

SPORTS  
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# Bahrain bags handball silver

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Bahrain settled for the handball championship silver medal at the 18th Asian Games, being held in Jakarta and Palembang.

The Nationals put in a heroic performance in their title match against favourites Qatar, which they lost 27-32 after a breath-taking extra-time as both sides were tied 25-25 at the end of regular time.

Going up 14-13 at half-time, the Bahrainis ruled most of the game and were leading by three goals on several occasions, only to be denied a deserved win in the last gasp of the second-half when they conceded an equalizer which sent the match into an extra-time.

In the extra-time period, the Bahrainis made several defensive lapses as the Qataris took full advantage to sweep to a five-goal different at the end of the game, much to the dejected Bahrain players, officials and national spectators in the stands.

It was the sixth gold medal for the Valero Rivera-coached Qataris, who successfully retained the handball title won the 2014 edition in Incheon.

Anis Zouaoui top-scored for Qatar with seven goals and was



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well supported by Francis Marzo (six), Roine Bertrand (five) Ali Yousef, Rafael Capote and Alladine Berrached who all pitched in with four goals apiece.

Bahrain, the bronze medalists from 2014 games, claimed their seventh silver, as the nationals lifted their medal tally to 26 medals in total (12 gold, 7 silver, 7 bronze). They are presently in

11th place and look forward to extending their medal haul in the triathlon and sambo events taking place over the next few days. Their top scorer in the game was Hussain Al Sayyad with five goals. He was assisted by Bilal Askani and Ali Mirza (4 each), Hasan Al Fardan, Hasan Al Samahiji, Mahmood Salman (3 each) and Ali Salman (2).

South Korea defeated Japan 24-23 to win bronze. Qatar had beaten Korea 27-20 in the semifinal while Bahrain beat Japan 31-20.

After the final, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar and Bahrain



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Handball Association president Ali Isa met members of the Bahrain team and commended their performance despite the defeat.

Meanwhile, Samira Al Bitar finished 13th in the women's triathlon yesterday. Samira

completed the vent in the total time of 2 hours and 21.48 minutes, 22.19 minutes behind gold medalist of Japan.

The men's triathlon will take place today when Omar Abdulla looks to claim the podium.

## Selwady steps in for biggest bout

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Abdul Kareem Al Selwady steps in with a major announcement accepting to compete against Ottman Azaitar. Earlier, Husam Mubarak Al Selwady has hinted his support to make the possible dream match a reality. However, Abdul Kareem Al Selwady was not vocal about the potential bout. The lightweight champion had been withdrawn from the fight card in Abu Dhabi by Brave Combat Federation without a reason giving further speculations.

Selwady posted on his social media, showcasing support to make the dream match a reality. Ottman Azaitar, the undefeated powerhouse from Morocco is the lightweight champion of Brave Combat Federation. Currently,



Jarrah Al Selawe action

Ottman and Selwady are undefeated in Brave Combat Federation winning in all their four appearances. HH Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the founder of Brave Combat Federation himself came to acknowledge support for the proposed dream match featuring the biggest names in MMA

from the region. "The reason I do MMA is that it is the most real sport on earth. It shows a man his true colours. Tough or weak, if you trained hard enough, it all shows in the cage. Some people dream to become a professional fighter for fame, money or to hold a championship. Well, that is not

why I fight, I fight for respect. To be known as the best ever. That is why I didn't care to reach the championship title earlier. I wanted to make sure that when I fight for the title, I absolutely deserved it. Don't get me wrong, Ottman Azaitar is my brother and friend. I have respect for him and his dear father, but there is no politics, religion or race in this sport.

I fight with my sparring partners and boy we go at it! So why not make the most anticipated fight in the Middle East possible. This has nothing to do with disrespect, we all have the same dream to be the best athlete. My dreams go beyond just being the best Middle Eastern Lightweight, Inshallah. Step by step, I want to become the number one pound for pound in the world," said Abdul Kareem Al Selwady.

## Jordan hopeful for first title winner at Brave 16

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Jarrah Al Selawe becomes the first Jordanian to compete for the championship at Brave Combat Federation. At Brave 16 hosted at the Mubadala Arena in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Jarrah will face the reigning welterweight champion, Carlston Harris for the title. Jordan has hosted the tenth edition of Brave Combat Federation and had featured multiple athletes including Nawras Abzakh, Abdul Kareem Al Selwady and Jalal Al Daaja. Jarrah has the most

number of wins in the organisation, winning all his five appearances.

Jarrah stands a chance to create history as the first fighter from GCC to secure a championship title and the first fighter from Jordan to become a champion. While Carlston has a professional record of 12-3-0, Al Selawe has a professional record of 12-2-0. Both fighters have never been submitted in their career and are yet to concede a loss in the promotion. The fight night will take place on 21 September 2018 and the gates will open at 05:00 PM.

## Ton-up Pujara gives India the edge

Southampton, United Kingdom

Cheteshwar Pujara's painstaking century gave India a narrow lead on the second day of the fourth Test after England off-spinner Moeen Ali took five wickets at Southampton on Friday.

Pujara's near six-hour 132 not out was the cornerstone of India's 273, made in reply to England's first-innings 246.

Ali took five wickets for 63 runs in 16 overs -- his second successive five-wicket haul in a Test



India's Cheteshwar Pujara bats

against India at Southampton following a return of six for 67 in 2014. Alastair Cook and Keaton Jennings

batted out four overs as England reached stumps on six without loss in their second innings -- a deficit of 21 runs.

India resumed Friday on 19 without loss. Pujara and India captain Virat Kohli (46) rebuilt the innings with a third-wicket stand of 92.

But after lunch, Sam Curran, who had already marked his return to the team with a Test-best 78 that rescued England from the depths of 86 for six on Thursday, took the prize wicket of Kohli, who in the course of his innings reached 6,000 runs in Test cricket.

