



Bahrain's Winfred Yavi on her way to victory at Alà dei Sardi

# Bahrain's golden girl strikes again

Winfred Yavi wins 6km cross-country race in Sardinia, Italy

**Hussain Almaskati**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Olympic champion Winfred Yavi delivered another exceptional performance on the international stage, winning the women's 6km race at the Cross di Alà dei Sardi - Memorial Elisa Migliore in Sardinia, Italy, on Sunday.

Competing in her second race of the season, Yavi crossed the line in 20:37, well ahead of Burundi's Francine Nyomukunzi (21:40) and Britain's Emily

Grace Collinge (22:21). From the opening metres on the rolling Coiluna course, Yavi took control. She quickly settled into a strong rhythm, forcing Nyomukunzi to chase. By the midpoint, Yavi had opened daylight on her rivals. She maintained her form through the final kilometre and powered across the finish line unchallenged.

The victory confirmed Yavi as the standout athlete in a field packed with experienced European and international compet-

itors. At 26, she is ranked #2 in the world in the 3000m steeplechase. Her career highlights include Olympic gold in Paris 2024, a World Championship title, a Diamond League Final win, and a World Championships silver medal. Her latest success in Italy marks a strong start to the season and signals what's ahead for Bahrain's star sprinter.

Yavi's performance in Sardinia also demonstrates her readiness for the months ahead. Yavi will next compete at the World

Military Cross Country Championships in Trikala, Greece, starting February 25. Later in the year, she will focus on the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, in September.

The Cross di Alà dei Sardi is one of Italy's most prestigious cross-country events, attracting elite runners from across Europe and beyond. Yavi's win adds another high-profile chapter to the race's history and highlights the Kingdom's rising influence on the global athletics stage.

## Scotland spoil Italy's T20 World Cup debut with big win

AFP | Kolkata

T20 World Cup debutants Italy had a bruising introduction to cricket's biggest stage as they suffered a crushing 73-run loss to Scotland yesterday in Kolkata.

Scotland piled up 207-4 with opener George Munsey top-scoring with 84 and in reply Italy were bowled out for 134 in 16.4 overs.

Off-spinner Michael Leask took 4-17 for Scotland, adding to his batting cameo of an unbeaten 22 off five balls.

A nation better known for its football, Italy are the lowest-ranked side in the 20-team tournament and were making a slice of history here.

Chasing a mammoth 208 for victory, they suffered early blows before a valiant fourth-wicket partnership of 73 between Australia-born brothers Ben and Harry Manenti kept them afloat at Eden Gardens.

But Harry departed for 37 and



Scotland's George Munsey reacts after playing a shot

Ben got out after his 31-ball 52 as the Italian batting collapsed from 113-3.

"Hopefully we'll sit down at some stage and reflect on that little partnership that we had and it would have been nice to contribute to a win there," said vice-captain Harry.

He called playing with his

brother "special".

"Obviously growing up and playing backyard cricket with him, batting together, and as young kids then dreaming of being at a World Cup batting together and we've got to live that out today."

South Africa-born captain

Wayne Madsen could not bat

### Scorecard

Scotland 207 for 4 (Munsey 84, McMullen 41) beat Italy (B Manenti 52, Leask 4-17) by 73 runs

after he dislocated his shoulder while fielding and might miss the rest of the tournament.

Scotland skipper Richie Berrington said it was vital for them to bounce back after losing their opening match of the tournament.

"Really pleased to get our first win. In the end it was a comprehensive win, but we had to work hard for it," he said.

Scotland originally failed to qualify for the World Cup but with only two weeks to go they replaced Bangladesh, who were kicked out after they refused to play in India.

### Madsen heartbreak

Italy won the toss and bowled in the Group C encounter, where there were a few Italian fans decked out in the country's

## Zimbabwe dominate Oman on return to T20 World Cup



Zimbabwe's Blessing Muzarabani (2L) celebrates with teammates

AFP | Colombo

Zimbabwe returned to the T20 World Cup in emphatic fashion yesterday, strolling to an eight-wicket win over Oman at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club.

In their first T20 World Cup since 2022, Zimbabwe skittled Oman for 103 before knocking off the runs with 39 balls to spare.

Brian Bennett was unbeaten on 48 and Brendan Taylor, 40, who played in the first T20 World Cup in 2007, made 31 before retiring hurt.

Zimbabwe's quick bowling twin towers Richard Ngarava and Blessing Muzarabani

did the early damage, reducing Oman to 27-5 with none of their top order managing to get into double figures.

"We have to take it game by game and we are very happy with the win," said Muzarabani, who won the player-of-the-match award.

"I am just coming from a back injury and didn't want to really push it, so I shortened my run a bit. There was some good bounce on the pitch and I thought we used the conditions well."

A face-saving 42-run stand for the sixth wicket between Sufyan Mehmood and Vinayak Shukla gave Oman's total some respectability.

## Bhaksi clinches Veedol Stableford title in Awali thriller



A group photo during the awarding ceremony

TDT | Manama

Shuvendu Bhaksi delivered a standout performance to win the Veedol Stableford golf competition, finishing with an impressive 40 points in a closely contested event supported for the fourth consecutive year by



TD Balbir Singh, winner Shuvendu Bhaksi, Veedol KN Singh and Captain Steve Newall

sponsor Veedol. Bhaksi broke 90 gross during his round and scored on every hole, with a highlight chip-in birdie on the 14th. Debbie Beedie produced a similar moment of brilliance with her own chip-in birdie as favourable playing conditions helped several golfers perform strongly.

Nathan Prince and Abdul Elah Fakhroo finished just one point behind Bhaksi with 39 points each, while nine players equalled or bettered their handicaps in the competition.

Prizes were presented after a dinner ceremony by tournament

director Balbir Singh, club captain Steve Newall and sponsor representative KN Singh. Flight winners included Jasper Meinenma (Flight 1), Nathan Prince (Flight 2) and Daniel Guillaume (Flight 3), with the next event scheduled to be the Kanoo Cup.

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