

# Camel racing meets new technology



SAUDI  
ARABIA

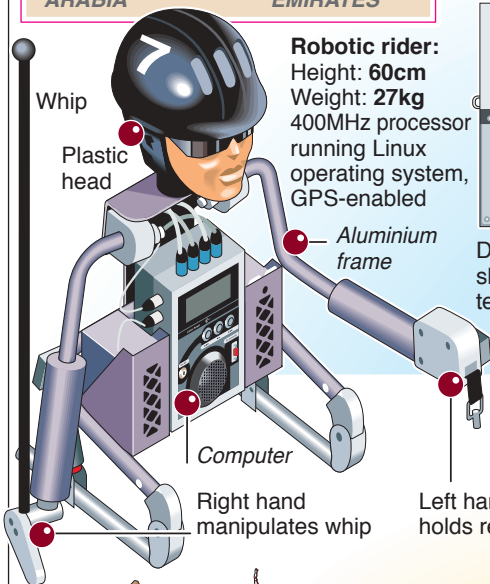
BAHRAIN

QATAR

UNITED ARAB  
EMIRATES

In a bid to end the exploitation of young boys as camel jockeys, Qatar's rulers have pioneered the use of robotic riders. The \$10,000, child-size robots are the creation of the Swiss-based *K-Team*

**Racetrack controller:** Trainer follows camel in vehicle, uses joystick and buttons to control rider



**Robotic rider:**

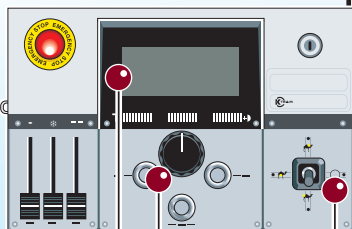
Height: 60cm  
Weight: 27kg  
400MHz processor  
running Linux  
operating system,  
GPS-enabled

Aluminium  
frame

Computer

Right hand  
manipulates whip

Left hand  
holds reins

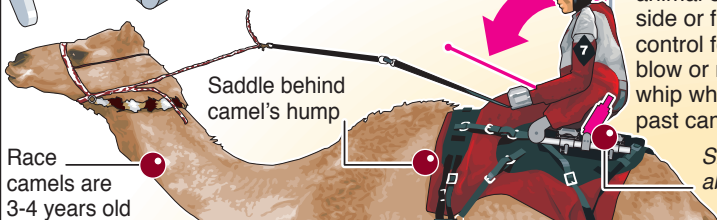


Display  
shows speed,  
temperature,  
and camel's  
heart rate

Dial tightens or  
lengthens reins

Joystick to  
control whip

**Race season:** October to April.  
Between 15 and 70 camels race  
on 4-10km sandy track



Saddle behind  
camel's hump

Using joystick,  
trainer can strike  
animal on front,  
side or flank;  
control force of  
blow or make  
whip whistle  
past camel's ear

Shock  
absorbers

Race  
camels are  
3-4 years old

Barriers keep camels  
on race track

Sources: Wired, K-Team

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