

Stage set for Asian wrestling championship in Bahrain

● Kingdom to host from today first edition of U15 and U20 Asian Wrestling Championship until July 1

● Total 675 wrestlers taking part representing 17 countries from across continent in event

TDT | Manama

The stage is set for Bahrain to host the first edition of the U15 and U20 Asian Wrestling Championship, which will open today and conclude on July 10.

The continental competition will be held at the Khalifa Sports City arena, under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

Bahrain Wrestling Federation is organising the competition in cooperation with the Bahrain Martial Arts Council and the Asian Wrestling Federation, under the supervision of the International Wrestling Federation.

A total of 675 wrestlers will



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa be taking part in the championship, representing 17 countries, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, India, Iran, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Taiwan and Uzbekistan. The event will be officiated by 49 referees accredited by the International Wrestling Federation.

HH Shaikh Khalid stressed the importance of hosting the championship, paying tribute to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his support to all sports.

He praised the support accorded His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, lauding the efforts of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) Chairman.

HH Shaikh Nasser hails Victorious' triumph in Dragon Stakes race

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HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs has hailed the victory of Rocket Rodney, owned by Victorious Racing team, in the Coral Dragon Stakes race (Listed, Class 1) which took place at the San Down Racecourse, Britain.

The horse produced a stunning performance to storm to victory in the race. HH Shaikh Nasser confirmed that this result underlines the successful journey of Victorious Racing team in Europe, adding that winning the Coral Dragon Stakes race will be a great motivator to accomplish further successes abroad.

Moreover, HH Shaikh Nasser



Rocket Rodney, owned by Victorious Racing team at the Coral Dragon Stakes race

expressed thanks and appreciation to trainer George Scott for preparing Rocket Rodney ahead

of the race. He also praised the high qualities of jockey Daniel Muscutt.



HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa

It's worth noting that Rocket Rodney's victory came in the wake of a second-place finish at the Royal Ascot race last month.

Bahrain tennis players shine in Belgium tournament

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Bahrain's national youth tennis team finished third in three categories at the Ten-Pro Junior Tour, which was held in Belgium.

Fares Al Toubali claimed third in the under-16 category, while teammates Ahmed Hosam and Hashem Al Toubali also achieved positive results, finishing third in the under-14 and under-12 divisions, respectively.

Bahrain Tennis Federation president Shaikh Abdulaziz bin



Members of Bahrain's youth national tennis team in Belgium

Mubarak Al Khalifa hailed the honourable results, praising the support and directives of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) Chairman.

Shaikh Abdulaziz also paid tribute to HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, SCYS First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President.

Djokovic makes light work of Kecmanovic

Novak Djokovic schools Miomir Kecmanovic to reach Wimbledon last 16 again

● Women's draw loses six appeal

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic comfortably reached the last 16 at Wimbledon yesterday while Maria Sakkari became the sixth top-10 women's seed to crash out in the first week.

Three-time defending champion Djokovic demolished Serbian compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 to stay on course to pull level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time champion, one behind Roger Federer's men's record.

Yesterday's win was the 330th of Djokovic's Grand Slam career. "So far, so good," said the 35-year-old top seed after beating a player who described him as his "idol".

"I expect high standards from myself. You always want to raise the level and things are shaping up well."

Waiting in the fourth round is Dutch wild card Tim van Rijthoven.

Playing in his debut Grand Slam main draw, the world number 104 defeated 22nd seed Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia,



Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Miomir Kecmanovic

6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

The 25-year-old Van Rijthoven proved his prowess on grass by winning the 's-Hertogenbosch title last month, defeating world number one Daniil Medvedev in the final.

"Before the tournament started, it was a dream for me to play Djokovic," said Van Rijthoven, only the seventh man since 2000 to reach the round of 16 on his Grand Slam debut.

"So to be able to have that chance and to maybe even play on Centre Court or Court 1 is beautiful and magical."

Women's seeds tumble

Greek fifth seed Sakkari lost

6-3, 7-5 to German world number 103 Tatjana Maria, who only returned to the tour last year after maternity leave.

Maria, in the fourth round of a Slam for the first time, will face former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko for a place in the quarter-finals.

"It feels amazing, first time in the last 16, so that's amazing. To win against Sakkari today, it's pretty awesome," said mother-of-two Maria.

Ostapenko, a semi-finalist at the All England Club in 2018, took her winners count to 102 over three rounds by defeating Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Germany's Jule Niemeier fol-

13,728

aces have been served by John Isner to set a new record

lowed up her win over second seed Anette Kontaveit by seeing off Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko in three sets.

Also exiting yesterday was 2018 champion Angelique Kerber, with the German 15th seed beaten 6-4, 7-5 by Elise Mertens.

The Belgian, who had to save two match points in her previous round, next faces world number two Ons Jabeur.

A quarter-finalist in 2021, Tunisia's Jabeur breezed past French teenager Diane Parry 6-2, 6-3.

John Isner set a new record for serving aces in his third-round clash against Jannik Sinner.

The 37-year-old American started his match against the 10th seed four aces behind Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, who has served 13,728.

Nadal taking extra care with COVID scare at Wimbledon

Reuters | London

Rafael Nadal is not taking many chances with COVID-19 and staying indoors when he is not on court, the Spaniard said on Thursday with three big names in the men's singles draw having pulled out of Wimbledon after contracting the virus.

Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut joined Croatian Marin Cilic, the former US Open champion and 2017 Wimbledon runner-up, and Italian eighth seed Matteo Berrettini, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2021 final, in withdrawing from the Grand Slam.

Nadal, who tested positive for coronavirus at the end of last year, said he was taking extra precautions.

"No, no, no paranoia at all. Reality," he told reporters after reaching the third round



Rafael Nadal returns against Ricardas Berankis

with a 6-4 6-4 4-6 6-3 victory over Ricardas Berankis on Thursday.

"That's the thing. A good friend of mine today had to pull out, Roberto Bautista, with another case. When this kind of stuff happens it's because probably a lot of cases are around."

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