

BBK Tennis: Parmer beats Sai Raghav



Sparsh parmar

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Top seed Sparsh Parmar had to work mighty hard to defeat fellow Indian and second seed Sai Raghav Balakrishnan 6-4, 4-6, 10-8 to take the title in the final of the Boys 12 years and under category yesterday, in cold conditions on the ninth day of the 22nd Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) Juniors Open Tennis Championship

2017 at the Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) premises in Juffair.

Sparsh managed to narrowly edge the opening set 6-4, but Sai Raghav fought back strongly to win the second set by the same score and in a tense match tie-break, Sparsh did just enough to edge out his opponent 10-8.

On the way to the final, Sparsh knocked out Aseem Khaled 4-0, 4-0 in the Round of 16, then beat Vineesh Mittal 6-0, 6-4 in the quarter

finals and victory against Abdulla Nass 6-2, 6-7(8), 10-3 in the semi-finals, whereas Sai Raghav started with a 6-1, 6-1 win in the Round of 16, then Ervin Godinho was beaten 6-4, 6-2 in the quarter finals and then Mohammed Al Shehabi 7-5, 6-2 in the semi-finals.

The semi-finals of the Boys 18 years and under went according to the seedings, as top seed Yousef Ashraf defeated Hassan Al Qattan in straight sets 6-4, 6-4, while second seed Hamad Abdul

A'al needed to come from a set down to beat Rico Cifra 5-7, 6-4, 10-5.

Today, Anshuman Sonawane takes on Alessandro Bellanto in the Boys 14 years and under final starting at 4pm.

The championship concludes tomorrow with four finals from 4pm, starting with the Unisex 8 years and under and 10 years and under, along with the Girls 14 years and under, followed at 5pm with the Boys 18 years and under.

Al Ansari wins Bowling Master title



Top three, Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah, Yaseen Al Ansari and Essa Akbar

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Yaseen Al Ansari defeated Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah 198-186 pins in the stepladder final to win the Babco Interdepartmental Bowling Master Tournament with H/C title at the Ozone Bowling Centre in the Sitra Mall.

In the second/third place match, Al Bu Falah bt Essa Akbar 221-167, Al Bu Falah also won the third/fourth place match 233-221 against Meteb Mubarak, while Mubarak was a 200-167 winner against Ebrahim Abdulla in the fourth/fifth place match.

Each of the 12 participants played 11 round-robin games and one for positioning to

determine the top five stepladder qualifiers.

Tonight the Banagas doubles championship begins consisting of teams of two, and must not exceed 340 as the combined average of the two players. Prizes will be awarded to the top five teams.

Qualifiers (pins):

- 1) Yaseen Al Ansari 2,677
- 2) Essa Akbar 2,635
- 3) Abdul Aziz Al Bu Falah 2,552
- 4) Ebrahim Abdulla 2,550
- 5) Meteb Mubarak 2,532
- 6) Abdul Aziz Al Madani 2,494
- 7) Hassan Qaeid 2,433
- 8) Nabeel Al Obaidly 2,409
- 9) Abdulla Al Aadi 2,328
- 10) Ali Al Heloo 2,297
- 11) Abdulla M. Abbas 2,197
- 12) Khaled Abdulla 2,164.

Bahrain to participate in Extreme Cycling Race



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Bahrain is set to participate in the Extreme Fat Bike competition taking place on 25 February in Canada, under the directives of 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, President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Moussa Karich and Mikel Calahorra will cycle 37km over the ice, facing snow storms and fighting high winds under freezing temperatures below -30C to cross Lake

Saint-Jean, Quebec an event only for the toughest athletes in the world.

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, president of the Bahrain Cycling Association, regarding the participation of the two Bahrain representatives said: "We are delighted to have riders represent Bahrain in such a unique event. Although, we don't have similar conditions in Bahrain, the fact that our riders can bring the experience of such events to us. They have been training in the sand and warm conditions, yet we are confident that they can take on such an extreme race. We

look forward to hosting fat bike sand races in the future as it gains more popularity. Cycling in Bahrain continues to grow whether it's through the new pro team Bahrain-Merida, hosting of major event such as the Asian cycling championship, or participating in world championships and top events such as this participation by Mikel and Moussa."

Extreme cold temperatures are fought with special equipment and clothing. Bilodeau Canada, special extreme cold clothing company, made with technical fabric, furs and natural animal skin from Canada spices, will

provide the Bahraini athletes with the proper clothing to support temperatures lower than -30C. Fat bikes are a particular type of mountain bikes designed to ride in harsh terrains such as sand and snow.

The size and thickness of the wheels are bigger and wider than usual bikes to assure the grip and control needed for that kind of surfaces. Karich and Calahorra will be riding FELT bikes, and have been training in the Bahraini desert. "The feeling of riding on snow comparing to sand are very similar which will give us an excellent preparation for the event," Calahorra said.

Early Bird offer to end in 10 days



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Less than 10 days remain before the end of Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) Early Bird discount on tickets to the 2017 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix and fans are being called on to take advantage of this fantastic offer, in which ticket prices are slashed by up to 15 per cent for the highly anticipated spectacle.

The discount is available

only until 28 and the 15 per cent reduction covers the Main Grandstand and Turn One Grandstand and a 10 per cent discount to the Batelco Grandstand, University Grandstands and Victory Grandstands.

The Bahrain Grand Prix is scheduled to take place April 14 to 16 in Sakhir. It will be the third of 20 races in the 2017 FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

BTF to organise Mini Tennis festival

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Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) is organising a one-day Future Star Mini Tennis Festival sponsored by RJ Investments Holding at the Bahrain Polytechnic Courts in Isa Town starting at 8.30pm and finishing around 12 noon.

Registration is open to all for the two Unisex categories 10 years and under and 8

years and under, with the emphasis on development and played in a round-robin format followed by a knockout. Tournament director is former Bahrain Davis Cup player Abdul Rahman Shehab (tel 33162621) and entry forms are available at the Bahrain Tennis Federation, Bahrain Tennis Club and JC's Tennis Academy at Riffa Views.