

Bahrain weightlifter Zainab puts on inspirational show



Bahrain's Zainab Yahya competes in the women's 64kg snatch

● **Cyclists Ahmed Madan, Ahmed Naser finish 29th, 40th respectively in 130km men's road race**

TDT | Manama

Bahraini weightlifter Zainab Yahya put in an inspirational performance yesterday at the fifth Islamic Solidarity Games, taking place in Konya, Turkey.

Zainab was classified an impressive seventh in the women's 64kg snatch final. She received a warm applause from the crowd present at the event, in which she had a score of 72.

Tsbitha Alfiah Ramadhani of



Faris Al Kooheji with Sheikh Jaber Thamer Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

Indonesia won the gold medal with a 98 score.

Meanwhile, Bahraini cyclists Ahmed Madan and Ahmed Naser finished 29th and 40th, respectively, in road cycling's men's road race.

Madan, who won the gold medal in the men's individual time trial, completed the 130-kilometre ride with a 42.42 score, while Naser had a 41.56 score.

Also yesterday, Bahrain Olympic Committee secretary general Faris Al Kooheji met with Kuwait Olympic Committee board member and head of the Kuwaiti delegation at the Games Sheikh Jaber Thamer Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

Bahrain's participation at the Games continues today.

Bahrain bow to Japan in Asian volleyball

Senior men's national team miss out on gold medal match after straight-sets semi-final defeat in 2022 AVC Cup for Men in Thailand

● **Bahrainis miss golden opportunity in first set, losing four set points in game-changing Japan rally**

● **Outside hitter Mohamed Abdulla continues fine tournament form, leading Bahrain with 12 points in loss**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain suffered a straight-sets loss to Japan yesterday to bow out of title contention in the 2022 Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Men, being held in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

The nationals should have taken the first set but allowed the Japanese to crawl back for the early match advantage. They never recovered from there, going down to their opponents 0-3 (25-27, 15-25, 20-25).

The Bahrainis must now settle for playing for the tournament's bronze medals. They will take on the other losing semi-finalists, South Korea, in the game for third place. That is scheduled for today at 11am,



Bahrain's Mohamed Abdulla looks to score against Japan's blockers during their game yesterday

Bahrain time.

The Japanese move on to face China in the gold medal contest. The Chinese advanced after beating the South Koreans 3-2 (20-25, 25-17, 32-34, 29-27, 17-15) in a hotly contested affair.

In yesterday's match, the Bahrainis were ahead midway through the first set. They took a 15-12 lead on a Mohamed Anan spike, which they maintained at 22-19 on more fine play from Anan.

The Bahrainis, who donned their alternate gold uniforms, were then on the brink of clinching the first set with a 24-20 lead, but that is when it

went downhill for the nationals as they lost four set points with Japan going on a game-changing 5-0 rally.

The nationals were able to level the proceedings at 25-apiece with a double block, but the Japanese scored the next two points as Bahrain missed a golden opportunity.

Japan stepped up their play in the next two sets, not allowing Bahrain to get back into the match.

Outside hitter Mohamed Abdulla was once again Bahrain's top scorer with 12 points, including 11 attacks.

Tomita Shoma paced the Jap-

YOU KNOW WHAT

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anese with 13 points, while Higuchi Yuki and Ono Haruki added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Bahrain are playing for the first time in the AVC Cup for Men, which is in its seventh edition.

Along with Abdulla, who has been one of their best players in the tournament, and Mohamed Anan, the rest of the team competing in Nakhon Pathom includes setters Mahmood Hasan and Mahmood Alafyah; wing spikers Naser Anan, Mahmood Ahmed and Yusuf Ali; opposite Ali Khamis; middle blockers Abbas Al Khabbaz, Husain Al-jeshi, Mohamed Aldawiri and Mohamed Abdulla; and liberos Ayman Haroona and Husain Sultan.

Man City, Arsenal maintain perfect Premier League start

AFP | London

Manchester City stormed dominantly to the top of the Premier League by cruising to a 4-0 win over Bournemouth, while Gabriel Jesus opened his Arsenal account in a 4-2 win over Leicester yesterday.

As soaring temperatures across England forced the need for water breaks at all this weekend's Premier League games, it was City who were on fire at the Etihad as promoted Bournemouth were blown away.

Erling Haaland failed to score on his home debut, but the Norwegian showed there is more to his game than goals as he used his strength before sliding in Ilkay Gundogan to open the scoring.

Kevin De Bruyne then took centre stage with a scintillating finish with the outside of his right foot to find the far corner before the Belgian turned provider for Phil Foden to make it 3-0 before half-time.

City eased off the gas after the break but added to their lead 11 minutes from time when Jefferson Lerma turned Joao Cancelo's cross into his own net.

Jesus shines

Haaland's arrival at City was



Kevin De Bruyne scores Manchester City's second

one of the factors behind Jesus' departure and the Brazilian is already looking like a bargain for the Gunners as he marked his home debut with two goals and two assists to maintain Arsenal's perfect start.

Jesus was often deployed in wider areas in recent seasons by City boss Pep Guardiola, but was brought to Arsenal to be a number nine as he aims to secure a place at the World Cup later this year with regular games as a centre-forward.

The 25-year-old showed his eye for goal with a sumptuous chip over Danny Ward to break Leicester's resistance and dou-

bled his tally by heading home a corner at the back post.

William Saliba's own goal gave Leicester a foothold against the run of play.

But the Foxes quickly threw that hope away when Ward dropped a simple cross into the box and Jesus teed up Granit Xhaka to slot home.

Another goalkeeping error at the other end gifted Leicester another goal as James Maddison's strike squirmed under Aaron Ramsdale.

Arsenal, though, again responded instantly to avoid a nervy finale as Gabriel Martinelli fired into the far corner

In City's first home match since their dramatic final-day victory over Aston Villa that clinched a fourth league title in five seasons in May, all eyes were on Haaland following his double on debut last weekend at West Ham United

before Jesus hit the post with the chance to seal his hat-trick.

Steven Gerrard won the first managerial clash between him and former England teammate Frank Lampard as Aston Villa beat Everton 2-1 to get off the mark.

Goals from Danny Ings and Emi Buendia eased the pressure on the former Liverpool captain after a run of two wins in their previous 12 games dating back to last season.

However, Villa had to survive a nervy finish as Lucas Digne's own goal gave Everton hope as Emi Martinez twice denied Anthony Gordon.

Leeds missed the chance to join City and Arsenal on six points after blowing a 2-0 lead at Southampton.

Hard work for Halep in Toronto win over Gauff, Haddad Maia advances



Simona Halep stretches to reach a shot from Coco Gauff

AFP | Toronto

Simona Halep served twice for her match against Coco Gauff without success on Friday before finally securing a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) quarter-final victory at the WTA Toronto Masters.

The former number one, a two-time winner in Canada, made hard work of her triumph over the rising American teenager who just missed a chance at cracking the world ranking top-10 for the first time.

Halep needed a second-set tiebreaker to advance into the semi-finals in just under two

hours, lining up a meeting with seventh-seeded American Jessica Pegula.

Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her 183rd match win at the Masters 1000 level.

In other quarter-final action, Brazil's giant-killer Beatriz Haddad Maia claimed another victim as she upset Olympic champion Belinda Bencic with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 comeback win.

The South American, who stunned world number one Iga Swiatek in the third round, won her 16th match since June, the month in which she claimed back-to-back grass titles in Nottingham and Birmingham.