

SPORTS

sports



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar receives Bahraini wrestler Adam Batirov and his coach Eldarov, in presence of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation president Khalid Al Khayyat and BOC board member Ali Esaqi. Askar commended the result of the wrestler Batirov at the recently-concluded 2018 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest, Hungary

BOC begin preparations for women sports festival

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) has commenced its preparations for the second edition of the 2018 Bahrain Women's Day Sportsfest, scheduled to run from November 29 to December 8 at Isa Sports City Halls in Riffa.

The 10-day festival is organized by BOC Women's Sports Committee with support of event specialists Out of the Box, and is due to be held under patronage of Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa.

Shaikha Hayat is a member of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and the BOC, and is chairwoman of Bahrain Women's Sports Committee.

Compared to last year's inaugural edition, where only two sports were organized, this year will see seven sports

in total, namely futsal, 3x3 basketball, volleyball, handball, cricket, karate and taekwondo.

Shaikha Hayat stressed on the importance of having such a sporting festival organized for the second consecutive year to celebrate the Bahrain National Day.

She attributed this to the hard working efforts of the women's sports committee, which seeks to develop women's activities in different sports disciplines in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Shaikha Hayat added that women's sport is gaining more and more interest and prominence in Bahrain.

She expressed pleasure as they provide the ladies with a new competitive opportunity, particularly on Bahrain Women's Day, which would boost their personal playing skills and confidence in their respective sport.

England cricketers warned over Sri Lanka upheaval

AFP | Colombo

England's cricket stars have been told to stay away from political demonstrations while touring Sri Lanka, which is in the grip of a constitutional power struggle.

One man has been killed in upheaval after President Maithripala Sirisena sacked the country's prime minister

and replaced him with former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapakse.

"We are exercising vigilance and avoiding all demonstrations or large political gatherings," England spokesman Danny Reuben told AFP.

"We are aware of a political demonstration today, but for us it is all about preparations for the first Test."

Ahmed aims to cement dominance over Kiwis

AFP | Abu Dhabi

Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed vowed that his all-conquering Twenty20 team will continue their hot streak in their three-match series against New Zealand, starting in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Pakistan maintained top spot in the 20-over world rankings with a 3-0 whitewash of Australia in Dubai on Sunday, cementing their place as the leading lights of the game's shortest format.

Ever since Sarfraz took over as captain Pakistan have won 26 of their 30 matches and the hammering of Australia was their tenth straight series win.

"We want to carry forward the winning momentum of the Australia series," said Sarfraz, who announced Shoaib Malik will join the team in time for the match soon after becoming a father.

Malik's tennis star wife Sania Mirza gave birth to a baby boy in India early yesterday.

However opener Fakhar Zaman is still sidelined with the knee problem that forced him to sit out Sunday's game against Australia in Dubai.

Sarfraz admitted New Zealand, two points behind Australia in the world rankings having played three fewer matches, will be a tougher opponent.

"They (New Zealand) have a strong team with ideal batsmen for Twenty20 and a balanced bowling attack so we need to set the tone from the first game by winning it," said Sarfraz, whose team has won 10 of their 18 previous Twenty20 internationals against the Kiwis.

Pakistan's varied bowling attack defended totals of 155, 147 and 150 against Australia but New Zealand's top order of Colin Munro, skipper Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor are expected to be a sterner test than Australia's mis-firing batsmen.

Munro is one of only two batsmen to hit three Twenty20 hundreds alongside India's Rohit Sharma.

New Zealand also have hard hitting all-rounders in Corey Anderson and Colin de Grandhomme, with pace attack spearheaded by Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson and Adam Milne.

Williamson said his team needed to be at their best to beat the top team.

"Obviously, Pakistan are a



Sarfraz Ahmed reacts during a match (file photo)

strong side," said Williamson.

"That's something we've known for a long time. The last time we played against them was at home in New Zealand and it was a tough series," added Williamson of the January series Pakistan won 2-1.

"They are extremely strong in these conditions. Their rankings suggest that as well. They have had a lot of success in the format

in recent times."

Williamson admitted opener Martin Guptill, out of the tour with a calf strain, will be missed.

"It's a shame we don't have Martin for this series," said Williamson of the January series Pakistan won 2-1.

"He's obviously a world class player for us and a big performer."

Warriors cruise past Hawks

TDI | Manama

Brave Warriors defeated Bahrain Hawks by 32 runs in CBA Division D - T-20 league match.

Warriors won the toss and elected to bat first. Both the openers Usman (55) and Waqas (67) scored half century and gave a solid start for their team as they held the first wicket for 100 runs. Their follower carried the momentum and they scored 176 at the end of 20 overs.

Chasing the target Hawks batsman failed to build partnership in front of Warriors bowling attack. Salman took three wickets for Warriors which helped them to wind up Hawks for 144 runs and won the match by 32 runs.

Brief Score: Brave Warriors 176/3 in 20 overs (Waqas 67,

Usman 55, Bharath 2/28) beat Bahrain Hawks 144/7 (Anupam 47, Salam 3/33, Waqar 2/21) by 32 runs

Other Match scores

Friends XI 107/10 (Shaibu 24, Yogesh 3/15) beat Lanterns Lions 97/8 (Dhaval 42, Sabeesh 4/16) by 10 runs

Hempel Paints 142/10 (Manish 42, Aqib 23, Khalid 3/14) beat Alpha Fire Bahrain 122/6 (Thilina 50, Rashid 2/17, Ashan 2/15) by 20 runs

Modest 114/10 (Jibin 20, Ravi 6/22) tied with Indian Super Kings 114/5 (Ajay 30, Rushabh 23, Siyaz 2/28)

Via Cloud Royal Blaster 67/4 in 15.2 overs (Philson 15, Asif 2/12) beat TISCA 66/10 (Bharani 19, Vijeesh 3/20, Roshan 3/10) by 6 wickets

Bulls 107/8 (Sumesh 20, Joseph 4/18) beat 85/7 (Punnose 20, Binoy 3/18) by 22 runs

Bahrain set to host largest combat sports event in Asia

TDI | Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain will host the largest combat sports festival in Asia from 11th to 18th November.

Brave International Combat Week 2018 will feature the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) - World Mixed Martial Arts Association (WMMAA) Unified World Championships 2018 which is the largest till date featuring over 100 nations participating in the event.

Bahrain National Team is currently undergoing training at the KHK MMA Bahrain leading to participate in the largest world championships till date. In 2017 Kingdom of Bahrain came third in the medal rankings.

The fight week will feature the eighteenth edition of Brave Combat Federation. Brave 18 will feature three championship title fights in the main card.

Brave Combat Federation has signed some of the biggest names in the combat sports industry including Lenne Hardt to be a part of the event.

The fight card also features the highly debated lightweight championship being defended for the first time since its introduction.

The event will bring some of the biggest names in combat sports industry, film industry, businessmen, diplomats, artists, global media, MMA fans and more into the Kingdom of Bahrain.

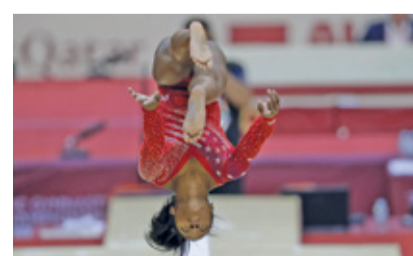
Biles leads US to women's team gold

AFP | Doha

Simone Biles led the US to the women's team gold at the world gymnastics in Doha yesterday, dominating the event to clinch victory for the fourth successive championships.

The Americans led the competition throughout and ended up winning by a comprehensive margin of almost 10 points, finishing on 171.629.

In contrast to the night before in the men's event which went down to the very final gymnast, this felt like a victory parade from start to finish by



Simone Biles on the balance beam during the women's team final

the peerless American team.

Russia took silver, amassing a score of 162.863, edging out China who took

bronze on 162.396.

China have now finished in the top three in the past six world championships at this event.

This triumph means that the last time the Americans failed to take gold in a world team event was back in 2010 in Rotterdam, when they finished in the silver medal position.

The margin of victory in Doha was the largest of their six world championship team golds.

As well as a team triumph it was yet another notable night for superstar Biles.

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