

Bhavans walk away with championship trophy



Participants of the IBAK Inter-school Badminton Tournament display their certificates and trophies at the end of the closing ceremony.



Top and above: excelled players congratulated by an official.

IBAK holds 10th inter-school tourney

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 6: In line with its vision to promote and develop badminton in Kuwait, The Indian Badminton Association – Kuwait; IBAK conducted its 10th Inter-school Badminton Tournament recently which attracted over 260 badminton players from 32 prime schools of Kuwait, participated in the tourney with great enthusiasm and spirit.

Many children were allowed to participate as “OPEN” category participants since there was no official representation from their respective schools.

Bhavans proved their supremacy with deft touches and powerful smashes across the court much to the surprise of their opponents. They grabbed U-17 girls’ singles, U-13 boys’ singles, U-11 girls’ singles & U17 boys’ doubles, FAIPS DPS-A clinched the U-17 girls’ doubles, U-17 boys’ singles, U-15 girls’ singles & doubles, U-15 boys’ singles titles.

The overall championship rolling trophy was presented to the proud Bhavans boys and girls in the presence of ardent followers of badminton in Kuwait. The runner-up was FAIPS DPS-A and second runners up were ILOA.

The students showed their real talents and skills in singles & doubles of different age groups.

BADMINTON

IBAK thanked its untiring committee members who worked hard to mark the completion of yet another successful tournament – as it has become the habit in recent times. The efforts were much appreciated by the crowd, players and school management.

The chief guest of the day was the Proprietor of Oriental Restaurant group, Sathish Chandra Shetty who gave away the trophies and medals to all the winners.

IBAK chairman Dr Manimara Chozhan congratulated all the participants of the Inter school tournament. IBAK has concluded yet another calendar year 2023 by conducting various tournaments. Dr. Chozhan conveyed his seasonal greetings and New Year Wishes to all badminton enthusiasts.

Under 17 Girls Doubles – Winner: Avaniika Vishwajet Dubai/ Faith Ida Dolton

Runner-up: Asma Fahim/Han-shika Sam

Under 17 Boys Doubles – Winner: Edwin Bobby Varghese/Avaneeshwar Veeraprabhakaran

Runner-up: Addison Suresh/Varun Siva Sajith

Under 17 Girls Singles – Winner: Neha Susan Bijh, Runner-up: Faith Ida Dolton

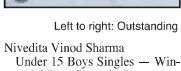
Under 17 Boys Singles – Winner: Varun Siva Sajith, Runner-up: Edwin Bobby Varghese

Under 15 Girls Doubles – Winner: Avaniika Vishwajet Dubai/ Sanjana Ramalingam

Runner-up: Aamina Qiyas Palekar/Nivedita Vinod Sharma

Under 15 Boys Doubles – Winner: Aaditya Kuttymalayil/Alan Shaw; Runner-up: Abijith P Sajeew/Abhinav P Sajeew

Under 15 Girls Singles Winner: Arudhati Nityanand, Runner-up:



BADMINTON

Nivedita Vinod Sharma

Under 15 Boys Singles – Winner: Addison Suresh, Runner-up: Harsh Sujit Wankhade

Under 13 Girls Doubles – Winner: Angela Tony/Avneet Kaur; Runner-up: Angel Subin Varghese/Catherine Vinoy Mathew

Under 13 Boys Doubles – Winner: Hariharan Jayaraj/Sanjeev Munisamy; Runner-up: Liyan Fen Titto/Sujith Murgaiyan

Under 13 Girls Singles – Winner: Avneet Kaur, Runner-up: Angela Tony

Under 13 Boys Singles – Winner: Liyan Fen Titto, Runner-up: Sanjeev Munisamy

Under 11 Girls Doubles – Winner: Christy Maria Anil/Gianna Kunnel Jose; Runner-up: Kaavya Rahul Zade/Olivia James

Under 11 Boys Doubles – Winner: Arel Varghese/Ranston Antony Lobo, Runner-up: Dhyaan Visakh Nair/Vivian Sachin Kangarikar

Under 11 Girls Singles – Winner: Olivia James, Runner-up: Gianna Kunnel Jose

Under 11 Boys Singles – Winner: Ranston Antony Lobo, Runner-up: Chris Vinoy Mathew

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Top and above some of the winners celebrate.

Al-Nasr aim for a third consecutive victory

Title race intensifies as Al-Kuwait, Al-Arabi battle for Zain Premier League supremacy

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 6: Today marks the conclusion of the ninth round of the Zain Premier League with two exciting matches. The first clash is set between Kuwait Club and Al-Nasr at the Friendship and Peace Stadium at 5:00 pm. Following that, the Thamer Stadium will host the face-off between Al-Arabi and Kazma at 10:08 pm.

Both Kuwait and Al-Arabi enter these encounters with multiple aspirations. The two teams are eager to secure a fresh victory and reclaim the top spot, which Al-Qadisiyah currently holds with 19 points. Al-Qadisiyah secured this lead after Al-Arabi's clean-sheet victory over Al-Shabab, creating a two-point gap between them and both Kuwait and Al-Arabi.

Kuwait has faced challenges in recent matches, both domestically and in the AFC Cup, leading to the immediate dismissal of Serbian coach Boris Bunjak after a 3-0 defeat by Al-Arabi in the eighth round. The team will now be led by Tunisian assistant coach Karim Bourzagba until the arrival of Nabil Maaloul. The objective for “Al-Abyad” is to regain the winning momentum and reclaim the top spot from “Yellow,” while restoring confidence to players who have experienced recent setbacks.

On the other side, Al-Nasr, led by coach Zaher Al-Adwan, aims for a third consecutive victory after defeating Al-Arabi and Al-Jahra 3-1 and 3-0 in the last two rounds. However, they acknowledge the challenge ahead against a formidable opponent.

SOCCER

In the second encounter, Al-Arabi, under Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic, seeks to build on the morale boost from their last-round victory over former leaders Kuwait. Despite the absence of key players due to suspension or injury in recent times, Darko effectively utilized his squad in the last round, with the team displaying an impressive performance and returning to the path of victories in the title race.

Conversely, Kazma, with 13 points, faces a period of instability with four victories, three defeats, and one draw. Their performance in the preliminary round of the Crown Prince Cup was less convincing, narrowly defeating Al-Fahd 4-3. Today, they aim to achieve multiple goals by halting their Arab competitor and positioning themselves as contenders for the league title.

Al-Shamlan ‘eyes’ Paris Olympics qualification at Saber Fencing WC

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FENCING

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Hamad Al-Awadhi, Secretary of the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation, highlighted the significance of the tournament for Al-Sham-



A file photo of Yousef Al-Shamlan congratulated by an opponent.

lan, currently ranked 29th globally. This competition serves as a crucial opportunity for him to secure qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics, with Al-Shamlan aiming to accrue valuable points and advance to the final rounds in the event, as recognized by the International Federation of Fencing.

Expressing gratitude, Al-Awadhi acknowledged the steadfast support provided by the General Sports Authority, led by Director General Yousef Al-Baidan, Deputy Director-General Faisal Al-Yateem, and Deputy Director-General Bashar Abdullah.

This support, he noted, has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and bolstering Kuwait's fencing champions as they represent the nation in international and continental competitions.

Al-Awadhi also announced that the Fencing Federation is actively preparing to host and organize the 2024 Asian Fencing Championship in June of the coming year, under the auspices of the International Federation of Fencing. The decision to host was made by the General Assembly of the Asian Fencing Federation during its recent meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on October 8. He emphasized the pivotal role played by the General Authority for Sports in elevating athlete performance through hosting significant tournaments and facilitating foreign participations, thereby contributing to the elevation of the Kuwaiti flag and the attainment of desired achievements and results.



Al-Arabi and Kuwait players show sportsmanship after Zain Premier League game.

Best of the Rest

Bayern to sign Zaragoza: Bayern Munich is signing Spain winger Bryan Zaragoza from struggling La Liga team Granada, with the deal set to go through in July. The German champion said Wednesday that the 22-year-old Zaragoza would sign a five-year contract running through to 2029 when he joins Bayern at the end of the season.

No fee was disclosed but German magazine Kicker reported the deal involved an initial fee of 13 million euros (\$14 million plus possible add-on fees).

Bayern sporting director Christoph Freund praised Zaragoza as an “explosive, very quick and extremely nimble winger” and highlighted his potential to improve his ability to play on either side of the field. (AP)

Pope set to miss around 4 months: Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope will be out for “around four months” after dislocating his left shoulder, manager Eddie Howe said Wednesday, in the latest injury to hit the Premier League team.

It leaves Pope in a race against time to make England's squad for the European Championship, which starts in June. The 31-year-old Pope sustained the injury as he dived to his left in an attempt to save a shot by Manchester United defender Sergio Reguilon that was blocked in front of the Newcastle keeper.

Howe said Pope will require surgery. “The operation hasn't happened yet,” Howe said, “but we're thinking roughly around four months so it's a big blow to us but one that we expected after the game. (AP)