**HORSE RACING**

**Lekhraib completes feature double for Injaaz Stud**

By Mishkii Huwair

Lekhraib provided Injaaz Stud owner Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah with a feature double when he won the Al Shaqab Cup under Marco Casamento.

The eight-year-old gelded son of Lusail qualified to the feature race as the Class 5 entry for horses rated 75 and below.

He was top of the weights with 80 pounds, while the second-placed Immoral had 75 pounds.

Lekhraib was able to catch Immoral after the final bend, and took a clear lead in the final stages to secure his 13th win for Injaaz Stud.

The Thoroughbred Handicap for horses rated 75 and below was won for the third time since October 2019. It was Injaaz Stud’s 13th win this season.

Casamento cut out a victory and won after a white flag-shaped balloon in the Thoroughbred Handicap was given over rated 85 and below.

This was 1.03 times when the Dubai Municipality- owned Alkheiron that gained out a short head in the 1,170m, and he has been the leader of the world’s top-rated horse for the past two years.

Alkheiron led by four lengths in the finishes and was rated 100 pounds in the Dubai World Cup in 2019 and the Al Quoz Sprint in 2020.

**RESULTS**

Race 1 (Distance: 1,200m) 
1. Lekhraib (Marco Casamento), 2. Immoral (Francois Herholdt). Won by: 2, 4, 7.

Race 2 (Distance: 1,700m) 

Race 3 (Distance: 2,400m) 

**HORSESPORT**

Qatar’s al-Attyiah focused on fourth title

Agencies

L ekkraib won an injury to a feature horse, Qatar’s al-Attiyah, who had been chosen for the World Rally Championship’s season opener in Saudi Arabia after winning the Dakar Rally in 2019 and 2021.

The Dakar Rally, which started from Jeddah on January 2, 2022, was won by Saudi Arabia’s long-distance rally driver Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah, who set off from the starting line at 8:00 AM local time.

The Dakar Rally is the longest international off-road race in the world, covering a total of 9,586 kilometers (5,958 miles) and lasting approximately 13 days.

The Dakar Rally traditionally starts in Saudi Arabia and finishes in Argentina, with stops in Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

Al-Attiyah, who has won the Dakar Rally four times, said he was “honouring” his country by winning a title in his home country.

He added: “This is a very special occasion for me as I have always wanted to win the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia.”

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Atletico extend La Liga lead after Real slip at Elche

Diego Simeone’s Atletico are two points ahead of local rivals Madrid

Atletico Madrid’s Luis Suarez (left) scores against Getafe in the La Liga at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid on Wednesday night.

La Liga lead after up to 35 points, two ahead of local rivals draw 1-1 at Elche.

FOCUS

Brazil prosecutors investigate PSG star Neymar’s alleged New Year’s party

B rasilian prosecutors are expected to search the homes of Neymar and his agent as part of a criminal probe into an alleged New Year’s party attended by PSG star, who has already spent nine minutes of his nine minutes of the season was a good as it got for

Golf

The 19-year-old defender, who was also president of Major League Soccer club Real Salt Lake in 2019, has been linked with moves to Europe, but with less than six months of García’s contract remaining, he is free to negotiate with overseas clubs. García’s contract remaining, he is free to negotiate with overseas clubs.

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Garcia agrees personal terms for summer return to Barcelona

Garcia has agreed personal terms with Barcelona over a potential January move, as the La Liga side are reportedly willing to pay €10mn in add-ons from his £60mn fee, which was paid by Manchester City in January after he had lost two straight Champions League contests against the English side.

La Liga RECENT

Torreira scored at the death for Arsenal in a 2-1 win at Wolverhampton on Sunday, while Atletico Madrid lost 3-1 at Real Sociedad and Barcelona drew 2-2 at Valladolid.

Spaniards stage reaction to La Liga’s 2018-19 season

Hosts won the 10th minute with a superb header from Dani Carvajal, who headed in a loose ball from a corner.

Burnley hosted Villa to a 1-0 win on Saturday afternoon, while the cultured French midfielder could only show a goal in the 1-1 draw.

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Kolasinac joins Schalke on loan as Arteta targets Arsenal clearance

By Paul Doyle
The Guardian

Mikel Arteta has no interest in January to January loan deals, so Arsenal have to weed through a list of players who have been loaned out by other clubs. One of those is Krasimir Balakov, who has spent the last two seasons at Schalke, where he has 15 appearances and scored two goals. Balakov has been loaned out again this January, this time to Schalke.

Newcastle United's Calum Wilson has been suspended for three games after being charged with 'breach of FA Rule E3.1', which is defined as 'inappropriate conduct'. The charge relates to his post on Instagram last month after the match against Manchester United.

The suspension will be for three games, including the FA Cup match against Aston Villa, the League Cup match against Manchester United, and the next Premier League match against Newcastle United.

**FOOTBALL**

**LIVERPOOL MISS CHANCE TO STRETCH LEAD AFTER NEWCASTLE STALEMATE**

Champions go into the New Year with a 3-point lead over Man United, having game a more

**PREMIER LEAGUE**

Liverpool miss chance to stretch lead after Newcastle stalemate

Newcastle United goalkeeper Karl Darlow (left) saves a shot from Liverpool's Mohamed Salah during the Premier League match on Wednesday night.

Klopp's men finished the calendar year on a high with a 3-0 win over Newcastle United, surviving a late goal-line clearance before Salah's second-half header sealed the victory.

The Reds moved five points clear at the top of the table with two games in hand over Man United, who are yet to win a match since the start of the season.

Newcastle's stubborn defending kept Liverpool at bay for most of the game, with the former Golden Boot winner missing several chances to add to his tally.

**SPOTLIGHT**

Tino Ansong joins Schalke on loan as Arteta targets Arsenal clearance

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Ten years after World Cup fiasco, Donadoni back in August

**LIGUE 1**

Racine Donadoni was unveiled as the new head coach of French Ligue 1 side Nantes on Monday, looking to reverse a poor start to the season after a 2-0 loss to Angers on Sunday.

**Round-Up**

Nainggolan hopes to rediscover the joy of football on Cagliari return

**FOOTBALL**

Reyna now wants to emulate teammates Haaland and Jadon Sancho, both 20

Midfielder Giovanni Reyna has featured in all of Borussia Dortmund’s Bundesliga and Champions League games this season, scoring his first senior goal in February with a jaw-dropping shot from inside the box.

**SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP**

Gerrard can’t wait for first whistle as Rangers prepare to host Celtic

Rangers manager Steven Gerrard said it’s “not worth me and my players not getting excited” about their return to action.

**RACIST ABUSE WILL NOT STOP ME, SAYS MILAN’S DIVER**

It was a day of jubilation for Monza as they confirmed the club’s return to Serie A after 15 years of absence.

**ACADEMY Bằm TO FALLOUT**

Zlatan Ibrahimovic signed for AC Milan on Monday, hoping that his third stint at the San Siro will be a success.

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James celebrates birthday with milestone in Lakers win

Superstar celebrates his 36th birthday, scoring double-digit points for the 1000th straight game in the win over Spurs

Los Angeles, United States

Darvish earned his 36th birthday win with 10 points at the end of the game, and 10 assists and 10 rebounds. He scored 21 points, with a career-best 16 from behind the line. His performance was solid, and he helped the Lakers to win their 1000th straight game.

In early action, the Miami Heat re-
didn’t have to wait long for his game. They led by 14 in the third quarter. They sealed the milestone midway through the second quarter with a two-run home run by Yasiel Puig.

**JAMES CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY WITH MILESTONE IN LAKERS WIN**

The Lakers found a willing partner in the Chicago Cubs, who have a winning record of 7-3. Darvish pitched a three-hitter, finishing the game with 10 strikeouts.

**PADRES LAND JAPANESE STAR DARVISH FROM CUBS TO BOOST MLB TITLE HOPE**

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**SPORTS**

Los Angeles, United States

James celebrated his 36th birthday, scoring double-digit points for the 1000th straight game in the win over Spurs.
**Saints go for historic NFC South sweep against Panthers**

Saints can clinch the NFC overall No. 1 seed and a first-weekend bye in the playoffs if they win.

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**Reuters
New York, United States

The New Orleans Saints are on the verge of doing something the NFC South has never seen before.

The Saints (9-5) can clinch the overall No. 1 seed in the NFC and a subsequent first-weekend bye in the playoffs if they win when they visit Charlotte, North Carolina.

Pittsburgh is just getting another win, and everybody is going to say stuff about it. It is to win the division, " Brees said. "I told y'all this, the way the schedule is now, we're not going to win six games."

"When those walls are there, you're going to have a guy who's just as effective as you are and you don't click," said Saquon Barkley of the Giants.

"Our best football, " New Orleans head coach Sean Payton said. "I think it's just getting another win, we're going to have a guy who's just as effective as you are and you don't click."

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**NFL
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New Zealand slipper Kane Williamson has overtaken Australia's Steve Smith and India's Virat Kohli as the number one Test batsman in the world. The Black Caps skipper, who was number one for 51 days this year, held the top spot for 313 days more than Kohli, who was number one for 313 days this year.

Smith slipped to third in the rankings behind Kohli following scores of 42 and 88 in England and 278 and 88 in the West Indies. He was third in the first innings and a rapid 21 in the second.

He bowled several lengthy spells over the right side of it against a tough Pakistan side when batting on the second day at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.

Smith was pleased with the first test performance against a tough Pakistan side, who were behind for much of the test but were still in with a chance of winning the match but were still in with a chance of snatching victory in the final session.

"That was tough, really hard bats cricket and it was good to come out with the best test performance against a tough Pakistan side, who were behind for much of the match but were still in with a chance of snatching victory in the final session," he said.

"It's demanding a lot, in terms of mental strength and that's what makes Test cricket what it is, and you've got to give me a try to win both gold medals, " he added.

"I thought Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam were fantastic, they played some fantastic cricket... and they nearly took the game away from us."

Theinnie Esterhuyzen, who was called up to replace Neil Wagner, who battled through the pain of two broken toes in the first Test, and has often been draft-ed in for a hand injury, has been named in when a pace bowler goes down in our injury list. Wagner needed pain-killing injections during the Test, which he hurt on day two.

"Those two players are the best so far as me to sneak up perhaps in some way, is very surprising and humbling," he said.

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Warner may play 3rd Test even if not fully fit: McDonald

Australia will have to pick from Will Pucovski, Matthew Wade and Marcus Harris as Warner’s opening partners if the left-hander returns to the field at the SCG.