

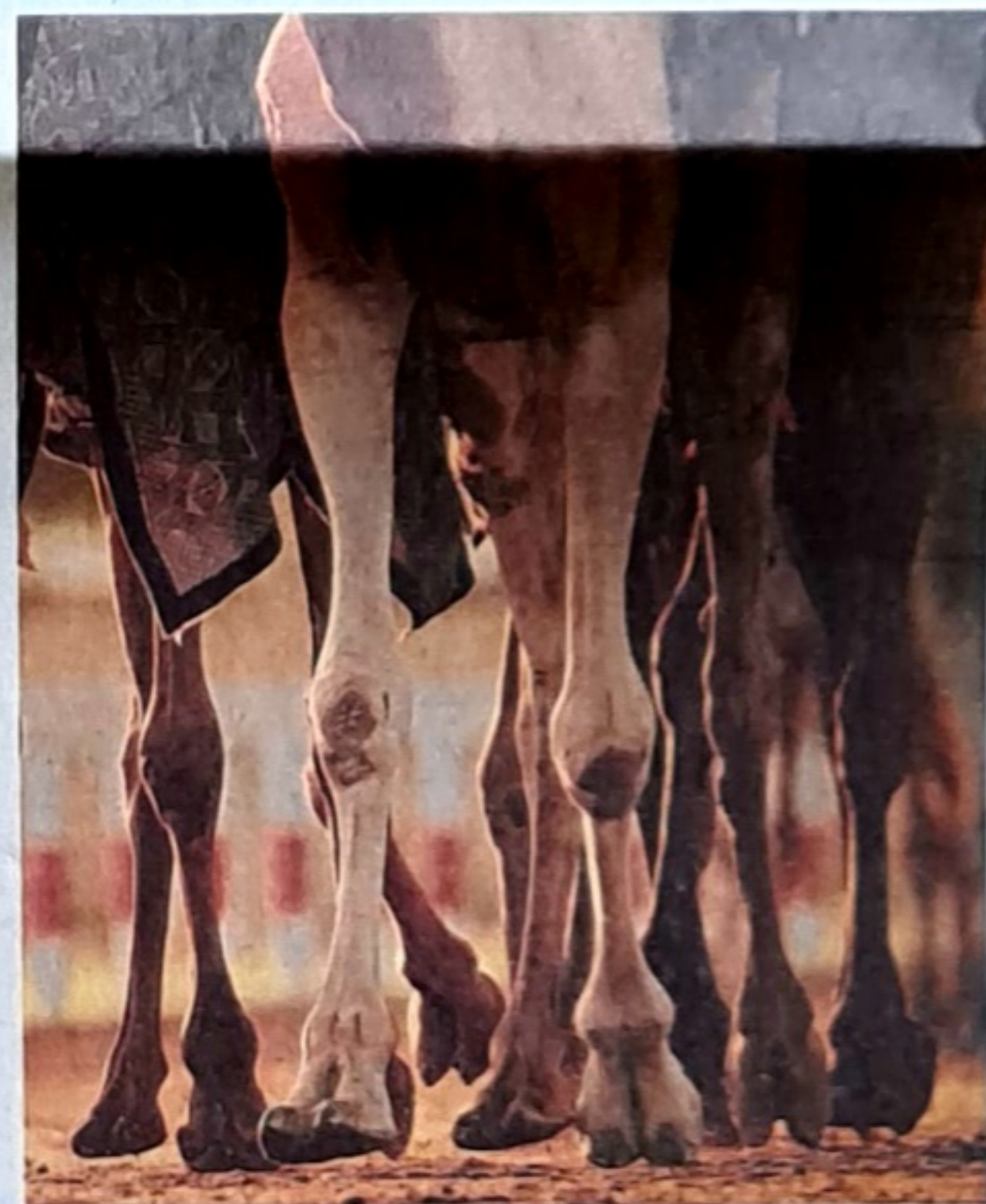
Reader picture essay



■ Riders and camels get ready for the race. Nahata said: "The excitement is contagious and something you must see to believe."

A blur of camels at Al Marmoum

Camel racing is deeply rooted in Emirati culture, and you can experience why at the Al Marmoum Camel Racetrack, about 40km south of Dubai. Gulf News reader Priyanshi Nahata clicked these pictures. She said: "The tournament is one of the highlights of professional camel racing across the Middle East and attracts thousands of highly-trained competitors for coveted titles and prizes. Once the gates open, the race is on, and it is an experience like no other!"
Editor's note: Send us your picture essays to readers@gulfnews.com



■ The Al Marmoum Camel Racetrack hosts races weekly between September and April, attracting camel owners from across the UAE and the region.



■ A rider helps his camel warm up.



■ The caretakers lead the camels to the starting line and prepare them for the race.



■ The races are grouped by the age of the camel and usually span across four, five or six kilometres.



■ Nahata said: "It is stunning to see the practice races from the finish line, when all the camels are warmed up."