



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee has met at his office in Al Wadi Palace HE Dr Thomas James Rosdentsh, CEO of the American Academy for Sports and member of the General Sports Authority in the presence of CEO of the General Sports Authority Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar. His Highness praised the existing aspects of cooperation between the American Academy and the General Sports Authority and other sports institutions with the aim of implementing joint programmes that can achieve positive gains towards the transformation of sports into professionalism

## Zverev sets up semi-final clash with Djokovic

AFP | Turin

Alexander Zverev booked his place in the last four of the ATP Finals where he will face world number one Novak Djokovic after a 6-2 6-4 win over Hubert Hurkacz in Turin yesterday.

The German fired 22 winners and closed out the match in one hour and two minutes, the fastest of the tournament so far, and joins defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals from the Red Group.

The 24-year-old will face



Alexander Zverev

Green Group winner Djokovic on Saturday for the fifth time this year, having lost on three occasions including in the last four of the U.S. Open, but having beaten the Serb in the semi-finals of the Tokyo Olympics.

# Ebrahim out of Bahrain International badminton series

Bahrain and Arab number one knocked out at Round of 32 stage at home in Bahrain International Series Badminton Tournament 2021

● **Top seed and top men's star Ikhsan Leonardo Imanuel Rumbay from Indonesia reaches Round of 16**

● **Women's Main Draw gets underway today with number one seed Ozge Bayrat from Turkey in action**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and Arab number one Adnan Ebrahim was knocked out of his home tournament yesterday at the Round of 32 stage of the Bahrain International Series Badminton Tournament 2021 but not without a tremendous fight; in front of a vocal, knowledgeable but clearly "one-sided" Indian Club and Bahraini crowd.

Ebrahim went down to Christian Adinata of Indonesia in a

nail-biting three setter 13/21, 21/16, 20/22.

As play in the competition hotted up, yesterday also saw the top seed and top men's star Ikhsan Leonardo Imanuel Rumbay from Indonesia in action for the first time – in the end he did just about enough to reach the Round of 16, taking a hard fought win over Adam Dolman of Australia 21/19, 21/16.

Rahul Chittaboina, India's number five seed beat Matthew Abela of Malta in straight sets, but his compatriots – seventh seed Kevin Arokia Walter, beaten 21/18, 21/14 by Low Eu Cong of Malaysia, and Tarun Katam,



Bahrain's Adnan Ebrahim in action last night

beaten 12 and 12 by eighth seeded Jason Teh of Indonesia, both fell at the first hurdle.

The Women's Main Draw gets underway today, so yesterday was all about qualifying with a number of wins for the event's two largest contingents – India and Indonesia.

Number one seed in the Women's Singles Main Draw is Ozge Bayrat, Turkey's world top 100 ranked star.

She is aiming to go one better in Bahrain than she did last month in Bulgaria, when she lost out in the Women's Singles Final of the Babolat Bulgarian International Championship 2021.

Yesterday's selected results (Men's Singles Main Draw, Round of 32):

**Ikhsan Leonardo Imanuel Rumbay (Indonesia) (1) bt Adam Dolman (Australia) 21/19, 21/16**

**Christian Adinata (Indonesia) bt Adnan Ebrahim (Bahrain) 21/13, 16/21, 22/20**

**Rahul Chittaboina (India) (5) bt Matthew Abela (Malta) 21/17, 21/8**

**Abhishek Yeligar (India) bt Enrico Asuncion (USA) 21/19, 21/12**

**Bobby Setiabudi (Indonesia) bt Julien Carragi (Belgium) 21/15, 21/12**

**Hemant Gowda (India) bt Harshit Aggarwal (India) 21/13, 21/14**

**Low Eu Cong (Malaysia) bt Kevin Arokia Walter (India) (7) 21/18, 21/14**

**Jia Heng Jason Teh (Indonesia) (8) bt Tarun Reddy Katam (India) 21/12, 21/12**

## Bahrain all set for U18 West Asian football

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Bahrain's junior national football team left yesterday for the Iraqi city of Basra to participate in the second West Asian Football Federation (WAFF) U18 Boys Championship 2021, which kicks off tomorrow and continues until December 1.

The delegation is headed by Bahrain Football Association board member Ayman Al Fardan, and it includes head coach Adel Al Nuaimi.

Twenty-three players have been named for the competition, including Mohammed Arhama, Khaled Khalil, Abdulla Al Aker, Sayed Mahmood Almosawi, Talal Sami, Ahmed Diaa, Ramzi Abdulla, Mahmood Al Bannai, Ali Mohammed, Mahmood Al Hamrani, Ali Al Busaid, Abdulla Al Khalasi, Hashem Luay,



Bahrain players warming up during their local training prior to their departure along with hosts Iraq, Palestine, Yemen and Kuwait. Group B features Lebanon, Syria, the UAE and Jordan.

The nationals open their campaign against Palestine tomorrow, followed by a game against Iraq on Monday. They then play



**Bahrain open their campaign against Palestine tomorrow, followed by a game against Iraq on Monday. They then play Kuwait on Wednesday, before playing their final group match on November 28 against Yemen**

Kuwait on Wednesday, before playing their final group match on November 28 against Yemen. The top teams from both groups will qualify for the final.

## BKS gears up for badminton event



BKS President PV Radhakrishna Pillai, Ebrahim Kamal, Treasurer (Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation), BKS Entertainment Secretary Pradeep Patheri, BKS Indoor Games Secretary Paulson Lonappan, Bahrain International Challenge Tournament director Prasobh Ramanathan, Indoor Games Committee Convenor Mujeeb Rahman and Indoor Games Committee Member Vinod Vasudevan attend a press conference yesterday

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Bhas announced hosting Bahrain International Challenge (BIC) 2021, the biggest badminton event that the Badminton World Federation (BWF) has sanctioned.

The BIC, being held from 23rd to 27th November, is the highest category event that is being held on the island.

The BKS has undertaken a massive restructuring to their arena with the largest wooden courts for Badminton in the island. There are five practice courts in the newly revamped hall undertaken at the cost of BHD40,000.

The stage is set to host the BIC which carries world ranking points and cash prizes worth USD15,000.

This year's event has seen the biggest turnout in the tournament's history with nearly 250 players from 25 countries. Players from Indonesia and India form the biggest contingents.

The event has become truly global with participation from European countries like Belarus, Malta and Belgium to Central Asian countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan. This year the event will include a small contingent from across

the Atlantic and Pacific oceans with players from the United States of America and Australia. The remaining players are from Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Estonia, Maldives, Canada, Syria, Iraq, UAE, Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

Over the five days the tournament will consist of Five events, Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The draw for the event will first see qualifying matches and then the final 64 will go through the main draw in a knockout format. Owing to the large number of entries this time, there is a pool of reserve players who will be part of the draw in case of any withdrawals.

The top seeds for the singles events are top 100 ranked players Sergey Sirant (Russia) and Aakarshi Kashyap (India) in men's and women's singles respectively. The doubles events will see top seeds from a range of countries including Sri Lanka, Belgium and Egypt. In the women's singles a special mention for Bayrak Ozge (Turkey) a former champion, fan favourite and a regular fixture at the events.

## Training courses held for tennis challenger panels

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The Organising Committee of the Ministry of Interior Tennis Challenger Championship, scheduled from November 21 to 28, held training courses for the standing committees ahead of the event.

This international tournament is organised by the Public Security Sports Federation on the tennis courts of the Public Security Officers Club.

Tournament director Captain Mohamed Al Sayed said that the organising committee has several dedicated courses over this week, the first of which was a training event for the medical team, during which the general referee of the tournament,



One of the courses taking place

Ashraf Hamouda, talked about the protocols recommended in such international competitions during Covid-19 pandemic.

The tournament director added that specialised training

courses were held yesterday for the organising team and standing committees, in addition to line referees and ball collectors, to inform them of the approved rules and regulations that must

be applied during international tournaments.

Captain Al Sayed also noted that the hotel and transportation authorities have recently started welcoming members of the delegations taking part. Other players are expected to arrive today, before finalising registration and draw takes place late on.

Meanwhile, the organising committee held a meeting yesterday with the teams and standing committees to inform them of the schedule and program, and teams protocol to enter and leave the court.

The organisers also approved the competition to kick off tomorrow with the qualifying matches.