

Magnificent Mirza wins stage 2

2014 Tour of Zubarah: Algeria's Azzedine Lagab retains overnight lead with neat finish

DOHA: Overnight leader Azzedine Lagab yesterday retained his position at the Tour of Zubarah where defending champion Yusif Mirza of the UAE produced a late burst to win stage two.

Lagab finished stage two in fourth spot to keep his title hopes alive on a day when the riders completed a gruelling 116.8kms stage in Madinat Al Shamal.

Mirza who rides for Team Giant ended the stage with a time of 2 hours 45 minutes 22 seconds to jump to 11th in the overall general classification.

The 26-year-old UAE rider now owns the white jersey.

Austria's Martin Weiss, who featured at last year's Tour of Zubarah, finished in second spot while David Per of Adria Mobil was placed in third spot.

Lagab ended day three of the four-day event a notch above fifth-placed Mario Schoibl of Austria. Kristijan Fajt of Adria Mobil was sixth while TKT Racing Cycles rider Gabor Kazsa stunned with a seventh-place finish.

Nabojsa Jovanovic (TKT), Wauter Sybrandy (SIG) and Primož Roglic (Adria Mobil) rounded off the top-10 riders in stage two.

Lagab (5:35.51) now enjoys a 19-second lead over second-placed Fajt. Weiss, who finished second at last year's Tour of Zubarah, is

in third place, 30 seconds adrift of Lagab.

Per (32 seconds adrift) is in fourth spot while Schoibl (34 seconds) is in sixth spot.

Sybrandy (43 seconds), Roman Van Uden (1:47), Radoslav Rogina (2:00), Abdennour Yahmi (2:01) and Mirza (2:03) complete the top-10 riders in the general classification.

Qatar's Abdelrahman Jarbous was 21st fastest yesterday finishing 1:17 slower than Mirza. Jarbous's team-mate Abdullah Affi was placed 45th, 3:31 adrift of the time set by Mirza.

Abdullah is 34th fastest in the overall general classification (6:52 slower than the time of Lagab (5:35.51).

Today the riders will kick off the proceedings from Lekhwiya Sports Club and end at Zubarah Fort in the north of the country.

The Zubarah Fort, also known as Fort Zubara, is a historic Qatari military fortress built under the oversight of Sheikh Abdullah bin Qassim Al Thani in 1938.

The Zubarah Fort was originally built by Sheikh Abdullah to serve as a coast guard station.

It was later renovated into a museum to display diverse exhibits and artworks for topical archaeological findings.

The event is sponsored by Aspire Zone and Qatar Museums.

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Riders close in on the finish line of stage two at Tour of Zubarah yesterday. The event concludes today with stage three which begins at Lekhwiya Stadium and ends at Al Zubarah Fort.

Top-10 Results in Stage Two

- 1 Yousif Mirza, TGG, 2:45:22
- 2 Martin Weiss, Tirol Cycling Team (all riders same time)
- 3 David Per, Adria Mobil
- 4 Azzedine Lagab, Grouperment Sportif des Petrolier Algerie
- 5 Mario Schoibl, Team Gourmetfein Simplan Wels
- 6 Kristijan Fajt, Adria Mobil
- 7 Gabor Kazsa, Racing Cycles Kastrol Team.
- 8 Nabojsa Jovanovic, Racing Cycles - Kastro Team
- 9 Wouter Sybrandy, AUT
- 10 Primož Roglic, Team Adria Mobil

Top-5 in Overall Classification

- (Previous positions in brackets)
- 1 (1) Azzedine Lagab, 5:35:51
 - 2 (2) Kristijan Fajt, 0:19 seconds behind
 - 3 (6) Martin Weiss, 0:30 seconds
 - 4 (5) David Per, 0:32 seconds
 - 5 (4) Mario Schoibl, 0:34 seconds

UAE rider Yusif Mirza celebrates winning stage two of the Tour of Zubarah in Madinat Al Shamal yesterday.



Today's stage 3 starts at Lekhwiya Stadium at 10:30am and ends at Al Zubarah Fort at 1:25pm



UAE rider Yusif Mirza, who represents Team Giant, is seen receiving his white jersey after he won stage two of Tour of Zubarah.

Shipton wins Losail MX races

DOHA: Jake Shipton of Britain yesterday won both races in round three of the Losail MX Championship which took place at Losail MX Track.

In race one of the MX 1 category, Shipton, who was featuring in his maiden MX competition in Qatar, clocked a time of 22:34.68 over 11 laps around the 1.6km circuit.

"I am really happy with my performances and I am happy to have taken part in this championship," Shipton said.

The second position was secured by compatriot Jake Preston (23:57.605) in both races.

For Preston also, it was his maiden appearance at a MX event in Qatar.

Kuwaiti rider Mohammed Jaffar finished third in both races (1 and 2) and has accumulated 140 points to lead the MX 1 category.

In the MX 2 category, Ryan Blair finished first in race 1 and 2 whereas Moath Al Ansari ended second in both races.

Barak Al Jasmi finished third position in race 1.

In Race 2 fans witnessed a tough challenge between Barak Al Jasmi and Saeed Al Shenqiti for the battle of third position.

However, it was Saeed Al Shenqiti who finished third in race 2.

The day's best lap time was also recorded by Shipton who clocked 1:52.558 around the 1.6km dirt track that was built in a record time two years ago.

The trophies were presented by Sultan Al Muraikhi, QMMF Board Member.

The MX races are staged periodically by QMMF.

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Barak Al Jasmi (left) and Ryan Blair in action during one of the races held at Losail International Circuit yesterday. PICTURES: AHMED FEISAL



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