

# SPORTS

## sports

# Shaikh Khalid hails Bahrain's achievement

Bahraini athletes return home after World Athletics Championships

TDT | Manama

**H**HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa hailed the outstanding results made by Bahrain's athletes in the World Athletics Championships.

The Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee was speaking as he received Bahrain's National Athletics team members following their historic first-place achievement at the Arab level (second at the Asian level and 12th overall) in the event after winning a gold medal, one silver and one bronze.

On this occasion, the HH Shaikh Khalid escalated his sincere congratulations to HM King Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with the athletes

the Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, and HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad

Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity and Youth Affairs and President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports on the achievement accomplished by the Bahraini

athletes in the event. HH Shaikh Khalid said that this victory embodies the utmost sponsorship extended to the sports movement in the Kingdom of Bahrain in general and

athletics in particular by HM the King who has been keen to pave the way for an ideal environment for the athletics national teams to enable them to achieve such accomplishments that reflect

the huge development made by the sports field in Bahrain.

Furthermore, HH Shaikh Khalid pointed out to the incredible performance produced by Salwa Eid in the women's 400m final race which enabled her to win the gold medal en route to clocking the third-fastest time in history. He also praised the displays of Rose Chelimo who won the silver medal in the women's marathon race as well as the relay team after bagging the bronze medal in the mixed 4 X 400 race.

"We are proud of the achievements of our champions. It was an epic event and they mirrored the perfect image for the Kingdom's athletics," HH Shaikh Khalid said, applauding the efforts of Bahrain Athletics Association under the leadership of Mohammed Abdulatif bin Jalal in preparing the athletes ahead of the event.

## Injury prevents Lestienne's long-awaited return to Belgium squad

Reuters | London

**M**axime Lestienne's recall to the Belgium squad for their Euro 2020 qualifiers this week ended in bitter disappointment on Monday when he had to withdraw because of injury.

The Standard Liege attacker was a surprise inclusion when Roberto Martinez announced his squad last Friday, praising him for his form in domestic

competition over the last weeks.

It ended a six-year wait for Lestienne, who was called up in 2013 but did not play and has been in international wilderness since.

But Lestienne's joy lasted just 48 hours.

He has been ruled out of the qualifiers after suffering a hamstring injury on Sunday in the league game against Antwerp, the Belgian football association said.

Thibaut Courtois and Romelu Lukaku were absent on Monday as the Belgian squad began preparations for Thursday's clash against San Marino in Brussels, where they are expected to become the first country to secure a berth in next year's tournament, and Sunday's away game against Kazakhstan.

Real Madrid goalkeeper Courtois missed the weekend win over Granada after falling ill.

Lukaku did not feature against Barcelona in the Champions League last Wednesday but played 90 minutes on Sunday for Inter Milan in their home defeat by Juventus.

The Belgian association offered no explanation for their absence from the first training session, prompting speculation in the local media about their availability for the international assignments.

Kevin De Bruyne is already out of the two encounters through injury although captain Eden Hazard is back.

Belgium have won all of their six matches and have a three-point lead over second placed Russia in Group I.



Maxime Lestienne

## Smith, Warner in Australia T20 squad

Reuters | Sydney

**A**ustralia yesterday named Steve Smith and David Warner in their Twenty20 squad for home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan as selectors firm up plans for next year's World Cup on home soil.

Australia host Sri Lanka in three T20 internationals starting in Adelaide on Oct. 27 before facing top-ranked Pakistan in three matches next month.

"It is almost a year to the day until Australia hosts the men's T20 World Cup and we have selected this squad with that in mind," selector Trevor Hohns said in a statement.

"The squad we have selected is quite role specific and we believe it gives us the flexibility to thrive in all match conditions."

"We're delighted to welcome Smith and Warner back ... Steve is a world-class batsman in all formats while Warner is Australia's highest ever T20I runs-scorer."



Steve Smith and David Warner celebrate during a Test match (file photo)

Australia's highest ever T20I runs-scorer."

Smith is set to play his first T20 international since 2016 and will look to continue the fine form he has shown since his return from a one-year ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

The 30-year-old smashed 774 runs in four Ashes tests against England recently as Australia

retained the urn. Warner scored 692 runs in this year's IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad and 647 runs in the 50-over World Cup in England as Australia reached the semi-finals.

Australia dropped all-rounder Marcus Stoinis while Ashton Turner was preferred ahead of fellow spinner Nathan Lyon. They also included the big-hitting Glenn Maxwell.

The 14-man squad captained by Aaron Finch will travel to Adelaide on Oct. 24 before the first T20 against Sri Lanka.

Trevor Hohns

Timo Werner

## Ceballos: I was right to swap Madrid for Arsenal

Reuters | Madrid

**A**rsenal midfielder Dani Ceballos believes he was right to join the club on loan from Real Madrid, where he had not been enjoying his football.

Ceballos has played 11 times for the Gunners in all competitions, scoring one goal and assisting two others, earning himself a call-up to the Spanish national team.

Moreno has selected the midfielder in the squad to face Norway and Sweden in Euro 2020 qualifying fixtures on Sep. 12 and 15 respectively.

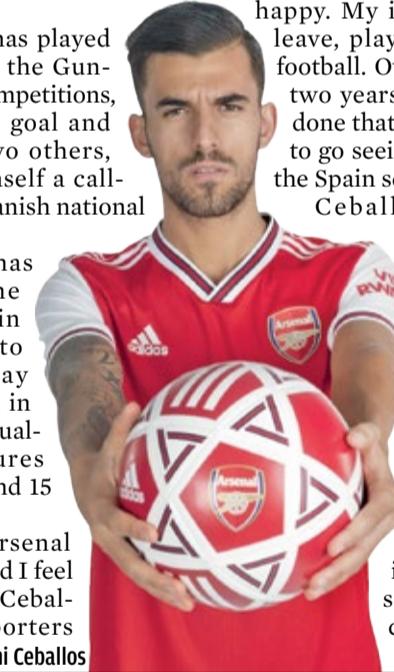
"I'm at Arsenal right now and I feel very good," Ceballos told reporters

Dani Ceballos

yesterday in Madrid, where the Spanish team are training. "I knew I definitely wanted to leave (and) I was right to leave Madrid."

"Right now I'm where I want to be, and I am very happy. My idea was to leave, play and enjoy football. Over the past two years I have not done that. I was right to go seeing as I'm in the Spain squad."

Ceballos joined Real Madrid from Real Betis in 2017, but he failed to establish himself as a key player under Zinedine Zidane in his first spell at the club.



## Depleted Germany lose sick Werner for Argentina friendly

AFP | Munich

**R**B Leipzig striker Timo Werner became the latest player to be ruled out of Germany's friendly with Argentina, prompting coach Joachim Loew to call for reinforcements on Monday.

Loew added Hoffenheim midfielder Sebastian Rudy and uncapped

Freiburg defender Robin Koch to the squad that will host Argentina

on Wednesday and then travel to Estonia for a Euro 2020 qualifier four days later.

"I spent my Sunday on the phone and I didn't receive anything but bad news," said Loew, who will also be without injured midfielder Ilkay Gundogan for the friendly in Dortmund.

Toni Kroos, Jonas Hector and Matthias Ginter all withdrew from the squad on Sunday, with Schalke's Sutardji summoned as cover.

Loew is missing a dozen regulars with Manchester City's Leroy Sane a notable long-term absentee after he tore knee ligaments in August.

