

Sports

New Zealand keep hopes alive at T20 World Cup

Pakistan and Sri Lanka lose

PAARL: The battle to reach the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals will go down to the last group match after New Zealand kept their hopes alive with a 102-run rout of Sri Lanka at Boland Park in Paarl on Sunday. "We've given ourselves a chance, even it's only a small, tiny chance," said New Zealand captain Sophie Devine. Australia are assured of winning Group One but the other qualifiers from the group will only be known after South Africa play Bangladesh at Newlands in Cape Town on Tuesday.

New Zealand moved into second place, but will be overtaken if South Africa beat Bangladesh. Sri Lanka, who won their first two matches, finished level on points with New Zealand but were eliminated on net run rate. West Indies beat Pakistan in Group Two earlier Sunday in a result that ensured that England would qualify.

India will join them if they beat bottom team Ireland in Gqeberha on Monday. If Ireland pull off an improbable win, Pakistan will have a slight chance of overtaking India if they beat England on Tuesday. "It is a very important match for us," said Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof. "We have played good cricket and we will try to continue that." That New Zealand would still be in the reckoning seemed impossible when they lost heavily against Australia and South Africa.

But the White Ferns stormed back with an 81-run win against Bangladesh before turning on the power on Sunday, scoring 162 for three and then bowling out Sri Lanka for 60. "We spoke about scoring 160 even though it was a tougher wicket than Newlands (in Cape Town),"

said Devine. That was achieved through half-centuries by Suzie Bates (56) and Amelia Kerr (66) after Bernadine Beuzidenhout set the tone with an aggressive 32 off 20 balls. "We always knew 160 was going to be competitive and then the bowlers were fantastic," said Devine.

'Tough day'

"It was a tough day," said Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu. "I have only a few experienced players in the team. We learnt a lot of things today." West Indian captain Hayley Matthews said a strong finish to their campaign gave her hope for the future of women's cricket in the Caribbean. The West Indies beat Pakistan by three runs to finish their group fixtures with two wins out of four. They ended a 15-match T20 losing streak when they beat Ireland in their previous match and showed character in the win over Pakistan, defending a total of 116 for six, which Matthews believed was "20 runs short."

"We have a lot of young players in our squad and with our young players developing we are moving in the right direction," said Matthews. It was a bitter-sweet day for Pakistan veteran Nida Dar, who took two for 13 in four overs of accurate off-spin to equal former West Indies player Anisa Mohammed's record of 125 wickets in women's T20 internationals. Dar scored 27 runs in Pakistan's reply but couldn't take her team to victory. The semi-finals will be played on Thursday and Friday, with the final on Sunday. All the knock-out matches will be at Newlands.— AFP



PAARL: New Zealand's Amelia Kerr (right) plays a shot as Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeewani looks on during the Group A T20 women's World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Boland Park in Paarl on February 19, 2023. — AFP

Al-Fuzaie wins Al-Marshoud championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Rider of Hawally Club and national team Abdelrahman Al-Fuzaie won the 9th edition of Atyab Al-Marshoud show jumping championship. He cleared the hurdles of 145 cm height in 45.58 seconds without any fault in both rounds - beating rider Ali Al-Kharafi who was second with 45.65 seconds. Rider Ahmad Al-Madhahka came third, followed by Germany's Bjorn Kuwertz, Annaz Al-Annaz, Ghazi Al-Jeraiwi, Fawaz Al-Subaieci, Latifah Al-Hajiri, Khalid Al-Khabaizi, Abdullah Al-Awadhi and Abdulwahab Al-Fares.

The winners were awarded their prizes by Sheikh Fadiya Saad Al-Abdallah, Jassim Al-Kharafi, Khalid Al-Saeed, Marwa Maarafi, Dr Nael Al-Hazeem, Rola Mohammad, Eng Nour bin Eidan and tournament sponsor Waleed Al-Marshoud. Al-Marshoud thanked all sponsors including Zain communications and BNK

and all those who gave their support. Dr Nael Al-Hazeem on his part congratulated the winners and the sponsors. Abdulrazaq Al-Marshoud said the championship achieved great success during the current season, adding that "we inherited horse riding hobby from our father Suleiman and most of his grandchildren practice show jumping."

Meanwhile, rider of Kuwait Club and National team won the title of the second day of show jumping competition of Atyab Al-Marshoud, being organized at Kuwait Riding Center in Subhan. Al-Kharafi succeeded in the 6th round in jumping over 140 cm in 59.76 seconds without any faults - beating Abdelrahman Al-Fuzaie, Ghanima Al-Marzouq, Ghazi Al-Jeraiwi, and Hamad Al-Otaibi. Al-Kharafi also won the fifth round of 130 cm.

Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud and Bahrain Salah Al-Maliki, former MP, former justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Yaqoub Al-Sanie and political activist Dr Sheikh Al-Jassim and tournament sponsor Waleed Suleiman Al-Marshoud graced the event. Ambassador Sultan Al-Saud lauded the organization of the tournament. The Ambassador said the Kingdom is getting ready to organize Show Jumping and Taming World Cup in 2024 for the first time in history.



Waleed and Marshoud Al-Marshoud



Atyab Al Marshoud
أطياب المرشود
بطولة أطياب المرشود الدولية التاسعة لقفز الحواجز 2023



International Shooting Grand Prix kicks off

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Shooting Grand Prix will start on Tuesday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, in the presence of his representative, Farwaniya governor Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Amir for his fatherly support for the championship which coincides with Kuwait's celebrations of its national days. He also thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his continued support.



Obaid Al-Osaimi

There will be participants from 40 countries - represented by more than 400 shooters. Al-Osaimi said the board of directors began preparing for the tournament long ago. He also thanked HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Premier, Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid, Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdelrahman Al-Mutairi, Public Authority for Sport and all those who support the championship.



J30 ALZAHRA: Kuwaiti wins silver medal

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait International 22nd Juniors Tennis Tournament (J30 ALZAHRA) concluded under the patronage of President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex. 35 girls from 19 countries and 42 boys from 20 countries are participating. Kuwait's National team player Yaqoub Yousuf Mohammad

won the silver medal and second place in the singles. He lost in the final match to Italy's M Pizzigoni (2-1). This enabled Pizzigoni to keep the title he won last week.

In the juniors doubles, Sweden's Maxwell Linstedt and Massimo Pizzigoni won first place - defeating Lebanon's Anthony Moukarzel and Indian Nada Aryan (2-1). In the girls singles, Swiss player F Saroli won first place while German player Mariella Gelbke took the second place. The girls doubles saw Swiss Francesca Saroli and Inga Zege defeating USA's Ava Khalil and Latvia's Aleksandra Rozkalne (2-0). Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah recognized Kuwait's player Yaqoub Mohammad in appreciation of his efforts and outstanding performance. This concludes Kuwait's two juniors championships that were organized by KTF during the two weeks under the supervision of International Tennis Federation (ITF).

News in brief

Fatat Club grab Cup

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Fatat Club Futsal team won the Association's women Futsal Cup in its first season, following their win of the league. Fatat defeated Tadhamon 4-3 after resorting to penalty kicks when they drew 5-5 in regulation during their match which was held on Saturday. Meanwhile, third place went to Kuwait after they defeated Fatayat Al-Oyoun 3-2. Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Fatima Hayat along with Secretary General Salah Al-Qinae and his deputy Dr Saleh Al-Majroob awarded the winners. The match was highly exciting. The first period ended in a 4-4 draw. Both teams were cautious in the second half - scoring one goal each, so they resorted to penalty shootout to break the tie. Fatima Hayat was happy with the technical level both teams displayed adding that KFA aims at increasing the number of teams. There is a plan under study in cooperation with the schools' association to add more teams next season.

Al Duhail Asian quarters

DOHA: Qatar giants Al Duhail advanced to the quarter-finals of the AFC Champions League after a tense 7-6 win on penalties against domestic rivals Al Rayyan on Sunday. Saudi league contenders Al Shabab also made the last eight of the premier Asian tournament, edging out Uzbekistan's FC Nasaf 2-0 in a late match, also in Doha. Matches in the West Asian half of the continent were halted after the group phase due to the involvement of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran in the World Cup before resuming Sunday in Doha where reigning champions Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia are hugely favored to make the final. Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds have already qualified for the title clash after matches in the eastern half of the continent wrapped up in August last year. — AFP

US women defeat Japan

NASHVILLE: In-form striker Mallory Swanson grabbed her seventh goal in five games as the United States beat Japan 1-0 in the SheBelieves Cup in Nashville on Sunday. The Americans followed up Thursday's triumph over Canada with a second victory to leave them perfectly placed going into Wednesday's final game against Brazil. But the US women, preparing to defend their crown in July's Women's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia, survived some late scares against a Japan side that enjoyed plenty of midfield dominance but lacked the killer touch in front of goal. Swanson showed her confidence in front of goal yet again when she put her side ahead just before the break, latching on to a through ball from Alex Morgan and then calmly slotting past Ayaka Yamashita. — AFP

China retain badminton title

DOHA: Top seeds China were stretched to four matches at the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championship but retained the title with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Korea. At Dubai Exhibition Centre in Expo City, China raced to a 2-0 lead with wins in straight games for Lei Lan Xi in the men's singles, followed by a similar result for Gao Fang Jie in the women's singles. Lei, ranked 121st in the World Rankings, beat Lee Yun Gyu 21-16, 21-15 in just 47 minutes, while Gao, ranked 101st in women's singles, needed three extra minutes but gave away one less point in her 21-15, 21-15 defeat of Kim Ga Eun. However, China's hopes of closing the final in three matches did not materialize as the men's doubles turned out to be a thriller. The Korean pair of Kim Won Ho and Na Sung Seung fought back after losing the first game rather tamely to beat He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 19-21, 21-16, 21-17. The match lasted an energy-sapping one hour and 15 minutes. — AFP