

SPORTS
sports**Bahraini achieves fifth place in Jordan hurdles championship**

Ahmed Mayouf Al-Romaihi rides his horse

TDT | Manama

Bahraini chevalier Ahmed Mayouf Al-Romaihi has won the fifth place in the International Al Sa'ad Hurdles Championship in the Jordanian capital Amman.

Al Romaihi competed with more than 22 contestants from nine countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, US, Canada, Japan and Jordan.

He dedicated his achievement to HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth and

Sports Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports and to His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Environment and President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

He ascribed his achievement to the royal patronage of youth and sports in the Kingdom. He cited such support as the biggest motive for all Bahraini athletes to achieve more feats to hoist Bahrain's name at the various international coronation platforms.

India-South Africa T20 washed out

AFP | New Delhi

Rain and a damp outfield forced the abandonment of the first Twenty20 international between India and South Africa without a ball being bowled in Dharamsala.

The pitch and the square at the start of the three-match series remained covered throughout, with rain lashing the sleepy hill station in the Himalayan foothills.

Officials called off the match nearly 50 minutes after the

official start time of 07:00 pm (1330 GMT).

"The rains continue and the match has officially been called off. See you in Chandigarh for the 2nd T20I," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on its official Twitter handle.

The second match is scheduled for Wednesday.

South Africa, captained by wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock, are ranked third in T20s, one rung ahead of the Virat Kohli-led India.

Teenage sensation Fati leads Barca thrashing of Valencia

Reuters | Barcelona

Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati continued his explosive start to life in the first team by scoring and providing an assist as the La Liga champions thrashed Valencia 5-2 on Saturday.

Fati, who became Barca's youngest ever goalscorer two weeks ago by netting at Osasuna, struck his first goal at the Camp Nou to give Barca the lead with less than two minutes on the clock by smashing a pass from Frenkie de Jong into the net.

The teenager then returned the favour by dashing into the area from the left wing and teeing up Dutchman De Jong to score his first goal for the club in the seventh minute.

Valencia, playing their first game since sacking coach Marcelino and replacing him with Albert Celades, pulled a goal back later in the half through Kevin Gameiro but



Barcelona's Guinea-Bissau forward Ansu Fati (L) vies with Valencia's Argentinian defender Ezequiel Garay

Barca came flying back at them after the interval.

Gerard Pique bundled the ball into the net in the 51st minute after Antoine Griezmann had hit the post while Luis Suarez netted twice after coming off the bench. Maxi Gomez got a consolation goal for Valencia in stoppage time.

BOC signs sports protocol agreement with Spain

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) signed a sports protocol agreement with the Spanish Olympic Committee (Spanish: Comité Olímpico Español, COE) that included strengthening the mutual collaboration among both parties, opening new horizons for building and developing further partnerships between both countries and committees.

This came during the meeting between HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy President of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports and President of BOC and Alejandro Blanco, President of COE, in the presence of Mohammed Hassan Al Nusf, Secretary-General of BOC and other officials from BOC.

Commenting during the occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid expressed his utmost delight in signing the agreement, hailing the strong friendship and collaboration links attaching both countries and their keenness to develop and improve those relationships.

He added that this sports protocol would open new horizons for mutual collaboration be-



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Alejandro Blanco, President of COE after signing the agreement

tween both committees through mutual programmes, exchange of expertise and to encourage participating in bilateral sports championships to upgrade the sports movement in both countries.

"We are looking forward to drawing new plans for mutual collaboration between BOC and COE via the signing of this protocol that boosts the links between both committees and contributes to building a framework for bilateral collabora-

tion," HH Shaikh Khalid stated. On his part, Blanco underscored that signing this protocol would positively reflect in the development of the ties linking both committees and meet their aspirations to see their relationship is reaching a new height in collaboration.

He expressed his gratitude to the efforts dedicated by HH Shaikh Khalid towards furthering Bahrain's achievements in sports, pointing out that COE would work to grow their part-

nership with BOC and make this protocol a success.

According to the signed protocol, both parties agreed to develop the Olympic movement and continue their efforts to maintain the peace and sport-ethics enhancing tasks. The two sides have also agreed to acknowledge the global procedures in relation to performance-enhancing-drugs.

Furthermore, both parties agreed to increase sport exchanges, as well as participation in bilateral training sessions, competitions and camps. Additionally, the agreement included exchanging sport-management information, as well as helping each other in the pre-preparation period for the up-coming Olympic, Beach and Mediterranean games, as well as any other event under the Olympic umbrella.

Moreover, they also agreed to explore sport areas of common interest and to develop a collaboration between the two national committees. It is noteworthy that BOC has put in place a strategy for cooperation with other national Olympic committees, both regionally and internationally.

Norwich stun Man City

Norwich inflict stunning first defeat in eight months on Manchester City

● Teemu Pukki strikes to seal Norwich's shock win

AFP | Norwich

Newly-promoted Norwich stunned Manchester City 3-2 at Carrow Road on Saturday to inflict a first Premier League defeat on the English champions since January.

Kenny McLean, Todd Cantwell and the prolific Teemu Pukki took advantage of a ragged City defence without the injured Aymeric Laporte for a remarkable upset despite Sergio Aguero and Rodri pulling goals back for the visitors.

Defeat for City sees Pep Guardiola's men already fall five points behind European champions Liverpool -- who have a perfect record from their first five games -- in the title race.

"We are absolutely delighted, it is a great day for us, for the whole club and for the supporters," said Norwich manager Daniel Farke, who had to name two goalkeepers on his substitute bench just to make up the numbers due to an injury crisis.

"I can't praise enough the spirit and mentality of my players because it was an unbeliev-



Norwich City's Finnish striker Teemu Pukki (R) vies with Manchester City's Ukrainian midfielder Oleksandr Zinchenko (L)

ably complicated week.

"We worked on a different approach because we thought we have to change a bit our base formation for this game, but after all these injuries, we turned back because I didn't want to annoy the lads too much or confuse them."

City's decision not to strengthen at centre-back over the summer despite former captain

Vincent Kompany's departure to become player-manager at Anderlecht could cost Guardiola's side the title with Laporte sidelined by a serious knee injury until at least January.

"We have to learn from this and carry on," said Guardiola.

"We did not have urgency in the final third that we normally have. In football you can't always avoid mistakes.

“The people cannot expect all the time (to) win or make 100 points, 90 points. It shows how difficult everything (we have done) is

PEP GUARDIOLA

"I don't know how many shots we had or how many they had, but football is about goals and about what you do in the boxes."

The City manager fielded his only two fit centre-backs John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi, but they struggled to cope and gifted Norwich back their two-goal lead at the start of the second-half after Aguero had reduced the arrears.

Guardiola's decision to rest Kevin de Bruyne will also be questioned as the visitors started slowly and were punished when McLean rose highest from a corner to head home the opening goal.

It was 2-0 just before the half hour mark as Kyle Walker played Pukki inside and the Finn unselfishly squared for Cantwell to tap into an empty net.