to Alvarez last season and will be looking to recover quickly from a disappointing Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge in her Can-Am.

The Saudi holds third in the rankings, three points clear of the Dutch businessman Kees Koolen in his G Rally Team OT3.

Other regular championship contenders present include Spain's Santiago Navarro, Brazilian Otavio Sousa, Argentina's Hector Diego Martinez and Kuwait's Meshari Al Thefri.

Yasir Seaidan leads the FIA Middle East's T3 category but is not present at the Qatar Baja. His absence paves the way for fellow countrymen Hamad Al Harbi and Abdullah Al Shegawi to battle it out for valuable points against a fierce local line-up.

The QMMF has entered seven Can-Ams for a selection of Qatar's leading drivers and former FIA World T2 Champion Adel Abdulla, Rashid Al Muhannadi, Mohammed Al Meer and Nouef Hassan Al Suwaidi are registered to score points in the FIA Middle East Cup, along with Lebanon's Henry Kahy, a former FIA MERC3 champion.

Spaniard Pau Navarro holds a six-point advantage over Frenchman Jeremie Warnia in the FIA World Cup's T3 standings. But the young FN Speed Team Can-Am driver faces a strong field in Qatar that includes Warnia and his other title rivals - Brazilian Cristiano de Sousa, Uruguay's Luis Henderson, Italy's Pietro Cinotto and Spain's Ricardo Ramilo.



## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Haaland scores five as City rout Leipzig 7-0; Inter advance

DPA  
BERLIN

ERLING Haaland became the third player to score five goals in one game in the Champions League era as Manchester City routed RB Leipzig 7-0 on Tuesday for a place in the quarter-finals.

Haaland had a first-half hat-trick from a 22nd-minute penalty, a 24th-minute header and a third on the stroke of half-time, and added two more in quick succession in the 53rd and 57th.

Ilkay Gündogan in the 49th and Kevin de Bruyne in stoppage time scored the other goals as City equalled their biggest win in the competition - 7-0 over another German side, Schalke, in 2019 - and claimed an 8-1 aggregate triumph over the 2020 semi-finalists.

Haaland joined Lionel Messi (in Barcelona's 7-1 against Bayer Leverkusen 2012) and Luiz Adriano (in Shakhtar Donetsk's 7-0 at BATE Borisov 2014) with five goals in one Champions League match.

He was denied a possible record sixth when substituted amid a standing ovation in the 63rd.

"I told him [manager Pep Guardiola] I would love to score a double hat-trick but what can I do?" Haaland told BT Sport.

"It's a big night. I'm really proud to play in the Champions League - I love this competition, as everybody knows. Five goals, to win 7-0 in this competition - I'm really happy," he said.

"I'm a bit blurry in my head so I don't remember the goals. I remember shooting, not thinking." "We worked on pressing in training yesterday. Especially at home, we have to put pressure on, we have to run. We are



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland shoots from the penalty spot to score the team's opening goal during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 second-leg match against RB Leipzig at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on Tuesday. (AFP)

so good at getting the ball and going forward, especially when Kevin can get the ball in front of him, towards goal."

Haaland now has 33 career goals from 25 games in the elite event for Salzburg, Borussia Dortmund and City, with statisticians Opta saying no player has reached 30 goals in the event in such few games and at such a young age (of 22 years 236 days).

Ten of them have come this season, making him competition top scorer.

The Norwegian has 39 goals in 36 games in all competitions for City since his summer arrival, making him club record goalscorer in one season by beating the 38 from Tommy Johnson from 93 years ago in the 1928-29 season.

In the day's other game, Inter Milan held on to their slender 1-0 first leg lead with a goalless draw at Porto to reach the quarter-finals for the first time since 2011 - with the Portuguese hosts denied by the post and crossbar in stoppage time.

The round of 16 is completed on Wednesday when title holders Real Madrid take a 5-2 advantage over Liverpool into their home leg, and Napoli are also at home leading Europa League champions Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0. Chelsea, Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Benfica had qualified for the quarter-finals last week. The draw is on Friday.

De Bruyne returned from injury into City's line-up and was involved in six goals on a memorable night at the Etihad where the hosts got a penalty

after the video assistant referee had seen Benjamin Henrichs handle the ball.

Leipzig goalkeeper Janis Blaswich chose the right side but Haaland's spot kick into the right corner was too fierce and precise to be stopped.

Two minutes on Haaland pressed Blaswich to help City win the ball, and headed home for 2-0 off de Bruyne's shot against the crossbar, and he completed his hat-trick when Haidara's attempt to clear hit the Norwegian and rolled over the line.

It got worse for Leipzig when rampant City scored three more goals in the span of eight minutes: Gündogan's low shot and two more from Haaland after Blaswich had saved initial efforts from the Norwegian and Manuel Akanji, respectively.

## Quick read



A police car burn as Eintracht Frankfurt fans clash with police in Naples on Wednesday. (AFP)

## Fan violence ahead of Napoli vs Frankfurt Champions League match

**NAPLES:** Fan violence erupted in Naples on Wednesday ahead of a Champions League match between Napoli and Eintracht Frankfurt from which visiting German fans have officially been banned. Videos on social media showed police officers being attacked by troublemakers with tables and chairs in central locations of the city, and at least one police car was set ablaze. Frankfurt residents have been banned from attending the last-16 return leg by the prefecture of Naples in connection with security concerns after fan violence around the first-leg match in Germany last month.

The Frankfurt club, which had initially won an appeal against a first fan ban imposed by Italy's interior ministry, waived the ticket contingent it was entitled to and urged fans not to travel to Italy. But several hundred fans of the Europa League champions still made their way to Naples and marched through the city on Wednesday, initially without any trouble.

Frankfurt fans had started arriving on Tuesday night, according to Italian reports joined by ultras from Napoli's Italian rivals Atalanta. Every fan was registered by police. Buses bringing the fans to their hotel were attacked with pyrotechnics, reportedly set off by Napoli ultras. A large police presence was seen in front of the hotel. The ANSA news agency said that a security force of 800 has been deployed to maintain order around the match. (DPA)

## Bayern's Pavard fined for drink driving

**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich and France defender Benjamin Pavard has been fined for driving under the influence of alcohol and will lose his licence for an unspecified time, a Munich court announced on Wednesday. "A fine was imposed in an amount that would not appear on the convicted person's police record," a spokeswoman for the public prosecutor's office explained, with the amount not released. THE 26-year-old, a 2018 world champion, was caught last year. He was also fined by Bayern because of the "mistake" and had a difficult period of form, even suggesting he wanted to leave the German champions. But he has flourished since finishing second with France at the World Cup in December, scoring twice in Bayern's 5-3 win over Augsburg last weekend. (DPA)

## Man United tease Man City after Pep's Julia Roberts regret

DPA  
LONDON

MANCHESTER City may have progressed to the Champions League quarter-finals after a 7-0 thrashing of RB Leipzig but it was their local rivals who got one over on Pep Guardiola.

Erling Haaland was the leading light with five goals as City secured an 8-1 aggregate victory over Leipzig but it was Guardiola's post-match comments that caught the eye.

The City manager revealed he will always feel like a "failure" after he failed to meet one of his idols - Hollywood A-lister Julia Roberts - when she came to visit Manchester in 2016. In a bizarre twist to his press conference, Guardiola explained his hurt over the



Pep Guardiola.

fact Roberts had cavorted with the enemy.

"She came in the period when we were better than United, these four or five years," he said.

"And she went to visit Man

United. She didn't come to see us.

"So, even if I win the Champions League, it cannot compare to the fact Julia Roberts came to Manchester and did not come to see us. My idol." United were quick to remind Guardiola of the fact on Wednesday, with a post on social media showing photos of Roberts' visit to Old Trafford in 2016.

The caption read: "Throwing it back to when Julia Roberts visited Old Trafford." Roberts visited the Theatre of Dreams in November 2016 though United were unable to hook three points in her presence, only managing to draw 1-1 with West Ham.

She then met players from the squad with her children after the game.

## Morocco joining Spain, Portugal in football's 2030 World Cup bid

AGENCIES

MOROCCO will join Spain and Portugal in a bid to host the 2030 World Cup.

The announcement on Tuesday, which raises further doubts over Ukraine's participation in the bid, was made through a statement signed by King Mohammed VI and read at a meeting of the Confederation of African Football.

"The Kingdom of Morocco has decided, together with Spain and Portugal, to present a joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup," the statement said.

"This joint bid, which is unprecedented in football history, will bring together Africa and Europe, the northern and southern Mediterranean, and the African, Arab and Euro-Mediterranean worlds. It will also bring out the best in all of us - in effect, a combination of genius, creativity, experience, and means."

Morocco committed to taking part in the 2030 bid more than four years ago, immediately after losing the vote for the 2026 tournament. It was in talks with the Iberian nations for a while but had never been officially included in the bid. Last October, Spain and Portugal were joined in their long-standing European candidacy by Ukraine, which



File photo of FIFA president Gianni Infantino. (AFP)

is not likely to remain in the bid.

A spokesman for the Spanish football federation told AFP news agency it would meet its Portuguese and Moroccan counterparts in Kigali on Wednesday, but made no mention of Ukraine.

"The presidents will announce any news regarding the candidacy for the 2030 World Cup in Kigali," the spokesman added.

Morocco stunned the world at the tournament in Qatar last year when it became the first Arab and African side to reach the semifinals where they lost to France.

Morocco eventually finished fourth behind Croatia.

## Ibrahimovic returns to Sweden squad for Euro 2024 qualifiers at age 41

DPA  
BERLIN

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic is set to return to international duty with Sweden after he was selected for their Euro 2024 qualifiers against Belgium and Azerbaijan.

The Milan forward has spent most of the season on the sidelines after undergoing a knee operation at the end of the 2021-22 campaign, following a Serie A title triumph.

Despite having only played just over an hour across three games since his return this year, the 41-year-old has been included in Janne Andersson's latest squad.

Speaking on his decision to bring the veteran in despite questions over his fitness, the coach praised the forward's influence off the pitch while stressing he will have a role to



File photo of Sweden's forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic. (AFP)

play on it. "Zlatan and I have been in contact throughout the period up to and including his injury," he said. "Now he feels good enough that he can come into the squad."

"His personality and leadership qualities are good off the pitch, but the idea is for him to come and contribute on it. Otherwise, I wouldn't have

picked him." Ibrahimovic's last appearance for Sweden came almost a year ago, when the country were eliminated by Poland in the World Cup play-offs for Qatar 2022. Then, he was a substitute, and Andersson acknowledges he is likely to play a role from the bench again when called upon for their upcoming fixtures.

## La Liga frustrated by FIFA plans for new club event, WC format

DPA  
BERLIN

SPAIN'S La Liga has spoken out against FIFA over plans to reshape the structure of the 2026 World Cup into four-team groups.

Football's governing body had originally intended to have 16 groups of three teams after expanding from 32 to 48 nations for the tournament jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

However, following the Qatar 2022 edition, plans to maintain the current four-team system resurfaced and have now been rubber-stamped ahead of FIFA's annual congress.

The decision has enraged La Liga however, with the competition set to expand to 104 games from 64.

La Liga has also objected to plans for a new international club tournament, which will join an expanded Club World

Cup on the football calendar. The latter is due to take place every four years starting from 2025, but an as-yet-unnamed additional event is set to take place annually alongside it.

"Following the announcements made today at the 73rd FIFA Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, LaLiga states that FIFA continues its malpractice of making unilateral decisions on the world football calendar," read a statement.

"[FIFA is] showing complete disregard for the importance of national championships, and the football community in general. FIFA completely neglects the economic damage these decisions inflict on leagues around the world."

"Leagues were not consulted about any of the changes presented, especially about the new annual club competition, of which we were completely unaware, and which seriously affects our competitions."



**QATAR BEAT IRAN TO MAKE ASIAN BEACH HANDBALL SEMIS IN BALI**



Five-time champions Qatar defeated the title-holders Iran 23-18, 23-20 in a thrilling contest to book a place in the semi-finals of the 9th Asian Beach Handball Championships in Bali, Indonesia, on Wednesday. Qatar, unbeaten in the Championship so far, having beaten Saudi Arabia 2-0 (26-17, 24-17), Philippines 2-0 (17-14, 28-14) and South Korea 2-0 (23-17, 25-9) in their previous Group A matches, topped the table with eight points. Al Annabi, the runners-up in the previous edition, will take on Vietnam who finished second in Group B, in the semi-final on Thursday. Meanwhile, in Group B, Oman topped the table with their fifth straight win in Bali to make it to the semi-finals. They will meet Group A runner-up Iran as they seek their sixth appearance in the title clash. The tournament serves as a qualification tournament for the 2024 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships.



West Indian Chris Gayle does a jig during the World Giants' match against India Maharajas in the Legends League Cricket at the Asian Town International Stadium in Doha on Wednesday.

**Gayle burst, Lee strikes give World Giants easy win**

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

WORLD Giants, riding on Chris Gayle's commanding knock of 57, recorded a three-wicket victory over India Maharajas in the fifth match of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) Masters at the Asian Town Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

The West Indies' legendary hard-hitter, who has Gayle Force as one of his many nicknames, hit nine powerful boundaries and a six in this 46-ball knock. So dominating was Gayle's knock that after he fell, World Giants struggled to reach the target and but, in the end, won with eight balls to spare.

Man-of-the-Match Gayle paired up with Aussie Shane Watson (26) for a 51-run partnership for the second wicket that proved crucial in Giants' run-chase.

Yusuf Pathan was pick of the bowlers for Maharajas with two wickets, conceding only 14 runs from four overs.

Earlier, Suresh Raina (49) helped Maharajas reach 136/9 in the allotted 20 overs as Giants' pacer Brett Lee excelled

again, grabbing three wickets for 18. The former Indian batsman hit three sixes in his knock.

Raina began with a boundary off the first ball he faced by edging Mpofo past keeper.

In the sixth over, Raina hit Monty Panesar for a six after coming down the track.

Monty Panesar, who bowled the eighth over, was hit for two successive sixes by Raina. The first six was hit to deep mid-wicket and the next was a straight six.

Opener Manvinder Bisla played an innings of 36 from 34 deliveries for Maharajas. Apart from Lee, Chris Mpofo and Tino Best claimed a brace of wickets apiece for the Giants.

World Giants will now meet Asia Lions on Thursday.

**SCORES: World Giants bt India Maharajas by 3 wickets India Maharajas 136 for 9 in 20 overs (Manvinder Bisla 36, Suresh Raina 49, Irfan Pathan 25, Brett Lee 3 for 18, Chris Mpofo 2 for 22, Tino Best 2 for 27) vs World Giants 139 for 7 in 18.4 overs (Chris Gayle 57, Shane Watson 26, Yusuf Pathan 2 for 14). Player of the Match: Chris Gayle.**

**HH Sheikh Mohammed's Yunus claims Rodat Al Maida Cup**

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani's Yunus (FR) claimed the Rodat Al Maida Cup winning the feature of Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club's (QREC) 41st Race Meeting at the Al Rayyan Racecourse on Wednesday.

Yunus made it a double for trainer Rudy Nerbonne. Partnered by jockey Lukas Delozier, the 5YO won the 1700m Conditions for 4YO+ Purebred Arabians by one and a half lengths.

Abdulaziz Jassim Al Boenain, Al Uqda Complex Manager, presented the trophies to the winners.

Earlier, Wathnan Racing's Neat And Dandy (IRE) recorded his second victory in a row. The Alban de Mieulle-trained 4YO gelding took the 1700m Handicap (65-85) for 3YO+ Thoroughbreds by three quarters of a lengths, giving jockey Soufiane Saadi a second winner on the day.

The 1200m Handicap (0-80) for 3YO+ Thoroughbred saw a stunning effort from the Fatima Bint Sultan Al Dosari-owned Cloak And Dagger (IRE). Saddled by Mohammed Ghazali and ridden by Saleh Faraj Al Otaibi, the 7YO was victorious by staggering nine and a half lengths clear of the field at the line.

Injaaz Stud's colours, trainer Julian Smart and jockey Jefferson Smith were present at the winner's enclosure for the second time on the day, as Silencer (IRE) produced a good performance and won the 1200m Maiden for 3-6YO Thoroughbreds by three quarters of a length.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani's Shwomil'a (QA) was given a fine ride by jockey Rashid Ali Al Saaq, who steered the 4YO filly to success on fourth career start as she dominated the 1200m Maiden for 4-6YO Local Purebred Arabians by five lengths for trainer Rudy Ner-



The winning team of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani's Yunus with their prizes at the Al Rayyan Racecourse on Wednesday. Abdulaziz Jassim Al Boenain, Al Uqda Complex Manager, presented the trophies to the winners.



Jockey Lukas Delozier rode Yunus to victory in the 1700m Conditions for 4YO+ Purebred Arabians by one and a half lengths.

bonne.

Al Jeryan Stud's Diva De Pine (IT) was an impressive winner of the 1200m Maiden for 4-6YO Purebred Arabians for trainer M.H.K Al Attiyah, pulling four lengths clear of the field at the line under Soufiane Saadi's cool ride.

The Khadija Mohammed Al Bastaki-owned Rock Bottom (GB) bounced back to good

form in the Handicap (0-65) for 4YO+ Thoroughbreds. Under jockey Giuseppe Cultraro, the 7YO prevailed by almost two lengths in the 1200m contest for trainer Abdulrahman Abdulwahed.

Injaaz Stud's Nadiraha (QA) began the meeting getting off the mark on fifth career with a two-and-a-half length victory in the 1700m Handicap (0-65)

for 4YO+ Local Thoroughbreds under jockey Jefferson Smith for trainer Julian Smart.

- 41ST Race Meeting - Rodat Al Maida Cup**
- 1 - Rodat Al Maida Cup - Purebred Arabian Conditions**  
Yunus, Rudy Andre Nerbonne, Lukas Delozier
  - 2 - Thoroughbred Handicap 65-85 (Class 4)**  
Neat And Dandy, Alban Elie De Mieulle, Soufiane Saadi
  - 3 - Thoroughbred Handicap 0-80 (Class 4) (Qatari Riders only)**  
Cloak And Dagger, Mohammed Ghazali, Saleh Faraj Al-Otaibi
  - 4 - Thoroughbred Maiden Plate (Class 6)**  
Silencer, Julian Colin Smart, Jefferson Smith
  - 5 - Local Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate**  
Shwomil'a, Rudy Andre Nerbonne, Rashid Ali Al-Marri
  - 6 - Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate**  
Diva De Pine, M.H.K Al Attiyah, Soufiane Saadi
  - 7 - Thoroughbred Handicap 0-65 (Class 6)**  
Rock Bottom, Abdulrahman Abdulwahed, Giuseppe Cultraro
  - 8 - Local Thoroughbred Handicap 0-65**  
Nadiraha, Julian Colin Smart, Jefferson Smith.

**Karatekas excel at third QOC Beach Games 2023**

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE karate event for both boys & girls at the Qatar Olympic Committee Beach Games 2023 concluded at Cultural Village Katara.

In the Over 16 karate final (girls), Salma Abdulrahman claimed the first place overall, as Waad Sukaria seized the runner-up place while Nada Al Yazidi finished third.

In the men's Karate final, Mohammed Younis won the first place ahead of Said Mostafa Amar who finished in second place and Karam Jood snatched the third place.

In the men's 3x3 beach basketball, Salah eddin Sakour claimed the first place, as Adham Hashem Abdulnaser won the second place and the third place went to Abdulhameed



The QOC Beach Games, which sees the participation of more than 800 athletes, will conclude on Friday.

Shaoash.

In effort to build up a better sport future for high education institutions, Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF) has encouraged students to be an integral part of the sport ac-

tivities during the Games.

The QOC Beach Games, which sees the participation of more than 800 athletes, will conclude on Friday.

With sportsmanship and power of will, a group of stu-

dents from Qatar University (QU), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) participated in Health & Fitness Program, Beach Football and Beach Basketball.

**No rotation plans for Ten Hag as Man Utd face Betis with 4-1 lead**

STATS PERFORM/DPA

ERIK ten Hag ruled out rotating his Manchester United squad for their Europa League second leg at Real Betis despite a testing schedule.

United head away to their LaLiga opponents on Thursday with a 4-1 advantage at the halfway point in their last-16 tie.

With a comfortable three-goal cushion and an FA Cup quarter-final with Fulham to come on Sunday, there had been suggestions Ten Hag would alter his XI.

But the Dutchman said on Wednesday he would name what he considers his strongest team for the clash, intending to treat the match with the respect he believes it deserves.

"It is always serious," he

said. "We will play our best team. We have to put up a team that can adapt during the game."

"We know our opponent can, as they have really good players. We have to be ready to battle with them." There is an added risk with Bruno Fernandes and Casemiro, who would be suspended if they were booked in Spain. Casemiro is already banned from domestic action.

But Ten Hag said: "They will play, both. It is a very good opponent. We need to go again. We need our best players and our best team."

United will be without several of their attacking talents for the trip, however, with Antony out through illness and Alejandro Garnacho ruled out with an ankle injury.