Looking ahead to a busy month of athletics action

May is traditionally seen as a quiet month for athletics, but this year is something of an exception.

Next week the Chinese city of Taicang will host the IAAF World Race Walking Cup. Including junior events, there are five titles on offer between 3-4 May as the world's top race walkers will clash in the biggest contest for the discipline this year.

Just five days later, the 2014 season of the IAAF Diamond League will get under way in Doha. The competition in the Qatari capital often produces some truly staggering performances, whetting the appetite for the 14-meeting series of the best invitational track and field competitions in the world.

Towards the end of the month, Nassau will host the inaugural IAAF World Relays. Already this year, the USA has broken the world indoor record in the men's 4x400m, while Kenya's women's 4x1500m team has produced the two fastest times in history. There will doubtless be many more exciting performances when the world's best athletes descend upon the Bahamian capital to compete across five different relay events.

May 2014 is anything but a quiet month!

IAAF HQ HEADLINE NEWS

BARCELONA, DOHA AND EUGENE – CANDIDATE CITIES FOR 2019 IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Letters of intent from candidate cities interested in hosting a number of competitions of the IAAF World Athletics Series (WAS) 2017-2019 have been received by the IAAF.

Emphasising once more the universal reach and popularity of the sport of athletics, the IAAF Council were delighted to note that national Member Federations from five of the six continental Areas have confirmed themselves as candidates across the four IAAF World Athletics Series events involved.

OTHER NEWS

• IAAF supports IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury & Illness in Sport
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• IAAF Ambassadors for World Juniors in Eugene
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• Moscow presented with 2013 AIPS Best Press Facilities Award
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• Fantasy Diamond Race opens
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• IAAF World Race Walking Cup Taicang 2014 – one week to go
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• IAAF World Relays – just one month to go
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• IAAF launches second season of ‘IAAF Inside Athletics’
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• Masters Commission visits WMA Indoor Championships
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FEATURED NEWS

IAAF Council Meeting, Dakar, 14 April – NOTES
The IAAF Council met in Dakar, Senegal, for the third time in its history, with IAAF President Lamine Diack taking the opportunity to say farewell to his fellow Council Members in his home city. READ MORE

2016 IAAF World Junior Championships in Kazan:
IAAF Council Meeting, Dakar, 15 April – NOTES
In its second and last day of business in Dakar, the IAAF Council decided that the Russian city of Kazan will be the host of the 2016 edition of the IAAF World Junior Championships. READ MORE

IAAF launches ‘Athletics for a Better World’
IAAF President Lamine Diack announced plans for ‘Athletics for a Better World’, a new social responsibility programme that will use the universality of athletics to make a positive difference in the world. READ MORE

123 IAAF Member Federations to take part in 2014 IAAF World Athletics Day
Now in its 19th year, the IAAF World Athletics Day is the sport’s annual worldwide festival of youth and one of the busiest programmes of competitions in the athletics calendar. READ MORE

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETES SANCTIONED FOR A DOPING OFFENCE
An up-to-date list can be downloaded here.
Revision of results following sanction of Tsikhan and Ostapchuk

NEW MEMBER FEDERATION OFFICERS – RECENT ELECTIONS / APPOINTMENTS
An up-to-date list can be downloaded here.

TRANSFERS OF ALLEGIANCE
An up-to-date list can be downloaded here.

WORLD RECORDS RATIFIED

WOMEN, SENIOR, INDOOR – 3000m
3000m 8:16.60 Genzebe Dibaba (ETH) Stockholm, SWE, 6 Feb 14
previous: 8:23.72 Meseret Defar (ETH) Stuttgart, GER, 3 Feb 07

WOMEN, SENIOR – 20km and half marathon
20km 1:01:56 / half marathon 1:05:12 Florence Kiplagat (KEN) Barcelona, ESP, 16 Feb 14
previous: 1:02:36 / 1:05:50 Mary Keitany (KEN) Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, 18 Feb 11

OBITUARIES

• Photographer Anja Niedringhaus
• Meeting director Howard Schmertz