Umm Qarn-owned Mehdi won the Al Zubara Trophy on the first day of HH The Amir Sword Festival at Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club’s Al Rayyan Park yesterday. Mehdi, guided by jockey Soufiane Saadi, edged out Al Balagh for a thrilling victory in yesterday’s feature race—Al Zubara Trophy for Local Purebred Arabians, which offered a prize purse of $150,000.

It was Alberto Sanna-helmed Muale’m, who took the lead in the beginning but Ghali al-Athman—piloted by JP Guillambert—snatched the lead at the 500m-mark. Keeping the pace with the pack, Alban Elie De Mieulle-trained Mehdi made a surge in the final 100m to overcome a swift move from Olivier Peslier-led Al Balagh, and complete a close win to secure the winners’ prize of $85,500.

Sealine with Ronan Thomas in the saddle finished third, with Ghali al-Athman and Muale’m finishing fourth and fifth respectively.

The three-day event, which is also featuring 15 international horses besides the GCC formidables, started with exciting races with eight titles being decided on the inaugural day.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani also watched the action on the opening day, which also featured many activities off the racecourse for fans. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani's homebred Hameed continued the fine run, clinching the 1600m Purebred Arabian Cup title. The 33rd race meeting, yesterday.

With the four-year-old's win, Bughanaim also completed a hat-trick of victories for trainer Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani followed the victory of Al Shaqab Racing's Lauded under Faleh Bughanaim. With the four-year-old's win, Bughanaim also completed a hat-trick of victories for trainer Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki. Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani's homebred Hameed continued the fine run, clinching the 1600m Purebred Arabian Cup title.

Winners

1. Al Zubara Trophy – Local Purebred Arabians
   Mehdi, Alban Elie De Mieulle, Soufiane Saadi
   2. Thoroughbred Open Sprint Cup (Class 2)
   Lauded, Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki, Faleh Bughanaim
   3. Purebred Arabian 4-Year-Old Cup
   Hameed, Rudy Andre Nerbonne, Alberto Sanna
   4. Thoroughbred Handicap Cup (Class 3)
   Balmari, Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki, Lukas Delozier
   5. Purebred Arabian Handicap Cup
   Saoud al-Sulaimi, Jassim Ghazali, Marco Casamento
   6. Thoroughbred Handicap Cup (Class 4)
   Semper Augustus, Jassim Ghazali, Maxime Guyon
   7. Local Thoroughbred Handicap Cup
   Irtiqaa, Mohamed Khaled Elahmed, Meteb Ali al-Marri
   8. Thoroughbred Maiden Cup (Class 6)
   Caidok, Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki, Dylan Browne McMonagle
Sadd edge past Qatar SC to inch closer to title

**MOTORSPORT**

Ferrari unveil sleek car with ambitions to end title drought

"Expectations are very high because we are Ferrari and we are always expected to win," said 24-year-old Leclerc.

"I am very happy with the victory today against Qatar SC. We achieved our goal in the match and got the three points," Charles Leclerc said yesterday. "This month we have played many matches and it’s been an intense competition. We have not allowed other teams to create opportunities against us. We were very strong in the first half and personally, I am very proud of today’s result." Leclerc was given his debut for Ferrari at the Australian Grand Prix in 2019.

**CRICKET**

Kiwis ahead after Henry destroys South Africa

New Zealand’s Matt Henry has a mouth-watering task of returning to Test cricket in the opening match against South Africa and the 45-overs a day format will be relaunched here by Richard Hadlee, who cheered him on at the Hagley Oval yesterday. Henry’s mission for 135 South Africans, who were bowled out by Elgar, was to break Mercedes and Red Bull’s domination next season. "Expectations are very high because we are Ferrari and we are always expected to win," said 24-year-old Leclerc. "I am very happy with the victory today against Qatar SC. We achieved our goal in the match and got the three points," Charles Leclerc said yesterday. "This month we have played many matches and it’s been an intense competition. We have not allowed other teams to create opportunities against us. We were very strong in the first half and personally, I am very proud of today’s result." Leclerc was given his debut for Ferrari at the Australian Grand Prix in 2019.

"I am very happy with the victory today against Qatar SC. We achieved our goal in the match and got the three points," Charles Leclerc said yesterday. "This month we have played many matches and it’s been an intense competition. We have not allowed other teams to create opportunities against us. We were very strong in the first half and personally, I am very proud of today’s result." Leclerc was given his debut for Ferrari at the Australian Grand Prix in 2019.
**LIVERPOOL**

Liverpool see off Inter to put one foot in quarters

Liverpool last November and De- 
dan-based Aurora for Training

launched by the Supreme Com-

good result to take back to Anfi eld, “ V an

team, diffi  cult to break down and I really

matches in all competitions.

Dijk and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a

through the match and were punished late on by a Reds

not fi nd their way past a Liverpool back-

long periods after the break and struck

soon after the restart. "I think it was a
**SPORT**

**QATAR EQUESTRIAN OPEN**

**Rinderknech stuns Shapovalov, Basilashvili survives scare**

Former champion Bautista Agut routs Fokina to set up a semi-final clash against sixth seed Khachanov, who beat Cilic

**AMIR CUP QUARTER-FINALS TO BE PLAYED ON MAY 5 AND 6**

The quarter-final matches of the 50th edition of the Amir Cup will be held on March 5 and 6, the Qatar Football Association announced yesterday. (Image: By Sports Reporter)

**AMIR SWORD FESTIVAL**

Waldon claims dressage top honours

Qatar’s Maryam al-Boinin came up with the best performance to win the Amir Sword Festival for Showjumping and Dressage at Qatar Equestrian & Modern Pentathlon Federation’s indoor arena yesterday.

**TODAY’S SCHEDULE**

Tennis Court 2: Match 1 against the clock 10:00-12:00 pm. Match Court (A): One round against the clock 12:30-15:30 pm. 4:30 pm. Big Tour: Table A. One round against the clock 15:00-17:00 pm.