

## Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Futures

# The battle begins

Day one sees 16 men's qualifying singles matches

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## Manama

The Sixth Bahrain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Futures Men's Professional Tournament got underway yesterday with 16 men's first qualifying singles matches at the Bahrain Tennis Club premises in Juffair.

Three of the matches went into three sets with Amal Sultanbekov of Uzbekistan defeating Qatar's Jabor Mohammed Ali Mutawa 7-6(6), 5-7, 6-1, German Alexander Braun was a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 winner over Tajikistan's Fariduni Hamid and Isa Mammetgulyev from Turkmenistan worked hard to

beat Andrei Glvac of Slovakia 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Among the GCC competitors, Bahrain's Kareem Abdul Nabi lost 6-1, 6-1 to the third seeded Switzerland player Andrew Ruppli and Yousif Dhaif was knocked out by Germany's Jonathan Morr seeded 12th 6-0, 6-0.

Big local regional winners were Qatari Mousa Shanan Zayed who was a 6-1 6-1 win against Atlymyrat Gurbanov from Turkmenistan and Abdullah Maqdes from Kuwait with a comfortable 6-0, 6-0 victory over India's Avneet Singh.

Top seeded Spaniard Aaron Cortes Alcaraz in the qualifiers beat Turkmenistan's Georgiy Pochay 6-4, 6-1 and second

seeded Swede Milos Sekulic got the better of Anshuman Gulia of India 6-0, 6-1.

The second round of qualifying continues today from 4pm to determine which eight players will compete in the singles event of 32 set to start tomorrow with the finals on Saturday.

A doubles competition will also get underway tomorrow and finish on Saturday.

This Championship in its sixth edition is being held under the patronage 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 and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Top seeds in the main singles starting tomorrow are Tallon Griekspoor (Netherlands, ranked 318), Michal Konecny (Czech Republic, 362), Filip Horansky (Slovakia, 368) and Sanjar Fayziev (Uzbekistan, 380), with wild card entries being awarded to three Bahrain players - Abdul Rahman Janahi, Hassan Abdul Janahi and Yousif Qaed.

The tournament director is Bahrain Tennis Club board member Ali Khonji, while Qatar's Dr Ashraf Hamouda heads the panel of referees and is assisted by Bahrain's Ahmed Al Hawaj.

Other referees include Kuwaitis, Abdel Raoof Abdel Salam, Ali Al Mutairi and Hassan Ashkanani, from

## Other results:

- 1) Mohammed Abdel Aziz (Egypt) bt Koonwar Gupta (India) 6-1, 6-2
- 2) Vincent Van Den Honert (Netherlands) bt Omar Al Awahi (UAE) 6-3, 6-0
- 3) Sem Verbeek (Netherlands) bt Gurbanberdi Gurbanberdiyev (Turkmenistan) 6-0, 6-0
- 4) Shahbaaz Khan (India) bt Fahad Al Janahi (UAE) 6-0, 6-1
- 5) Roy Sarut De Valk (Netherlands) bt Eric Lavaud (France) 6-1, 6-2
- 6) Saida'lo Saidkarimov (Uzbekistan) bt Himansu Sagar (India) 6-0, 6-2
- 7) Shonigmatjon Shofayzivev (Uzbekistan) bt Yuriy Roguskiy (Turkmenistan) 6-3, 6-1

Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Al Ajaji, Yousuf Turayf and Jassim Akakah and from Morocco Abdelhaq Jawar, while 20 Bahrainis have been appointed as line judges.

## BTA Tennis registration

### Manama

Today is the final day for registration for Bahrain Tennis Academy's Junior Tournament being held from March 31 to April 8 at the Dilmun Club in Saar. It will be held in four categories - 8 years and-under, 10 and-under, 12 and-under and 14 and-under and competition will feature matchplay in a round-robin format using the red, orange and full-size courts, along with the corresponding ball, in line with the International Tennis Federation's guidelines.

This tournament is open to all boys and girls who are of an eligible age at the start date. Certificates will be presented to all participants while the winners and finalists will be awarded trophies.

Register by visiting the Dilmun Club's reception or Email the director at [dan@bahraintennisacademy.com](mailto:dan@bahraintennisacademy.com) for more info or to obtain an entry form.

## BREEF: Ali Essa takes home Grand Prize



Winners with officials during the prize distribution ceremony

### Manama

Ali Essa (52.23 seconds) riding Vivika jumped to victory in the Grand Prix class of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) Showjumping Championship which featured obstacles ranging between from 130-140cm in height at the Bahrain Defence Force Riding Centre in Sakhir on Friday.

Coming in second place was Saber Salman Faraj came second on Bahrain BDF (59.78, 4 faults), followed by Ahmed Mansoor (62.67, 4 faults) in third place on Alteka Du Fort BDF.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Akbar (60.38) riding Elessi Horse Pride collected 65 points and won the title for the second adult class held in two phases with obstacles at 115-125cm. The second and third places went to Ali Hani Al Yabis and Ahmed Mansoor respectively.

The first adult class was won by Mayoof Al Rumaihi riding Brestal over obstacles of 100-110cm, while Sayed Mohammed Mahmood finished in second and Hani Al Yabis in third. Al Rumaihi was on top form during the championship as he also captured the second class for junior participants and Jamiela Haseid won the first junior class.