

Ironman 70.3 preparations in full swing, athletes arrive

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International participants of the Ironman 70.3 Middle East Championship scheduled for Saturday had started arriving.

They were welcomed yesterday by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The event is held under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Stating that the Kingdom is proud to hold international events at the Ironman 70.3 Middle East Championship's level, Shaikh Nasser called on Bahraini athletes to seize this golden opportunity.

"I am very happy at the number of Bahrainis registered to compete in the event. This shows the level of reputation this sport has gained in a very short period. The championship is an extraordinary large-scale sporting event and we are

eagerly awaiting for it. I am happy with the efforts put in place by the the organising committee members to make this event a resounding success," noted Shaikh Nasser.

Meanwhile, Maryam Bu Kamal, the in-charge of Al Mala'ab Programme, affirmed that a constant coverage has been given to the event, and an exclusive episode will be hosted next Saturday. The IRONKIDS and IronGirl taking place tomorrow at 5pm and 6pm at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) are also witnessing a large turnout.



Ironman delegations

Premier league 2016 2017

Table		Points	played
1	Chelsea	34	14
2	Arsenal	31	14
3	Liverpool	30	14
4	Man City	30	14
5	Tottenham	27	14
6	Man Utd	21	14
7	West Brom	20	14
8	Everton	20	14
9	Stoke City	19	14
10	Bournemouth	18	14
11	Watford	18	14
12	Southampton	17	14
13	Middlesbrough	15	14
14	Crystal Palace	14	14
15	Burnley	14	14
16	Leicester	13	14
17	West Ham	12	14
18	Sunderland	11	14
19	Hull City	11	14
20	Swansea City	9	14

Legend: ● Won ● Drawn ● Lost
 ● Champions League (C1)
 ● C1 Preliminary round
 ● Europa League
 ● Relegation



Slutsky quits as CSKA Moscow coach

Moscow

Leonid Slutsky has resigned as coach of CSKA Moscow after seven hugely successful years and will leave after today's Champions League match with Tottenham Hotspur, the Russian champions said. CSKA play the Premier League side at Wembley with both clubs already out of the Champions League but with a Europa League spot up for grabs, while CSKA are third in the Russian Premier League.

Dybala set to return as Juve target top spot

Turin

Argentine striker Paulo Dybala is set to make his long-awaited return for Juventus when the Italians host Dinamo Zagreb today looking to secure top spot in Champions League Group H. With Gonzalo Higuain only recently returning from a muscle problem.

Argentina referees plan to go on strike

Buenos Aires

Argentina's top referees have called a strike from Thursday to demand better security for officials at matches, jeopardising the country's weekend football programme. Sunday's Buenos Aires derby between River Plate and Boca Juniors could be among the casualties if the strike goes ahead.

IMMAF coming to Bahrain in 2017

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The IMMAF World Championships, the world's most prestigious amateur Mixed Martial Arts tournament, is coming to Bahrain in 2017. This incredible development is even more shocking considering it will be the first time the event has been held outside Las Vegas, Nevada.

The implications are huge for Bahrain, as the event will bring some of the best fighters from all over the world, with some of the best prospects on the planet battling for worldwide recognition as well as the aspiring Arab MMA fighters in the Middle East, who now have a clear goal to aim towards.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Vice Chairman



Shaikh Khalid with Kerrith Brown, President of the IMMAF and Denzin White, CEO of the IMMAF

and Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa has attended the last two IMMAF World Championships, building

important relationships with key players in the organisation.

In July 2016, Team Bahrain attended and won a bronze medal through young fighter Farhad Abdulrazaq and is a

symbol of Bahrain's progress in the sport through KHK MMA.

The announcement is a result of the passion and patronage of Shaikh Khalid and his close confidante Mohammed Shahid finally paying dividends for the people of Bahrain.

Shaikh Khalid's dedication to MMA is unquestionable and is seen in evidence at KHK MMA which he helped to build with the CEO Mohammed Shahid. They have been developing their grassroots in MMA through having a professional and amateur team who train at the KHK MMA stable, with world class facilities and coaching.

They also launched their new organisation Brave Combat Federation in September and their first two shows were a roaring success, bringing high profile fighters from around the world to Bahrain.

Wales, Wagstaff clinch Monday Madness golf

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The duo of David Wales and Stephen Wagstaff (26 points) enjoyed a comfortable win in the fifth and penultimate competition of the Coca-Cola Monday Madness Night Golf Series at the Royal.

This was their second consecutive win in the series and puts them in joint first place in the overall order of merit, alongside the pairing of Ali Al Hakam and Ali Al

Kowari. Chris Meyer and partner Wayne Giles (21) clinched the runners up spot and youngsters Al Hakam and Al Kowari (20) narrowly clinched third place on count back with.

Wales collected an additional prize for winning a nearest the pin side contest on hole 12 and Saud Al Sharif was nearest to the pin on hole 16.

Adam Dutton, the Royal Golf Club's Tournament

on behalf of Coca-Cola.

Results:

1) David Wales/Stephen Wagstaff (26 points), 2) Chris Meyer/Wayne Giles (21), 3) Ali Mohamed Al Hakam/Ali Al Kowari (20 on count back), 4) Jamie Bowen/Michael Brightmore (20), 5) Yaseen Le Falher/Saud Al Sherif (19 on countback).

Nearest the Pins: David Wales (hole 12) and Saud Al Sherif (hole 16).



From left, Wagstaff and Wales with runners up Giles and Meyer

Pristine CC crush Union Group

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Pristine CC crushed Union Group by 70 runs in the latest matches of the BFC sponsored BCL Diamond League at the Busaiteen Grounds in Muharraaq.

Batting first, Pristine CC scored an impressive 171 for four in 20 overs thanks to fine knocks by Asim (74 off 55 deliveries), Faisal (36) and Waheed (26) with Nadeem (two for 25), while Union Group in reply were bowled out for 101, with the main resistance from Nadeem (30) and Sanjay (23) with Ashwaq (two for 22) the pick of the bowlers.

In another match, Zayani Motors scored 170 for 20 with the main scorers being Wasiq (96) and Sagar (40).