

SPORTS  
sports*His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reception for national athletics team*

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the national athletics team, who recently won 22 medals in total, including 11 gold, seven silver and four bronze at the 23rd Asian Athletics Championship in Doha. Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf thanked His Majesty for his support during HM the King's reception for the members of the Bahrain national athletics team

**Shaikha Hayat to attend GCC women panel meeting**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member and Women's Sport Commission chairwoman Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa will head for Kuwait today to attend the 26th meeting of the GCC Women's Sports Organising Committee.

The meeting, to be chaired by GCC Women's Sports Organising Committee chairwoman Shaikha Naema Al Ahmed Al Subah of Kuwait, will bring a busy programme on its agenda, including dates for Sixth GCC Women's Sport Games.

**VAR denies Brazil**

● Brazil have three goals disallowed in disappointing draw with Venezuela at 2019 Copa America

● Firmino's first-half effort chalked off for a foul while VAR comes to visitors' rescue in Group A match in Salvador

AFP | Salvador, Brazil

Brazil were held to a 0-0 draw against Venezuela in the Copa America on Tuesday after a dramatic finale which saw a late Philippe Coutinho strike ruled out by VAR.

Coutinho thought he had fired Brazil into the quarter-finals in the 87th minute when he bundled home a finish from Everton Soares' driving run down the left wing at Salvador's Arena Fonte Nova.

But for the second time in the match, Chilean referee Julio Bascunan ruled out a Brazilian goal after being alerted to an infringement by the video assistant referee.

The goal appeared to have been disallowed due to a touch by Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino, although it was not clear that Firmino had been offside as the ball grazed him on the way into the net.

Brazil left the field to boos but remain top of Group A with four points from two games, and one game to play.



Venezuela striker Salomon Rondon, second left, vies for the ball with Brazil players Dani Alves, Casemiro, and Marquinhos

Venezuela have two points from two games and will fancy their chances of advancing with their final game coming against Bolivia, who suffered their second straight defeat earlier Tuesday in a 3-1 loss to Peru.

Brazil coach Tite meanwhile had no issues with the two VAR-assisted decisions that ruled out his side's goals.

"They made the right call with both goals," Tite said. "VAR was correct. I have absolutely nothing to demand -- we got justice," he added.

Venezuela coach Rafael Dudamel meanwhile praised an "almost perfect" performance from his team.

"Today is very important, but

this result will mean nothing if we don't qualify from the group," Dudamel said.

Brazil, who had made hard work of beating Bolivia in their opener, once again struggled to find a creative spark against well-organized opponents.

"We did not have the creativity we were looking for," he said. "The team was a bit anxious in that respect. We have to improve -- we rushed our finishing and we didn't give their goalkeeper much to do."

Firmino was kept quiet by Venezuela's defense with Yordan Osorio and Mikel Villanueva neutralizing the Liverpool striker.

The tale of the first half lay

in the statistics from the opening 45 minutes, with Brazil recording only one shot on target despite enjoying 75 percent possession.

In fact, the best chance of the half fell to Venezuela, when Salomon Rondon headed Yangel Herrera's cross just inches wide with Alisson beaten.

Firmino did get the ball in the Venezuela net in the 38th minute but the goal was disallowed after Bascunan ruled Villanueva had been fouled in the build-up.

Brazil left the field to loud boos and whistling, and manager Tite wasted no time in making a change at half-time, bringing on Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus for Richarlison.

**Murray's comeback delayed after Queen's washout**

AFP | London

Andy Murray's comeback from hip surgery has been delayed until today after rain washed out the day's play at Queen's Club on Tuesday.

Murray is due to play dou-

bles at Queen's with Spain's Feliciano Lopez as the former world number one returns to action five months after hip surgery.

Murray and Lopez were scheduled to play their first round match at the grass-court event yesterday against top

seeds Juan Sebastian Cabal and Jean-Julian Rojer.

But the tie had to be put back until Thursday after Lopez's singles match against Marton Fucsovics was one of those which fell foul of Tuesday's weather.

As Lopez was due to play yes-

terday, Murray will have to wait another 24 hours to get back in competitive action.

When the 32-year-old Scot does eventually step back onto a tennis court it will be just 143 days after he underwent the operation in a bid to salvage his career.

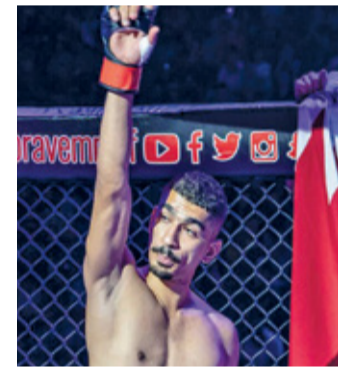
**Bahrain IMMAF medallist Hussein Ayyad to fight at BRAVE London**

TDT | Manama

Flyweight contender and Bahrain hero Hussein Ayyad is the first official addition to the BRAVE 24 card, which will take the fastest-growing promotion in the world and Middle East's biggest sports property to London on July 25th, at the Copper Box Arena, inside the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Ayyad will take on Mitchell Johnson, who makes his BRAVE debut inside his home country. Hussein is coming off two straight victories for the promotion, taking out Mohammed Abo Ali by technical knockout at last year's BRAVE 18, and beat Jason Vergara by submission at BRAVE 22, which took place in the Philippines.

Hussein became known in the mixed martial arts world for his performances in the



Hussein Ayyad

amateur scene, where he took the flag of Bahrain to the highest place in several competitions, also earning a bronze medal in the first edition of the IMMAF World Championships to take place in the Kingdom.

BRAVE 24 will take place for the first time in English soil, as the Bahraini promotion will put on an unforgettable show for everyone involved.

**Team Aldwin cruise to division one finals**

The team of Eفرن and Leo with the team of Mohanad and Abdulrahman

TDT | Manama

Team Aldwin defeated Team Fuad in Division One Semi-Finals of the 15th FCTG Team Tennis Tournament held at Bahrain Tennis Federation courts in Isa Town.

Team Aldwin scored 3-2 against Team Fuad when Ashraf and Jenny scored 3-6, 6-4, 11-9 hard earned victory against Mohd Sanad and Hisham, Reniel and Abdulrahman beat Adnan and Riad 6-1, 6-3 while Simon and David overcome Yousif and Khalid 6-1, 6-2.

Team Fuad won two consolation matches when Fuad and Mohd Salman overpowered Aldwin and Janey 6-0, 6-0 and Mohanad and Abdulrahman defeated Leo and Eفرن 6-2, 6-1 in another division one semi-finals, Team Mundeng defeated Team Randy 3-2.

Team Mundeng took the semi-finals victory with three straight wins when Cocoy and Manny defeated Randy and Khalid 6-4, 6-3, Gierome and Nile eased past Norman and August 6-1, 6-1 then Romy and James overcome Andrew and Ramzi 6-2, 7-5.