

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad hails success of Strength Week



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with winners at the event

TDT | Manama

First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA) and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has lauded the outstanding success of the "Strength Week" 2023.

Organised by His Highness' Media Office, the Strength Week 2023 (The Strongest Bahraini Man, and Strongest GCC Man contests) took place

at the arena opposite the Avenues Mall – Bahrain, under HH Shaikh Khalid's patronage. HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad attended the two competitions, and congratulated the first three winners, praising the massive participation and the fair competition among the participating athletes, reflecting the prestigious reputation of the Strength Week.

HH Shaikh Khalid asserted that the success of this year's edition consolidates Bahrain's status as a favourable destination for organising various sporting event.



A competitor in action

Bahrain's Kimutai wins in Barcelona marathon

Three of Kingdom's elite athletes shine in international road races yesterday

● **Shumi Dechasa narrowly misses podium with fourth in New Taipei City Wan Jin Shi Marathon in Taipei**

● **Abraham Cheroben claims a solid sixth in Semi Marathon de Lille in France**

TDT | Manama

Three of Bahrain's elite athletes excelled in international races yesterday, highlighted by Marius Kimutai who powered to an impressive victory in the Zurich Marato Barcelona in Spain.

Kimutai triumphed in the men's race of the 42.2-kilometre event while setting a new meeting record and personal best in the process.

The run was a 2023 World Athletics Label Road Race Gold level competition.

Kimutai was part of the leading pack who broke away from the rest of the field and battled for the crown. He and two other competitors maintained a fast pace throughout the middle part of the race before separating himself alongside Othmane El Goumri from Morocco.



Marius Kimutai raises his arm in victory as he finishes the men's race in Barcelona in first place yesterday

Kimutai then broke free with around three kilometres to go and went on to win in two hours five minutes 53 seconds. He beat the old meeting record of 2:05:53, set by Yihunilign Adane of Ethiopia last year, and also shattered his old personal mark of 2:05:47, which he clocked in 2016 in Amsterdam.

El Goumri finished six seconds behind Kimutai as runner-up, while Kaan Kigen Ozbil of Turkey was third in 2:05:37.

"I am very happy," said Kimutai after the race. "I felt strong, and I thank God for the win." He was the lone Bahraini ath-

lete competing in Barcelona.

Meanwhile, Bahrainis Shuma Dechasa and Abraham Cheroben also had impressive results in leading international-level races yesterday.

Dechasa narrowly missed out on a podium after placing fourth in the New Taipei City Wan Jin Shi Marathon in Taipei, and Cheroben claimed a solid sixth in Semi Marathon de Lille in France.

In Taipei, Dechasa completed the 42.2km men's race in a time of 2:14:13. Barnabas Kiptum led an all-Kenyan trio to the podium, winning in 2:11:57. James Mburugu was second in 2:12:09 while Emmanuel Kibet came

YOU
KNOW WHAT

While winning the men's race in the Zurich Marato Barcelona in Spain yesterday, Bahraini Marius Kimutai beat the old meeting record of 2:05:53, which was set by Yihunilign Adane of Ethiopia last year

third in 2:12:37.

Dechasa's time was far from his personal best of 2:06:43 in the marathon—a mark he clocked in 2014.

In Lille, Cheroben raced in the 21.1km men's half marathon and finished in 1:01:54.

A trio of Kenyans were on the podium once again, led by Patrick Mosin who won in 59:31. Alfred Barkach followed just a second behind, while Solomon Kipchoge was third in 59:37.

Cheroben's personal best in the half-marathon is 58:40, which is also currently the Asian and Bahraini record in the distance.

BIC set for doubly exciting Drag and Drift Nights

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", hosts today the latest edition of the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights, set to light up the drag strip and the drift park in Sakhir.

The widely popular double-header gives speed enthusiasts the opportunity to take their very own cars or motorbikes and push them to their limits down the strip, or put on an amazing display of power sliding along BIC's vast vehicle dynamics area.

There is also the option for participants to do both, making for twice the thrills in one action-packed event.

Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights will take place from 6pm to 11pm. Registration for participants can be done on site from 5pm.

Both the drag and the drift can be enjoyed for a single fee of BD11. Participation in just the drag racing or just the drifting costs BD8. Those who would like to experience the drag or drift as a passenger can get into a participant's car for an additional BD4,500.

BIC's quarter-mile strip is highly regarded as one of the best in all of drag racing. It is a part of the prestigious World-



A car in action at BIC (file photo)

wide Network, under the banner of the US-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The vehicle dynamics area, meanwhile, features a specially configured layout at BIC's car park for the drifters. It is surrounded by safety barriers, and it is one of the largest open tarmac areas in Bahrain, making for an exciting drift park for drifting enthusiasts to showcase their skills.

As part of the Ebrahim K Kanoo Drag and Drift Nights, BIC's most adrenaline-pumping passenger ride, the Dragster Experience, is also available today.

Known as "the Fastest Ride

on Earth", fans will have a chance to get a taste of pure speed as they are taken from zero to 100kph in just one second while seated in a Top Dragster. The Dragster Experience is available at BD44 for the first passenger while the second passenger can get 50 per cent off.

Spectators are invited to attend the evening's events. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online at BIC's official website bahraingp.com for BD2 apiece. Tickets for children aged 12 and below are BD1 each.

For more information, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.

Red Bull's Perez wins Saudi Arabian GP



Red Bull Racing's Mexican driver Sergio Perez celebrates after winning the Saudi Arabia Formula One Grand Prix

AFP | Jeddah

Red Bull dominated the second Formula One Grand Prix of the season in Jeddah yesterday as Sergio Perez won after starting from pole position while team-mate Max Verstappen charged through the field from 15th to finish second.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso, who started on the front row, crossed the line third in his Aston Martin. He took his place on the podium but was then dropped to fourth because he was hit with a six-second penalty for failing to take a

Verstappen, who was halted by mechanical problems in qualifying, held on to the championship lead by picking up an extra point for driving the fastest circuit of the race in his 50th and last lap

five-second penalty correctly during the race.

George Russell, who chased furiously in the final stage, egged on by his pit chief over the radio, finished within six seconds of the Spaniard to take

third.

Lewis Hamilton in the other Mercedes was fifth.

The Red Bull pair reversed their finishing positions in the season-opening Bahrain GP. Verstappen, who was halted by mechanical problems in qualifying, held on to the championship lead by picking up an extra point for driving the fastest circuit of the race in his 50th and last lap.

Carlos Sainz took sixth with his Ferrari team-mate Charles Leclerc seventh after starting 12th as a penalty for changing components in his power unit.