He (Federer) told me not to focus too much on the pressure or the outside drama. He gave me some perspective. Now, I try to enjoy the tennis and I barely think of that fist-round loss two years later.



Teen star **Coco Gauff** hails Roger Federer for his words of wisdom.

TODAY'S ACTION

- 3X3 Basketball, Aquathlon, Beach Soccer, Beach Tennis, Beach Wrestling and Kitefoil Racing **at Katara Beach**, from 6:00
- Beach Handball, Beach Volleyball 4X4 **at Al Gharafa Club**, from 16:00
- Skateboarding **at Aspire,** from 17.40

Kuwait Olympic chief hails 'masterpiece' AZF

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

A high-level delegation headed by H E Sheikh Fahad bin Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, visited Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) on Sunday and got a closer view of the role AZF's member organisations – Aspire Academy, Aspetar, and Aspire Logistics – are playing in transforming Qatar into an international sports hub.

The delegation was accompanied by Eng. Hilal Jeham Al Kuwari, President of AZF, Ivan Bravo, Director General of Aspire Academy, Abdullah Nasser Al Naemi, Director General of Aspire Logistics, Ali Salem Afifa, Deputy Director General of the Academy, Khalid Al Mawlawi, Chief Administrative Officer at Aspetar, and a number of senior officials of AZF's member organisations.

The delegation went on a tour at Aspire Academy, AZF member organisation, where they had an idea about Academy's philosophy and its world-class services and facilities designed and operated to the highest international standards aimed at nurturing talented student-athletes, and its matchless new Football Performance Centre.

The following stop was at Aspetar, the orthopaedic and sports medicine hospital and AZF member organisation, where the delegation was impressed by the state-of-the-art rehabilitation services. At Aspetar, the delegation was guided by Khalid Ali Al Mawlawi, Chief Administrative Officer at Aspetar.

Sheikh Fahad was amazed by Aspire and extended his thanks to the management of the Aspire Zone Foundation for the tour. During the tour he said: "Aspire is an architectural, medical and academic masterpiece, and it is a pride for all the Arabs. We are aiming to have such a model in the State of Kuwait very soon."

The visit comes on the side-lines of the first edition of the ANOC World Beach Games of which AZF is an Official Venue Partner.



H E Sheikh Fahad bin Nasser Sabah Ahmad Al Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee (right), speaking to Aspire Zone Foundation officials during his visit.



Griffin wins Houston Open by one stroke

AFP
LOS ANGELES

Six years ago, Lanto Griffin **(pictured)** had less $200 in his bank account, so he decided to caddie for his friend and fellow pro golfer Willy Wilcox.

The move paid off as the pair became a successful team and Griffin was able to top up his bank account and continue his dream of playing full-time on the PGA Tour.

Fast forward to Sunday as the 31-year-old Griffin claimed his maiden PGA title, two-putting 18 to close with a three-under 69 and win the Houston Open by one stroke.

"I just knew that even if I made bogey I would still have a job out here next year," said Griffin, of Mount Shasta, California. "I am so proud of the way I hung in there."

Griffin came into the fourth round with a one shot lead and made five birdies on Sunday to finish with a 14-under 274.

He told his mother, Julie, that he would buy her a new car if he won this week -- and after earning $1.3m in first-place prize money, he will make good on that promise.

Griffin finished one stroke ahead of Scott Harrington and Mark Hubbard, who shot 67 and 69 respectively.

China's Zhang Xinjun and Austria's Sepp Straka were part of a group of five who tied for fourth. Zhang shot 66, Straka a 69 to finish at 11-under along with Harris English (66), Talor Gooch (69) and Carlos Ortiz (69).

Kipchoge, 10 others nominated for IAAF Male Athlete of the Year

REUTERS
MONACO

Kenyan Eluid Kipchoge, who on Saturday became the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, is one of 11 nominees for the IAAF Male Athlete of the Year, athletics' governing body said yesterday.

Kipchoge, who finished a special marathon in Vienna in one hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds that will not be recognised for world record purposes, also was nominated for his London Marathon course record.

Ten winners from the recent world athletics championships in Doha also are under consideration for the global honour: Americans Donovan Brazier (800m), Christian Coleman (100m), Sam Kendricks (pole vault), Noah Lyles (200m), Christian Taylor (triple jump).

Also, Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei (10,000m, world cross country title), Kenya's Timothy Cheruyiot (1,500m), Bahamas' Steven Gardiner (400m), Sweden's Daniel Stahl (discus) and Norway's Karsten Warholm (400m hurdles).

Female nominees will be announced today.

Fans may vote online on the IAAF's social media platforms.

Athletes of the year will be announced live on stage at the World Athletics Awards 2019 in November.

Federer wants to compete for Olympic gold in Tokyo

AFP
PARIS

Roger Federer announced yesterday he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics in a bid to claim the men's singles gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to win.

"I've been debating with my team for a few weeks now, months actually, what I should do in the summer time (of 2020) after Wimbledon and before the US Open," he said at a promotional event.

"At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again."

Federer has won all four of the Grand Slam tournaments, as well as the ATP Tour Finals six times, but is still waiting to grab Olympic singles gold.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion did win a doubles gold alongside fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka at Beijing in 2008, but when he got to the London singles final in 2012 he was hammered 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 by an inspired Andy Murray.

Federer did not compete at Rio 2016, where Murray won again, but has since twice won the Australian Open and took the 2017 Wimbledon title before losing an epic final in the grass-court Grand Slam to Novak Djokovic earlier this year.

Serbia's Djokovic, and Federer's eternal rival Rafael Nadal, have both already said they will compete at Tokyo, the trio setting the scene for a highly competitive tournament.

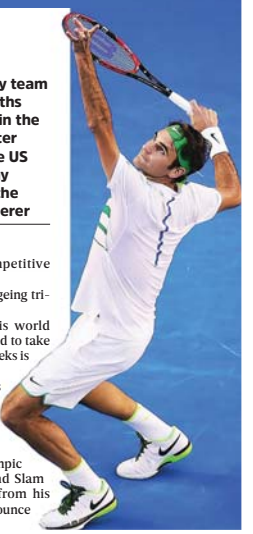
I've been debating with my team for a few weeks now, months actually, what I should do in the summer time (of 2020) after Wimbledon and before the US Open. At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again: Federer

Nobody will be writing the ageing triumvirate off.

The 32-year-old Djokovic is world number one and the player poised to take top spot off him in the coming weeks is Nadal, 33.

The 38-year-old Federer is third in the world rankings, while Nadal and Djokovic won all four Grand Slams between them this year.

The two-time defending Olympic champion and three-time Grand Slam winner Murray, coming back from his January hip surgery, is yet to announce his intentions for Tokyo.



DRFC beat Sri Lanka Air Force 43-13 in friendly encounter

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Doha Rugby Football Centre (DRFC) beat Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) by 43-13 at a friendly encounter organised by DRFC and Doha Sri Lanka Rugby Committee (DSLRC) on Friday.

A comprehensive performance by DRFC saw them firing in all divisions and not letting the young Sri Lankan Airmen settle. DRFC men managed to score their first try within the first few minutes and recording a score of 17-6 at half time to begin their season 2019/20.

DRFC continued their momentum from the last few minutes of the first half as their big number 8. Caine Elisara took the responsibility and inched closer towards their victory by scoring 3 tries whilst his team-mates Simon Currie, Dylan Piertersse, Sam Weber and John Evans scored a try each. The kicking duties were taken by Sam Weber and Daniel Henderson converting 2 tries each. It was the Sri Lanka Air Force captain Prasad Medagedara who went over the line to score a try whilst Charith Senavirathne did no mistakes when he got the opportunity to kick the penalties and convert the try scored for the Airmen. The full time whistle was blown with the score at 43-13 in favour of DRFC. SLAF, the runner up of Sri Lanka Rugby 2019 considered this match as a lesson as they are preparing for their upcoming season. The coach, Leanard De Silva and the assistant coach Nisal Meepage were very thankful to DRFC & DSLRC for opening the doors to visit Doha.

The DRFC was packed with a huge audience of Sri Lankan expatriates who supported Airmen right throughout the game and the Airmen didn't miss to show gratitude with a bow after the match. DRFC will take on Kandy Sports Club at the Doha Rugby Football Centre on Friday at 6.00pm.

According to the organising committee, a huge number of spectators is expected to witness this game.

The main sponsors of this event were Mercure Grand Hotel Doha.

Kumudu Fonseka, the Finance Controller of Mercure, said: "We anticipate that the Kandy SC team will challenge DRFC Men and display a good game of rugby." He went on to say that this is the fourth time Mercure Grand Hotel Doha has sponsored such an event in Qatar. The hotel's General Manager, Sebastien Vincent is looking forward to assist DRFC & DSLRC in future events. Well On Restaurant and Rayyan Water were the other sponsors of the event.





DRFC and SLAF team players and officials posing for a photograph after their friendly rugby encounter which took place at the Doha Rugby Football Centre. BOTTOM: Captains of the two teams pose for a photograph after the match. Kumudu Fonseka, Finance Controller of Mercure Grand Hotel Doha and Thilaka Manjula, Managing Director of Well On Restaurant were also present.

South Africa urges fans to be patient after loss

AFP
JOHANNESBURG

South African cricket officials yesterday urged the country's supporters to be patient with their struggling Test side after two heavy defeats in India.

The Proteas, rebuilding after the retirement of several senior players, were outplayed in every aspect of both Tests so far.

India clinched the three-match series when they won the second Test in Pune by an innings and 137 runs on Sunday.

It followed an equally punishing 203-run win in the first Test in Visakhapatnam.

"It was always going to be a difficult challenge taking on the top team in the world -- certainly under their own conditions -- at a time when we have introduced a new team structure," said Cricket South Africa chief executive Thabang Moroe.

CSA fired previous coach Ottis Gibson and the selection panel following a poor World Cup campaign earlier this year and introduced a new structure, to be headed by a team director who would be responsible for all team matters who would report to a director of cricket.

Enoch Nkwe, a former player with a modest first-class career and a single, successful season as a franchise coach, was appointed to the team director role in an interim capacity, while former international player Corrie van Zyl was appointed acting director of cricket and interim convener of selectors.

Moroe also pointed to the number of top players who played a big role in making South Africa one of the top sides in the world.

"In the past two years we have had to bid farewell to some of the great names of international cricket such as AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Morne Morkel and Dale Steyn who between them played nearly 450 Test matches for the Proteas," said Moroe.

"You don't replace that kind of experience overnight and we need to give a new generation time to settle."

Moroe said he was confident that a young South African team would reward their supporters with improved performances during a home series against England in December and January.

"These are exciting times for South African cricket with new names and faces coming to the fore.

"Our talent pipeline has produced the likes of Aiden Markram, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Zubayr Hamza over the last few years and our development systems are clearly in good shape," he said.

Van Zyl said supporters needed to appreciate the quality of an Indian team which has won 11 consecutive home series.

"This is an Indian team that has been together for some time now and is well accustomed to playing in their home conditions," said Van Zyl.

"I strongly believe we have the players to win games and the youngsters will come right."

Former Test batsman and current Cape Cobras franchise coach Ashwell Prince responded to widespread criticism of the team on *Twitter* by pointing out the difficulties of coping with conditions away from home.



South Africa's batsman Vernon Philander plays a shot during the third day of the second Test cricket match between India and South Africa in Pune on Saturday.

"I know we didn't play well and it seems all doom and gloom," Prince said on *Twitter*.

"However, I do feel that people don't really appreciate how tough it is to win away series especially in conditions that's foreign to your own, Prince added.

"India for example, despite touring SA with batting line-ups that included the likes of (Virender) Sehwag, (Rahul) Dravid, (Sachin)Tendulkar, (VVS) Laxman, (Sourav) Ganguly, (MS) Dhoni, have never won a series in SA."

But Prince added cryptically that there were "serious issues" in South African cricket that needed to be resolved.

"Get the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats on da bus," tweeted Prince.

Saha produces slick show during series against SA

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Wriddhiman Saha's return to the Indian Test side after a long injury-forced absence raised more than a few eyebrows but the wicketkeeper has silenced the doubters with his superlative glovework in the ongoing home series against South Africa.

A wicketkeeper rarely earns kudos purely for his glovework but Saha enjoyed that rare acclaim during the second test against South Africa at Pune.

While India captain Virat Kohli received the man-of-the-match award for his career-best knock of 254, and fast bowler Umesh Yadav and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin picked up six wickets apiece, Saha did not even get a chance to bat.

He had only five dismissals to his name during the Test but his impact was hailed by his team mates and drew instant praise from *Twitter* users, who dubbed him "Superman Saha".

"It's a no-brainer to say that Saha is one of the best going around, and I've hardly seen him miss anything," Ashwin told reporters after the third day's play on Saturday.

Saha cemented his place in the longest format of the game in early 2015 after serving as the incumbent to India captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

However, India's first-choice glovesman suffered a hamstring injury during a Cape Town test in January last year and subsequently found himself out of the side for 18 months after going through shoulder and finger problems.



Indian wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha celebrates after taking catch to dismiss South Africa batsman Theunis de Bruyn during the fourth day of play of the second Test between India and South Africa in Pune on Sunday.

He was included in India's Test squad for their two-match series against West Indies recently but struggled to find a way to displace young stumper-batsman Rishabh Pant.

After stepping in to fill the gap left by Saha, the 22-year-old Pant scored centuries in England and Australia, prompting calls for India to invest in him given his age and better returns with the bat.

But Saha's experience and superior glovework while keeping on spin-friendly wickets at home finally worked in his favour as he got the nod ahead of Pant for the three tests against the visiting Proteas.

He lived up to captain Virat Kohli's billing of "best in the world" with the dismissals of Theunis de Bruyn and South Africa skipper Faf Du Plessis.

He also took a smart catch down the leg side to send back Vernon Philander, leaving Yadav as the obliged bowler.

"I need to give him a treat because I think those two wickets are Wriddhi bhai's (brother) only," Yadav told the broadcaster at the end of the match on Sunday. "When you put the ball outside leg stump you think it'll be a boundary, but if there is a little bit of a chance to convert a catch, we know he will take it."

Build on the World Cup legacy, says pace bowling sensation Archer

AFP
LONDON

English cricket authorities must make the most of the thrilling World Cup triumph in July to encourage youngsters to take up the sport over the long term, according to England pace bowling star Jofra Archer.

The 24-year-old Barbados-born bowler -- who made an immediate impact when he became eligible to play for England earlier this year -- showed remarkable nerve bowling the decisive Super Over in the World Cup final against New Zealand.

England won the trophy due to countback on the amount of boundaries scored after the match ended tied and the sides were level after the Super Over.

Archer said it was encouraging to see the way young people were inspired by the World Cup win to start playing the game, But he said authorities needed to find ways to keep them interested over the long term.

"I've seen many videos of kids playing, doing their celebrations in the back garden," he said. "I think the World Cup is going to get spoken about for many years to come. We do need to use it. I think we need to push it a lot further.

"Look at the kids. It's wet and muddy but I don't think they care. It makes us happy to see them playing and wanting to do better."

Archer, who plays his county cricket for Sussex, said his message to aspiring cricketers is their success or belief in being able to succeed has to come from within.

"Never give up," he said. "If no one believes in you, you have to believe in yourself.

"You never know where cricket can take you in two weeks, two months or a year... Anything is possible."

Former captain Ganguly looks set to become India cricket board chief

REUTERS
MUMBAI

Former captain Sourav Ganguly is set to take charge as the head of India's cricket board this month, completing his transition from star player to a top administrator.

The 47-year-old, who retired from international cricket in 2008, filed his nomination for the president's post of the Board of Control for Cricket India (BCCI) yesterday for the elections to be held on October 23.

Since 2017, the BCCI is being run by administrators appointed by the Supreme Court after its office-bearers failed to implement administrative reforms within the world's richest national cricket body.

The Court-appointed administrators will hand over responsibilities once the board members elect the new office bearers during the Oct. 23 elections.

"I'm happy I'll say because it's a very important time in Indian cricket administration because of all what's happened in the last three years," Ganguly told reporters after filing his nomination at the BCCI headquarters.

"To be a position where I can make a difference along with a team would be extremely satisfying. So hopefully in the next few months we can put everything in place and bring back normalcy in Indian cricket."

Cricket is almost a religion in India. Its star players are the highest-profile athletes and enjoy rockstar status in the world's second most populous country.

Ganguly has the support of most members of the board and could end up as the lone candidate for the president's post. He would then be elected unopposed.

The former left-handed batsman, who played 113 Tests and 311 one-day internationals and led India to 21 test wins, has already been an administrator for his home state association.

He was part of the BCCI's technical panel in the past and also part of a three-member Cricket Advisory Committee, alongside Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman.



Former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly gestures as he arrives at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) headquarters at Wankhede Stadium to file nomination for the board's elections in Mumbai yesterday.

Ganguly said he had never aspired to be BCCI chief but hoped his experience as a former captain would stand him in good stead.

"We have lot of things to do, to get the administration in order," he said.

"Cricket on the field has been brilliant for India, the team has played exceptionally well.

"My biggest focus will be first-class cricket. I have been very vocal on looking after first-class players because that's your base, that's your strength."

Jay Shah, son of Home Minister Amit Shah, filed his nomination to become BCCI secretary.

Zimbabwe readmitted as International Cricket Council member

AFP
DUBAI

Cricket chiefs readmitted Zimbabwe as an International Cricket Council member yesterday following a three-month suspension over political interference.

An ICC statement said the move followed a meeting in Dubai involving the Zimbabwe Cricket chairman Tavengwa Mukuhlani and sports minister, Kirsty Coventry.

"I would like to thank the Zimbabwe sports minister for her commitment to the reinstatement of Zimbabwe Cricket," said ICC chairman Shashank Manohar.

"Her desire to work in support of Zimbabwe Cricket was clear and she has unconditionally complied with the conditions set down by the ICC board."

Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the men's Under-19 World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020.

"We are elated to get our membership restored and this marks the beginning of a new, exciting chapter for our cricket, with ZC's (Zimbabwe Cricket) focus now fully back on ensuring our game is thriving, sustainable and financially stable," said Mukuhlani.

Nepal has also been readmitted as an ICC member on a conditional basis following their 2016 suspension for a breach of regulations which prohibit government interference and require free and fair elections, ICC said.

Cricket matches in the next three weeks

Friday, October 18
2020 T20 World Cup qualifiers, United Arab Emirates (until November 2)

Saturday, October 19
India vs South Africa, 3rd Test at Ranchi (until October 23)

Sunday, October 27
Australia vs Sri Lanka, 1st T20I at Adelaide

Wednesday, October 30
Australia vs Sri Lanka, 2nd T20I in Brisbane

Friday, November 1
Australia vs Sri Lanka, 3rd T20I in Melbourne; New Zealand vs England 1st T20I at Christchurch

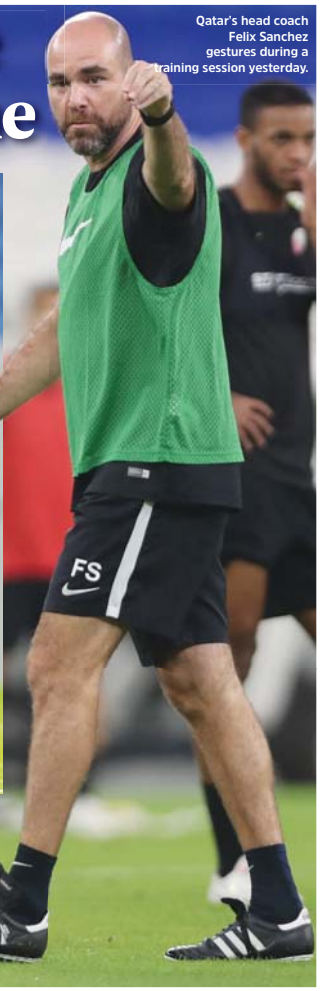
Sunday, November 3
New Zealand vs England, 2nd T20I at Wellington; Australia vs Pakistan, 1st T20 in Sydney; India vs Bangladesh, 1st T20 (night) at Delh

Tuesday, November 5
New Zealand vs England, 3rd T20 at Nelson; Afghanistan vs West Indies, 1st T20 at Dehradun, Australia vs Pakistan, 2nd T20 (night) at Canberra

Thursday, November 7
Afghanistan vs West Indies, 2nd T20 at Dehradun; India vs Bangladesh, 2nd T20 at Rajkot

Friday, November 8
New Zealand vs England, 4th T20 (night) at Napier; Australia vs Pakistan, 3rd T20 (d/n) in Perth

Asian champions Qatar take on Oman in key clash at home


Qatar's head coach Felix Sanchez gestures during a training session yesterday.

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Asian champions Qatar will be looking at a win against neighbouring Oman in a key 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifying match today.

With the 2022 FIFA World Cup ticket already secured as hosts, Qatar still have to navigate their way through the Qualifiers to earn a place in China 2023.

Their journey started in style with a 6-0 win against Afghanistan in Doha, before India held them to a stalemate at home.

Qatar, coached by Felix Sanchez, got back to winning ways last week, coming away from a difficult trip to rainy Bangladesh with a 2-0 win to put themselves at the summit of Group E with seven points.

Oman, on the other hand, are second in the group with 6 points after two wins against India (2-1) and Afghanistan (3-0).

Winning the match at Al Janoub Stadium today will extend Qatar's lead at the top of their Group with 10 points. It will also widen the difference against their closest opponent to 4 points although the Omani team has played a game less.

If Gulf Cup winners Oman win today, they will climb to the top of the group with 9 points, 2 points ahead of Qatar and can extend this difference to 5 points if they succeed in defeating Bangladesh in the next round. There is no doubt that winning is key for both teams, but it is difficult to predict the outcome. Both sides possess quality players who have won their sides key events like the Asian Cup and the Gulf Cup in the last two years.

Qatar will pin their hopes on captain Hassan Al Haydos, Akram Afif, Boualem Khouki, Abdul Karim Hassan and goalkeeper Saad Al Sheeb at the 2022 FIFA World Cup venue today.

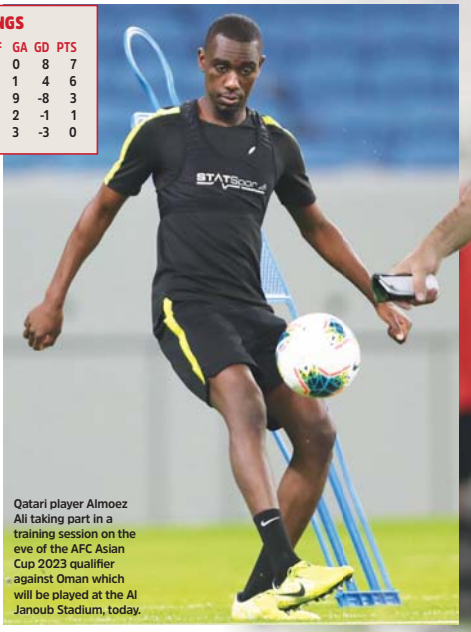
On the other hand, Oman also includes strong and distinguished elements such as goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi, captain Ahmed Kano, Abdul Aziz Al Muqbali, Mohsen Al Ghassani, Abdul Aziz Al Ghailani, Ali Al Busaidi and Ahmed Al Kaabi.

GROUP E - STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1: Qatar	3	2	1	0	8	0	8	7
2: Oman	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
3: Afghanistan	3	1	0	2	1	9	-8	3
4: India	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
5: Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0

TODAY'S FIXTURES:

Qatar vs Oman
At Al Janoub Stadium (Kick off at 7.30pm)
Philippines vs China
Syria vs Guam
Chinese Taipei vs Australia
Jordan vs Nepal
Cambodia vs Iraq
Bahrain vs Iran
Singapore vs Uzbekistan
Palestine vs Saudi Arabia
India vs Bangladesh
Mongolia vs Kyrgyzstan
Tajikistan vs Japan
Indonesia vs Vietnam
Thailand vs UAE
North Korea vs South Korea
Sri Lanka vs Lebanon


Qatari player Almoez Ali taking part in a training session on the eve of the AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualifier against Oman which will be played at the Al Janoub Stadium, today.

Qatari referees to officiate in clash between two Koreas

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

The AFC has chosen Qatari referee Abdul Rahman Al Jassim to officiate in the game between North Korea against South Korea in the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint qualifying match today.

Other Qatari officials appointed for the match also include Abdul Rahman Al Jassem, Hakam Saha, Taleb Salem, Saud Ahmed Musaedin, and fourth referee Saud Al Athba.

The Qatari referees have managed many matches across the globe including matches at the last FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Barshim's popularity grows around the world after winning the gold in Doha

ARMSTRONG VAS
THE PENINSULA


Qatar's world champion in high jump Mutaz Essa Barshim interacts with fans during the Red Bull event in Doha.
PIC: BAHER AMIN / THE PENINSULA

Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim's IAAF World Championships gold winning feat has impacted not only his life and fans in Qatar but all over the world.

Barshim, who jumped over the horizontal bar to win the high jump gold before a packed Khalifa International Stadium this month after coming back from ankle injury, says life has 'changed' for him and for many others who have been following his progress.

"Life has been different for the last couple of days, I guess. It's like every time I step out people really come up to me and they start telling me their side of the story and how crazy it (gold medal event) was," said Barshim.

"I just got a message from an old friend and it's from Germany. She was working with us in the management and she said her parents, 86 years old, they were jumping (when I won the medal)," Barshim said, while talking to reporters during a function organised by Red Bull to honour him.

Life has been different for the last couple of days, I guess. It's like every time I step out people really come up to me and they start telling me their side of the story and how crazy it (gold medal event) was: Barshim.

"She never see them jump like that and now they're fans, now they were there sitting home near the TV and they have all the schedules like for next year and they say from now on that's the only thing they're gonna to do, watch high jump. Yes, a couple new fans.

The ace high jumper a product of the Aspire Academy says he has met many children who recounted their own story of how inspired they have become on seeing him win a gold medal for Qatar.

"I met the kids, who are inspired, it's a good thing, that's just part of the things, you know it's worth. A lot of people really showing their love in different ways," he added.

Barshim said the Aspire Academy athletes too are on a high after watching him excel at the World Championship.

"The trip was to inspire the kids and yeah it's amazing to return to the Aspire Academy."

"It is my second home. There's are some places just attached to you, you can always just come and feel so good.

"So, I always want to go there get give back, just talk to my old teachers old coaches my physios the managers,everybody out there who have always been there for you, despite what happened, the ups and down, just went there and enjoyed the success."

Barshim who cleared 2.37m to win the title in Qatar could not touch Cuban Javier Sotomayor record height of 2.45m and the Qatari athlete had some nice words and respect for the record holder.

"He is a great person I like him, he always keep a good relationship but you know what he did is amazing you know that 2.45m it's not human, I have. always have had a great respect for the man."

On what went in his mind while going in for the medal winning height.

"You don't know what's going I didn't know what's going on until I saw the picture after and then I was like, oh, I was still jumping you can see it so much emotion going on, right I ripped my number which is not allowed the chief referee come to me you will get disqualified something I cannot control, so these kind of things like the reaction that comes after don't know still he did try – what can I do, I didn't do it intentionally."

Barshim came back to the same Khalifa International Stadium on his gold night only to find it empty a few hours after his jump.

"The crazy thing is like I didn't leave the stadium until 2:30 I had to do all the interviews with international media and then I had to do the press conference which was live and to go to the doping control so by the time I came out to the stadium it was empty. A few hours ago it was loud and full. I needed some time reflect on what happened a few hours earlier."

And after his success on the play field Barshim is looking for a much needed vacation.

"I want to take vacation, but I am busy attending felicitation functions and other related stuffs for one week now. That's the fun part because I want to celebrate with the people that been there for me, my partner's, my family, my supporters, the people that you know put their life down there for me and now it is just a small thing to give back to them."

"I have no idea when I will have the vacation, where, when I don't know," he added.

QVA President commends outstanding performance of Qatari spikers

QNA
DOHA

President of Qatar Volleyball Association (QVA) Ali Ghanim Al Kuwari praised the results and the outstanding level shown by the Qatari team at the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games Qatar 2019, which is currently being held in Doha.

In his statements, QVA President said that it would be a good thing for Qatar to lead Group A in this round, especially that the game in its current form is new in Qatar, as it is for the first time the team plays in the 4x4 competitions, but it quickly mastered the game, and its members succeeded in getting used to the new system applied for the first time in this tournament.

The team topped the group after winning three consecutive games, where they beat Indonesia, a good team in Asia, then in one day managed to overtake both America and Germany, confirming their eligibility to reach the second round of the tournament, he stated.

Al Kuwari added that the competitions in the second round will be difficult, because the eight teams are good and wish to reach the final stages to win medals. He stressed that the ambition of the Qatari team is to win gold in order to continue to excellence, as it is ranked in advanced positions globally and has great ambitions in the next stage, the most important of which is to qualify directly to the next Olympic Games (Tokyo 2020).

Al Kuwari also praised the efforts of the organizing committee which succeeded in organising the tournament, as well as the large audience who watched the volleyball games from inside Al-Gharafa courts.

The Qatari national team aspires to win the gold medal, especially since it qualified for it, as it includes Ahmad Tejan and the world number 14 Sherif Younis.

The Qatari national team has achieved many continental and international successes in the recent period, where it reached advanced positions for the first time in its history, and became a difficult number in the competitions in the light of its continued participation in many international tournaments with a high rating in the game of 5, 4 and 3 stars, which give high rating points.

The organizing committee of the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 announced that the public can enter the courts and attend the games for free. Qatar 2019 World Beach Games is an extraordinary event that is being held for the first time in the history of beach sports.

More than 1,200 athletes from 96 countries from five continents are competing in 14 competitions in four locations: the Katara Cultural Village, Aspire Zone, Al Gharafa Club and the Ritz-Carlton Doha's Legtaifiya Lagoon.



An action during the Group A beach volleyball match between Qatar and Chile yesterday.
PICTURE: ANVAR SADATH

Beach volleyball: Qatar down Chile to qualify for semi-finals

ARMSTRONG VAS
THE PENINSULA



Cherif Younousse once again led Qatar from the front to script a 2-0 (21-13, 21-18) win over Chile in the quarter-finals of the 4x 4 beach volleyball of the ANOC World Beach Games at Al Gharafa Club yesterday.

The hosts now take on Poland in today's semi-finals which starts at 6.00pm. Poland defeated Germany 21-11, 21-9 to qualify for the last four stage. In the other semi-final, USA downed Mozambique 21-14, 21-13 to make it to the semi-finals and will clash with Indonesia who rallied after losing the first set to win 23-25, 21-16, 15-9 against Australia.

Younousse was delighted with the win and said their target is now to win gold.

"It's a big step, yes, but I think we can do better. There are some things we missed, but inshallah, the next game we try to avoid that. Now everybody has their eyes on us, so we need to be ready 100%, to beat each team that is in front of us. It's a good experience," said Younousse after the win over Chile.

"We focused for every single ball. Fight, fight for each ball. We'll try to keep that focus the next two games," he added.

Younousse they have been trying to regroup after injury to team-mate Ahmed Tijan, who will miss the Games."Yeah, he's still hurt. He's out of the tournament. He just supports the team. He's out for a few weeks. It's a big blow. But we can manage."

Qatar topped Group A a after winning three consecutive games, where they beat Indonesia, and followed it up by beating United States of America and Germany. Meanwhile, the women's semi-final will begin from 4.00pm. Beach volleyball powerhouse Brazil kept themselves in course for gold by qualifying for the last four stage.

Also making it to the semi-finals were United States of America, Australia and Canada.

Brazil downed Gambia 21-6, 21-9 while Australia edged past Czech republic 21-14, 21-14. Canada packed enough fire power in their spikes to get past the defensive wall of Nigeria 21-11, 22-20. United States also qualified after getting past the tough challenge of Vanuatu 21-6, 21-9.

Fan zone offers thrilling experience for everyone

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Fans attending the inaugural edition of the ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 will have the privilege of enjoying an array of entertaining events and activities lined up at the Fan Zone at the Katara Beach.

Located behind the basketball competition arena, the zone, which opens to the public between 4pm-11pm each day till the closing ceremony of the competition on October 16, offers spectators the unique hospitality and entertainment Qatar is globally known for.

As a family-themed arena, children will equally have the opportunity of participating in several entertainment activities and games specially packaged for them as the adults also catch their fun. A number of giveaways and prizes are also lined up for spectators at some of the sports arena at the Games.

Entry to the Fan Zone is free and it gives visitors a chance to sample the excitement of the five-day long sports extravaganza in a truly thrilling atmosphere.

Speaking about the Fan Zone, the LOC Director of Marketing Sheikha Asma Al Thani said, "The ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 is not just about sports but a truly entertaining event specially packaged for the entire family. The fan zone is also a platform to unite communities and cultures from across the world. Every one is welcomed at the Fan Zone to enjoy array of activities lined up for them."

The ANOC World Beach Games will continue until October 16 at four venuesm namely Katara Beach, Al Gharaffa Stadium, Aspire Park and the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Doha.



Pakistan's Muhammad Inam celebrates after winning a gold medal in men's 90kg beach wrestling at the first ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019 at Katara Beach yesterday. Inam defeated Georgia's Dato Marsagishvili 5-2 in the final.





Qatar's Mubaraka Al Naimi in action during the beach tennis mixed doubles at Katara Beach yesterday.
PICTURE: ANGELOS ZYMARAS / LAUREL PHOTO SERVICES



Qatar's Mohamed Mutasem prepares to score against Australia during their beach handball quarter-final match at Al Gharafa, yesterday. PICTURE: ANVAR SADATH

Qatar cruise into semis with rout of Aussies

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

Hosts Qatar marched into the semi-finals of men's handball event at the first ANOC World Beach Games Qatar 2019, thrashing Australia in last night's last quarter-final at Al Gharafa Beach.

Al Annabis, who reached the knockout stage with five straight victories, displayed another commanding performance to outwit the Aussies 24-17, 21-14 on their way to the semi-finals.

Qatar will take on Brazil in tonight's semi-final after Spain will play against Sweden for a place in the men's final.

While it was another team effort from the hosts, Mutasem Mohamed emerged as the most standout performer, earning 17 points from 9 goals. Hani Kakhi also maintained his golden form firing 5 two-pointers while Mahmoud Hassaballa brought home 8 points.

Earlier Spain, who entered the knockout stage as fourth side from Group B, shocked Group A leaders Denmark 2-0 to enter the semi-finals.

The Spaniards looked outstanding against the European champions, winning the match 30-24, 20-17.

"I wasn't happy the last time we played against Denmark. They beat us 2-0. And since then I tried to focus to beat this team. Because the last time We did too many mistakes. We prepared ourselves not to repeat the mistakes and I am happy we clinched victory," Spain's Elhji Toure Jabby said after the win.

"We want to win every game till the final. We have to reach the final. We will give our best in the next match," he added.

Spain's Jesus Domingo Luis said: "We are very happy to win the match. Denmark is a very good team, European champions. We were in a very tough group with difficult teams like Croatia and Hungary and Qatar."

In other quarter-final, Sweden bounced back after losing the first set to overcome Hungary 2-1 with a 17-19, 22-20, 7-4 score-line. Brazil also entered the semi-final after defeating Croatia 2-1 with scores of 30-20, 16-17, 6-4.

The women's section yesterday saw, Brazil, Vietnam, USA and Hungary advancing to the semi-finals after winning their respective last-8 stage matches.

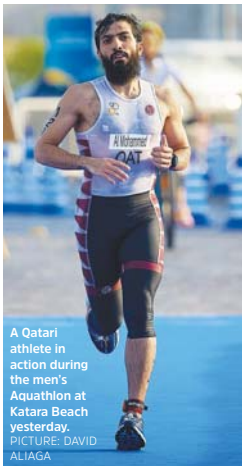
Brazil will square off with Denmark while Vietnam will clash against Hungary in today's semi-finals.

TODAY'S ACTION

3X3 BASKETBALL at Katara Beach, from 15:00
AQUATHLON at Katara Beach, from 6:00
BEACH HANDBALL at Al Gharafa Club, from 16:00
BEACH SOCCER at Katara Beach, from 16:00
BEACH TENNIS at Katara Beach, from 14:30
BEACH VOLLEYBALL 4X4 at Al Gharafa
BEACH WRESTLING at Katara Beach, from 16:30
KITEFOIL RACING at Kartara Beach, from 14:00
SKATEBOARDING PARK at Aspire, from 17.40



Spanish and Brazilian players vie for the ball possession during their beach soccer preliminary round match at Katara. PICTURE: NASSOS TRIANTAFYLLOU / LAUREL PHOTO SERVICES



A Qatari athlete in action during the men's Aquathlon at Katara Beach yesterday. PICTURE: DAVID ALIAGA



Action during the men's beach soccer preliminary match between Iran and Paraguay at Katara Beach. PICTURE: NASSOS TRIANTAFYLLOU



Action during the women's sakteboarding (park) at Aspire Zone yesterday. PICTURE: DAVID ALIAGA / LAUREL PHOTO SERVICES



Fans enjoy action during the fourth day of the ANOC World Beach Games at Al Gharafa, yesterday. PICTURE: ANVAR SADATH

Great Britain, Brazil women set for beach soccer showdown

ARMSTRONG VAS
THE PENINSULA

Great Britain will meet Brazil while Spain will take on Russia in today's women's beach soccer semi-finals of the ANOC World Beach Games, while in the men's section Asian powerhouse Iran along with Italy and Brazil made it to the last four stage.

In yesterday's last group stage matches of the women's section, Great Britain down their old rivals Russia to top the group, while Spain found an extra gear to beat Brazil in the final third.

Great Britain were familiar foes to the Russians, and it turned out to be a classic beach soccer battle.

Both sides were already in the semi-finals ahead of this tie, but finishing in the arguably favourable top spot of Group B was the prize for victory in yesterday's match.

Great Britain controlled the play as the clock ticked on and saw the game out effectively, bagging three points in the 4-1 win and topping the group in the process.

The Brazil and Spain clash was no different.

Both sides had already qualified for the semi-finals and toppoing Group A was no prize to be sniffed at.

Andrea Miron got the match underway with a fine hit in the eighth minute of play and despite the best efforts of the debuting Brazilians, La Roja led at the break.

However, Fabricio dos Santos ladies took just seconds to turn the match on its head, with Dani volleying home straight from the kick off, closely followed by an incredible solo goal from Barbara, who looped a long shot over the keeper, dropping the ball into the top corner.

Lorena extended the lead to 1-3 and it looked as if Brazil would run away with this match until Mellado hit an unstoppable penalty before the second break.

In the final third, Mendez's ladies flew onto the sand and Freseneda scored a nice hit, then set pieces from Carol Glez and Mellado pushed Spain into a two-goal lead.

A sublime backheel set Freseneda up for the final nail in the coffin for Brazil.

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision
SPORT





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Tuesday 15 October 2019



The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani meets with Mutaz Essa Barshim and Abderrehman Samba in Doha, yesterday. Barshim won the high jump gold while Samba bagged the bronze in the 400m hurdles during the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships held in the Qatari capital from September 27 to October 6.

OCA Director-General 'happy' to see Doha's interest in 2030 Asian Games

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

A senior official of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) yesterday backed Qatar's plan to bid for the 2030 Asian Games hosting, saying hosting of the continent's biggest sports event in the Gulf state will give a huge boost to sports in the region.

Husain Al Musallam, who is serving as the Director-General of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) since 2005, told *The Peninsula* that Qatar is playing major role in promoting sports in the Middle East and said he would welcome Qatar's bid for hosting the 2030 Asian Games.

"We will be happy if Qatar bid for the 2030 Asian Games because they have very good sports infrastructure. This will also boost development of sports in the Gulf and the Middle East region," Al Musallam said after attending the Education and Olympic Movement Development Seminar held at Al Gharafa Sports Club.

"I am not saying good things about Qatar because I am in Qatar. I am saying what I see, the huge role which Qatar is playing in boosting the sports in the region and the efforts they are making for it," he added.

A top Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) official recently said Qatar, which hosted the 2006 Asian Games, will be 'delighted' to organise the mega event again.

The 2006 Doha Asian Games is hailed as one of the best editions as it featured thousands of athletes, who battled for medals in 39 disciplines. The spectacular opening ceremony on December 1, 2006, which was watched by millions around Asia and the rest of the world, still lasts in the memory of fans.

Al Musallam sounded impressed with the organisation of the ongoing 1st ANOC World Beach Games, which Qatar is hosting on a short notice following the withdrawal of San Diego.

"Qatar is hosting the World Beach Games in a very good manner. They have done a very good job. Within two months, hosting so many athletes from around 100 countries is not easy. This shows how Qatar can host big events," said OCA's Director-General.

For his part, James McCloud, the International Olympic Committee's Director of the Department of Relations with National Olympic Committees and Olympic Solidarity, also lauded Qatar's role in promoting sports.

"Qatar recently organised the IAAF World Athletics Championships and now within few days I can see the same team working in ANOC World Beach Games, which shows their determination. I would like to congratulate Qatar for hosting these successful events," said McCloud.

"Qatar is a shining example of what can be done through clear vision, using sports as a better vehicle for change. Qatar has done very well since many years and I think many countries can learn from that," he added.

Khalil Ibrahim Al Jaber, QOC's Head of Sports Affairs and Saif Mohamed Al Naemi, OCA's Executive Director also gave presentations during the event.

QOA hosts Education and Olympic Movement Development Seminar

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar Olympic Academy (QOA) yesterday hosted Education and Olympic Movement Development Seminar, attended by a large number of sports dignitaries at Al Gharafa Sports Club.

Shekih Saood bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Assistant to the President of Amiri Diwan, James McCloud, International Olympic Committee, Director of the Department of Relations with National Olympic Committees and Olympic Solidarity and Husain Al Musallam, the Director-General of Olympic Council of Asia, were among the speakers.

They highlighted the importance of education and Olympic movement development and also spoke about Qatar's contribution towards promotion of sports in the region.

Earlier, Jassim Rashid Al Buainain, Secretary-General of Qatar Olympic Committee and President of QOA gave the opening speech.



Jassim Rashid Al Buainain, Secretary-General of Qatar Olympic Committee and President of Qatar Olympic Academy, presenting a memento to Husain Al Musallam, the Director-General of Olympic Council of Asia.

Shekih Saood bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Assistant to the President of Amiri Diwan, speaking during the Education and Olympic Movement Development Seminar, hosted by Qatar Olympic Academy at Al Gharafa Sports Club yesterday. James McCloud, the International Olympic Committee's Director of the Department of Relations with National Olympic Committees and Olympic Solidarity and Husain Al Musallam, the Director-General of Olympic Council of Asia were also present. PICTURES: ANVAR SADATH

