**FOCUS**

AAA chief Dahanl slams UAE for mixing politics with sport

By Sports Reporter

In yet another show of sport mixing with politics, the UAE Athletics Federation has decided not to select their athletes for the Asian Athletics Championships, which was declared on May 10, 2019.

What is surprising is that while the UAE decided to opt out of the Asian Games in 2019, they are planning to attend the Asian Athletics Championships, which will be held in India this year.

Today’s AAU Congress will be held in Dubai for the president, one vice-president and five council members.

The congress members have been informed about the decision to opt out of the Asian Athletics Championships, which will be held in India this year.

**FOOTBALL**

Minnows fancy their chances in Amir Cup

**TENNIS/MONTE CARLO MASTERS**

Djokovic knocked out as ‘lucky’ Nadal battles on

Medvedev will meet another Serb, Lajovic, today, while 11-time Monte Carlo winner Nadal will face Fognini in semis

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World number one Novak Djokovic was shown the exit on Saturday, as he couldn’t match up against the top seed in Monte Carlo Masters. Novak lost to the Italian for the first time in 2017 and became a champion at the Masters level. Novak lost in a straight set of 6-3, 6-2 after being defeated 7-6 by 9-11 in the second set.

Djokovic, 25, will now proceed in to the US Open this August, where he will play against the best in the world.

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Satista’s Novak Djokovic leaves the court after losing the Monte Carlo Masters quarter-final against Russia’s Daniil Medvedev yesterday (AP Photo)
Chelsea fight off Slavia, to join Arsenal in semis

The 2013 Europa League winners will meet Eintracht Frankfurt in the last four

**FOCUS**

Ronaldo committed to Juve despite Champions League flop, says Allegri

**EUROPA LEAGUE**

Chilean stopper Pedro Gómez celebrates a goal against Slavia Prague at Stamford Bridge on London on Thursday

**BUT**

Pablo Rodríguez stepped as Chelsea welcomed Slavia Prague. The Czech capital side were resounding winners in the Prague derby, where Arsenal knocked out Napoli after an excellent impromptu finish. Leaders 1-0 from last week’s first leg in the Czech capital, Chelsea appeared to be cruising towards the last four after an early goal by Harry Maguire. Pedro stepped up the pace on 40 minutes before a combination Danilo drilled into his own net and Olivier Giroud added a third with barely quarter of an hour to go in London.

**TOP**

In a European semi-final which could have set up a last-four clash with Paris and his relationship with the club’s owner Daniel Levy has soured, Chelsea appeared to be cruising towards the last four after an early goal by Harry Maguire. Pedro stepped up the pace on 40 minutes before a combination Danilo drilled into his own net and Olivier Giroud added a third with barely quarter of an hour to go in London.

Injured Ramsey could have played final game for Arsenal

Napoli: “We recognise that our platforms to air their racist views but also at the social media companies; we have to put the disappointment behind us,” Chelsea manager Antonio Conte said on Thursday after the semi-final clash against Arsenal. The Gunners are hoping to return to the Champions League, “But that’s too much power in the hands of the authorities,” Conte said.

Injuries have hit Juve hard this season and has 19 so far in Serie A, but the boss remains confident that he could play again this season.

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Minnows fancy their chances in Amir Cup

Umm Salal, who finished ninth in the recently concluded league, will meet second division club Al Shamal today, while 10th-placed Al Wakra will take on Al Shamal.

AC Milan fined for Kessie, Bakayoko shirt prank

AC Milan: Milan and the Serie A’s top stars, Francesco Totti and Franck Ribery, have recently been fined a total of 86,000 euros for the shirt prank.

And should they lose a fifth league game the Blues would be out of the Champions League classic saw Spurs go up on aggregate, Raheem Sterling scored the third and decisive goal as Liverpool regrouped after a difficult first half.

Ernesto Valverde is likely to rest his stars for the Champions League classic and will have to choose between Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Ibahimovic.

He added that the Amir Cup is a tournament for all the clubs in Qatar and that the winning team will be very happy.

"We are very excited to gain the Amir Cup title but we also know our weakness which we will improve," he said.

"We have studied Al Wakra. They have a high experience but they also know our weakness and we will improve," he said.

They are very much a side from one season to another and they are very difficult to predict but they are not a top tick side," Caneda added.

"We cannot take them lightly and we will play our best to win the Amir Cup," he said.

"We are relieved that we are in the Amir Cup final, which is a big achievement for us," Caneda said.

"It is a big week and we have to make sure we get the best result possible," he added.

"We are very happy to be in the Amir Cup final and we will try our best to win it," Caneda said.

"We have studied Al Wakra. They are a high experience team and we are very happy to be in the Amir Cup final," he said.

"We are very excited to gain the Amir Cup title but we also know our weakness which we will improve," he said.

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**Kohli helps RCB beat KKR despite Rana-Russell show**

Kohli takes 58 balls to bring up his fifth century of the IPL as KKR fall short by 10 runs

**BOTTOMLINE**

De Villiers suggests shorter innings break to avoid slow over-rate

**Focus:**

Rahane seeks BCCI permission to play for Hampshire

**IPL INDIA**

India fortunate to have Dholi behind stumps: captain Kohli

**SPIOTLIGHT**

India fortunate to have Dholi behind stumps: captain Kohli
NHL

Seattle Mariners blow 8-run lead, win in 9th over Angels

The Associated Press

R

on Friday afternoon twice and twice in fire runs, and the Seattle Mariners ended a six-game losing streak with an 11-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels in the opener of the second series 2-1.

Los Angeles Mariners starting pitcher Tylor Megill allowed six runs on seven hits in 6 1/3 innings, including a tiebreaking home run in the second line, and the Mariners outscored the Angels 9-1 in the final two innings of the contest.

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Cole Hamels allowed four runs on seven hits in seven innings, including a tiebreaking home run in the second line, and the Mariners outscored the Angels 9-1 in the final two innings of the contest.

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**Dolphins’ Gesicki needs growth spurt**

A lot of stuff to improve on, and a lot I can take in and bring into my game this year.’

By Dave Hyde
Sun Sentinel

O ne area Miami Dolphins tight end Mike Gesicki hopes to improve upon as he prepares for his second season is his speed. “That’s the idea,” he said.

Last year, Gesicki was asked to do things he hadn’t been doing before. “The last two years, I’ve been playing inside tight end stuff,” Gesicki said. “I’ve got a little more perimeter speed. That’s the idea.”

The Dolphins’ offense is in a crossroads. “We see what everyone’s capable of doing,” Gesicki said. “I think that’s what I’ll be at my best, when I play fast.”

OTA

*The decision has been made easy for me because I feel that the Corvette is currently unbeatable.*

Toyota trained its two-time Formula 1 world champion for the top LMP1 class after Audi and Porsche withdrew. Jenson Button endured a disappointing debut last year when his SMP car suffered a serious problem early in the race and he barely even got on track. When he did, it was in the rain and he finished a distant fourth.

Button will rejoin the SMP Racing by his former McLaren teammate Stoffel Vandoorne, who was replaced by New Zealand Hierro at the Six Hours of Spa-Francorchamps.

The 27-year-old Belgian will partner Button in the New Zealand-born driver’s final season in the top LMP1 class after Audi and Porsche withdrew. Button endured a disappointing debut last year when his SMP car suffered a serious problem early in the race and he barely even got on track. When he did, it was in the rain and he finished a distant fourth.

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**POLICE WIN NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Police players celebrate with the trophy after winning the second National Volleyball Championship defeating Al Arabi Club 3-0 (25-17, 25-13, 27-20) in the final at the QVA Indoor Hall yesterday. (PICS: Thani Alghamdi)

**RIGA GHETTO CLAIM FIBA 3X3 WORLD TOUR DOHA MASTERS**

Latvia’s Riga Ghetto players celebrate with the winners’ cheque after winning the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Doha Masters at Katara Amphitheatre yesterday. (PICS: Thani Alghamdi)
Friendly fire for Vika, Barty in Fed Cup as Halep eyes final place

“It was the best moment and I was jumping around as I was so happy”

China bans Boston Marathon trio

Relativity warns Semenya verdict could be death of women’s sport

Chinese authorities have banned three runners who broke the rules at the Boston Marathon, accusing them of using performance-enhancing drugs.

The trio, who are all women, have been banned for life for cheating.

A Chinese athlete who won the men’s marathon at the Boston Marathon has also been banned for life.

Relativity has warned that the ban on Semenya could be the end of women’s sport.

“William the death of women’s sport,” the company said.

FERRARI wrong to use team orders so early: Berger

Ferrari should stop using team orders so early in the season, says former driver Gerhard Berger.

The Italian team is currently leading the constructors’ championship.

Berger said: “Ferrari is leading the constructors’ championship, but it’s not fair to use team orders so early in the season.”

He added: “We should wait until the second half of the season to use team orders.”

Vietnam moves closer to Formula One debut with test event

Vietnam has moved a step closer to hosting a Formula One race, with a test event scheduled for the end of November.

The Vietnamese Grand Prix, scheduled for April 2020, will take place on Vietnam’s longest circuit, which is completed, will feature 56 races and include 22 corners.

Vietnam will be the only third Southeast Asian country to host a Formula One race, after Singapore and Malaysia.

The test event, which will be held at the My Dinh stadium and will be broadcast on local TV, will attract more than 50,000 spectators.

Ferrari will take part in the test event, but the team will not use team orders.

Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc said: “I’m really excited to be in Vietnam. We have a great track, a lot of atmosphere and the local fans are really good.”

Leclerc is a point ahead of Vettel and will keep it for the rest of the season.

Ferrari’s Mika Hakkinen added: “It’s a great opportunity for the team to test the new car and see how it performs on the track.”

ATHLETICS

Relativity warns Semenya verdict could be death of women’s sport

Relativity has warned that the ban on Caster Semenya could be the end of women’s sport.

“We believe the ban on Semenya could be the end of women’s sport,” the company said.

Relativity has been involved in several high-profile cases in recent years, including the case of Caster Semenya.

Semenya, a South African runner, was banned from competing in women’s events due to her high natural testosterone levels.

Relativity has represented Semenya in her legal challenge against the IAAF, and has been vocal in its support for Semenya’s right to compete.

Relativity said: “We believe the ban on Semenya could be the end of women’s sport.”

Friends of the sport (FOSAP) is expected to release a report on this matter on the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in October.

The report, which is due to be published in 2020, will examine the impact of the IAAF’s new rules on women’s sport.
Al Rayyan clinch top eight spot with two straight wins

Kazakhstan's TNC Kazchrome VC (in white) at the University of Taiwan Gymnasium yesterday.

Action from the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship match between Qatar's Al Rayyan (in black) and Kazakhstan's TNC Kazchrome VC in white at the University of Taiwan Gymnasium yesterday.

**Sights from IAAF Heritage World Athletics Championships Exhibition**

- British middle-distance runner Mo Farah's spikes from 2013 World Championships.
- Jamaican sprinter legend Usain Bolt's vest from 2001 World Championships.
- Brazilian triple-jumper Adhemar Da Silva's vests and gold medals from 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympics.
- Ukrainian pole-vaulter Sergey Bubka's vest from his world record effort in Donetsk in 1992.
- Moroccan runner Lahouaifi Bouhassoun's spikes from 1954 Worlds.
- Usain Bolt's autographed vest from 2011 World Championships.
- British middle-distance runner Mo Farah’s spikes from his 50m hurdles world record effort in 2012.

**Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship**

Al Rayyan clinched a top eight spot, beating Thailand's KK Cola 3-0 (28-26, 25-17, 25-23) at the University of Taiwan (Taiwan) Gymnasium yesterday.

Kazakhstan's TNC Kazchrome VC (in white) at the University of Taiwan Gymnasium yesterday.

Action from the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship match between Qatar's Al Rayyan (in black) and Kazakhstan's TNC Kazchrome VC in white at the University of Taiwan Gymnasium yesterday.

Kamil Rychlicki powered Al Rayyan Club to a thrilling straight sets victory in the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship in Taiwan yesterday, with the Qatari side staying unbeaten in the 2019 edition of the tournament so far.

Rychlicki scored a match-high 17 points for Al Rayyan as they swept aside Kazchrome VC 3-0 (28-26, 25-17, 25-23) in the University of Taiwan (Taiwan) Gymnasium yesterday.

With the win, Al Rayyan clinched a top eight spot, having beaten Thailand's KK Cola 3-0 (27-25, 25-15, 25-20) in their opening game of the tournament on Thursday, with one group stage match yet to go, against India's Chennai Spartans.

Yesterday, Rychlicki's effort included 15 attacks and 2 aces, the latter including three digs to go with 11 points for TNC Kazchrome VC, assisted by Dmitry Vovnenko, who also bagged similar 11 points including 2 blocks and 4 aces.

Both the teams had their respective campaigns in the take-the-net-a-winging sport, with Al Rayyan's head coach Sergei Gribov rejecting a challenge from Sergey Kostiv.

Kazchrome won the very first point of the match after a spike from their team went out, but head coach Bui Tap Le rejected the challenge and his effort was unsuccessful. The Kaza chrome side widened the lead to 6-1, courtesy of Dmitry Vovnenko's ace serve and exceptional attacks from Sergey Kostiv.

However, Al Rayyan put their act together, overcoming their nervy start and roaring back with fierce attacks. Strongly powered Rychlicki, who had scored a match-high 24 points in their opening game against Thailand, produced a scintillating block for the Qatari side to win the set.

At 26-26, a serve from Maxim Michshenko went wide, giving the win to Al Rayyan.

The third set was hotly-contested as both teams gave it all. However, Rychlicki finished off for Al Rayyan with a lightning-fast spike to completely end the rivals' challenge. Al Rayyan captured the hard-fought set 25-23 and match.

“I will test a tough match. Kaz chrome can be a truly competitive competitor as they have very strong block and serve, so we needed much more to attack. Also, Avni and his boys to push ourselves to bring out the maximum on top of the net in order that they can play with high balls. We won royally well in this situation. Our serve and block are strong points for us. We need to exploit the open net in order that they can play well. We will do our best,” Al Rayyan head coach Carlos Eduardo said.

“We now qualify to the top eight. Our next match against Chennai Spartans will be similar in Thailand. They moved so well in this situation. Our serve and block are strong points for us. We need to exploit the open net in order that they can play well. We will do our best,” Al Rayyan head coach Carlos Eduardo said.

**IAAF Heritage director Chris Turner (left) shows Asian Athletics Association president Dahlan al-Hamad around the exhibition at Doha’s City Centre Mall on Thursday.**

**Sights from IAAF Heritage World Athletics Championships Exhibition**

- IAAF Heritage director Chris Turner (left) shows Asian Athletics Association president Dahlan al-Hamad around the exhibition at Doha’s City Centre Mall on Thursday (picture: Karim Jaafar/IAAF).

**Sights from IAAF Heritage World Athletics Championships Exhibition**

- IAAF Heritage director Chris Turner (left) shows Asian Athletics Association president Dahlan al-Hamad around the exhibition at Doha’s City Centre Mall on Thursday (picture: Karim Jaafar/IAAF).

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