

SPORTS

Jamal, Saad clinch teqball crown

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● Abdulla Ali and Hamed Abdulla settled for the silver

● Mohammed Al Ghenaim and Sayed Fadel Radi took the bronze

TDI | Manama

Rashid Jamal and Salman Saad were crowned champions of the first-ever Teqball Championship.

The maiden event was organized by the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) at the Bahrain Table Tennis Association premises in Riffa, and attended by Riffa Club vice-chairman Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, BOC secretary general Mohammed Al Nusuf and other senior BOC officials.

Sixty four players, making up 32 pairs, competed at this day-long tournament, which eventually was won by the tandem of Jamal and Saad, who secured the title after a 2-0 win over the team of Abdulla Ali and Hamed Abdulla, who settled for the silver.

The pair of Mohammed Al Ghenaim and Sayed Fadel Radi took the bronze, thanks to their 2-1 win over Ali Al Nusuf and Isa Al Absi in the third-place tie. It was a joyful gathering for



Participants in action during teqball championship

some of Bahrain's elite football players as they competed in this first-of-its-kind sport introduced to Bahrain recently.

There were two teqball tables that were made available at the venue for the competition. The tables that were presented in collaboration with Dividend Gate Capital.

Four sports can be played on the Teqball ONE and Teqball SMART tables: teqtennis, teqpong, qatch and teqvolley. With these versatile ways of sporting and working-out, everyone can find the ideal sports activity independently of their age, sex and physical abilities. We are absolutely convinced that all



Four sports, namely teqtennis, teqpong, qatch and teqvolley can be played on the Teqball ONE and Teqball SMART tables

family members would soon discover the pleasures of sport on the Teqball table.

Teqball is a new sports equipment, which is perfectly suitable for professional footballers as well as amateur enthusiasts whose ambition is to develop their technical skills, concentration and stamina.

The sport, run by Fédération Internationale de Teqball and is based in Switzerland, has been attracting some of the world's best football players from the English Premier League as well as from France, Germany, Hungary and Brazil.

It received recognition of the Olympic Council of Asia during the general assembly meeting held in Indonesia at the 2018 Jakarta Asiad.

Dortmund snatch Brandt in multiple transfer swoop

AFP | Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund pulled off a transfer coup on Wednesday, snatching gifted international midfielder Julian Brandt from the grasp of Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich.

Brandt, 23, lured from Bayer Leverkusen, joins new signing Thorgan Hazard, the younger brother of Chelsea star Eden, at the club who also snapped up German international defender Nico Schulz, in a transfer blitz.

Brandt, already an established international with 24 caps, signed a five-year, 25-million-euro deal (\$27.9 million) that will keep him at Dortmund until 2024, the club said on its website.

Despite the attentions of Bayern Munich, Brandt said he followed his gut in joining ambitious

Dortmund.

"I am someone who sometimes follows his instincts and for me a good feeling is important," he said. "And I had a good feeling about Borussia Dortmund."

The club finished just two points behind Bayern in a tense end to a brilliant title battle. Brandt said he was drawn by the fact that Dortmund would be fighting to go one better next season.

"I want to progress and Dortmund just missed the title, so there is room for progress," he said.

Club sports director Michael Zorc paid tribute to Brandt as a "professional with a lot of room for development."

Earlier in the day the club confirmed the signing of Hazard on a five-year deal from Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Julian Brandt

Australia's Khawaja given all clear after head knock

Reuters | London

Australia opener Usman Khawaja was cleared of serious injury after taking a nasty blow to the head and being forced to retire hurt from a World Cup warmup against West Indies in Southampton on Wednesday.

Khawaja underwent scans on his jaw after being struck by an Andre Russell bowler in the second over of Aus-

tralia's innings and escorted from the Rose Bowl's Nursery Ground. Australia went on to win the match by seven wickets.

"It was very scary," Australia batsman Shaun Marsh, who scored 55 not out batting at number five, told reporters.

"It copped him on the side of the cheekbone, I think. The main thing is he is okay and can bounce back pretty quickly."

Dhoni best suited at No 5 for India, says Tendulkar

● MS Dhoni, who has 341 ODI appearances makes him the most experienced Indian player at this year's World Cup

● Dhoni has led India to two World Cup titles in 2007 (T20I) and 2011 (ODI)

● India face South Africa in their tournament opener on June 5

Reuters | New Delhi

India need to space out their experienced batsmen at the World Cup in England and veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni is best suited at number five, according to batting great Sachin Tendulkar.

Skipper Virat Kohli joins openers Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma to

complete India's stable top three while all-rounder Vijay Shankar is set to bat at number four in the earlier games.

Having Dhoni, whose 341 ODI appearances makes him the most experienced player at this year's World Cup, at number five would ensure the former India captain could nudge along before exploding in the final overs, believes Tendulkar.

"My personal opinion is Dhoni should be batting (at) five," Tendulkar, part of



Mahendra Singh Dhoni

the Dhoni-led squad who won the 2011 World Cup on home soil, told ESPNcricinfo.

"I still don't know what the team combination would be, but if you are going Rohit and Shikhar as openers, to Virat at No. 3 and whoever at No. 4 then Dhoni could be No. 5. Then Hardik Pandya, an explosive player, follows them."

"That way the experienced batsmen are well spaced out and Dhoni can stretch the game towards the end where he himself can be explosive along with Hardik. From No 5-8 you are looking at finishers, who stay till the end

and soak in that pressure. I feel we are well equipped to do that."

Dhawan is the lone left-hander in India's strong batting lineup and Tendulkar said the opener must bat deep into the matches to help dominate the

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SACHIN TENDULKAR

bowlers, especially the leg-spinners.

"A left-right combination always helps because that means the bowler has to adjust his line every now and then and the (bowling) captain has also to keep thinking," said Tendulkar, who remains the only cricketer with 100 international centuries against his name.

"And if there is a partnership the job becomes even more tougher. So, yes, it is important for a left-hander to be there to put pressure on the legspinner or for that matter any bowler."

England's home series against Pakistan has convinced Tendulkar that it would be a high-scoring World Cup played on flat tracks and with two new balls which negate reverse swing.

"I believe if you have quality spinners to bowl in the middle overs they would end up picking wickets."

"It is all about bowling in partnerships - if quality bowlers could bowl in tandem and create pressure on the batting line-up, that is one way of countering all these factors (that) I feel are not in favour of the bowlers."