



NSC SPECIAL EDITION



AUGUST ISSUE 011

INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, BAKAU



GAMBIA'S MAHMOUD L. JAWLA DELIVERS OPENING SPEECH AT CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TRAINING SEMINAR

A delegation from The Gambia, facilitated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, is currently in Beijing participating in a two-week Seminar on Competitive Sports Training Management for Developing Countries, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and co-organized by the Academy of International Business Officials (AIBO) and China Sports International Company (CSIC).

The seminar officially kicked off with an opening ceremony on July 31, 2025, where Mr. Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, Acting Executive Director of the Gambia National Sports Council, delivered the keynote address on behalf of all participating countries.

The speech was delivered in the presence of high-level Chinese officials including Mr. Fan Kai, Deputy General Manager of CSIC, Mr. Wu Jianpeng, Manager of CSIC's Training Department, and Mr. Pang Sen, Program Assistant, along with delegates from Grenada, Iraq, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, and Tajikistan.

"It is with profound honor and immense enthusiasm that I stand before you today," Mr. Jawla began. "On behalf of all participants gathered here, and especially the delegation from The Gambia, I extend our deepest gratitude to the People's Republic of China for this exceptional opportunity."

Mr. Jawla described China's hosting of the seminar as a clear reflection of its commitment to global sporting development and South-South cooperation, calling the event "an unparalleled learning environment" for nations with emerging sports sectors.

Highlighting the challenges many developing countries face—including limited resources, lack of sports science integration, and underdeveloped athlete management systems—Mr. Jawla set the tone for the seminar's ambitious agenda.

He praised the resilience of Gambian youth athletes and reaffirmed the country's commitment to unlocking their full potential through the expertise gained during this seminar.





THE DREAM CONTINUES!! " -- MATTHEW LUKE AZIZ

"I had the incredible honour of representing The Gambia at the World School Chess Championship in Serbia this March!

Competing at this level was tough, but deeply rewarding. Every move was a step forward.

Thank you so much to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for fully sponsoring my journey! Your support gave me this life-changing opportunity and experience!

#AFRICAN_SCHOOL_GAMES_ALGERIA_2025

It's Gold for Buba Bayo and Bronze for Amadou Sabally in the boys' 100m!

The outstanding Buba Bayo blazed to the finish line with a timing of 10:72 seconds to win gold, while Amadou Sabally clocked 10:90 seconds to finish third in the track and field events of the ongoing African School Games in Algeria



#AFRICAN_SCHOOL_GAMES_ALGERIA_2025

Bronze for Team Gambia in Girls 400m!

Rohey Camara secured the third spot to grab a podium finish with a timing of 56:60 seconds in the track and field events of the ongoing African School Games in Algeria



RETURN OF FOOTBALL IN JANJANBUREH FIELD

For the first time ever, the Janjangbureh Sports Committee proudly hosted a full football tournament on their very own football field, built by the Ministry of Youth & Sports to empower grassroots sports!

13 teams from Janjangbureh and surrounding areas competed for the 2025 Nawettan Trophy — showcasing local talent, unity, and the spirit of youth in action.

The matches commenced , August 2nd, 2025





#AFRICAN_SCHOOL_GAMES_ALGERIA_2025

The Gambia's Beach Volleyball Team settles for Silver

The Gambia's duo of Abdallah Bah and Ensa Kanyi had their unbeaten run brought to an end by the host nation Algeria in the Beach Volleyball competition of the African School Games in Algeria.

The duo, who are unbeaten from game one, lost to the host nation Algeria in the boys' final to settle for silver medals!

Under the guidance of coach Amadou Jarju, the Gambia have proven their worth once again to clinch silver in the maiden edition of the School Games beach volleyball competition!



#african_school_games_algeria_2025

Rohey Camara, bronze medalist in the girls' 400m event in the African School Games in Algeria, gets on the podium to grab her bronze medal!



#AFRICAN_SCHOOL_GAMES_ALGERIA_2025

Historic!

The national anthem of The Gambia reverberated around the 19 May - 1956 Annaba Stadium for the first time in history as young sprinter Buba Bayo won a gold medal for Team Gambia in the boys' 100m final in the African School Games in Algeria.



#african_school_games_algeria_2025

SIRREH SANNEH Shines in her field event as expected, as she finished the long jump in second position. Sirreh Jumped 5:42 metres long to win Silver medal for herself.



PICTORIAL – HEROIC RETURN FOR TIJAN JAITEH FOOTBALL ACADEMY – NORWAY CUP CHAMPIONS WELCOMED HOME





GAMBIA'S YOUNG ATHLETES MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION AT THE FIRST-EVER ANOCA AFRICAN SCHOOL GAMES IN ALGERIA, FINISHING THE COMPETITION WITH A TOTAL OF 12 MEDALS.

The men's 3×3 basketball team delivered a standout performance, defeating the Central African Republic 21 to 18 under the leadership of coach Alieu Badara Jeng, earning Gambia's first gold in international school basketball.

In athletics, Buba Bayo claimed gold in the 100 metres, while Amadou Sabally picked up bronze in the same race and added a silver in the 200 metres. Rohey Camara ran a solid 56.60 seconds to take bronze in the women's 400 metres, and Serra Sanneh secured silver in the long jump.

The medley relays brought more success, with the boys' team taking gold and the girls' team earning silver. Wrestlers Muhammed Faal and Ousman Sakho each won bronze in their weight categories, and both the boys' and girls' beach volleyball teams reached the finals before finishing with silver after close matches against hosts Algeria.





MINISTRY FUNDING DRIVES TIJAN JAITEH ACADEMY TO UNSTOPPABLE NORWAY CUP TRIUMPH

Banjul International Airport, The Gambia – August 4, 2025

Triumphant scenes erupted at the Banjul International Airport on Monday afternoon as the Tijan Jaiteh Football Academy returned home to a hero's welcome after being crowned champions of the 2025 Norway Cup Under-16 category—thanks in large part to the D2.3 million financial support from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Waving Gambian flags and singing national songs, jubilant families, fans, and football enthusiasts gathered in their numbers to receive the young Scorpions, who left an indelible mark in Oslo, Norway, by dominating the world's largest youth football tournament.

The boys from the Tijan Jaiteh Academy were simply unstoppable throughout the competition, showcasing raw talent, discipline, and remarkable teamwork.

The academy, founded by former Gambian international and philanthropist Tijan Jaiteh, has consistently invested in nurturing youth football in The Gambia. This historic victory not only cements the academy's position on the global stage but also reflects the growing potential of Gambian grassroots football.

Representing the National Sports Council (NSC), Ebrima Secka, Program Manager, and Sara Camara, Communications and Public Relations Manager, were present at the airport to officially welcome the team on behalf of the government and the sports fraternity. They congratulated the boys and hailed the academy's achievement as a proud moment for Gambian sports.

Speaking to the press on arrival, Jaiteh, visibly emotional, said:

"This is not just a win for the academy—it's a victory for every young Gambian who dares to dream. These boys have represented our flag with pride and honor. The future of Gambian football is bright."

As chants filled the air, the champions were escorted in a convoy from the airport, destined for a national reception. Their heroic feat is already being hailed as one of the most remarkable international youth football achievements in Gambian history.



MEDAL COUNT FOR TEAM GAMBIA AT THE 1ST ANOCA AFRICAN SCHOOL GAMES IN ALGERIA

12 Medals

Basketball 3x3 - Gold

Medley Relay Men- Gold

100m Men - Gold

Beach Volleyball Girls - Silver

Beach Volleyball boys - Silver

200m Men - Silver

Medley Relay Women - Silver

Long Jump Women - Silver

100m Men - Bronze

400m Women - Bronze

Wrestling 65kg- Bronze

Wrestling 60kg - Bronze

This is by far our country's biggest achievement at games. We made HISTORY TOGETHER





GAMBIAN SPORTS OFFICIALS EXPLORE SMART SPORTS INNOVATIONS IN XI'AN

Xi'an, China – 7 August 2025: The Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC), Mahmoud L. Jawla, together with other Gambian delegates under the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), is currently in Xi'an, China, attending high-level lectures on modern sports venue construction.

The training, part of the ongoing Seminar on Competitive Sports Training Management for Developing Countries, covers advanced systems such as standardized timing mechanisms, automated video recording and viewing, alarm functions, and countdown/count-up technology. Delegates are also learning about cutting-edge ticketing management systems that automatically issue tickets for sports venues, improving efficiency and enhancing fan experience.

On 6 August 2025, the delegation visited several sports centers in Xi'an, witnessing firsthand the integration of instant game recording playback and related video information systems — technologies that are redefining competitive sports management worldwide.

	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (AFRICA SCHOOL GAMES) D7,000,000.00 • For Gambia's participation in African School Games (Teams: Basketball, Beach Volleyball, athletics, Long Jump, Wrestling, Judo, Swimming).	
	BASKETBALL (GBA) (ZONE 2 AFROBASKET BALL) D1,000,000.00 • To Gambia Basketball Association for Zone 2 Afrobasket ball Championship.	
	FOOTBALL BEREWUNLENG (FEMALE TEAM) D300,000.00 • To the Berewuleng Female Team to support their participation in CAF WAFU A African Club Championship.	
	GAMBIAN STUDENTS IN MEDINA	

JULY MONTHLY UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SPORT ASSOCIATIONS

The Ministry of Youth & Sports (MOYS) has provided a total of D8.4 million to Gambian sports in the month of July 2025. This support has helped in the country recently achieving its highest ever medals at international competitions and being crown champions in several sports, thus propelling the dreams of our young athletes. The breakdown of the disbursement is as follows:

1. D7 million went to the Gambia National Olympic Committee for Gambia's participation in the African School Games — featuring basketball, beach volleyball, athletics, long jump, wrestling, judo, and swimming.
2. D1 million was given to the Gambia Basketball Association for the Zone 2 Afrobasket Ball Championship in Guinea.
3. D300,000 supported the Berewuleng Football Club female team in the CAF WAFU A African Club Championship.
4. D100,000 to celebrated Gambian students in Medina who made us proud by winning the Student World Cup in Saudi Arabia!



PRESS RELEASE
BANJUL, THE GAMBIA 15TH AUGUST 2025
UPDATE ON INDEPENDENCE STADIUM PITCH UPGRADE AND SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT

The National Sports Council (NSC) wishes to provide clarifications regarding the planned upgrading of the Stadium's hybrid pitch, following recent public discussions around the project.

The NSC acknowledges an ongoing process to hire a foreign company through a subcontractor arrangement that meets requirements of our procurement laws to assist in upgrading and maintain the pitch. NSC however emphasizes that the hybrid pitch installed at the beginning of the stadium remodelling remains in place and has never been removed, nor is the foreign company going to re-install a new pitch, as has been speculated. Their mandate focuses on:

1. Supplying specialized maintenance equipment which are not available in the country.
2. Rehabilitating the existing pitch, treating fungal infections, and correcting uneven surfaces (conditions that were as a result of lack of proper equipment and skilled personnel to carry out our required routine functions as would be of a hybrid pitch).
3. Training local staff on proper pitch upkeep techniques, including operation of the new machinery.

The contractor, upon completing the above primary assignment, will remain in The Gambia for two months to ensure full knowledge transfer and capacity building among local staff.

"The NSC acknowledges past challenges in pitch maintenance and the Ministry has introduced robust measures to prevent similar issues in the future," said NSC Communications and PR Manager, Sara Camara. "By prioritizing equipment procurement and staff training, we aim to ensure sustainable, long-term care of the pitch without reliance on external expertise."



REPORT ON CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM BY THE GAMBIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

On Thursday 28th August 2025, The Gambia Cricket Association recently organized a comprehensive capacity-building training program aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of teachers, coaches, Umpires, and scorers in cricket at the McCarthy Square in Banjul. This initiative reflects the association's commitment to developing the sport in the country by empowering key stakeholders and cricket enthusiasts with the necessary tools to promote and sustain the game at various levels. Additionally, the program introduced participants to EdApp, a modern digital platform designed for educating and engaging cricket enthusiasts.

Overview of the Program:

The capacity-building training program brought together 30 participants, including teachers, coaches, Umpires, and scorers. Among the attendees, 14 were females, demonstrating the association's efforts toward inclusivity and gender equality in cricket development.



In response to a question raised by Hon. Karamo Jammeh, Member for Banjul Central, regarding academies and the state of sports in the country.

Honourable Minister Bakary Y. Badjie highlighted that most sports academies are private initiatives, but the government has a key role in creating the right environment. Steps have already been taken in this direction. He stated that during recent cabinet discussions on special investment certificates, sports was not initially included. However, the government now recognizes that sports is no longer just a leisure activity—it is an industry that requires development.

As a result, sports has been included among investment sectors to encourage individuals and institutions to invest in the industry, including the establishment of academies. The aim is to ensure that the private sector plays a stronger role, with government continuing to provide an enabling environment.

Honourable Minister Badjie assured that the concerns raised have been noted and committed to continued improvement in the sector.



GAMBIA DEAF SCORPIONS WIN SILVER AT WEST AFRICA DEAF FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AMID CONTROVERSY

The Gambia's Deaf National Football Team, the Deaf Scorpions, will return home with silver medals after finishing runners-up at the 13th Edition of the West Africa Deaf Football Championship in Abuja, Nigeria.

The 13-man Gambian delegation fought bravely through the competition, defeating Liberia 2-0 in the semi-final to book their place in the grand final against host nation Nigeria's Deaf Eagles.

The final, however, ended in controversy. Traditionally played in 45-minute halves, the game was instead conducted in two halves of 35 minutes each — a change that was not communicated to the Gambian team prior to kick-off.

The first half ended 1-1, and as the Deaf Scorpions piled pressure on Nigeria in the second half, frustration grew over the unexpected reduction in playing time.

The first half ended 1-1, and as the Deaf Scorpions piled pressure on Nigeria in the second half, frustration grew over the unexpected reduction in playing time. The match ultimately ended 1-1 after regulation (35x35 minutes), before Nigeria went on to secure victory.

Despite their disappointment with the officiating, the Deaf Scorpions have been hailed for their resilience and determination. With a limited squad of just 13 players — reduced further after injuries to key men like defender Ebrima Conteh — the team overcame immense odds to bring home The Gambia's first-ever silver medal at the tournament.

The delegation extended gratitude to the Government of The Gambia through the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) for the financial support that enabled their participation, as well as to the Gambian Embassy staff in Nigeria and all Gambians who stood behind them throughout the journey.



NSC WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL GRAND MASTER STEFAN MAČÁK

The Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council, Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, today welcomed International Grand Master Stefan Mačák, originally from Slovakia and now based in the United Kingdom, at his office in Bakau.

GM Mačák shared his inspiring journey of promoting chess across Africa and expressed his commitment to extending this mission to The Gambia.

During his stay, he will conduct chess trainings across the country, reaching schools, communities, and players of all levels. He has also pledged to generously donate chess sets, books, and software to help strengthen the foundation and growth of chess in The Gambia.

Mr. Jawla described the visit as an exciting moment for Gambian chess, underscoring the NSC's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote intellectual and sporting excellence.

The National Sports Council, in collaboration with the Gambia Chess Federation, looks forward to working with IM Mačák to inspire young minds and nurture future talent.

**NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL
THE GAMBIA**

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INDEPENDENCE STADIUM . BAKAU

