

National cyclists begin Japan track camp



TDI | Manama

Bahrain's national cycling team has arrived in Japan for a track cycling training camp in Shuzenji, Shizuoka Prefecture.

The squad reached Tokyo before heading straight to Shuzenji, about 150km from the capital. The camp runs from July 1 to 13 and brings together riders from several countries, along with a number of leading international cyclists.

Bahrain is being represented by Mohammed Hassan and Hassan Thamer, under national coach Jassim Mohammed Hussain.

Shuzenji is one of Japan's

main bases for track cycling and keirin training. It is also the Asian regional development centre of the International Cycling Union.

The site has training grounds built for elite track riders and includes Japan's first indoor 250-metre velodrome built to International Cycling Union standards.

Shaikh Dr Khalid bin Hamad bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, president of the Bahrain Cycling Association, thanked the Bahrain Olympic Committee for its support for cycling.

He wished the team well and said the camp was aimed at preparing a Bahraini side able to compete in track cycling.

Three Bahrainis land senior sambo posts in Manila



Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

Three Bahrainis have been elected to senior committee posts at the Sambo Union of Asia and Oceania.

Safaa Haji was named head of the Women and Sport Committee, Mahdi Al Mascati head of the Disciplinary Committee, and Fahad Taqi head of the Media and Marketing Committee.

The votes took place during the union's annual meeting in Manila, held alongside the 2026 Asian and Oceania Sambo Championships.

Delegates from member federations also met to discuss the growth of sambo and closer work between national bodies.

Mohammed Ali Janahi, president of the Bahrain Sambo Federation, thanked Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, for his support for combat sports.

He also thanked Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the General Sports Authority and Chairman of the Bahrain Combat Sports Council, for

his work with federations under the council, including the sambo federation.

Mr Janahi said the results showed the trust placed in Bahrainis by members of the Asian and Oceania body.

'This win is an important step and shows the growing standing and trust enjoyed by Bahraini talent at continental level,' he said. 'We are proud of the confidence shown by members of the Sambo Union of Asia and Oceania, and we look forward to turning this achievement into hard work to develop the sport, serve athletes and promote professionalism.'

Mr Taqi, vice-president of the Bahrain Sambo Federation and the newly named head of the Media and Marketing Committee, thanked member federations for their votes.

He said the coming phase would bring new plans to raise media coverage and marketing for sambo, with the aim of widening its base across the region.

The Bahrain Sambo Federation also congratulated the Asian and Oceania union on the annual meeting and praised the Philippine federation for hosting the championship and its linked events.

Bahrain lose to Egypt before final rematch



Mohammed Darwish
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Bahrain's under-18 basketball team suffered their first defeat of the Arab Championship yesterday, losing 88-60 to Egypt in their final group match, but will face the same side again in Saturday's final.

The young national side had

already booked their place in the title match after beating Morocco 73-46 on Wednesday, their fourth straight win in the tournament in Tunisia.

Despite the loss to Egypt, Bahrain remain in the race for the title after a strong group-stage run that included wins over Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco.

Bahrain opened their cam-



paigned with a 60-51 win over Algeria before beating hosts Tunisia 78-66.

They then defeated Libya 73-58 and Morocco 73-46 to seal their place in the final before yesterday's closing group match against Egypt.

The result means Bahrain and Egypt will meet again after tomorrow in the championship final, with the national team

seeking to turn around yesterday's defeat and end the tournament with the title.

The Arab under-18 championship is being played in a single round-robin format, with the six teams facing each other once.

The top two sides advance to the final, while the third- and fourth-placed teams meet in the third-place play-off.

England refused to accept defeat in 'beautiful' DR Congo win, says Tuchel

AFP | Atlanta

Thomas Tuchel said England had defied the ghosts of previous major tournament disappointments by coming from behind to avoid a shock World Cup elimination at the hands of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Captain Harry Kane rescued the Three Lions with two late goals for a 2-1 win in Atlanta that sets up a meeting with co-hosts Mexico, who will have home advantage at the historic Azteca Stadium, on Sunday.

England are aiming to end a 60-year wait to win a major tournament.

This generation of players have come closer to glory than most, losing each of the past two finals of the European Championship.

But Tuchel said he saw no sign of his squad crumbling under the weight of expectation despite a horrendous start against a side ranked 46th in the world.

Brian Cipenga took advantage of slack England defending to fire the Congolese into an early lead, that they held until 15 minutes from time.

'This team today did not ac-



England's forward #09 Harry Kane celebrates with England's German head coach Thomas Tuchel

cept a defeat as an outcome," the German said in a post-match press conference.

"It would be so easy to give in, it would be so easy to accept the narrative. I didn't see any of that and that is a very, very good sign."

The former Chelsea boss added: "That makes me very proud because they did what was necessary. The going got tough today, they showed up and we got a deserved win, even if it was a late one."

Despite having cleared one hurdle, Tuchel's men face a dev-

ilishly difficult route to their aim of becoming world champions.

Brazil, Argentina and France could await in the final stages, even if they manage to inflict heartbreak on Mexico in front of over 70,000 home fans.

El Tri have won all four of their World Cup games so far without conceding a goal and also have the advantage of having acclimatised to the high altitude of Mexico City.

"It is maybe one of the most beautiful fixtures, the most exciting fixtures that you can have.

We play against Mexico in the Azteca," added Tuchel.

"The altitude will be, of course, a big disadvantage because we cannot physically adapt to it in four days. It's just impossible.

"More obstacles may come, but we are ready for that. We need it. Maybe we have the ideal platform now to genuinely believe that we are ready for that. When the going gets tough, we will find the answers."

'Our captain, our leader'

Not for the first time, Kane rode to his country's rescue.

A fifth goal of the tournament took his World Cup tally in total to 13 and kept the Bayern Munich striker in the star-studded battle for the Golden Boot.

Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe lead the way on six goals. Erling Haaland also has five, with Ousmane Dembele and Vinicius Junior on four.

"They are all sharks. If they smell blood, they come and score," said Tuchel on the Golden Boot race.

"It's crazy. (Kane is) so, so good. He's our captain, he's our leader, and decides football matches with unbelievable finishes.