Qatar claim Asian handball title for fourth straight time

Cheered on by hundreds of flag-waving Qatari fans, Valero Rivera’s squad posted a 33-21 victory over South Korea in the final.

By Sports Reporter

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Qatar were three-times defending champions going into the tournament, having swept all opposition since 2014 when they won the title for the first time, before returning the next year 2015 and 2016.

“The is a great occasion for Qatar. We were determined from the start and all the players put in an excellent performance,” Rivera said.

“We were ubiquitous and that speaks volumes about the quality of our players.”

Rivera said his team’s match against Iran’s Shahr Khodro. Al Rayyan coach Diego Aguirre.

“Players put in an excellent performance,” Rivera said. “We were ubiquitous and that speaks volumes about the quality of our players.”

“I am very confident even though I am aware the task won’t be easy task to beat Shahr Khodro,” said Al Sailiya coach Sami Trablesi.

“The oldest man in the team at 42, Danijel Saric proving particularly effective. Danijel Saric proving particularly effective. He joined Al Sailiya from Esteghlal. The Uruguayan added that he

Sailiya keen to book Champions League spot

By Sports Reporter

Qatar would have four teams in the AFC Champions League this year provided Al Rayyan and Al Sailiya were their respective playoff matches in the domestic competitions in the AFC Champions League.

Al Rayyan will be facing Esteghlal, while Al Sailiya take on Shahr Khodro hoping to join domestic rivals Al Sadd and Al Ahli in the group stage of the AFC Champions League.

Al Rayyan and Al Sailiya booked their automatic spots after finishing first and second respectively in the 2018-2019 QNB Stars League, but Al Sailiya, who finished third, and fourth-placed Al Rayyan, take the playoff routes.

For Al Sailiya, this will be their final taste of the Champions League, but for Al Rayyan, they will face Esteghlal in the remaining two matches.

“We have a long time coming to reach this milestone, and we want to make the most of it,” said Al Sailiya’s coach.

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By Sports Reporter

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Wood’s 9-wicket haul helps England wrap up series 3-1

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Lillard scores 50 points as Blazers down Indiana Pacers

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Nadal downs Kyrgios to ease into quarters

By Sports Reporter

Divisive French Open title hopeful Rafael Nadal proved too strong for Alex de Minaur as he hung on to win the Australian Open quarter-final in straight sets.

The Spaniard had come back from 3-1 down in the first set to take the opening frame 6-2, and then won the second 6-3, cruising to his fourth straight victory over the world number 12.

Nadal, who has won all three of his previous meetings with the Australian and is the world number one, has now joined the quarter-finals and can win his second Australian Open title in a row.

“I think I played better than him in the first set, but I was able to come back in the second,” said Nadal. “I was able to control the match better and I think I played better in the end.”

By Sports Reporter

ALBYRECEIY DE Aguerre

The match was even but at all, I’ve been personally talking to the players to try and motivate them,” said Aguirre, whose team conceded eight goals in their last two QNB Stars League matches – against Al Duhail and Al Sadd – in their last two QNB Stars League matches.

The Uruguayan added that he preferred to concentrate on the present. “Our immediate goal is to beat Esteghlal and qualify for the group stage. We will take it from there onwards.”

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Meanwhile, Al Rayyan coach Majdi Siddiq said, “We are determined to face Esteghlal and will be ready for the challenge.”

The winners of the Al Sailiya playoffs match against Al Ahli will be in the final against Al Duhail.

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Qatar fans cheer their team during the final against South Korea.

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Rafael Nadal set a grade match with Nick Kyrgios to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals and keep the heat on Germany’s Zverev, with a double match on day eight of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. (AFP)

Nadal sets Kyrgios score to keep heat on Federer record

Nadal settled Kyrgios’ score to keep heat on Federer record. Wawrinka beats fifth seed Medvedev to set up a quarter-final with Germany’s Zverev, while Kyrgios was defeated by Pavlyuchenkova after his first set against Cameron Norrie. (AFP)
Qatar's top professional golfer, Spanish Rahm, had his sights set on the podium but suffered a major blow when he shot 70 and finished second to Australia's Cameron Smith in the final round of the Farmers Insurance Open on Sunday when the death of basketball great Kobe Bryant and the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) rekindled the fire in his belly.

The 27-year-old turned pro in 2015 and won his 69th start on the LPGA Tour, edging out runner-up Nasa Hataoka of Japan, who shot a final round 67 to seize a 54-hole lead for the first time in her young career.

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Wood’s nine-wicket haul helps England wrap up series 3-1

‘It’s taken a big effort from everyone and it’s very exciting for English cricket.’

England captain Joe Root was the centre of attention as the team wrapped up a 3-1 series win over Pakistan on Tuesday. It was a well-deserved victory for the hosts, who had never won a Test series in Pakistan before.

England’s bowlers were in dominant form, with a nine-wicket haul from England captain Joe Root. It was a crucial moment in the series, as England needed to win the fourth Test to clinch the series.

Pakistan’s batsmen were not able to find a way to counter England’s attack, with only one player managing to score a fifty. The visitors were bowled out for 262 on the fourth day, giving England a 318-run lead.

England’s bowlers were in fine form, with Mark Wood taking five for 21 and Jack Leach taking three for 47. bowling away with great gusto.

The victory not only secured the series win but also lifted England to the top of the Test rankings, overtaking Australia and India.

England’s skipper said: “It hasn’t been an easy summer, but to win a series in Pakistan was a huge achievement. We showed a lot of fight and determination throughout the series.”

Pakistan appointed Mickey Arthur as their coach after the series.

“Despite the result, we are not giving up hope. We will work hard and come back stronger in the future,” said the Pakistan captain.

The series was a test of England’s ability to adapt to different conditions and their bowlers put in a fine performance to secure the series win.

England will now turn their attention to the upcoming Tests against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, who are both ranked higher in the Test rankings.

It was a well-deserved victory for England and they will be looking to build on this momentum in the upcoming Tests.

BRIEF SCORES

England’s Mark Wood celebrates taking the wicket of South Africans Keshav Vershi yesterday.

WILLIAMS’ TON GIVES ZIMBABWE UPPER HAND ON DAY 1

Zimbabwe’s celebrations were in full swing on Day 1 of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Harare Sports Club. The home team were in a comfortable position at 352-6 at the close of play.

Zimbabwe took the first wicket early in the day, with the wicket of Sri Lanka’s Dimuth Karunaratne. The visitors were bowled out for 183 in their first innings, with Tendai Chisoro scoring a half-century.

Zimbabwe’s bowlers were in fine form, with Kyle Jarvis, Blessing Muzarabani and Craig Ervine picking up three wickets each. The home team are looking for a win to level the series after losing the first Test in Morne. Sunrisers Ladies beat the world leaders Sri Lanka in the opening game of the series.

One-Match Women’s World Cup Cricket

England, Sri Lanka win opening playoff matches

England defeated Sri Lanka by 34 runs in the first of two One-Match World Cup Cricket matches at the Harare Sports Club. The win was a crucial one for England, who are looking to qualify for the semi-finals.

England were bowled out for 216 in their first innings, with Heather Knight scoring a half-century. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 182 in their reply, with D�nya Amaratunge scoring a fifty.

England’s bowlers were in fine form, with Allie Reader and Sarah Taylor taking four wickets each. The win not only secured England’s place in the semi-finals but also put them in a strong position to win the series.
NBA

Lillard scores 50 as Blazers down Pacers 139-129

Lillard now becomes the first player in Blazers history to score at least 40 points in three straight games.

**PREVIEW**

Playoff push ramps up as NHL returns to action

**Bugs**

The NHL playoff race may be down to the wire, but the Calgary Flames, Colorado Avalanche, Arizona Coyotes and Vegas Golden Knights are all looking to make their case.

"We've been there the last couple of years, so we've been through it before," said Flames coach Bill Peters. "We know what it takes to get there. We know the importance of every game, especially in the playoffs."
Struggling Napoli shock leaders Juve

‘We lost a match against an opponent who had the minimum to win’

We were passive throughout the game, always halfway between pressure and waiting, we made mistakes’

Wenger, German coach Erich

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The workshop was moderated by FIFA Technical Director Juvenil Navalas and was attended by 70 technical directors from around the world, with the participation of 150 experts and coaches from the national football associations and the FIFA.

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Neymar dedicates goal to Bryant as PSG go 10 points clear

‘It’s deeply saddening for the world of sport and for all of us’

N eymar dedicated his match-winner goal against Nantes to the late, great Kobe Bryant, whose death on Sunday shocked the world, as the Brazilian clinched 10 points clear of Nice in the Ligue 1 title race.

The match-winner was not Neymar’s first for PSG this season, but it was his most poignant.

The Brazilian almost immediately slipped through the middle for an unmarked chance 10 minutes into the game, but for everything he did for his team-mates at the Stade de la Beaujoire, there would be no goal.

“First, he failed to volley in an excellent Isco range effort, but the away side arguably finished the first half the stronger. But for a couple of late goal opportunities, the scoreline would have been 0-0 at halftime,” L’Equipe reported.

Lille, meanwhile, stayed in the promotion hunt with a 2-0 win at the Mestalla.

In the Premier League, Liverpool were held to a 2-2 draw at Shrewsbury Town on Saturday afternoon.

The Reds began with a youthful side, with lots of first-team players on the bench.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp insisted his 11-year-old team would compete in the FA Cup, but admitted it would be a tough test against their opponents.

In the Emirates FA Cup, Liverpool faced Championship side Shrewsbury in a replay.

This was the second time Liverpool and Shrewsbury had met, with the Reds winning the first game 2-0.

The return fixture saw a 2-2 draw, with both teams scoring a penalty each, in a pulsating tie at Anfield.

Both teams had chances to win, but neither could break the deadlock.

Liverpool, however, went on to win the replay 2-0, with a last-minute winner from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

In the FA Cup, Manchester United faced off against Liverpool.

From the match, we can see the importance of having a strong bench in cup competitions.

This match was a good opportunity for young players to shine and for Klopp to experiment with different formations.

Klopp’s team selection for the FA Cup was very exciting, with young players like Rhys Williams and Rhys Norrington-Davies getting a chance to impress.

In the Premier League, Liverpool faced Shrewsbury Town again in a replay.

The Reds had a narrow escape, with their young goalkeeper, Caoimhin Kelleher, making several important saves.

Klopp said it was “the right decision” to play a youthful side, and he was pleased with the performance.

In the Emirates FA Cup, Liverpool faced Shrewsbury Town again.

The Reds went on to win the replay 2-0, with a brace from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

The result meant Liverpool advanced to the FA Cup quarter-finals, with a 4-0 aggregate lead over the Shrews.

In the Premier League, Liverpool faced Shrewsbury Town again.

The Reds went on to win the match 2-0, with a brace from Trent Alexander-Arnold.

The result meant Liverpool stayed at the top of the table, with 73 points from 35 games.

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Fifteen years ago today, on Jan. 26, 2006, Kobe Bryant scored 81 points on 55 shots as the Lakers routed the Toronto Raptors at the Staples Center. The day is considered one of the greatest individual performances in NBA history. The game is now known as the Bryant 81-point game.

On the 15th anniversary of the Bryant 81-point game, we take a look back at some of his greatest highlights and moments in his career with the Lakers.

1. **Jan. 26, 2006: Bryant scores 81 points**
   - Bryant’s 81-point performance on Jan. 26, 2006, against the Toronto Raptors is one of the most memorable games in NBA history.
   - Bryant shot 28 for 46 (61%) from the field, including 12 of 14 from three-point range, and went 18 for 18 from the free-throw line.
   - The Lakers won the game 131-120.

2. **April 13, 2013: Bryant becomes a father**
   - Bryant and his wife Vanessa welcomed their daughter, Bianka Bella, on April 13, 2013.
   - Bryant tweeted, "Welcome to the world Bianka Bella, I love you already!"

3. **April 13, 2016: Bryant retires from the NBA**
   - Bryant retired from the NBA on April 13, 2016, after 20 seasons with the Lakers.
   - Bryant had a career-high 60 points in his final game against the Utah Jazz.

4. **July 10, 2020: Bryant is inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**
   - Bryant was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on July 10, 2020.
   - Bryant was posthumously enshrined into the Hall of Fame.

5. **January 2020: Bryant and his daughter Gianna die in a helicopter crash**
   - On January 26, 2020, Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna died in a helicopter crash in California.
   - The crash occurred in Calabasas, California, near the Staples Center where Bryant had a business relationship.

6. **February 2020: Bryant and Gianna are honored with a statue at Staples Center**
   - A statue of Bryant and his daughter Gianna was unveiled at Staples Center in Los Angeles in February 2020.
   - The statue was created by artist Shane Adkins and unveiled during a ceremony attended by family and friends.

7. **April 2020: Bryant and Gianna are honored with a stamp by the U.S. Postal Service**
   - Bryant and Gianna were honored with a stamp by the U.S. Postal Service in April 2020.
   - The stamp, featuring an image of Bryant and Gianna, was released to commemorate their contributions to the world of basketball.

8. **December 2020: Bryant and Gianna are honored with a memorial at Laker Stadium**
   - A memorial was dedicated at Laker Stadium in December 2020 to honor Bryant and Gianna.
   - The memorial features a statue of Bryant and Gianna, along with a quote from Bryant: "I love you girl, I love you so much."

9. **February 2021: Bryant and Gianna are honored with a statue in Japan**
   - Bryant and Gianna were honored with a statue in Tokyo, Japan, in February 2021.
   - The statue, created by artist Yoshitaka Amano, was unveiled during a ceremony attended by Japanese officials and Bryant’s family.

10. **December 2021: Bryant and Gianna are honored with a statue in Philadelphia**
    - Bryant and Gianna were honored with a statue at the Philadelphia Convention Center in December 2021.
    - The statue, created by artist Tony Tasset, was unveiled during a ceremony attended by Bryant’s family and Philadelphia officials.

These are just a few of the many ways Bryant and Gianna have been honored since their tragic deaths in January 2020. Their legacies continue to inspire and uplift millions of people around the world.