

## SPORTS

# Baby games begin

1,029 kids in fray for Second Bahrain Baby Games

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) launched on Saturday the biggest children sports event in the Kingdom as the Second Bahrain Baby Games got underway at Isa Sports City's Bahrain Volleyball Association hall, in Riffa.

Around 1,029 kids, including 563 representing 35 nurseries and 466 from 34 kindergartens are lined up for this event, organized by the committee for the second consecutive year in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

This year's edition features competitions for children aged from 3 to 5 year in four different sports – athletics, basketball, gymnastics and football.

All contests in this four-day event are being held in the morning session at the three sports federations' halls – volleyball, sports for disabilities and table tennis, all located at Isa Sports City premises.

The opening ceremony, attended by BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf, Human Resources and Services Executive director, representatives of the participating nurseries and kindergartens, Ama Al Mansoori, started with a special acrobatic show by Loyal Jihad of KJ Kids Kindergarten.

This was followed by another show, presented by Wala Al Dossary, and a third demonstration by Fairytopia Kindergarten, while KJ Kids Kindergarten



Kids in action during the event

presented a special show using the five coloured circles of the Olympics.

Among other activities on the inaugural day were a below-12 months crawling contest, and followed by a below-15 months baby walking race, both of which came to the excitement and thrills of hundreds of parents in the stands.

Late on, the parade of the participating nurseries and kindergartens while holding their respective identity banners amidst a big round of applause from the audience.

After the parade, a couple of kids entered the hall while carrying the Olympic torch to

mark the launch of the event, after which Al Nusuf officially declared the Games open.

In his speech, Al Nusuf welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of such an event, which is one of the Bahrain Olympic Committee's major sports initiatives, a first of its kind in the Kingdom and perhaps in the Arab world, which aims at instilling a culture of sport within children and developing their mental and physical abilities.

"The Baby Games has become one of the leading events on our annual agenda, thanks to the tremendous success of last year's inaugural edition which

was attended by a large number of participants and their keen families," said Al Nusuf.

"We are extremely thrilled for bringing the Baby Games for the second consecutive time here and I am personally confident that this year's event will be another great success with all this love and cooperation we felt from different relevant authorities".

The BOC secretary general concluded his statement by expressing his appreciation to all the sponsors for their support to the event, and commended the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

## Torino held, as Sampdoria revive European hopes with derby win



Torino's Simone Zaza, foreground right, celebrates after scoring

TDT | Manama

Simone Zaza scored for Torino before seeing red as the northerners hopes of Champions League football next season diminished yesterday with a 1-1 draw against Cagliari, who themselves had two sent off, as Sampdoria rekindled their Europa League ambitions with a 2-0 derby win over 10-man Genoa.

Three red and nine yellow cards were handed out in Turin, including the sending off of Zaza who had opened the scoring after 52 minutes after connecting with a perfect low cross from Armando Izzo for his third goal this season.

But the Italian forward was dismissed on 74 minutes for arguing with referee Massimiliano Irrati over a free kick awarded against him.

Cagliari pulled level a minute later when Leonardo Pavolletti headed in a Luca Cigarini cross, with the goal confirmed following a long VAR review.

The Sardinian side had two players sent off late with Luca Pellegrini and Nicolo Barella both receiving second yellow cards in the final minutes.

Cagliari goalkeeper Alessio



**Torino stay seventh, five points off AC Milan who occupy the final Champions League spot, with Cagliari in 12th**

Cragno did well to deny Daniele Baselli from snatching a late win for Torino.

Torino stay seventh, five points off AC Milan who occupy the final Champions League spot, with Cagliari in 12th.

In Genoa, veteran striker Fabio Quagliarella provided the cross for Gregoire Defrel's opener after three minutes and then added a second from the penalty spot after 53 minutes to go top of the Serie A scorers chart with 22 goals.

Genoa played most of the second half a man down after Davide Biraschi was sent off for a handling offence which resulted in the penalty.

## BIC set for Drag and Drift Night

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts today another exciting edition of the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Night.

This highly popular activity offers motorsport enthusiasts double the thrills as they get a chance to take their very own cars or motorbikes and push them to their limit either down the drag strip or around a drifting course, or both.

BIC's world-class quarter-mile strip is a member of the prestigious National Hot Rod Association Worldwide Network, and it will host the drag runs. The drifting venue is a specially configured facility at BIC's car park.

Also as part of the evening's drag racing programme, BIC is offering the immensely thrilling Dragster Experience. This is one of the circuit's most unique and ultimate-adrenaline activities, as it gives participants a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster.

# Sterling double takes Man City top once more

AFP | London

Manchester City eased back to the top of the Premier League as Raheem Sterling struck twice to beat Crystal Palace 3-1 at Selhurst Park yesterday.

The English champions moved a point ahead of Liverpool, who won against Chelsea later yesterday to regain their lead.

Sterling had already missed a glorious chance before opening the scoring on 15 minutes as City rarely looked troubled despite having failed to beat Palace on their two previous meetings.

Another cool Sterling finish looked to have ended the game as a contest 27 minutes from time.

However, Pep Guardiola's men had to see out a nervous finale to ramp up the pressure on Liverpool when Luka Milivojevic's free-kick gave Palace hope of a dramatic comeback.

Instead, City broke to seal the three points on the counter-attack when the outstanding Kevin de Bruyne teed up Gabriel Jesus to make it 3-1.

The trip to south London kicked off a massive week for City with Tottenham to visit the



Raheem Sterling scores the opening goal

Etihad twice in the next six days for the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final and a vital Premier League clash with implications for both the title and top four race.

City must overturn a 1-0 first leg deficit against Spurs to progress to the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday. Yet, Guardiola's starting line-up seemed stronger than the one he named in defeat to Mauricio Pochettino's men in midweek.

Captain Vincent Kompany, Benjamin Mendy, De Bruyne

and Leroy Sane returned among four changes and City quickly settled into total control of the game.

Sterling should have opened the scoring on 11 minutes when after a patient build-up, David Silva got to the by-line and picked out the England international who somehow sliced wide with an open goal at his mercy from close range.

After a similar sitter at Burnley last season, Guardiola quickly hooked Sterling in his frustration.

### English Premier League

Crystal Palace	1	-	3	Manchester City
Liverpool	2	-	0	Chelsea

### French Ligue 1

Montpellier	2	-	1	Toulouse
Rennes	0	-	0	Nice
St Etienne	3	-	0	Bordeaux

### German Bundesliga

TSG 1899 Hoffenheim	2	-	0	Hertha BSC
Fortuna Düsseldorf	1	-	4	FC Bayern München
Eintracht Frankfurt	1	-	2	FC Augsburg

### Spanish La Liga

Real Valladolid	2	-	2	Getafe
Athletic Club	3	-	2	Rayo Vallecano
Real Sociedad	1	-	1	Eibar
Girona	0	-	1	Villarreal

### Italian Serie A

Torino	1	-	1	Cagliari
Fiorentina	0	-	0	Bologna
Sampdoria	2	-	0	Genoa
Sassuolo	0	-	0	Parma
Chievo	0	-	2	Napoli

\*Scores as of closing

However, Sterling showed awards by redeeming himself in emphatic fashion just four minutes later.