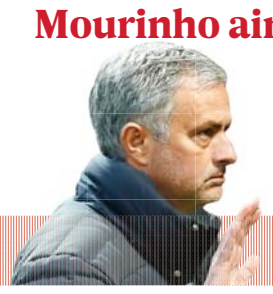
The Peninsula Local focus, Global vision

Sport

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022



Mourinho aims to complete unique European haul



There's nothing special to be done, just us to be us as a team. Knowing the qualities we have, knowing the limitations we have. For me, no matter how the final ends, this is a positive season for us.

Jose Mourinho

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TODAY - EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE FINAL: Roma vs Feyenoord **IPL (ELIMINATOR):** Lucknow vs Bangalore in Kolkata

QFA to host training camps for seven Asian teams and five friendlies

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

The Qatar Football Association (QFA) will host training camps for the national teams of Australia, Jordan, India, Nepal, East Timor, Oman and New Zealand, which will include five friendly matches from May 28 to June 9, in Doha.

The hosting of the camps comes within the framework of the excellent relations between QFA and its counterparts from friendly Asian federations, under the cooperation agreements signed between them.

The seven teams will set up training camps as part of their preparations for various upcoming events.

Five friendly matches will be held, the first between the Jordan U-23 team and its Indian counterpart on Saturday at Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium at 7:00pm.

The Jordanian team is preparing to participate in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup finals in Uzbekistan from June 1-19, where they will play in Group B, along with Australia, Iraq and Kuwait.

On the same day, Nepal and East Timor will meet at 7pm at the Grand Hamad Stadium, while Jordan and Australia will face off at 9pm on June 1 at Al Janoub Stadium.

Meanwhile, Oman will play Nepal on June 3 at 7pm at Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium, and finally New Zealand face Oman on June 9, at 9pm at the Education City Stadium.

Australia's camp comes as part of their final preparations for the Asian World Cup qualifying play-off match against the UAE on June 7 at Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium. In the same round of the qualifiers, New Zealand and Costa Rica will meet in the intercontinental play-off match 2 on June 14 at the same stadium.



Seven Asian countries will set up training camps in Qatar from May 28 to June 9.

The rest of the teams are also preparing for the final round of qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023, with the rounds' matches set to be held on June 8, 11 and 14.

This is not the first time that the QFA has hosted preparation camps for the teams from Asia and elsewhere, having recently hosted camps for Algeria, Syria, Ghana and Gambia, in preparation for the World Cup qualifiers for Africa and Asia, and also the recent edition of the African Cup of Nations.

Doha has also hosted many important official matches recently, including the Oceania qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, from which New Zealand qualified for the final round.

The Iraqi national team also played their matches in the third round of the Asian qualifiers for the World Cup in Doha, especially following Qatar's great success in organising and hosting many major tournaments in the recent period amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Abdulla Al Tamimi poses with the trophy along with Qatar Tennis, Squash, Badminton Federation Secretary General Tariq Zainal.

Qatar's Al Tamimi bags second title of season

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

World No.48 Abdulla Al Tamimi secured his second title of the 2021-2022 season with a win on home soil at the QSF 3, as he beat Mexico's Leonel Cardenas in the final at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha, yesterday.

The Qatari No.1 has struggled with injuries this season, seeing his ranking drop out of the world's top 50 at one point, but following a win at the Life Time Atlanta Open, and making it to the second round of the CIB PSA World Championships Cairo, he came back to his home nation in some good form.

Al Tamimi came into the tournament as the No.3 seed, and after receiving a bye through to the second round, he came up against England's Charlie Lee.

The Qatari found himself 2-1 down, but fought back to win in five, winning both of the last two games 11-5, to advance through to the quarter finals of the competition.

In the last eight, the World No.48 overcame Emyr Evans in four games, winning the first two games, before having to regroup after the Welshman took the third. He then got the better of Argentina's Leandro Romiglio, who had downed three seeded players en route to the last four, in straight games.

Al Tamimi then took on Leonel Cardenas, the World No.37, in the final, and the Qatari was in complete control throughout the match.

Playing in front of his home crowd, he won the first two games comfortably. Although the Mexican tried to fight back, it was Al Tamimi that took the victory, to claim his second title this season, and first in from of his adoring home crowd since 2017.

AL TAMIMI'S ROAD TO TITLE

Round Two
Beat Charlie Lee (ENG) 3-2: 6-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5 (64m)

Quarter Finals
Beat Emyr Evans (WAL) 3-1: 11-8, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9 (44m)

Semi-Finals
Beat Leandro Romiglio (ARG) 3-0: 11-8, 14-12, 11-6 (38m)

Final
Beat [2] Leonel Cardenas (MEX) 3-0: 11-2, 11-6, 11-9 (28m)

Qualifiers: Qatar, Bahrain in same groups

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Qatar have been drawn in Group B for the AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 Qualifiers, the official draw revealed yesterday.

Al Annabi's opponents in the group stage which will kick off on September 10 will be hosts Bahrain, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Qatar U-20 will take on Nepal on September 12 and Bhutan two days later.

Their third match will be against Bangladesh. Qatar will meet hosts Bahrain on the final day of the qualifiers.

Meanwhile, Qatar were drawn in Group C for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Bahrain 2023 Qualifiers.

A total of 44 teams, divided into 10 groups, will battle for 11 qualifying slots from October 1-9. Qatar's Group C opponents will be Oman, Iraq, Lebanon and hosts Bahrain.

AFC U20 ASIAN CUP UZBEKISTAN 2022 QUALIFIERS DRAW

Group A: Saudi Arabia (H), China PR, Myanmar, Maldives, Uzbekistan
Group B: Qatar, Bahrain (H),Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan
Group C: Japan, Yemen, Palestine, Laos (H), Guam
Group D: Jordan (H), Chinese Taipei, Syria, Turkmenistan, N. Mariana Islands
Group E: Korea Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia (H), Sri Lanka
Group F: Indonesia (H), Vietnam, Hong Kong, Timor-Leste
Group G: Thailand, Oman (H), Philippines, Afghanistan
Group H: Australia, Iraq (H), India, Kuwait
Group I: Tajikistan (H), Cambodia, Lebanon, Singapore
Group J: UAE, IR Iran, Kyrgyz Republic (H), Brunei Darussalam

Qatar table tennis team claims silver medal at GCC Games

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

Qatar men's table tennis team yesterday secured silver medal at the third GCC Games after going down against Saudi Arabia in the final at Youth Complex in Kuwait.

On their way to 3-0 win, Saudi Arabia took lead through Abdulaziz Al Abbad, who beat Qatar's Mohammed Hussein 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11 in a thrilling match. Ahmed Al Mohannadi then gave Qatar hopes of an equaliser by winning the first two games against Ali Al Khadrawi before the Saudi Arabia player bounced back to complete an 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-1 victory.

Abdulaziz Bu Shulaybi wrapped up win for Saudi Arabia after his 9-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-6 win over Fahad Al Mughanne.

After the completion of team event, Qatari paddlers will be seen in action in the singles and doubles events, which will get underway today.

Meanwhile,Qatari team got off to a winning start in padel team event as they defeated Bahrain 3-0 after a brilliant show. The pair of Mohammed Abdulla and Abdulaziz Al Kuwari defeated Ali Dawani and Husain Dawani 6-2, 6-1 before Mohammed Al Kuwari and Abdulla Al Hijji combined to beat Rashed Alobaidli and Khaled Al Thawadi 6-3, 6-3 to give Qatar 2-0 lead.

Mohammed Al Khanji and Jabor Al Mutawa sealed 3-0 victory for Qatar with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Mohamed Abdulla and Omar Qaed. Qatar will take on Saudi Arabia in their second match tomorrow.

In volleyball, Qatar registered another victory blanking Kuwait 3-0 with a 25-15, 25-21, 27-25 score-line.

Al Annabi, who defeated Oman and Saudi Arabia in their first two matches, will now meet Bahrain in their next Group A match, today.

After yesterday's proceedings, Qatar remained third on medals table with 12 gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze medals. Hosts Kuwait lead the table with an overall tally of 64 medals including 24 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze medals while Bahrain are second with 19 gold, 19 silver and 14 bronze medals.



Qatari table tennis team poses for a group photo after winning silver medal at the GCC Games in Kuwait yesterday.

AFC U-23 Asian Cup: Qatar give final touches to preparations

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Qatar players are busy giving finishing touches to their preparations for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022, which gets underway on June 1.

Al Annabi will wrap up their training with second friendly against Jordan tomorrow before leaving for Uzbekistan to take part in 16-team event.

Qatar are in Group A of the tournament with hosts Uzbekistan, Iran and Turkmenistan. The team, coached by Nicolas Cordova, will open their campaign with a match against Iran on June 1 before meeting Uzbekistan on June 4. Their last group match against Turkmenistan is scheduled on June 7. The matches will be played in Tashkent.

Meanwhile, Qatar U-23 drew 1-1 with Jordan in their first friendly match at Al Janoub Stadium on Monday. The hosts took the lead through Hashem Ali in the 9th minute with Mohammed Abu Rezek earning an equaliser for Jordan in the 20th minute.

Qatar U-23 players and officials during their training camp in Uzbekistan.

Al Annabi recently returned from Baku after their overseas camp in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In their build up for the tournament, Qatar also featured in Dubai Friendly Championship besides playing several friendly matches.

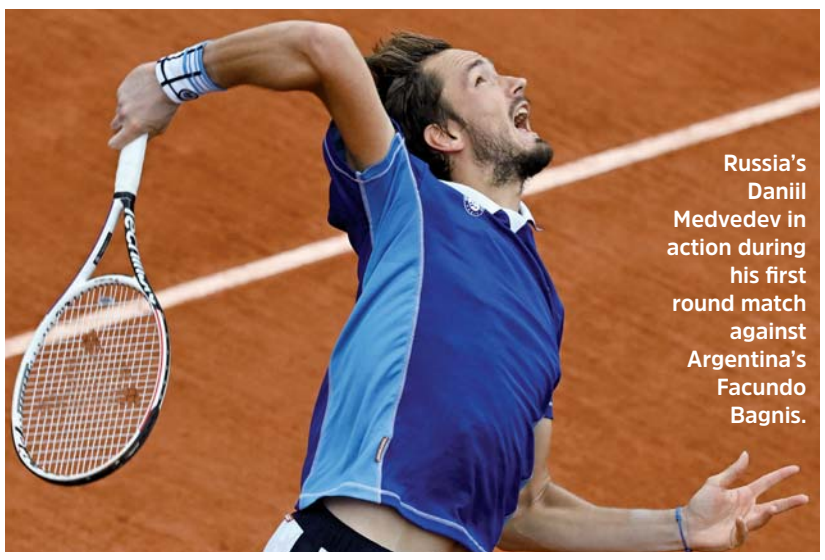
The national squad announced by Cordova includes players mostly from the QNB Stars League (QSL) sides.

QATAR U-23 SQUAD

Ahmed Al Janahi, Andrei Siahputra (Al Gharafa), Salah Zakaria, Mohamed Al Nuaimi (Al Duhail), Jassem Jaber, Ahmed Suhail, Mahmoud Bundi (Al Arabi), Osama Al Tiri, Hashem Ali, Ali Mal Allah (Al Rayyan), Abdul Rashid Ibrahim, Abdullah Al Sulaiti, Jassem Al Sharshani (Al Ahli), Youssef Abdul Razzaq, Mustafa Tariq, Faisal Mohammed (Al Sadd), Youssef Ayman, Jassem Al Muhairi, Khaled Waleed (Qatar SC), Muhammad Ayyash (Al Wakrah), Haroun Diab (Al Khor), Marwan Sharif (Al Shamal), Al Makki Mohsen (Al Kharaitiyat)

Medvedev cruises past Bagnis to begin Roland Garros campaign

REUTERS – PARIS



Russia's Daniil Medvedev in action during his first round match against Argentina's Facundo Bagnis.

World number two Daniil Medvedev showed no signs of discomfort from his recent hernia operation, kicking off his French Open campaign with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 win over Argentine Facundo Bagnis yesterday.

The 2021 US Open champion, who briefly held the world number one ranking earlier in the season, played his first clay event of 2022 last week in Geneva after a two-month break but lost in the opening round to Frenchman Richard Gasquet.

Clay courts have not been Medvedev's strong suit and he was 0-4 at Roland Garros before last year's tournament but turned around his dismal record by reaching the quarter-final of the 2021 edition of the Grand Slam.

"I love Roland Garros, especially since last year," Medvedev said with a smile during his on-court interview.

"Before that I don't know if I actually loved it given that I was out on the Sunday when the tournament was actually starting on the Monday.

"But now it's Tuesday and I'm still here. I've been well after my surgery, I didn't think I would be able to play on clay. But with the help of the doctors and the physios I've been able to be back on my feet to even play a match on clay last week and I'm 100% ready to play Roland Garros."

After trading service breaks at the start of yesterday's contest on a chilly and windy morning on Court Suzanne Lenglen, Medvedev took control of his first match-up against the left-handed Argentine, ranked 103rd in the world currently.

The 32-year-old Bagnis, who retired with injury during his first round in Geneva, had his right leg heavily taped and suffered a fall while serving during the second set.

But he continued playing despite limping between points amid applause from the crowd.

The pair traded breaks of serve once again early in the third set but Medvedev, who hit 35 winners while keeping his unforced errors in check, kept his composure and broke his opponent twice more to seal the contest.

Medvedev will next meet the winner of the match between Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis and Laslo Djere of Serbia for a place in the third round.

FRENCH OPEN RESULTS (SELECTED)

MEN'S SINGLES: FIRST ROUND

Daniil Medvedev (2), Russia, def. Facundo Bagnis, Argentina, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.
Holger Rune, Denmark, def. Denis Shapovalov (14), Canada, 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (4).
Andrey Rublev (7), Russia, def. Kwon Soon Woo, South Korea, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.
Casper Ruud (8), Norway, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-2, 7-6 (0).
Hubert Hurkacz (12), Poland, def. Giulio Zeppieri, Italy, 7-5, 6-2, 7-5.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: FIRST ROUND

Jelena Ostapenko (13), Latvia, def. Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, 6-1, 6-4.
Danielle Collins (9), United States, def. Viktoriya Tomova, Bulgaria, 6-0, 6-4.
Karolina Pliskova (8), Czech Republic, def. Tessah Andrianjafitrimo, France, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Caroline Garcia, France, def. Taylor Townsend, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Tears flow as Tsonga retires after French Open defeat

REUTERS – PARIS



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga with an award after playing his final match before retiring.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga gave Norway's eighth-seeded Casper Ruud a run for his money in a tight French Open first round battle but predictably headed into a tear-jerking retirement with a 6-7(6), 7-6(4), 6-2, 7-6(0) defeat yesterday.

The Frenchman, whose career had been hampered by multiple injuries in recent years, fought for almost four hours before bowing out in tears.

The court Philippe Chatrier crowd gave him a standing ovation as the 37-year-old knelt on the red dirt after being unable to put up more of a fight because of shoulder pain.

It was the latest in a series of physical problems that saw the former world number five drop to 297 in the ATP rankings.

Tsonga, one of only three men to beat Rafael Nadal, Novak Dokovic and Roger Federer when each was world number one and an Australian Open runner-up in 2008, had not won a match on clay in almost three years and there was no miracle yesterday - albeit a lot of hope after a solid opening set.

Tsonga, who won the 2017 Davis Cup with France, was greeted on court by all of his former coaches and his parents wearing a 'Merci Jo' t-shirt, as well as his children.

His former Davis Cup team mates Richard Gasquet, Gilles Simon and Gael Monfils also came onto the court to embrace him.

"It's great day for me. The day when I say goodbye to my long-time companion. I've never looked back but now is the time to do it," Tsonga told the crowd.

"I want to thank all the people who helped me achieve my dream of becoming a professional tennis player.

"Thanks to the French tennis federation and all my coaches who supported me even when I was extremely silly. I managed to be good amid the best generation of players and I'm happy about it.



Jacobs withdraws from Eugene Diamond League meet

REUTERS – ROME

Italy's double Olympic champion Lamont Marcell Jacobs has withdrawn from this weekend's Diamond League meeting in Eugene, Oregon, due to a muscle injury, Italy's athletics federation (FIDAL) said.

The federation said Jacobs picked up the injury in his 100 metres win last week at a meet in Savona, Italy.

Speaking after the race, which was his first over 100 metres since claiming gold in Tokyo, Jacobs said he had struggled and that he lacked sharpness.

"The federal medical staff has prescribed the two-time Tokyo Olympic champion 10 days of rest and combined rehabilitation protocol," FIDAL said in a statement.

"Jacobs will therefore remain in Rome where, with coach Paolo Camossi, he will proceed to full recovery in view of future appointments."

Jacobs became the first Italian to win Olympic 100 metres gold in Tokyo last August, setting a European record time of 9.80 seconds in the final, before adding a second gold to his collection in the 4x100 metres relay.

He ended his 2021 season early citing exhaustion and returned to the track in February.

Mourinho aims to complete unique European haul

REUTERS – TIRANA



AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho.

Jose Mourinho said he does not think he is 'The Special One' anymore but the AS Roma coach is targeting a unique achievement of becoming the first coach to win all European trophies when they play Feyenoord in the Europa Conference League final.

Mourinho, who has won the Champions League, Europa League and the UEFA Cup, now has the chance to win the inaugural third-tier European title and Roma's first trophy in 14 years in today's final against the Dutch side in Tirana.

The Portuguese coach famously dubbed himself 'a special one' when he first took charge of Chelsea in 2004, a moniker he now seems keen to leave in the past.

"If I win I will become the first one to win all European trophies, but that's only if I win," Mourinho told reporters yesterday.

"The 'Special One' story is an old story. It was when I was at the beginning (of my career). When you have more maturity and stability, you think more about the people and less about yourself.

"It's an old story. I don't believe in magic. When you arrive at a final after a season of work, the work is done. It's the team's moment, not the moment of an individual," he said.

Mourinho, who took charge of Roma this season, led the club to a sixth-placed finish in Serie A to qualify for the Europa League next season. The club is seeking its first trophy since they lifted the Coppa Italia in 2008.

"I don't believe in magical potions, I don't believe in magical spells," Mourinho added.

"There's nothing special to be done, just us to be us as a team. Knowing the qualities we have, knowing the limitations we have.

"For me, no matter how the final ends, this is a positive season for us."

Ballon d'Or to be awarded on October 17

REUTERS – PARIS

The Ballon d'Or award for the best soccer player in the world will be awarded on October 17, organisers France Football magazine said yesterday.

The prestigious trophy will now be awarded on the basis of a regular season from August to July rather than a calendar year.



France Football said the nominees will be revealed on August 12. The ceremony in October will be held at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris.

Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to the 2021 Copa America title, won the Ballon d'Or for a record-extending seventh time last year, beating Robert Lewandowski and Jorginho.

Miller blitz sends Gujarat to IPL final

REUTERS – NEW DELHI

Gujarat Titans stormed into the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in their debut season after David Miller's blistering half-century secured a seven-wicket victory against Rajasthan Royals in yesterday's qualifier in Kolkata.

Needing 16 off the final over from Prasidh Krishna, Miller smashed three sixes in a row to book their place in Sunday's final on their home ground in Ahmedabad.

South African Miller's unbeaten 68 off 38 balls earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Inaugural champions Rajasthan can still make the final by beating the winners of today's eliminator between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Rajasthan posted a strong 188-6 after being put into bat at Eden Gardens.

Jos Buttler, the tournament's leading scorer, had gone five innings without a fifty and the Englishman bounced back with a breezy 89.Gujarat lost opener Wriddhiman Saha in the first over but Shubman Gill and Matthew Wade scored 35 each to keep their chase on track.

Gill and Wade fell in quick succession but Pandya, who made an unbeaten 40, and Miller saw Gujarat home with a century stand for the unbroken fourth wicket.

Brief scores: Gujarat Titans 191 for 3 (Miller 68*, Hardik 40*) beat Rajasthan Royals 188 for 6 (Buttler 89, Samson 47, Hardik 1-14) by seven wickets

Mushfiqur's 175 puts Bangladesh in control

AP – DHAKA



Bangladesh's Liton Das hugs team-mate Mushfiqur Rahim during the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka, yesterday. Pic: BCB

Mushfiqur Rahim's unbeaten 175 helped Bangladesh move into a strong position in the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka on Tuesday despite a fightback led by visiting captain Dimuth Karunaratne late on Day 2.

Mushfiqur and Liton Das (141) scored all but 49 of Bangladesh's runs in its total of 365, combining for a record sixth-wicket partnership of 272 runs after the hosts had been reeling at 24-5 at one point.

Bangladesh, which had six batters dismissed for ducks, was all out soon after lunch and only took two wickets in nearly two sessions as Sri Lanka fought back to trail by 222 runs at stumps.

Karunaratne was not out on 70, having shared a 95-run stand with Oshada Fernando (57) for the opening wicket as a disciplined Bangladesh attack struggled to get any assistance from the pitch.

Fernando reviewed successfully to overturn an lbw appeal when on 4 in the first over of the innings, while Karunaratne could have gone for 37 had skipper Mominul Haque not dropped him at short square-leg. Pacer Ebadot Hossain (1-31) broke through with the wicket of Fernando, who edged a length delivery to slip soon after reaching his fifth half-century.

Just before stumps, left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan (1-19) gave Bangladesh another breakthrough, trapping Kusal Mendis lbw for 11. Mendis returned to join the team after being hospitalized with chest pain on Monday.

Bangladesh began the day on 277-5 and Kusan Rajitha struck in the eighth over, having Liton caught at second slip to end his long stand with Mushfiqur.

Rajitha struck again three balls later, securing his first five-wicket haul in a test innings by getting Mosaddek Hossain (0) caught behind to a delivery that moved slightly.

Mushfiqur remained resolute, reaching 150 - from 291 balls - when he nudged a delivery from offspinner Ramesh Mendis past square leg. Asitha Fernando dismissed Taijul Islam (15) and Khaled Ahmed (0) but Mushfiqur resisted further with No. 11 Ebadot Hossain.

Mushfiqur ran out of partners, denying him a fourth double century, when Hossain was run out for 0 after facing 20 deliveries. Bangladesh's captain was at the crease for 527 minutes and played 355 balls for a knock that included 21 boundaries. It was his fourth highest score in Tests.

BRIEF SCORES

SRI LANKA 143 for 2 (Karunaratne 70*, Oshada 57, Shakib 1-19) trail **BANGLADESH** 365 (Mushfiqur 175*, Litton 141, Rajitha 5-64, Asitha 4-93) by 222 runs