

# BLACK IRIS



THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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## OUR HEROES HONOURED

JORDAN'S RECORD-BREAKING ASIAN GAMES' MEDAL WINNERS HAVE RECEIVED A CASH WINDFALL FROM THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE UNDER ITS INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES REPRESENTING THE KINGDOM.

DESPITE A SLOW START, JORDAN RETURNED FROM DOHA IN DECEMBER WITH EIGHT MEDALS - NEARLY DOUBLING THE NUMBER IT HAD WON IN TOTAL FROM FIVE PREVIOUS APPEARANCES.

AMONG THEM WAS THE FIRST JORDANIAN GOLD WON BY TAEKWONDO STAR MOHAMMAD AL BAKHIT WHO WAS PRESENTED WITH JD25,000.

THE CASH REWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO THE ASIAN GAMES BY HRH PRINCE FEISAL AL HUSSEIN, PRESIDENT OF THE JOC, AS

THE 100-STRONG TEAM WAS PREPARING FOR THE EVENT. IT MADE A HUGE IMPACT WITH JORDAN FINISHING 24TH IN THE OVERALL MEDALS' TABLE AND NARROWLY MISSING OUT ON OTHER MEDALS.

"THESE PERFORMANCES MADE THE ENTIRE KINGDOM PROUD AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR YOUNG ATHLETES ARE REWARDED FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK," SAID HRH PRINCE FEISAL.

"THESE REWARDS SHOULD NOT ONLY SPUR OUR ATHLETES TO GREATER SUCCESSES, BUT THEY ALSO FORM A CLEAR MESSAGE TO ALL ATHLETES THAT THE JOC RECOGNISES EXCELLENCE. I AM ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THESE REWARDS WILL ATTRACT MORE YOUTH INTO SPORT IN THE FUTURE."

SILVER MEDALISTS YAHIA ABU TABEEKH (WRESTLING), JAMEEL AL KHOFFASH (TAEKWONDO) AND ALA' KUTKUT (TAEKWONDO) EACH RECEIVED JD15,000. THE FINANCIAL BOOSTS WILL AID THE ATHLETES IN THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS.

THE FOUR BRONZE MEDALISTS - AHMAD AL SA'AFEEN (BODYBUILDING), MO'TASEM BELLAH KHEIR (KARATE), AMER ABU AFEEFAH (KARATE), TALA'AT KHALIL (KARATE) - EACH RECEIVED JD10,000.

THE JOC IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH ITS NATIONAL FEDERATIONS IN PREPARING THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM FOR THE UPCOMING PAN-ARAB GAMES AND THE ASIAN INDOOR GAMES LATER THIS YEAR AS WELL AS THE BEIJING OLYMPICS IN 2008 WHERE JORDAN WILL BID FOR ITS FIRST EVER OLYMPIC MEDAL.

## JORDAN PRAISED FOR PARALYMPIC WORK



THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE, SIR PHILIP CRAVEN (RIGHT), HAS PRAISED JORDAN'S WORK IN RECOGNISING AND DEVELOPING PARALYMPIC SPORTS.

SIR PHILIP MET WITH BOTH HRH PRINCE FEISAL AL HUSSEIN (ABOVE), PRESIDENT OF THE JOC, AND HRH PRINCE RAAD BIN ZAID, PRESIDENT OF THE JORDAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE, TO DELIVER A GLOWING ENDORSEMENT

OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY BOTH ORGANISATIONS.

## AND THE WINNER IS....

JORDAN'S SPORTS MEDIA WILL ONCE AGAIN HONOUR THE KINGDOM'S HEROES WHEN THE FASTLINK-SPONSORED BLACK IRIS SPORTS MEDIA AWARDS TAKES PLACE AT THE AMMAN KEMPINSKI HOTEL IN FEBRUARY.

ORGANISED BY THE JOC, AND HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ITS PRESIDENT, HRH PRINCE FEISAL, THE ANNUAL BLACK IRIS SPORTS MEDIA AWARDS IS DUBBED THE KINGDOM'S SPORTS OSCARS WITH SIX PRESTIGIOUS TROPHIES PRESENTED AT A GLITTERING ROYAL GALA DINNER.

HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2006, JORDAN'S SPORTS MEDIA VOTED FEISALI

FOOTBALL CLUB AS SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR; KHALID SA'AD (FEISALI FC PLAYER) AS SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR; REEMA FARID (LONG JUMP) AS SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR; MARIAM HATTAMLEH (SWIMMING) AS YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR, AND RONALDINHO (FOOTBALL) AS OVERSEAS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR.

THESE BLACK IRIS AWARDS ARE ONCE AGAIN UP-FOR-GRABS AFTER THE INCLUSION OF A SIXTH AWARD FROM LAST YEAR'S FIVE - PARALYMPIC ATHLETE OF THE YEAR - TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE WORK JORDAN IS DOING IN THIS FIELD.

WITH THE YEAR 2006 REPRESENTING ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE HISTORY OF JORDANIAN SPORT, THE SPORTS MEDIA WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TASK WHEN MAKING THEIR CHOICES. OVER 120 ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE.

## WOMEN ON THE MOVE

JORDAN'S WOMEN & SPORT COMMISSION HAS UNVEILED AN ACTIVE PLAN FOR GETTING THE KINGDOM'S FEMALE POPULATION ON THE MOVE.

SET UP BY THE JOC, THE WOMEN & SPORT COMMISSION IS ARRANGING FUN AEROBICS' SESSIONS - INITIALLY IN AMMAN AND AL SALT BEFORE SPREADING THEM ACROSS ALL MAJOR POPULATION CENTRES. THE CLASSES ARE FREE AND WILL BE HELD INDOORS.

MEANWHILE, JACKLINE AL DOQOUM WAS NOMINATED AS JORDAN'S CANDIDATE FOR THE IOC WOMEN & SPORT AWARDS (ASIA). THE FORMER TABLE TENNIS PLAYER IS NOW PLAYING A KEY ROLE ON THE WOMEN & SPORT COMMISSION IN JORDAN.

## ASIAN WINTER GAMES DEBUT

JORDAN'S FLAG WILL BE HOISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE 6TH

ASIAN WINTER GAMES BY THE BADR AL DIN FAMILY IN THE CHINESE CITY OF CHANGCHUN FROM JANUARY 28TH TO FEBRUARY 4TH.

SEVENTEEN YEAR-OLD LEEN BADR AL DIN AND 16 YEAR-OLD KHALED BADR AL DIN WILL BE COMPETING IN THE GIANT SLALOM WHILE YOUNGER BROTHER, 13 YEAR-OLD RAJA, WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE SPECTACULAR FREESTYLE AERIAL SKIING CONTEST, ONE OF SPORT'S MOST BREATHTAKING EVENTS. THE THREE ARE TRAINED BY THEIR FATHER AMEEN AND ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY THE JORDAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

THE TRIO HAS BEEN FINE TUNING THEIR PREPARATIONS IN FRANCE AND WILL BE SETTING OUT TO CHINA THIS WEEK IN TIME FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY. THE EVENT IS BEING HELD IN THE CAPITAL OF CHINA'S NORTHEAST JILIN PROVINCE. IT WILL HOST 47 EVENTS IN NINE SPORTS WITH 3,000 ATHLETES AND OVER 1,000 VIP'S EXPECTED TO ATTEND FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

## HISTORY-MAKER

THE NEW GOLDEN BOY OF JORDANIAN SPORT IS MOHAMMAD AL BAKHIT WHO MADE HISTORY BY WINNING JORDAN'S FIRST EVER GOLD AT THE 15TH ASIAN GAMES HELD IN DOHA THIS PAST DECEMBER.

THE YOUNGSTER SWEEPED ALL BEFORE HIM IN THE TAEKWONDO EVENT AND IS NOW TURNING HIS ATTENTION TOWARD CLAIMING ANOTHER FIRST - WINNING GOLD AT THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS.

