

# Bahrain add five more medals in Konya

Kingdom's national athletics team wrap up competition on the track and in the field by winning two more gold, two silver and one bronze at fifth Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey

● **Winfred Yavi claims women's 1,500m gold to add to her women's 3,000m steeplechase title on last day of athletics competition**

● **Aminat Jamal, Muna Mubarak, Awatif Imoleayo, Zenab Moussa Ali and Edidiong Odiong take women's 4x400m relay gold**

● **Men's and women's 4x100m relay teams win silver medals while men's 4x400m relay squad clinch bronze**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain picked up five more medals, including two gold, yesterday on the final day of the athletics competition at the fifth Islamic Solidarity Games being held in Konya, Turkey.

Winfred Yavi bagged the gold medal in the women's 1,500 metres while the women's 4x400m relay team comprising Aminat Jamal, Muna Mubarak, Awatif Imoleayo, Zenab Moussa Ali and Edidiong Odiong won gold in their event at Konya Athletic Field.

The national team's athletes also won two silver medals



Bahrain's athletes and officials pose for a photograph at the end of last night's events

through the men's 4x100m relay team and the women's 4x100m relay squad; while also coming away with one bronze from the men's 4x400m relay team.

The five-medal haul brought Bahrain's medal tally to date at the Games to 20, including nine gold medals, seven silver and four bronze medals.

All but

through the men's 4x100m relay team and the women's 4x100m relay squad; while also coming away with one bronze from the men's 4x400m relay team.

one of Bahrain's total medal haul has been won in athletics. The other was claimed by Ahmed Madan in road cycling, with the history-making Team Bahrain

Victorious rider claiming the men's individual time trial gold medal.

In yesterday's athletics events, Winfred won the women's 1,500m gold medal in a time of four minutes 14.35 seconds. It was the second title for Winfred at the Games, having also clinched the women's 3,000m steeplechase gold medal.

Meanwhile, the women's 4x400m relay team clinched their gold medal after winning in 3:35.24.

In the men's 4x100m relay, Yaqoob Salem, Abdulraof Rashid, Ebrahim Simon and Saeed Alkhalidi won their silver medal after completing their race in 39.01 seconds.

The women's 4x100m relay team included Aminat Jamal, Fatima Mubarak, Hajar Alkhalidi and Edidiong Odiong. They took their

silver medal in 44.11s.

The men's 4x400m relay team added a bronze medal to yesterday's winnings in Konya. The Kingdom's quartet included Musa Isah, Abbas Ali, Ali Khamis and Husain Aldoseri.

With yesterday's events, Bahrain's men and women athletes wrapped up their participation on the track and in the field.

Bahrain's five-medal haul yesterday brought their medal tally at the Games to 20, including nine gold, seven silver and four bronze medals—all but one having been won in the sport of athletics. The other was claimed by Ahmed Madan in road cycling

Attending the final day of the athletics competition was Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Faris Al Kooheji, who presented some of the winners with their respective medals.

The BOC secretary general also met with his Uzbek counterpart Oybek Kasimov on the sidelines of events.

The pair discussed ways of further cooperation between the two Olympic committees, including developing joint-programmes in wrestling, boxing and judo.

Elsewhere yesterday, Bahrain Cycling Association president Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his sincere congratulations to the Kingdom's wise leadership on the success of Madan in the individual time trial.

In shooting yesterday at the Games, Bahrain was taking part but were not able to ascend onto the podium.

## Bahrain youth football team continue Turkey camp



Bahrain's youth national team's players and officials at their camp

● **Nationals gearing up for future competitions, including qualifiers for 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup this October**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's youth national football team continued their overseas training camp yesterday in Turkey where they are preparing for their upcoming competitions.

The under-17s are set to play their final friendly of their camp today against a local club team. They have already played two warm-ups, the first of which they won and then followed it up with a draw.

Among the tournaments the

nationals are gearing up for are the qualifiers for the 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup.

The Bahrainis are in Group C of the qualification process, the matches of which will be played this October in Muscat. The other teams in their division are the Omanis, Iraq, Qatar and Lebanon.

There are 44 nations in this stage of the qualifiers. They have been divided into 10 groups—four with five teams and six with four teams.

In each group, teams will play each other once at a centralised venue. The ten group winners and the five best runners-up will qualify for the final tournament.

Group A features Japan, hosts Jordan, Syria, the Philippines and Turkmenistan; Group B

includes hosts Indonesia, Malaysia, Palestine, Guam and the UAE; Group D is composed of India, hosts Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Maldives and Kuwait; Group E consists of Yemen, hosts Bangladesh, Singapore and Bhutan; Group F features Thailand, hosts Vietnam, Chinese-Taipei and Nepal; Group G consists of hosts Australia, China, Cambodia and Northern Mariana Islands; Group H is composed of hosts Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Mongolia; Group I consists of Iran, Hong Kong, hosts Kyrgyzstan and Laos; and Group J features South Korea, Brunei, hosts Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

There are 28 players in the Bahrain squad in their Turkey camp, coached by Bahraini tactician Bader Khalil.

## Surprise date-change overshadows World Cup 100-day countdown

AFP | Geneva

FIFA and Qatar organisers on yesterday counted the cost of bringing forward the start of the World Cup by a day as they launched the 100-day countdown to the event.

Football's ruling body and the wealthy Gulf state both promised action to help fans, sponsors and broadcasters hit by the change, announced late Thursday, but did not give details.

The sudden move to bring forward Qatar's match against Ecuador by 24 hours -- to make it the gala opening match -- has only added to the public relations concerns as the conservative host country counters criticism of its rights record and fan worries about what to expect when they arrive.

"It is less than three months from the start. This has come out of the blue. It is not critical but it is a headache," said an executive for one World Cup broadcaster, speaking on condition of anonymity.

FIFA said its president Gianni Infantino and the six heads of the continental confederations had unanimously agreed to make Qatar's game and the official opening ceremony a



The FIFA World Cup trophy is displayed during a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum 2022 (WEF) in the Alpine resort of Davos, Switzerland

"stand-alone" event. "The change ensures the continuity of a long-standing tradition of marking the start of the World Cup with an opening ceremony on the occasion of the first match featuring either the hosts or the defending champions," FIFA said in a statement.

Under the old schedule, Qatar against Ecuador was to be the official inauguration match on the evening of November 21 but Senegal against Neth-

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**The change stretches the World Cup to 29 days until the Dec. 18 final and comes after several rounds of ticket sales, with organisers having sold 1.8 million tickets so far**

erlands would have been the first match of the day, followed England against Iran.

Under the new plan, the Group A game between Senegal and the Netherlands has been shifted from 1:00pm (1000 GMT) on November 21 to 7:00pm start.

FIFA said tickets for the affected matches "will remain valid irrespective of the new date/time."

It added: "In addition, FIFA will seek to address any issues arising from this change in a case-by-case basis."