

BELETE KEEPS MEDAL HOPES ALIVE

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Manama
Bahrain's Mimi Belete kept the Kingdom's medal hopes alive when she finished third in heat one in the women's 5,000 metres qualifiers running 15 minutes 20.94 seconds yesterday at the 15th World Athletics Championships hosted by China at its National Stadium in Beijing.

Belete will compete in Sunday's final after comfortably qualifying behind the heat one

winner from Ethiopia Genzebe Dibaba (15:20.82) and Kenya's Mercy Cherono (15:20.94) who was classified second despite the Bahraini runner having the same time.

Also yesterday Benson Kipligat Seurei (3:45.70) bowed out in a heat one qualifier in the men's 1,500 metres, with Elijah Manangoi (Kenya, 3:42.59), Taoufik Makhloufi (Algeria, 3:42.72) and Mathew Centrowitz (US, 3:43.17) finishing in the top three places to qualify for the

final. Tomorrow Bahrain's Albert Kibichii Rop competes in the men's 5,000 metres final which includes 5,000 and 10,000 metres double gold medallist Mohamed Farah of Great Britain and American Galen Rupp.

Bahrain concludes its participation in the final day of the championships on Sunday with Lishan Dula, Kareema Jasim, Eunice Jepkirui Kirwa and Aster Tesfaye all in the women's marathon.

Bahrain's other participants have been (men's): Shumi Dechasa, Aadan Ismael Khamis, Ali Hassan Mahboob (marathon), Nelson Kipkosgei Cherutich, John Kibet Koech (3,000 metres steeplechase), Abraham Kupchirchir Rotich (800 metres), El Hassan Elabbassi (10,000 metres), Aweke Ayalew (10,000/5,000 metres) and Abbas Abubakar Abbas (400 metres), (women): Oluwakemi Adekoya (400 metres hurdles) and Ruth Jebet (3,000 metres steeplechase).



Mimi Belete (file pic)

Aussies win by 23 runs

SMITH ERA BEGINS

Belfast

Steven Smith's first match as full-time Australia captain ended with a rain-affected 23-run one-day international win over Ireland in Belfast yesterday, but it needed the speed of Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc to put the hosts in their place.

A third-wicket partnership of 86 between Ed Joyce (44) and Niall O'Brien (45) put Ireland on course for their first ever victory over the world champions.

But after Glenn Maxwell ended the stand, the middle-lower order could not maintain the scoring rate against the express pace of Cummins and Starc, the world's top-ranked ODI bowler.

Cummins (two for 19) actually broke the bat of Stuart Thompson, who had just hit off-spinner Maxwell for two sixes as Ireland, cricket's leading non-Test nation, chased a revised target of 181 in 24 overs on a frustrating day of four rain interruptions.

Left-arm fast bowler Starc (two for 34) ended Thompson's late rally to give one-day wicket-keeper Matthew Wade his third



Australia's captain Steve Smith (2right) bats

catch of the innings. Nathan Coulter-Nile, with the final two wickets in the last over, ended as the most successful bowler and also the most economical (three for 13 in 4.4 overs) as Australia, in their first match in this format since beating New Zealand in the World Cup final in Melbourne in March, ultimately won with something

to spare. Australia, with Smith leading the team for the first time following the retirement of Michael Clarke, had chosen to bat on what he described as a slow but good pitch and they made 222 for six before the second rain interruption ended their innings in the 41st over.

Opening stand

Joe Burns, who made 69 on his ODI debut and David Warner, named man-of-the-match for his 84 from 80 balls with seven fours and three sixes, put on 139 for the first wicket. But Ireland hit back with six wickets for 85 runs to the delight of home fans at the Stormont ground. (AFP)

Djoker on Nadal collision course

New York

World number one Novak Djokovic and 14-time major champion Rafael Nadal are on a US Open quarter-final collision course following yesterday's draw at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

And Britain's Andy Murray, who opens against Australia's tour bad boy Nick Kyrgios, might have to get past French Open winner Stan Wawrinka and 17-time major winner Roger Federer just to get a crack at Djokovic in the final on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts.

The paths will be filled with qualifiers ahead of Monday's

start of the year's final Grand Slam event in New York, where Djokovic's only title came in 2011.

The 28-year-old Serbian star owns nine Grand Slam titles and seeks his third of the year after a third career win at Wimbledon and a fifth trophy at the Australian Open.

Djokovic has tasted defeat four times in the US Open final, losing to Federer in 2007, Nadal in 2010 and 2013 and Murray in 2012.

Nadal leads Djokovic 22-20 in their all-time rivalry, but Djokovic won their most recent meeting at the French Open quarter-finals.



Novak Djokovic

Al Hakam leads field

DT News Network
Manama

Sultan Al Hakam (36 points) edged out the competition to take the honours in the stableford format on an extremely humid and grueling day in the first round of the Audi Quattro Cup Series at the Royal Golf Club.

First runner-up In second place was Dave Fernie (35 on count back) and the second runner up was Rob Lane (35 points) and other side contests were won by Sam Jong Kim

for nearest the pin on the seventh hole, with Hamad Mubarak, Ashley Price and Samantha Hill making the 2's Club on holes 16, 12 and 2 respectively.

A strong field of over 75 players turned out to do battle despite the soaring temperatures.

The series will be played out over a total of nine rounds at the Royal Golf Club, with participants accumulating Stableford points over the series.

Bahrain delegation attend Rio Olympics seminar

DT News Network
Manama

Representatives from the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) recently attended the Chef De Mission seminar in Brazil for the 2016 Olympic Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from August 5 to 21.

The seminar took place at the Windsor Barra Hotel, where each chief de mission discussed many issues related to accommodation, accreditation, arrivals and departures, doping



Fajer Jassim and Maryam Mardana attending the chief de mission meeting in Brazil controls, medical services, ticketing, transport rate card

and spectrum ahead of the Games.

Fajer said the attendees were presented the details they need to help prepare their teams when they are in Rio for the Games with representatives from over 200 countries in attendance.

The visit also included Rio 2016 management meetings and an opportunity to visit sports specific venue sites including the Olympic Village. Mardana attending the chief de mission meeting in Brazil.