**Sanchez backs young Qatar squad ahead of opener**

Qatar will open their AFC Asian Cup campaign against Lebanon today.

Sanchez said.

“Now they’re in the first team and they’re very talented players with the qualities to compete and play in Asia, and of course we want to build by the team ourselves against everyone.”

“We will continue in the partnership we need to be OK in all of them.”

Qatar have twice reached the quarter-finals of the AFC Asian Cup in 2004 and 2019, and Sanchez welcomes much youth among the 24-man squad for the tournament in 2023.

“Now they’re in the first team and they’re very talented players with the qualities to compete and play in Asia, and of course we want to build by the team ourselves against everyone.”

“I’m getting a good feeling back because I’ve only done about 10% of the campaign and it’s a group of very talented players with the qualities to compete and get results.”

“Now we’re the first team and it’s a group of - we try to get them to play in Asia, and we think we can compete with the quality among the 24-man squad for the tournament in 2023.”

“AFC Asian Cup Qatar vs Lebanon, 7PM

**Dakar Rally**

**Loeb wins second stage, De Villiers leads**

Nasser al-Attiyah is a clear favourite’ for 2019 Dakar Sainz

Peugeot driver Sebastien Loeb and co-driver Daniel Elena in action during the ongoing Dakar Rally 2019. (AFP)

**FootBall**

Iraq stun Vietnam with late Adnan free kick

Pages driver Sebastian Loeb and co-driver Daniel Elena in action during the ongoing Dakar Rally 2019. (AP)

**Gulf Times**

**SPORT**

**FootBall**

**AFC ASIAN CUP**

**Qatar vs Lebanon, 7PM**

**Qatar head coach Felix Sanchez is confident in the young Qatar squad that he has selected with the best to the country’s pre-season camp ahead of their first match against Lebanon in the AFC Asian Cup in January 2019.”

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Iraqi-American midfielder Yoshida wants to fire pressure

If I am honest, we also need to be even better than we were in the second half, which was obviously better than the first.

Japan needs to be able to cope with that pressure obviously and we need to grow, to not freeze up. “

“I am sure we will develop as the tournament goes on. I am confident, we also need to be even better than we were in the second half which was obviously better than the first.”

Yoshida wants Japan to fight pressure

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Australia will need to improve on their handiwork in the second half, where they were underwhelming.

“Japan needs to be able to cope with that pressure obviously and we need to grow, to not freeze up,” said Moriyasu.

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Japan needs to be able to cop...
Liverpool knocked out by Wolves

“I am very pleased, the team performed very well.”

By Sports Reporter

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola was delighted with the way his team performed very well in a tough encounter against Liverpool during their FA Cup clash in Wolverhampton on Monday. (Reuters)

“Like I said many times, I am proud of my team, ninth in the Premier League, had a great chance to get the FA Cup,” said Guardiola after his side showed great resolve to come from behind and win the match 3-1. "We need more of these games to be played in this competition, we need to make a breakthrough at an early stage, but we didn’t do it, so we need to improve.”

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp backed his side to bounce back after losing to Wolves. "I think we have won the last four matches, but we are not happy. What we did today was not good enough,” said Klopp. "We have to improve in the next game.”

The match was a must-win for both sides as they are still in four competitions this season having reached the fourth round of FA Cup and the last 16 of the FA Community Shield. They will now face each other in the semi-finals of the Premier League Cup.

Guardiola was asked about his team’s performance and he said, “We need to improve in the next game. We need to play better.”

The German manager added, “We need to improve in the next game. We need to play better.”

Pep defends Man City’s youth record following Diaz departure

By Reuters

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has defended his youth development record following the departure of talented striker Brahim Diaz.

"Brahim has done very well," said Guardiola. "He’s trained with us for a year and a half. He’s had a lot of games and he’s scored goals. "We need to improve in the next game.”

Guardiola also spoke about the team’s future and said, "We need to improve in the next game. We need to play better.”

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Pochettino wants to be at Spurs for ‘20 years’

By Reuters

Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has said he wants to stay at the club for two decades after an impressive first season in charge.

“I want to stay here for 20 years,” said Pochettino. "I want to be the manager of Tottenham for 20 years. "I want to be the manager of Tottenham for 20 years.”

Pochettino has already led Tottenham to the Europa League semi-finals and the Carabao Cup final. "I want to be the manager of Tottenham for 20 years.”

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Manchester United to open ‘experience centres’ in China

By Reuters

Manchester United announced plans to open ‘experience centres’ in China, with the Premier League winners partnering with activities in the world’s most populous country. The first centres, developed in partnership with Chinese property developer Harves, are scheduled to open in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen during the 2019-20 season. They will be home to football academies, restaurants and a club store, the Premier League said in a statement. The centres will also host the club’s annual tournament for the top 12 teams in the English FA Youth Cup, the Premier League said in a statement.

Portuguese defender Pepe returns to Porto

By Reuters

The 36-year-old Pepe, who models himself on Paris Saint-Germain’s Marquinhos and has played for the club this season, with Umtiti and Todibo at Barcelona. Central defender, however, has proven a problem for the club this season, with Lamine Kone experiencing a hamstring injury, while and Cedric Soares has also been ruled out. "We need to improve in the next game,” said Guardiola.
D ecking champion Angelique Kerber crashed into the Australian Open by the controversial 1984 Olympic Games at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, where she was not ranked in the tournament. The German made her Olympic debut in 1996 in Atlanta and has won a total of 17 Grand Slam titles. Kerber's first Grand Slam title came at the 2013 Australian Open, where she defeated Serena Williams in the final.

“I always play to win your first tournament match and I’m happy to be through. Hopefully I can go back-to-back, but there’s still a long way to go.”

“At the moment, I’m happy with myself. It’s easy to see how far I’ve come from 2015, when I became the world number one. It’s a little bit sad that amateur tennis has disappeared and the Olympic Games lost their importance, but playing in the Olympic Games and winning a gold medal was a big moment in my career.”

Kerber’s success at the Australian Open has encouraged her to consider running for the US Open in 2019, believing she can win more than 24 singles titles in her career. She has already won 14 Grand Slam titles in singles and doubles, and has won a total of 24 major titles in all competitions.

“Kerber through as Stephens avoids shock loss”

Stephanie Graf, with 22 Grand Slam titles, is the greatest women’s tennis player of all time. Her achievements are unmatched in the history of the sport, and she remains a role model for aspiring players around the world.

Kerber is still finding her form, but has shown glimpses of her best tennis in recent tournaments. A strong showing at the Australian Open would give her a chance to reclaim the world number one ranking. Kerber will face a tough challenge in the round of 16, but she is determined to make the most of her opportunities.

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Late surge lifts Lakers over Mavs, Bucks down Jazz

I was actually very pleased with our competitive spirit. I thought guys were giving it their all.

As records fall, has 3-point shooting reached its peak?

Y oung stars Brandon Ingram and Lonzo Ball each scored 19 points, but New Orleans Pelicans fell 125-113 to the visiting Los Angeles Lakers on Monday, ending the Lakers’ 10-10 NBA record over the past three years.

On Tuesday, the Lakers continued their West Coast trip, playing against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday, as the Lakers remain winless over the Timberwolves this season. The Timberwolves defeated the Lakers 114-95.

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FOCUS

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Broncos’ Fangio, their final HC candidate

T he Denver Broncos have more than likely ruled out bringing back head coach Vic Fangio, according to ESPN’s Adam Schefter.

General manager John Elway says Fangio is the replacement for offensive coordinator Rich Gannon. The two are expected to meet later this month, according to ESPN.

The 60-year-old Fangio, the previous defensive coordinator of the Denver Broncos, was named the replacement for John Fox on Monday. "Everybody just wants to get back to the Super Bowl," Fangio told ESPN's Steve Levy after the announcement. "We're going to do whatever it takes to get that done."

Fangio met with Elway and wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders under protest of the GM, who is deferring to the coach.

The GM is deferring to the coach.

"I've got zero problems with that, " Fangio said. "But also, selfishly, I would love for him to stay. "

According to the Broncos, Fangio and Elway will name Tennessee Titans offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur as their next head coach, according to ESPN.

The Titans have not announced Fangio as the replacement for Mike Vrabel as their offensive coordinator of the Titans.

"Not speaking too soon - it..."

The 39-year-old LaFleur, who was fired by Packers president/CEO Mark Murphy on December 31, was stunned by the Arizona Cardinals hiring his former offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur.

"Of course, as a defensive coach, I'm always going to be completely behind my own position to be number one," Fangio said.

"I will be the first head coach for the San Francisco 49ers that will have first-round picks. Not speaking too soon - it..."

Fangio had been interviewing for the Oakland Raiders' head coaching job since earlier this month. The Raiders are slated to begin their season in Las Vegas in 2020, but their lease at the Oakland Coliseum runs through 2019, so the team will play 60,000-seat Oakland Coliseum for the 2019 season and their new stadium in Sin City not ready until 2020.

"In all honesty, Jon's got final say..." Fangio said.

He previously interviewed for the head coach with both the New England Patriots and Carolina Panthers.

"For almost a month-long interview process," Fangio said. "I will become the 15th head coach in the NFL's history in rushing."

He will become the 15th head coach to have 15 rushing touchdowns in a season, joining 14 previous head coaches who had the same milestone.

"When we look at his personnel..." Fangio said.

"Fired.

...But also, selfishly, I would love for him to stay."
Harrington takes captaincy with some trepidation

WADA team faces Moscow for laboratory info today

EQUESTRIAN COURSE

Korean team in latest reconciliation step

Randball World Championships

Sport

Spending the week in Moscow to stop the clock on the case, WADA's chair Sir Craig Reedie said: "This week's mission to Moscow is only part of our strategy. The process is not actually in court at the moment, but that is where we want it to be."
India asks ‘Is King Kohli better than Tendulkar?’

Kohli last year became the fastest to reach 10000 runs in ODIs – beating Tendulkar’s record.

In his 10 ODI SCORING TAILOR-MADE for Australia ODIs, NZ tour wrap up their tour with a one-day series win.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson is presented with a trophy by NZ Cricket director Dame Puleston at Saxton Field in Nelson yesterday.

India hails ‘Wizards of Oz’ after breakthrough win

India’s historic success in Australia has been lauded generating headlines around the world.

New Zealand batsman Devon Conway said Australia were “still the one to beat” after India defeated them in their first two ODI matches.

New Zealand will play three one-dayers in New Delhi starting on March 4, with the series culminating in a World Cup warm-up match on March 28.

New Zealand are currently ranked third in the world and have secured wins over England, Australia and South Africa in the Twenty20 World Cup.

The series will also act as preparation for the World Cup in the West Indies and is expected to be a major test for both teams.

India has not lost a Test series in Australia since 1987 when they beat them 4-1.

India has won 46 of 60 ODIs against New Zealand, losing 15 and drawing 9.

New Zealand have won 23 of 60 ODIs against India, losing 34 and drawing 3.

India and New Zealand will be looking to build on their recent successes and claim a series win in this contest.