Dahlan gets re-elected as chief of Asian athletics body

For the first time in the history of Asian athletics, four women members were also elected on the governing council, including China’s Wang Nan as one of the five vice-presidents, and Stepanisheva Tatyana of Turkmenistan

By Sports Reporter

Q atar’s Dahlan al-Hamad was re-elected as President of the Asian Athletics Association for 2019-2023 at the Asian Athletics Congress in Doha yesterday.

Al-Hamad dedicated the victory to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Al-Hamad, who is also the Ins- tructive Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) vice-president besides being the director-general of the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019 Local Organising Committee (LOC), received 30 votes while the Jordanian candidate Saad al-Hiyasat received 13.

He also offered his gratitude to all the 45 member federations for trusting in his leadership and he vowed to continue his work to take all member federation together to develop and strengthen Asian Athletics.

For the first time in the history of Asian athletics, four women members were also elected on the governing council, including China’s Wang Nan as one of the five vice-presidents, and Stepanisheva Tatyana of Turkmenistan.

Talking about his re-election, al- Hamad said the battle was not easy and it’s sweeping outcome clearly demonstrates Qatar’s great status.

He said that the victory is not his alone, and that the continent has chosen what’s best for Asian athletics in the future.

He added that Qatar’s leadership has always taught its people tolerance. In that spirit, he said that he would like everyone to join hands to develop the sport, irrespective of what happened before the elections.

The United Arab Emirates officially refused to send their athletes for the 23rd Asian Athletics Championships, which will begin at the state-of-the-art Khalifa International Stadium today, and will conclude on Wednesday.

In a case of mixing sports with politics, Emirati official Nasser al-Maamari had made the trip to the Qatari capital to participate in the elections even as their athletes were deprived of a golden opportunity for some valuable preparations in a crucial IAAF World Athletics Championships year, which will be held at the same venue in September.

Former Qatar sprinter Talal Mansour (L) reacts as Dahlan al-Hamad receives congratulations on his re-election as chief of the Asian Athletics Association yesterday.

Asian athletics officials help Dahlan al-Hamad cut a cake after his re-election yesterday.

FOR THE RECORD

SPOTLIGHT

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ASIAN ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL (2019-2023)

PRESIDENT: Gen. Dahlan al-Hamad (QAT)

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT: Maj. Gen. Surapong Ariyamongkol (THA)

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Wang Nan (CHN), Hiroshi Yokokawa (JPN), Mohamed Jumah (KUW), Maj. Gen. (R) Mohamed Akram Sahi (PAK), Andrey Abduvaliev (UZB)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Kwan Kee (HKG), Tigor M. Tanjung (INA), Ching Cheng Wang (TPE), Roland Saade (LBN), Karim bin Ibrahim (MAS), Tsewang Rinzing (BHU), Maj (R) Md Talip Md Tahir (BRU), Shagea Mohamed al-Maqdashi (YEM)

WOMEN MEMBERS: Stepanisheva Tatyana (TKM), Mala Sakonhninhom (LAO), Filomena Barros Dos Reis (TLS)
Foden fires Man City back to top, boost for Brighton

Manchester City's English midfielder Phil Foden (L) celebrates scoring against Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester yesterday.

It was very important for the race for the Premier League. We know we cannot drop points. It was tight, Tottenham had more chances than the previous two games'..

Solskjaer eyes strong finish

Manchester United's Norwegian manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has five games left to try to keep United from becoming the first team in Premier League history to finish the season bottom. The Norwegian manager has repeatedly said the team will need a strong performance in the final weeks of the season to secure a top-six finish. He has emphasized the importance of winning every game and keeping a clean sheet, which will be crucial in the remaining fixtures.

United, meanwhile, were emphatically knocked out of the Champions League quarter-final in a thumping 4-0 aggregate defeat by Bayern Munich on Tuesday. The defeat was a major blow to Solskjaer's squad and fans, who had high hopes for the team's European campaign.

“Those three games are massive for us. We know what happened. We shouldn’t think about anything other than having a great week, a great week,” said Solskjaer. “We have a Monday night game, we have a Saturday league game, then we have the Champions League. The key is to keep the rhythm and keep the belief.”

Solskjaer said his team would have to focus on the league, starting with the upcoming match against Brighton, who are currently in 12th place. “Brighton have had some good results recently,” he added. “They are good, solid team.”

Solskjaer’s side is currently fifth in the Premier League, six points behind fourth-placed Manchester United. The Norwegian manager said his team must keep improving to secure a top-six finish, which would guarantee European football next season.

“I think we’ve got to improve. We’ve got to keep on winning games,” Solskjaer said. “We have to keep improving. We have to keep the momentum.”

Solskjaer emphasized the importance of the remaining fixtures, saying, “These are massive games. We have to keep on winning games.”

Spotlight

Liverpool, Man City dominate PFA Player of the Year list

Liverpool and Manchester City have dominated the shortlist for the PFA Player of the Year award, with Virgil Van Dijk and Kevin De Bruyne leading the standings.

Van Dijk, who has been instrumental in Liverpool’s title-winning campaign, leads the way with 12 votes, followed closely by De Bruyne with 11 votes. The pair are joined by Sadio Mane, Phil Foden, and Etienne Capoue on the shortlist.

Man City manager Pep Guardiola has praised his team’s performance, saying, “It’s a team effort, we’ve been very solid and we’ve got a good balance between attacking and defending.”

Guardiola also highlighted the importance of the remaining fixtures, saying, “We have to continue our good run of form and try to win every game.”

Title race

Tottenham Hotspur are currently leading the Premier League, with Manchester City in second place, five points behind the leaders. The race for the top four places is heating up, with Liverpool, Chelsea, and Manchester United all battling for a Champions League spot.

“It’s a tough race,” said Spurs manager Jose Mourinho. “We have to keep on winning games and hope others slip up.”

The season is approaching its climax, with each team aiming for a title, Champions League place, or a top-four finish. The next few weeks will be crucial in determining the outcome.
Amir Cup: Trophy Tour begins with stop at Msheireb Properties

Amir Cup Trophy Tour began with a stop at Msheireb Properties, an urban regeneration project. The Amir Cup is a prestigious football tournament in Qatar, and the Amir Cup Trophy Tour is an event where the trophy is carried around to various locations within the country. Msheireb Properties is an emerging leader in sustainable development, and this event is significant for the company as it engages the public with the Amir Cup trophy. The Amir Cup Trophy Tour is an event that brings the country together, and Msheireb Properties is part of the festivities, engaging local communities in the spirit of unity and pride.
TRAINING TIME

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

New captain Smith powers Rajasthan to win over Mumbai

‘Haven’t contributed as much as I’d like through this tournament, it was nice to get off to a good start and take the boys home. For us, it’s a final, every game’

The star batsman, who was named in England’s preliminary squad for the World Cup, landed his first 50 of the tournament against Mumbai Indians on Saturday.

With Bangalore at 59-2 in the ninth over, the left-handed batsman, who has made his way back into the national team for the upcoming World Cup, looked to take the game away with his power-hitting. "Steve is one of the most in-form batsmen still playing, and he plays the game in a different way. Moeen made my job way easier," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Kohli added: "I targeted to hit six, but just landed four. From the 4th over, I looked to keep things tight at the death and David Miller too failed to succeed as the score read 128-3. But just when it looked like Delhi would run away with the game, Shikhar Dhawan, Iyer led the Capitals to an innings victory. "Kohli was dismissed by Kagiso Rabada in the 49th over as Delhi needed 16 for victory. But just when it looked like the bowlers would have their cake, Rishabh Pant hit 8 off four balls as R. Ashwin took a brilliant catch running back from 41 balls.) as R. Ashwin took a brilliant catch running back.

BRIEF SCORES
Rajasthan Royals 163/7 (90 overs) vs Mumbai Indians 161/5 (20 overs)

Mandeep Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Iyer

Kohli credits game-changer Moeen after Bangkok win

Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli credited English all-rounder Moeen Ali’s brilliant knock of 58 in 28 balls to changing the game in their favour as they thrashed the bottom-placed Bangkok Titans by 79 runs to inch closer to the playoffs.

Kohli dismissed the talk that his team’s top-3 batting order failed to do much as Moeen’s knock helped RCB win the game. "Moeen’s knock was fantastic. We had failed in the first 10 overs, but he played a special knock of 58 in 28 balls. It was a special knock," Kohli said after the match.

RCB bowlers worked on the film of Moeen’s previous performances and then took the bowling attack a notch higher. "We had an idea of what to expect from him. He played a special knock," Kohli said.

"It’s an important game for us. We came to Thailand to win and made sure we won," Kohli said.

He also took a dig at the Bangkok Titans, who were left at the bottom of the table after losing four consecutive matches. "Today, we played the best game we’ve played so far in the tournament, the least we could have asked for," he added.

Kohli said Moeen had been a stabilising force in the RCB line-up this season. "Moeen has been very consistent and has given us the momentum we needed," Kohli said.

BRIEF SCORES
Royal Challengers Bangalore 192/4 (20 overs) vs Bangkok Titans 113/5 (20 overs)
Siakam shines as Raptors take 2-1 series lead

He's the most improved player in the NBA this year and he's only going to get better.

Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam scored 21 points in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference first-round series against the Miami Heat on Sunday at Scotiabank Arena.

Siakam, who has been a consistent scorer and rebounder for the Raptors, stepped up big time in Game 2, scoring 21 points on 7-of-13 shooting, including 4-of-5 from 3-point range. He also added nine rebounds and four assists in 30 minutes of play.

The Raptors won the game 118-112 and now lead the series 2-1.

Siakam's performance was key in helping the Raptors overcome a 21-point deficit in the third quarter. He scored 15 of his 21 points in the final quarter, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:47 left in the game.

The overall result is a much-needed win for the Raptors, who are currently without their All-Star guard Kyle Lowry due to a neck injury.

The Raptors will look to keep their momentum going in Game 3 against the Heat on Tuesday.
Lowry leads by one as darkness halts play at RBC Heritage

Emiliano Grillo holes out for 254 yards at a two for the par-five fifth hole

Lowry collected birdies on both par-five holes before holing a bogey on the par-three 17th.

Grillo had the highlight of the round after holing out from 234 yards on the par-five 18th on Thursday.

Grillo said: "It was difficult all day. I hit a really solid 6-iron to a really good pin position. I hit it on the green for the day."

The 21-year-old Henderson is equal Canadian legend Sandra Henderson, who is trying to win her ninth major title, firing a three-under 69.

She shot a 66 to surge from nine back to two.

Henderson is exactly where Jalen should be, Coughlin said. "We have a lot of work ahead of us."

Shane Lowry inspects the green of the 15th hole during the second round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, United States, on Friday.

His sister Moriya Jutanugarn is 16. She shot a 66 to surge from nine back to two.

Ariya Jutanugarn was one of the top 16 who made the cut with rounds of 65 and 74.

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Rafael Nadal crashed out of the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday, after losing to Italian Fabio Fognini, in his opening round. Nadal, who won his 10th Masters 1000 level title earlier this month, began the Spanish star admitting that he was “the worst clay-court player in 14 years.”

“I played one of my worst matches on clay in 14 years. I deserved to lose,” said the Italian who has not won a clay-court title since 2008.

“I played one of my worst matches on clay in 14 years,” said Fabio Fognini, who beat Nadal twice in his career, stunned a 5-0 lead to establish the principality for the world number two.

“I had a really good week, did a lot of things right. I prepared really well for this match and was ready to accept the worst. That’s because I was coming from few low moments in terms of injuries, and in terms of the mental side it has not been easy to accept all the things that have been going on.

“Everything was wrong. I always expect the best, but you have to be ready to accept the negative things and lose a negative day.

“For me it was just about me coming out and doing every thing right. I prepared really well for this match and was ready to accept the worst. That’s because I was coming from few low moments in terms of injuries, and in terms of the mental side it has not been easy to accept all the things that have been going on.

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“I had a totally out of control in an hour and take a 4-0 lead in games to claim the opening set.

“The vision is clear, “ added Fabio Fognini, who beat Nadal twice in his career, stunned a 5-0 lead to establish the principality for the world number two.

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W hen the first-ever Asian Athletics Championships began in Doha, there were high hopes that the region might be poised for a breakthrough. The event is considered by many as a significant step forward for the sport of athletics, and a chance for athletes from Asian countries to showcase their talent on the global stage.

Among the competitors, Abderrahman Samba of Qatar has been a name to watch out for. Samba, who has been one of the most consistent performers in the world in recent years, is expected to lead Qatar's charge in Doha.

"It's an honor to represent my country in such a prestigious event," said Samba. "I've been working hard to prepare for this event and I'm confident that we'll put up a strong performance."