



## Press Release

### **ASPIRE athletes claim Asian titles and other awards** *World Youth Athletics Championships next for Barsham*

Wednesday 7 July 2010, Doha, Qatar:

ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence student-athletes have claimed two gold medals for Qatar at the Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Current student Mohammed Al Mannai finished first in the Decathlon, while graduate Mutaz Barsham set an Arab record of 2.31 meters in winning the High Jump.

Another current ASPIRE athlete, Saif Sabbah, finished fifth in the final of the 110m Hurdles.

Barsham will next compete in the IAAF World Youth Championships in Canada in two weeks time, and also in the Asian Games in China in November.

Wayde Clews, ASPIRE Director of Sport, said, "ASPIRE is proud to have played a key role in the development of the athletes that have claimed gold medals for Qatar."

"We have had some excellent results so far from the summer competitions in all sports and these are a tribute to the hard work of our athletes and coaches."

Other ASPIRE athletes are in Sweden, having competed in the Gothenburg Youth Games for athletics, which featured 3500 competitors from 20 nations. ASPIRE achieved excellent results, including three gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

Moaz Abdulrahman Balah Shagag won gold in the 800m and bronze in the 1500m for under-19s.

Moyad Mohammed Ibrahim Ahmed finished first in the 800m for under-17s, while James Talkhi ran a time of 11.02 seconds to win gold in the 100m for under-15s.

Other medalists were Muaamer Aissa (silver in the High Jump), Mousab Adam Mahmoud Ali Tonja (bronze in the 1500m Steeplechase) and Ahmed Amer Hwafdeh (bronze in the Hammer Throw).

Andres Charadia, ASPIRE Senior Athletics Coach, said, "Competing in this tournament pushes our student-athletes to perform at their very best. We saw very good performances and it was pleasing to see the younger student-athletes integrating into a very strong athletics squad."



In football, the ASPIRE '97 team won a tournament in Esposende, Portugal, while the '93 team defeated Dusseldorf 4-0 to complete a perfect six wins from as many matches during their tour.

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### **ASPIRE Media Information**

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### **Notes to Editors:**

Created in 2004, the ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence in Doha has the dual aims of identifying and transforming promising student athletes into world-renowned champions across a wide range of sports and to act as a beacon to draw sporting culture into the centre of life in Qatar and the surrounding region.

The Academy is distinguished by a philosophy which aims to develop the student as a whole, providing them with full academic, social and sporting development.

Unrivalled facilities, housed in and around the world's largest purpose built indoor sports dome, ensure the Academy's reputation as one of the foremost sporting and educational institutions in the entire international community, enticing an ever-increasing number of visitors and users, from sporting legends to global political leaders.

Every aspect of the development of elite athletes is catered for by one indoor and seven outdoor football pitches, athletics tracks, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, diving pool, combat arenas, gymnastics arena, specially fitness weight rooms, lecture halls, dormitories to accommodate what will eventually become 1,000 students, a medical centre and many more facilities.

Launched in 2007, the ASPIRE Football Dreams project has annually tests over 600.000 young footballers from all over the world including Asia, South America and Africa as part of the largest ever talent search within the sport.

The ASPIRE ACTIVE initiative is a government subsidized community program. Our focus, guided by the *2030 Qatar National Vision*, falls on preventative teen and adult educational fitness and health related exercise programming. The broad variety of scientifically designed classes and courses on offer cater for beginner to advanced users. Our mother, baby and children classes provide holistic fundamental movement skill

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development crucial to later sport specific skill mastery. ASPIRE ACTIVE fosters culturally sensitive lifelong recreational fitness activity and healthy lifestyle choices for the entire family to effectively address contemporary sedentary lifestyle consequences.