

Team Bahrain



Aminat clocks season's best

Bahraini sprinter sets her fastest time of 2021 in the Women's 400m Hurdles heats at the Tokyo Olympics, but it was not enough to advance to the next round

● **Aminat Jamal has strong showing but finishes seventh from eight runners in her first round heat**

● **Bahrain continue athletics campaign today with Winfred Yavi in Women's 3,000m Steeplechase heats**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Aminat Jamal clocked her season's best time in the Women's 400m Hurdles heats yesterday but could not book her qualifi-

cation to the next round at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Aminat finished her race in 55.90 seconds, her best of 2021 so far, but was classified seventh from the eight competitors in her heat, which was the first of five.

Only the first four from each race plus the four fastest losers advanced to the semi-finals.

Moving through from her heat were Viktoriya Tkachuk of Ukraine, who finished first in 54.80s, Melissa Gonzalez of Colombia (55.32s), Anna Cockrell of the US (55.37s) and Sage Watson of Canada (55.54s).

American Dalilah Muhammad was the fastest qualifier among the 40 athletes entered in the 400m Hurdles. Competing in the fifth heat, she clocked 53.97s.

Jessica Turner of Great Britain had the slowest time from all who advanced of 56.83s, but she finished fourth in heat four.

Aminat has wrapped up her participation in the Tokyo Olympics.

Bahrain's elite athletes are back on track today with Winfred Yavi in the Women's 3,000m Steeplechase heats.

She will be running in the first of three races in the round, scheduled for a 3.40am start, Bahrain time, and must finish among the top three or be one of the six fastest losers to book a place in the final.

Winfred is one of the Kingdom's top hopes for a medal at the Games. She is one of the favourites in her heat, as she has the best time of nine minutes



Aminat Jamal finished her Women's 400m Hurdles heat in 55.90 seconds, her best of 2021 so far



Aminat Jamal

02.64 seconds amongst the field of 14 athletes. Her mark is also her personal best.

Should Winfred advance, the final is slated for Wednesday.

Winfred is part of Bahrain's 13-member athletics team in To-

kyo, and she will be the third to race, following Aminat and John Koech who dropped out with an injury in the Men's 3,000m Steeplechase.

The other Bahrainis are Abdelrahman Mahmoud in the Shot Put, Al Siddique Mikho in the 1,500m, Dawit Fikadu and

Birhanu Balew in the 5,000m, and the trio of Elhassan Elabasi, Alemu Bekele and Shumi Dechasa in the Marathon among the men; while the other women are Kalkidan Gezahegne in the 10,000m, and the pair of Eunice Chebichii Chumba and Tejitu Daba in the Marathon.

Bahrain Olympic chief meets Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee head



From left, HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Seiko Hashimoto and Mohammed Al Nusuf

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Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) vice-president and the Kingdom's delegation head at the Tokyo Olympics His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa met yesterday with Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee president Seiko Hashimoto.

HH Shaikh Isa praised the efforts and capabilities of Japan in putting together the

Olympics, particularly amidst the exceptional circumstances being experienced worldwide. HH Shaikh Isa stressed that holding the games under these conditions is a victory in itself for the Olympic movement.

HH Shaikh Isa wished Japan and its friendly people further success and prosperity.

Also at the meeting was BOC secretary general and delegation deputy head Mohammed Al Nusuf.

Bahrain handball set for crucial Egypt challenge

● **Senior men's national handball team's hopes of advancing to quarter-finals to be determined today**

● **Bahrainis can either advance with a win against the Egyptians, or with a loss and if Japan beat Portugal while keeping a superior goal difference**

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Bahrain's senior men's national handball team have their Olympic dreams in their hands as they play their final preliminary round game today in Tokyo against African cham-



Bahrain players after their win against Japan

pions Egypt.

The game is scheduled for a 5am throw-off, Bahrain time, at Yoyogi National Gymnasium and it is the Bahrainis' fifth and last fixture from Group B.

Bahrain will be in their red

uniforms while Egypt will have white jerseys and black shorts.

The nationals need to beat Egypt to boost their chances of making it through to the quarter-finals. If they lose, they must hope that Japan defeat Portugal and that they maintain their superior goal difference on the group table.

Bahrain currently have a goal difference of negative-10 while Portugal have negative-12.

Denmark, Egypt and Sweden are already assured their berths in the last eight from this pool.

France leads Group A with an unblemished record after

four games, followed by Spain, Germany, Norway, Brazil and Argentina.

Only the top four teams from each group march through to the quarters.

Bahrain, coached by former Iceland international Aron Kristjansson, will rely on Hussain Al Sayyad, Mohammed Habib, Mohammed Mirza, Ali Mirza, Mohamed Mohamed, Ali Eid, Hassan Ali, Hassan Al Sama-heeji, Mohammed Abdulredha, Ahmed Fadul, Ahmed Almaqabi, Mahdi Saad, and goalkeepers Mohammed Abdulhussain and Hussain Mahfoodh.

Bahrain and Barcelona set to host 2022 F1 pre-season testing

Autosport | London

Formula 1 is close to finalising the pre-season 2022 testing schedule with sessions set to be split between Barcelona and Bahrain.

In addition there is a possibility that promotional events or "filming" days - often used by teams to shakedown their new

cars before the first official test - could be extended from the traditional 100km length.

In 2021 testing was restricted to just three days in Bahrain before the opening race in order to cut costs and because many elements of last year's cars were frozen for this season.

With brand new cars coming for 2022, teams wanted more



Drivers group photo with a 2022 F1 car

testing days, with some asking for eight before it was agreed to have a pair of three-day sessions.

Teams also wanted to focus on Barcelona, in essence to be closer to home for the transport of parts and to make travel easier for personnel, especially with COVID-19 restrictions still likely to be in place.

However, Formula 1 was keen

to run both tests in Bahrain in the build-up to the first race of the season, likely to be held at Sakhir on 20 March.

The Bahrain test is set for March 11-13, the weekend immediately before the first race. By scheduling the second test so late it becomes a single trip, with personnel staying out for the Bahrain GP.