



# Grmay wins National TT

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**T**eam Bahrain Merida rider Tsgabu Grmay won the National Time Trial Championships in Ethiopia for the fourth time, which was held in Awassa and covered the course of 40 km on the

roads around the city in 50 minutes 52 seconds.

"I'm very happy because it's always an amazing feeling to wear the Ethiopian flag on the race" said Grmay. "I'm proud to show the flag of my country on the Individual Time Trial all over the world," he added.

Meanwhile, Bahrain Merida's Italian rider Niccolo Bonifazio will miss today's Men's Italian Road Championship Road Race from Asti to Ivrea over 236km in the Piedmont region of North West Italy because he is suffering from inflammation

of the tonsils, which caused a rise in temperature since last Wednesday.

Bonifazio is being treated with antibiotics under the supervision of the medical staff of the team, but will not recover in time for today's race.

## Trials set for Under-16 team

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**C**ricket Bahrain Association (CBA) under the patronage of Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) have announced an 'Open trial' for selection of Bahrain's under 16 National Cricket team for ICC Asia Western Region U-16 tournaments.

The selection will be based on ICC ACC criteria which mandates players on or after 1 September 2001 either Bahraini nationality or born in Bahrain or 7 year/4 year or above of residency in Bahrain.

Apart from this age verification approval will be based on medical test T3 bone age verification by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), players fitness, performance in school tournament and performance shown during the camp and practice matches.

Selection will be done at Alba Club Cricket Academy, Sanad in Riffa by a selection panel of national coach and selectors on 30 June and 1 July 2017 from 5pm.

Players are requested to register with Mirza on 39186620. The selected players will undergo training from July till September at Alba's Academy.

## Srikanth sets up Chen final



Sydney

**I**ndia's Kidambi Srikanth blew away China's Shi Yuqi with a "dream" performance to set up an Australian Open final against Olympic champion Chen Long yesterday.

The 11th-ranked Srikanth beat Shi, the world number four, 21-10, 21-14 in just 37 minutes to reach his third successive Superseries final.

China's Chen gave himself a shot at his first Superseries title this year by fighting off South Korean veteran Lee Hyun-Il 26-24, 15-21, 21-17 in 68 minutes.

The women's final today will be an all-Japanese affair between Akane Yamaguchi and Nozomi Okuhara.

Okuhara made her first Superseries final in over a year, wearing down China's Sun Yu 21-18, 18-21, 21-14, while Yamaguchi played a brilliant counter-attacking game to shock Taiwanese top seed Tai Tzu Ying 21-19, 21-12.

Srikanth, who won last week's Indonesia Open and also reached the Singapore Open final in May, gave a masterclass in net play and deception to blitz Shi.

"Yes, it's a dream performance," Srikanth said. "I played a World Superseries final (Singapore Open) after two years, and then to play the next two finals is a dream for sure. "I was in control of the whole match, I didn't

give him any easy points at the start. It's just that I had to stay there and not give him easy points. I was in control at the net."

In the other men's semi-final, Lee pinned Chen to the lines and kept things tight until he chose his moment to attack.

Chen's usually airtight defence was frequently pierced as he struggled to read the lines of Lee's attack.

The Korean dominated the Olympic champion but failed to convert any of four game points in the opener. He took the second game and had his chances in the third until a late surge by Chen proved too much. (AFP)

## Endurace team ready to race this weekend

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**B**ahrain Endurance 13 team members are set to race over half distances this weekend, with Holly Lawrence set to defend her Ironman 70.3 Mont Tremblant Quebec, Canada, Fredrik Croneborg takes on the inaugural Challenge Nakhon Nayok in Thailand and Mikel Calahorra races at Ironman 70.3 Coeur d'Alene in Idaho, US.

Holly Lawrence has gone undefeated at this distance since her win here in Mont Tremblant last year. The reigning Ironman 70.3 world champion is looking to keep the streak alive. "Getting ready to race one of my favourite races and where I got my very first Ironman win last year," Lawrence said.

Fredrik Croneborg has kept a low profile since he won the full distance at Challenge Taiwan back in April. The Phuket-resident Swede will stay close to home on return to long-distance racing, with Nakhon Nayok only a 90-minute drive from

Bangkok. "I have been a bit tired since the race in Taiwan, but the last couple of weeks I started to feel good and now riding with power I have better numbers than before and have changed to a more aggressive bike position. I hope I can show a good result on the flat course," Croneborg said.

In racing Ironman 70.3 Coeur d'Alene, Mikel Calahorra will attempt to secure an age-group qualifier spot for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship. Training through the fasting season of Ramadan in Bahrain has been challenging since one can only take food and water in after sunset, but the Spaniard has found the silver lining.

"Ramadan timing starts the first workout at sunset and finishing the second session at 2am every day," Calahorra said.

"Even though they are not the ideal times for training and resting properly, it allowed me to skip the heat and to train on US time so jet lag won't affect me. Now is time to rest properly, recover, and let the work come out," he added.



## Rising Star beat Smart CC

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**R**ising Star defeated Smart CC by five wickets in the latest matches of the Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) Summer Cricket Tournament at its premises in Segaiya.

Batting first, Smart CC made 87 in eight overs with the main scorers being Niklesh

(26), Sumesh (25) and Sarfranz (24), with wickets coming from Yousuf (three for 30) and Israr (two for seven).

Rising Star reached the target in scoring 92 for one, thanks to a fine knock by Eshan (60) with good support from Yousuf (12) with Nicklesh (one for 12) taking the lone wicket.

### Other results:

Smart CC 39 runs in 5.1 (Niklesh 18, Jithin 2/0, Rahul 1/1 bt Spider CC 17/5 (Zeeshan 1/1, Shabir 1/2) by 22 runs. Sportia Adliya 30/3 bt AIM Super Giant 28ao (Satya Raj 12, Sony 2/3) by 3 wickets. Telly Kings 83/4 (Shabeer 34, Fajjis 15) bt Central Cafe 40 runs in 5.2 (Adil 14, Sachin 11, Fajjis 2/12, Raes 1/2) by 43 runs.