

HH Shaikh Khalid crowns Let's Padel championship winners

TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), President of the General Sports Authority (GSA) and Chief of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), attended the finals of the Let's Padel International Championship, which took place at the Ritz-Carlton in Seef District. Accompanying HH Shaikh Khalid were HH Shaikh

Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, GSA Vice-President, Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa and Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, GSA CEO.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid expressed utmost happiness at the wide participation in the tournament, which featured a broad pool of male and female players from around the world, underlining that this kind of championship supports the efforts to open wider horizons for sports tourism.

“We have a strong foundation, through which we can compose teams and national teams to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain at continental and international levels

HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA

He affirmed that padel sport has managed to capture a huge

segment of participants in Bahrain, as many individuals from both genders are playing the game.

“As a result, we have a strong foundation, through which we can compose teams and national teams to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain at continental and international levels,” HH Shaikh Khalid said.

At the end of the championship, HH Shaikh Khalid crowned the winners of the top places in the men's and women's categories.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, front right, with some of the winners and officials at the awarding

Russian athletes allowed to compete at Winter Paralympics

Russian and Belarusian athletes can compete as neutrals at Beijing Winter Games

● Athletes can compete under the Paralympic flag and not be included in the medal table, says IPC

AFP | Beijing

Russian and Belarusian athletes were given the all-clear yesterday to compete at the upcoming Winter Paralympics, which open this week under the shadow of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has urged sporting federations across the world to exclude athletes from Russia as well as Belarus, which hosted troops before the invasion.

But yesterday the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) held a meeting and posted a brief statement saying athletes from the two countries would be allowed to compete as “neutrals”.



Participants take part in the flame lighting ceremony at the Temple of Heaven

“They will compete under the Paralympic flag and not be included in the medal table,” the committee said.

IPC president Andrew Parsons said it was a difficult time for the world and the Paralympic movement but he urged competitors to treat the “neutral athletes as they would any other athletes”.

“Unlike their respective governments these athletes and officials

are not aggressors,” Parsons told reporters in Beijing.

He declined to say whether the IPC would take action against any athletes protesting, saying it would act on a case-by-case basis.

Britain's Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries took a dim view of the decision.

“I am extremely disappointed in the IPC -- this is the wrong

“Unlike their respective governments these athletes and officials are not aggressors

IPC PRESIDENT ANDREW PARSONS

decision and I call on them to urgently reconsider,” she said on Twitter.

“They must join the rest of the world in condemning this barbaric invasion by banning Russian and Belarusian athletes from competing.”

Earlier Paralympics Australia had also thrown its support behind a ban, saying it was joining a “growing number of sporting institutions” supporting such a move.

But Parsons said the IPC's decision “is the harshest possible punishment we can do within the framework of our rules”.

He added that the decision had not been unanimous with-

in the committee but he would not disclose a breakdown of the voting.

The IPC will host an extraordinary general assembly this year to vote on whether to make compliance with the Olympic Truce a membership requirement and whether to suspend or terminate the membership of the Russian and Belarusian Paralympic committees.

It will not hold any events in Russia or Belarus until further notice, it added.

Ukraine team in Beijing

Much of the sports world has reacted in solidarity with Ukraine.

FIFA kicked Russia out of the 2022 World Cup, while rugby's world governing body has banned Russia and Belarus from all international events “until further notice”.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, an accomplished judoka, was also suspended as honorary head of the International Judo Federation.

With its civilian airspace

closed, half a million refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries and Russian troops closing in on Kyiv, getting Ukraine's Paralympians to Beijing was expected to be a difficult task.

But Parsons confirmed the team's safe arrival yesterday.

“I'm delighted to say that just hours ago, the Ukrainian team, consisting of 20 athletes and nine guides, arrived safely here in Beijing,” he told reporters.

The Eastern European country has punched above its weight in previous Paralympic winter events, with frequent podium finishes in the biathlon and ski events.

The delegation took home 22 medals in 2018 -- including seven golds -- gaining the sixth spot on the world tally.

For some team members, the emotional rollercoaster and disrupted focus will be a case of *deja vu*.

During Russia's hosting of the Winter Paralympics in 2014, Ukrainian athletes had to grapple with Moscow's takeover of the Crimea peninsula.

Muharraq clinch BVA Cup bronze medals



Muharraq players and team staff with officials after being awarded their bronze medals

● Muharraq take five-set thriller against Al Najma

● Al Ahli to meet Dar Kulaib in tournament final

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Muharraq last night clinched the bronze med-

als in the 2021/2022 Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) Cup.

Muharraq secured third place in the annual senior men's competition after defeating their counterparts from Al Najma in a five-set thriller 3-2 (25-15, 19-25, 25-20, 21-25, 15-11).

The victors were spearheaded in the contest by the star player Fadhel Abbas.

Following the match, Muharraq's players and team staff were presented their medals

in a podium ceremony by BVA board member Abdulredha Ashouri in the presence of BVA and club officials.

Muharraq had to settle for the game for third after losing in the semi-finals to Dar Kulaib, while Najma bowed to Al Ahli, who are the defending champions in the national league.

Dar Kulaib and Ahli meet for the right to claim the gold medals and the coveted BVA Cup. The final has yet to be scheduled by the BVA.

Ahmed Akbar triumphs in Abu Dhabi Showjumping Championship



Ahmed Akbar after his victory

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Bahraini athlete Ahmed Akbar has achieved first place in Abu Dhabi Showjumping Championship which has witnessed wide participation from various countries. Meanwhile, his compatriot Eyad Fareed came second in the same event.

Riding Ola Fan, Akbar overcame strong competition to win the contest which featured 120cm-125cm hurdles.

Fareed secured the runner-up position on the



Eyad Fareed in action during the event

second day of the Championship as he also had to jump over 120cm-125cm hurdles.

Commenting on their success, Akbar and Fareed thanked HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF) for his support and backing to the Bahrainis in foreign participations.

They affirmed that His Highness' support played a key role in their achievements. They also extended their appreciation to their trainer Khalid Al Khateri for his efforts to prepare them ahead of the Championship.