

## Sports

# Zain sponsors Kuwait Equestrian Federation's Showjumping Tour

## Company proud to support local sports and Kuwaiti showjumpers

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its gold sponsorship of the first edition of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation's Showjumping Tour (2021-2022 season). The event, which is being held for the first time, is set to feature over 300 showjumpers from across Kuwait's equestrian clubs. Zain announced its support to the tour during the press conference held at the headquarters of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation in Jaber Al Ahmad. The event featured the presence of Secretary General of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation Nabeela Al Ali, Zain Kuwait's External and Internal Relations Department Manager Hamad Al Musaibeeh, Kuwait Equestrian Federation board members Sheikh Yousef Meshal Al Sabah and Ali Al Kharafi, as well as representatives of the event's sponsors.

During the press conference, Zain expressed its pride in sponsoring this event in collaboration with the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, as the company's support springs from its corporate sustainability strategy towards supporting Kuwaiti sports and youth. Zain is a strong believer in the talents and capabilities of Kuwait's young athletes, especially those who are passionate about equestrian sports, which are deep rooted in Kuwaiti, Arab, and Islamic identity. The first edition of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation's Showjumping Tour (2021-2022 season) is set to witness the participation of over 300 showjumpers who represent public and private equestrian clubs from across the nation. The tour will feature 8 competitions held in three clubs: Hunting and Equestrian Club, Kuwait Riding



**KUWAIT:** Officials are seen at a press conference held at the headquarters of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

Center and Messilah Equestrian Club.

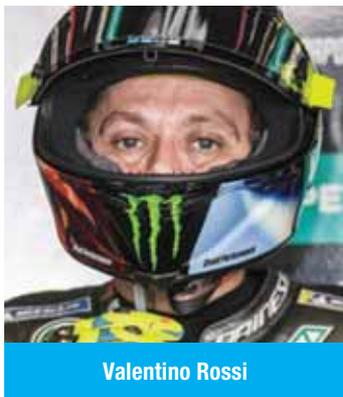
Zain is always keen on supporting the various sports programs and official competitions hosted in Kuwait with the aim of elevating the Kuwaiti sports scene. The company strongly believes that the private sector has a vital role in progressing sports and youth initiatives, and it makes this belief a reality by

sponsoring similar events. As a leading private sector company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti sports and athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition and support they deserve.

## Rossi's reign ends in Spain as busy 'retirement' beckons

**VALENCIA:** A sporting icon rides into retirement on Sunday at the Valencia MotoGP where nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi's name will grace the grid for the very last time. The charismatic Italian, 42, bows out with his place assured as one of the true greats of his or any other sport. For much of a career spanning three decades he was the master of the art of eking out every last unit of energy from his 157 kg metal charge to spellbinding effect.

He claimed his first world title in 1997, a year after making his 125cc debut, following up with the 250cc championship in 1999. Graduating to the premier class he was runner-up in his first season in 2000 before taking the final world title raced in the 500cc format a year later with Honda. He added six more in the new MotoGP class in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009, the first two with Honda, the rest with Yamaha. He leaves his stage with 115 victories including a record 89 in MotoGP, 235 podiums (199 in the top flight), also a record, and the longest career of any rider in the sport's premier class. Inevitably for a man in his forties competing against riders half his age Rossi's fortunes have waned in recent years. For 2021, he vacated his seat at Yamaha's main table to join their satellite SRT team in a straight swap with Fabio Quartararo, the Frenchman who wrapped up the world championship at Rossi's local track of Misano last month. —AFP



**Valentino Rossi**

## NBA champions Bucks hold off Knicks, Nets work Magic

**LOS ANGELES:** The Milwaukee Bucks turned the tables on the New York Knicks on Wednesday, squandering a 24-point lead before emerging with a 112-100 NBA victory at Madison Square Garden. The Knicks had rallied from a 21-point first-half deficit to stun the reigning champion Bucks in Milwaukee on Friday, but they couldn't work the same magic on their home floor. Pat Connaughton's season-high 23 points for Milwaukee included three three-pointers in the final four minutes - part of a long-range barrage the Bucks used to hold on.

Grayson Allen added two three-pointers in the waning minutes for Milwaukee, who finished with 26 three-pointers on 50 attempts. The Bucks appeared to have the game in hand when Giannis Antetokounmpo came up with a steal and a dunk for a 24-point lead midway through the third quarter. But New York's reserves - who took over in the third quarter as Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau benched his ineffective starters - responded.

Derrick Rose scored 22 points off the bench for New York, and Immanuel Quickley added 18. Quickley's three-pointer tied the score at 89-89 with 5:06 left to play. The Bucks quickly edged back in front with three-pointers from George Hill and Jrue Holiday, and Connaughton's long-range efforts pushed the lead back to 10 points with 2:05 to go.

"We definitely had that in the back of our mind," Antetokounmpo said of the Bucks' loss to New York last week. "Coming here tonight on a back-to-back, obviously our bodies are tired, but at the end of the day we've got to do what we've got to do. "We kept our composure and that's who we are."



**NEW YORK:** Semi Ojeleye #37 of the Milwaukee Bucks passes against Julius Randle #30 of the New York Knicks during their game at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday. — AFP

In San Francisco, Andrew Wiggins scored 35 points and superstar Stephen Curry added 25 as the Golden State Warriors withstood a 48-point effort from Anthony Edwards to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 123-110. The Warriors improved their league-leading record to 10-1 as Wiggins took it to his former team, making all nine of his shots in the first half. That included a soaring dunk over Karl-Anthony Towns in the second quarter. Russell Westbrook posted a triple-double of 25 points, 12 rebounds and 14 assists to fuel the injury-depleted Lakers to a 120-117 overtime win over the Miami Heat in Los Angeles. Anthony Davis added 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Lakers improved to 2-2 with superstar LeBron James sidelined by an abdominal strain. A litany of injuries left the Lakers with just nine players in uniform. —AFP