



Young athletes build fitness



TDT | Manama

The Shotokan Karate Academy is hosting its summer training programme at the Hamad Town Model Youth Centre, offering children and youth a structured and safe environment to develop their physical and martial arts skills during the summer holiday.

Academy Director General Captain Ahmed Abdulkarim said the programme delivers a range of training activities designed to improve fitness, strength, flexibility and balance, while building self-confidence, discipline and focus.

Participants also learn core self-defence fundamentals and values of respect, responsibility and teamwork.

Captain Abdulkarim added that the initiative reflects the academy's commitment to encouraging young people to use their free time productively — preparing a generation that is healthy, confident and disciplined.

The programme runs under the motto: "We create champions... we build character" — embodying the academy's mission to develop athletes who excel both on the mat and in life.

Bahrain under-18s fall to India in Asian opener



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 boys' volleyball team opened yesterday its Asian Championship campaign in China with a 3-1 defeat by India.

India won the Pool B match 25-23, 23-25, 25-21, 25-17 after Bahrain fought back to level the contest at one set apiece.

The Bahraini side came close in the opening set before losing by two points, then an-



swered with a 25-23 win in the second.

India regained the lead by taking the third set 25-21 and closed out the match with a 25-17 win in the fourth.

The championship is being held in Haikou, China, with

Bahrain drawn in Pool B alongside India and Iran, as well as a representative from Southeast Asia Zone 2.

Bahrain will seek to recover in its remaining group matches and keep alive its hopes of reaching the knockout stage.

Marc Marquez cruises to Germany MotoGP victory, enters title race

● **Marquez equals Giacomo Agostini's historic record**

● **Ogura finishes second for Aprilia**

● **Fernandez completes podium for Aprilia**

AFP | Hohenstein-Ernstthal

Marc Marquez won the Germany MotoGP Grand Prix yesterday as the Spaniard equalled Italian legend Giacomo Agostini's record of 10 premier class wins on a single circuit.

The seven-time world champion started on pole as he glided to a dominant win at the Sachsenring, 1.996sec ahead of Aprilia-Trackhouse's Ai Ogura in second with the Japanese rider's Spanish teammate Raul Fernandez completing the podium.

Marquez, on his Ducati, also won Saturday's sprint race to further cement his reputation as the 'King of the Ring', as he moved to 190 points at the halfway point of the 22-race season.

10

premier class victories have now been achieved by Marc Marquez on the Sachsenring circuit, equalling Giacomo Agostini's legendary record

"(I'm) super, super happy. You know, it was a special weekend," the 33-year-old said.

"I was super concentrated because... if I want to have any chance to win the championship, I need to attack here.

"It's what we did these last races. And yes, super happy to achieve 10 victories in MotoGP class here in the Sachsenring."

He has reignited his title challenge just before the summer break and is now firmly in contention to retain his crown, having closed the gap to 18 points behind his compatriot Jorge Martin, who finished fifth for Aprilia yesterday.

Spain's Pedro Acosta of KTM



finished fourth, ahead of Martin, with Italian Ducati rider Francesco Bagnaia in sixth after a fascinating tussle with the championship leader in the final laps.

In the early exchanges, Marc Marquez was locked in somewhat of a battle with his brother Alex Marquez, who started in second place, until the Ducati-Gresini rider slid off his bike on turn 13 after 10 laps.

But from that moment on, anything other than a record-equalling victory for Marc Marquez never seemed on the cards.

Ogura climbed to second in the overall standings on 194 points after battling past his teammate Fernandez to take second as the pair, who both started on the second row, took advantage of Alex Marquez and Fabio Di Giannantonio's early falls.

"I'm so happy about today, (it's turned out to be a) better Sunday than I expected," Ogura said after Aprilia bikes took two of the podium spots at a track usually



Marc Marquez's brother Alex Marquez slid off his bike on turn 13 after 10 laps, and from that moment on anything other than a record-equalling victory for Marc never seemed on the cards

dominated by Ducati.

Fernandez echoed these sentiments, saying he "never thought that I would be able to make a podium here in Sachsenring, especially in MotoGP".

Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi missed yesterday's Grand Prix after fracturing his collarbone during qualifying on Saturday — the Italian now lies fourth in the standings.

MotoGP will return after the summer break for the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, beginning August 7.

Senegal part ways with coach Thiaw after World Cup exit



Senegal coach Pape Thiaw looks on ahead of a match (file photo)

AFP | Paris

Senegal coach Pape Thiaw has been sacked in the wake of his side's last-32 elimination at the World Cup, the Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) announced yesterday.

"Following a meeting of the (FSF) executive committee, it was decided to initiate proceedings to relieve national team coach Pape Thiaw, as well as the entire coaching staff, of their duties," the federation said in a statement.

It added that FSF president Abdoulaye Fall will hold a press conference on Monday to explain the "reasons behind this decision" and "to discuss the future".

Thiaw, 45 and a former Senegal international, took over as national team boss in 2024.

McGregor 'destroyed' in 69 seconds on UFC return from five-year layoff

● **Knee injury forces early stoppage**

AFP | Los Angeles

Former double world champion Conor McGregor lost to Max Holloway after only 69 seconds because of a right knee injury, in his return to the Ultimate Fighting Championship after a five-year layoff.

Referee Mike Beltran stopped the mixed martial arts welterweight contest at UFC 329 in Las Vegas after Ireland's McGregor, 37, fell to the mat three times in the first minute.

McGregor jumped and

launched a roundhouse kick at Holloway in the opening seconds, but hurt his right knee as he planted his foot.

He crumpled twice more and grabbed at his right knee, prompting Beltran to end the bout.

"What can I say? I had him weak in the knees I guess," Holloway said.

"So much hype. We've got to run it back one more time," he said. "For it to end like this sucks."

Holloway hoped the Irishman's injury was "not too crazy".

McGregor, who walked out of the octagon without comment, later said on X: "My head gasket is gone. Destroyed. I had no inju-

ry/injuries going into the fight. I was throwing kicks, planted and jumping, all throughout camp as well as backstage before the fight."

"This came out of nowhere," he added. "I am beyond dark here. I can only describe it as hell."

Holloway said he knew his opponent was in trouble when he backed off.

"I could tell. His whole demeanor changed. He said, 'Fight! Fight!'," added Holloway.

In what McGregor called "the comeback of all comebacks in sports history", the bout was a rematch of a 2013 featherweight fight which the Irishman won by unanimous decision.

McGregor had not fought since breaking his left leg in a 2021 defeat to American Dustin Poirier.

McGregor had been the UFC's most marketable star before that injury, in 2016 becoming the first to hold two titles simultaneously at different weights.

He reportedly earned more than \$100 million for losing a boxing superfight against Floyd Mayweather in 2017.

McGregor's last UFC victory was a 40-second triumph over American Donald Cerrone in January 2020. Earlier, England's Paddy Pimblett stopped France's Benoit Saint Denis by submission after only 52 seconds of a lightweight bout.



Max Holloway lands a punch on Conor McGregor