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GULF TIMES SPORT



CRICKET

Ruthless India rout Sri Lanka to clinch 8th Asia Cup crown as paceman Siraj shines

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AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Al Sadd aim to avoid early slip-up at home

Agencies
Doha

Qatar's Al Sadd SC will aim to avoid an early slip-up when they face Sharjah FC in their opening AFC Champions League Group B tie at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium today.

Al Sadd will be on a mission to redeem themselves after suffering group stage elimination last season. The 2011 AFC Champions League winners won't be lacking match fitness going into the tie, having won twice and drawn once in the 2023-24 Qatar Stars League.

Having also been upstaged domestically by Al Duhail SC in 2022-23, Al Sadd are hungry for trophies and Sharjah can expect a tough contest.

Bruno Miguel, the coach of Al Sadd, emphasised the readiness of the team to face Emirati side Sharjah, in their first-round match.

"We are fully prepared to face Sharjah tomorrow. We anticipate a strong and well-organized opponent with high-quality players," Bruno said yesterday.

"We expect a very tough match, as is the case with all AFC Champions League games. This tourna-



Al Sadd coach Bruno Miguel (centre) and defender Tarek Salman (left) addressing the media persons yesterday, on the eve of their AFC Champions League Group B match against Sharjah FC.

ment is special for us and for the fans of Al Sadd. We respect our opponents, and our goal is to secure the first three points in the tournament."

Regarding the absences in the team, Bruno said, "certainly, we have some absences, but we have

trust in every player in the team. Our aim is to secure the win. Our goal for this season is to win all the matches. We want to go as far as possible in this tough tournament. There are no easy matches in football, and the first encounter is a significant challenge for us. The

team that makes fewer mistakes will achieve victory."

Al Sadd's defender Tarek Salman described the opening match against the Emirati side as strong and challenging.

"The opening match is always tough, and we aim to give our best

performance. Sharjah is a strong team that has achieved two domestic titles. We are excited about the Asian tournament returning to Al Sadd's stadium for the first time since 2020," Salman said.

"Opening matches are always difficult, and we must avoid mis-

takes and deliver a good performance to secure the first three points at our home ground. We are very enthusiastic and aware of the significance of these matches. We hope it will be a good start for us," he said.

Sharjah, however, have already been tested in this season's AFC Champions League after having to navigate two rounds of matches to qualify for the group stage.

They kicked off their domestic campaign with a 4-3 win over Al Ittihad Kalba but will head into their AFC Champions League opener on the back of a 3-1 defeat to Al Wasl.

In the other Group B tie Jordan's Al Faisaly and FC Nasaf of Uzbekistan will be determined to kick off their respective campaigns on a winning note today.

While Nasaf have AFC Champions League history behind them, Al Faisaly will be fired up to mark their group stage debut on a high note. Al Faisaly are just the second Jordanian team to play in the group stage and will enter the tie in decent form, having kicked off their domestic campaign with three wins against one defeat.

With home ground advantage, Al Faisaly will fancy their chances of a winning start against Nasaf.

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QATAR CLASSIC QTERMINALS

2023



CRICKET

Six-star Siraj sizzles as India crush Sri Lanka, lift Asia Cup

The Indian pacer picks up six wickets as India hammer hosts Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in lop-sided final

AFP
Colombo

Pace bowler Mohamed Siraj returned figures of 6-21 to lead India's rout of Sri Lanka by 10 wickets as they clinched their eighth Asia Cup title yesterday.

Siraj got four wickets in one over to help skittle Sri Lanka out for 50, a total the Indian openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill surpassed in 6.1 overs for an impressive victory ahead of next month's ODI World Cup at home. Sri Lanka's miserably low total in the 50-over contest left a nearly packed house disappointed after they witnessed just 116 minutes of play.

"It is below par. The way we got dismissed is very disappointing, think there's a lot of reflection to be done in the dressing," Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood said after the crushing loss.

"I think today we've come up against a very high class bowling attack, thought Siraj was superb."

The hosts elected to bat first following a delayed start due to rain and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah struck first with the wicket of Kusal Perera, caught behind for a duck in the first over.

Siraj soon took over as he made the ball swing and seam in overcast conditions to easily surpass his previous ODI best of 4-32.

He got Pathum Nissanka for two and then struck on successive balls to send back Sadeera Samarawickrama (0) and Charith Asalanka (0), but a hat-trick was averted.

Dhananjaya de Silva hit a boundary but Siraj had him caught behind with the next ball, much to the delight of the Indian fans.

Siraj got his fifth with the wicket of Sri Lanka captain Dasun



India's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Asia Cup 2023 final in Colombo yesterday. (AFP)

Shanaka, equalling an ODI record for the fastest five-wicket haul from his first 16 balls of the match. Former Sri Lanka quick Chaminda Vaas achieved the feat in 2003.

Kusal Mendis hit three boundaries before becoming Siraj's sixth wicket, although Sri Lanka avoided the lowest-ever ODI total of 35 by Zimbabwe.

After Virat Kohli's overthrow went for a boundary, and six more runs to the total, Sri Lanka pushed

past their lowest ODI total of 43 scored against South Africa in 2012.

Hardik Pandya took three wickets to wrap up the innings in just 90 minutes.

Mendis' 17 and an unbeaten 13 by Dushan Hemantha were the only double-digit scores in an innings that featured five ducks.

Gill, a centurion in the previous match, began with a boundary in the opening over on his way to

an unbeaten 27 and fellow opener Kishan (23) soon joined the party.

The left-handed Kishan smashed fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana for two successive boundaries, and three more in a row from Gill gave India victory in the tournament's shortest final.

India dropped just one match in the tournament after they lost an inconsequential Super Four contest against Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka, who won the previ-

ous edition of the Asia Cup played in the T20 format, came in as underdogs and snuck into the Super Fours with a dramatic win over Afghanistan but went down without a fight in their 11th final.

Asian title and fast bowlers boost India's confidence: Rohit
"It gives us a lot of confidence to come here and win a tournament like this," captain Rohit Sharma told reporters after the title win

came in just 116 minutes of play. "At various stages of the tournament we were challenged in different parts of our game and we stood up to those challenges against various conditions, various bowling types." He said: "We can take a lot of positives from the tournament, not just for one or two players but for the entire squad. They did their job."

"When I see bowlers like this bowl like this, I get a lot of satisfaction," said Rohit.

"I think fast bowling is something captains take a lot of pride in. In fact, all the five bowlers have a lot of skill-set and variation. When you get all this as a captain you feel confident. Nature of this pitch here is challenging and unexpected as well. Siraj has to be mentioned here because when the pitch is so dry, to get the ball to move around like that is a special skill set."

The batsmen shone for India after Virat Kohli and the returning KL Rahul hit centuries against Pakistan in the Super Fours and Rohit praised the all-round effort.

"Guys can stand up under pressure and perform the job for the team and same goes for the bowlers as well," Rohit said of his team's all-round showing.

"Our fielding was outstanding in this series. Slip catches against pacers. We will have off days on the field is fine as long as you back it up with a solid performance the next day."

India will play Australia at home in three ODI matches before heading into the World Cup and their opening match against the Aussies on October 8.

BRIEF SCORES
India 51 for 0 (Gill 27*, Kishan 23*)
beat Sri Lanka 50 (Siraj 6-21, Pandya 3-3) **by 10 wickets**

SPOTLIGHT

Jansen makes double contribution as South Africa win Australia series

Reuters
Johannesburg

All-rounder Marco Jansen shone with bat and ball as South Africa won the fifth and final One Day International against Australia by 122 runs at the Wanderers yesterday to complete a come-from-behind series victory.

Jansen scored 47 runs off 23 balls as South Africa overcame a slow start to set a formidable target of 315-9 after being sent in to bat first.

He then took a career-best ODI haul of 5-39 off eight overs, as the visitors were dismissed for 193 in 34.1 overs.

The win ensured a 3-2 series victory for South Africa, who lost the opening two matches but bounced back with three successive wins to boost morale before next month's World Cup in India.

The new ball seemed around early in the thin Highveld air and saw South Africa struggle with opener Quinton de Kock, who has announced his retirement from ODIs after the World Cup, out cheaply in his last home innings. Heinrich Klaassen, who scored 174 on Friday, was then bowled out for six by Adam Zampa.

But South Africa set about the bowling as Aiden Markram and David Miller put on 109 runs in 107 balls for the fifth wicket before



South Africa's David Miller in action during their fifth ODI against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. (Reuters)

the partnership was broken by the first delivery in ODI cricket by part timer Tim David. David Miller and Jansen then continued the assault with Miller scoring 63 runs. There was also a late cameo from Andile Phehlukwayo, who hits three sixes in the last over to see South Africa past the 300-mark.

Australia did not hold back as they began their response, keeping up the positive approach that has been a hallmark throughout the series, but Jansen took two wickets in the fourth over, dismissing David Warner and Josh Inglis to apply the brakes.

Captain Mitchell Marsh and Marnus Labuschagne put on 90 for the third wicket as Australia

stayed well ahead of the required run rate but a potential match winning partnership ended when Marsh was caught on the third man boundary off Jansen for 71.

BRIEF SCORES
South Africa 315-9 in 50 overs (H. van der Dussen 30, A. Markram 93, D. Miller 63, M. Jansen 47, A. Phehlukwayo 39 not out; S. Abbott 2-54, A. Zampa 3-71).

Australia 193 in 34.1 overs (M. Marsh 71, M. Labuschagne 44; M. Jansen 5-39, K. Maharaj 4-33).
Result: South Africa won by 122 runs.
Series: South Africa won the five-match series 3-2.

FOCUS

England pick dasher Brook instead of Roy for World Cup title defence

Reuters
London

England named batter Harry Brook at the expense of Jason Roy yesterday in the squad for their 50-over World Cup title defence.

Brook, who was left out of England's provisional World Cup squad, made the cut despite a string of failures in the recent series against New Zealand.

But he was impressive in the Indian Premier League and the Hundred so skipper Jos Buttler has kept faith with the 24-year-old, saying last month the door was not closed for Brook.

Dawid Malan, who plundered 277 runs in three ODIs against New Zealand to be named player of the series, also made the squad and is a firm favourite to open the batting for England.

With Roy sidelined due to a back injury, Malan opened the batting against New Zealand and the 36-year-old became the joint-fastest Englishman to get to 1,000 ODI runs, reaching the mark in 21 innings to match Kevin Pietersen and Jonathan Trott.

"We have selected a squad we are confident can go to India and win the World Cup," England men's national selector Luke Wright said in a statement. "We are blessed with an incredibly strong group of white-ball players which was un-



derlined by the performances in the series win against a very good New Zealand team.

"The strength of the group has meant that we have had to make some tough decisions on world-class players, with Jason Roy missing out and Harry Brook coming into the squad."

Roy, who was an integral part of the England side which won the 2019 World Cup, gave up his incremental contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in May to play more franchise cricket.

England all-rounder and test captain Ben Stokes also returns having reversed his decision to retire from ODIs.

It included a knock of 182 off 124 deliveries - England's highest individual ODI score ever - in the third match earlier this week.

England begin their World Cup defence with the first match of the tournament when they take

on New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Oct. 5 in a rematch of the 2019 final.

ENGLAND SQUAD:
Jos Buttler (captain), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, David Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes (Reporting by Rohith Nair in Bengaluru; Editing by Ken Ferris)

Cummins, Smith and Starc return to Australia squad for India ODI series

Australia's Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell will return to the one-day international squad for the three-match series in India after recovering from injury, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

The three ODIs, which will be played between Sept. 22-27 in Mohali, Indore and Rajkot, will serve as a tune-up for the 50-over World Cup which begins on Oct. 5.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD:
Pat Cummins (captain), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa

KUSS CROWNED VUELTA CHAMPION AS JUMBO-VISMA MAKE HISTORY

Barcelona: American rider Sepp Kuss claimed his first Grand Tour victory in the Vuelta a Espana yesterday in Madrid, as his team Jumbo-Visma completed an unprecedented treble.

The Dutch team became the first to win all three Grand Tours in a single year, after Jonas Vingegaard won his second consecutive Tour de France and Primo Roglic triumphed at the Giro d'Italia.

While Jumbo-Visma co-leaders Vingegaard and Roglic are accustomed to being the superstars, this week they supported their usual loyal domestique Kuss to his maiden Grand Tour success on

apparent team orders. Kuss, 29, crossed the line smiling wide, his position as general classification leader not under threat on stage 21's flat 101.5 kilometre procession to Madrid.

Danish rider Vingegaard finished second, 17 seconds behind Kuss, who finished the gruelling 21 stage race in 76 hours, 48 minutes and 21 seconds.

Roglic came in third, just over a minute behind Kuss, with Spaniard Juan Ayuso of UAE Team Emirates beating his compatriots Mikel Landa and Enric Mas to fourth. Ayuso, 21, also claimed the white jersey for best young rider, while

Australian rider Kaden Groves finished with the green jersey for the most points, also winning the final stage after a remarkable bunch sprint.

Groves claimed the intermediate sprint to tighten his grip on the points victory, sticking with Remco Evenepoel, Rui Costa, Nico Denz, Filippo Ganna and Lennard Kamna in the day's break.

The chasing pack reeled them in to 12 seconds with six kilometres to go in a dramatic finale to both the stage and the Grand Tour as a whole.

Groves surged ahead of Evenepoel to cross the line first, pursued by

Ganna, second, and Denz, third. The exciting sprint through Madrid's streets brought to an end to the race which started in Barcelona on August 26, travelling 3,153.8 kilometres to the finale in the Spanish capital.

The first few stages were beset by problems, including stormy weather, rider complaints over dark conditions and an attempted sabotage by protestors for Catalan independence.

The complications soon faded and attention turned to the race itself, with Kuss taking the red jersey from stage eight and holding it until the end.



Overall leader Team Jumbo-Visma's US rider Sepp Kuss (in red) celebrates with teammates winning while crossing the finish line of the 21st and last stage of the 2023 La Vuelta cycling tour of Spain yesterday. (Reuters)

FORMULA 1

Sainz shines to end Verstappen's long win streak

'An incredible feeling. We nailed a weekend and nailed the race'

AFP
Singapore

Carlos Sainz led from start to finish to win a thrilling Singapore Grand Prix yesterday after a charging George Russell crashed his Mercedes from third place on the final lap.

Lando Norris was second in a McLaren with Lewis Hamilton crossing the line in third. Championship leader Max Verstappen was fifth as Red Bull failed to win a race for the first time this season.

Sainz controlled the pace of the night race brilliantly from pole position to take only his second career win, the first coming at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone last year. It ended Red Bull's hopes of sweeping every race in 2023 as Verstappen, who has won the last 10 races in a row, could only work his way up from 11th on the grid into the top five.

His teammate Sergio Perez crossed the line in eighth place.

"An incredible feeling, incredible weekend," said Sainz.

"We nailed a weekend and nailed the race. We did everything we had to do. We did it perfect and we brought home a P1 that I'm sure all of Italy and Ferrari will be proud today," added the Spaniard.

Sainz seemed set for a comfortable win until a virtual safety car 20 laps from the end gave the two Mercedes the chance to change to fresh medium-compound tyres.

Russell and Hamilton came out flying and soon reeled in and passed the second Ferrari of Charles Leclerc, who finished fourth. But when they got on the heels of the top two they could not get past as Sainz cleverly kept his former teammate Norris within DRS range so the Englishman could defend second place.

"It was all about managing the beginning of the stints to make sure I made it to the target laps," said Sainz. "The safety car forced us to pit earlier than we wanted and I knew it was going to be a long stint on the hards."

"It was just quite tight at the end. We gave Lando a bit of DRS to help him and in the end it worked."

Russell was all over the back of Norris until his challenge ended in the wall at turn eight of the final lap, handing Hamilton the final podium place.

"Carlos was very generous try-



Ferrari's Spanish driver Carlos Sainz Jr celebrates on the podium after winning the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix night race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore yesterday. (AFP)

RESULTS

1. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/Ferrari) 305km in 1hr 46min 37.418sec
 2. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren) at 0.812sec
 3. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes) at 1.269
 4. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari) at 21.177
 5. Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull) at 21.441
 6. Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine) at 38.441
 7. Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren) at 41.479
 8. Sergio Perez (MEX/Red Bull) at 54.534
 9. Liam Lawson (NZL/AlphaTauri) at 1:05.918
 10. Kevin Magnussen (DEN/Haas) at 1:12.116
 11. Alexander Albon (THA/Williams) at 1:13.417
 12. Zhou Guanyu (CHN/Alfa Romeo) at 1:23.649
 13. Nico Hulkenberg (GER/Haas) at 1:26.201
 14. Logan Sargeant (USA/Williams) at 1:26.889
 15. Fernando Alonso (ESP/Aston Martin) at 1:27.603
 16. George Russell (GBR/Mercedes-AMG) at 1 lap
- Retirements:** Yuki Tsunoda (JPN/AlphaTauri) Lap 1, Esteban Ocon (FRA/Alpine) Lap 43, Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Alfa Romeo) Lap 52.
- Did not start:** Lance Stroll (CAN/Aston Martin)
- Fastest lap:** Lewis Hamilton 1min 35.867sec.

ing to help me get DRS. It helped my race and it also helped his," said Norris. "We did everything we needed to do and more. So super happy?"

Earlier Sainz got away cleanly from pole position with his teammate Leclerc using the softest compound tyres to overtake Russell, who had started in second.

When Logan Sargeant lost the front wing of his Williams after hitting the wall on lap 20 a safety car caused a flurry of pit-lane activity with all the leaders heading in for fresh rubber.

Leclerc was held up behind Sainz and he rejoined behind Russell and Norris. Verstappen stayed out and moved up to second before the packed night race crowd witnessed the rare sight in 2023 of the runaway championship leader be-

ing passed comfortably by Russell, Norris, Hamilton and Leclerc on their fresher tyres. Perez was the first Red Bull to pit, on lap 39, and dropped all the way to last place after he emerged.

Verstappen stopped a lap later and rejoined down in 15th. Just two laps later Esteban Ocon's engine gave out causing a virtual safety car giving Mercedes the chance to dive in for fresh tyres. With 10 laps to go, Russell swept past Leclerc with Hamilton following a lap later.

Russell had remarkably been the last non-Red Bull driver to win a grand prix before Sainz, in November last year in Brazil, before his race ended in dramatic fashion.

"Extremely unfortunate for George," said Hamilton. "We were pushing so hard to catch these

guys and our tyres were so hot. But I know he will bounce back. He's been phenomenal all weekend."

Verstappen is still a runaway favourite to claim a third world title but the all-conquering Dutchman has still never taken the chequered flag in Singapore.

Red Bull had won all 14 races this season before Singapore but the Marina Bay street extinguished hopes of a clean sweep of 22 Grands Prix wins in 2023.

Verstappen had won 12 of the 14 previous races this season with Perez the only other driver to take the chequered flag.

Red Bull need to win six of the remaining seven races to beat the Formula One record of Mercedes in 2016, when Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton won 19 of 21 Grands Prix.

ATHLETICS

Coleman and Jackson upset world champs in Diamond League final



Christian Coleman of the US holds up the Diamond League Final trophy after winning the men's 100m at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. (AFP)

Reuters
Eugene, Oregon

American Christian Coleman stunned world champion Noah Lyles to win the men's 100 metres at the Diamond League final in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday as Jamaican Sherricka Jackson took the women's sprint title.

Coleman missed out on the podium at the World Championships in Budapest but broke the tape in a blistering 9.83 seconds as fellow American Lyles finished second in 9.85. Kenyan Ferdinand Omanyala took third.

Coleman, the 2018 Diamond League champion, exploded off the blocks and Lyles was unable to overcome a slower start.

"I was able to just find a sense of confidence and believe in myself, like I knew I was supposed to win this race," said Coleman.

"This year I feel like I had a mental breakthrough to where I'm able to just find my stride and stick to it. And I feel like next year I'll be able to capitalise."

Lyles, the first male athlete since Jamaican Usain Bolt to win gold in the 100 metres, 200 and 4x100 relay at the World Championships, was all smiles after a transformative 2023.

"Of course, I want the win, but more (important) is that the crowd got to come out here and I got to be in front of them," said Lyles.

"I was able to do a victory lap, even though I didn't win the victory."

Jamaican Jackson finished second at the World Championships behind American Sha'Carri Richardson but took the lead in the last half of the women's 100 metres before breaking the tape in 10.70.

Ivorian Marie-Josée Ta Lou finished five hundredths of a

second slower and Jackson's compatriot Elaine Thompson-Herah, the back-to-back Olympic champion, took third in 10.79.

"I just wanted to come out here and execute and I think I did pretty good this evening," said Jackson.

"I just started sprinting in 2021 and to be among these great female sprinters is a good feeling. It always help to push you."

American Rai Benjamin got the track programme off to a roaring start as he stunned world record-holder Karsten Warholm in the 400 metres hurdles.

World champion Warholm was strong favourite after claiming three Diamond League wins this year but Benjamin finished strongly to clock 46.39 seconds, the year's best time and fourth-fastest ever.

Norway's Olympic champion Warholm was second in 46.53 and Kyron McMaster of the British Virgin Islands took third in 47.31.

"Went back to my old race model, because my second half is just amazing. Just tried to channel that today and I feel like I did a really good job," said Benjamin, who won bronze in Budapest.

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon, who this year became the first woman to complete a 1,500-5,000 metres double at the World Championships, sparkled again as she won the 1,500 metres in a blistering 3:50.72.

"This was amazing, starting with the world record and now winning the trophy. It has been a fantastic year for me," Kipyegon said.

Grenadian three-times Olympic medallist Kirani James won the men's 400 metres in 44.30 seconds as world bronze medallist Quincy Hall of the United States finished second in 44.44.

SPOTLIGHT

ICSS starts operations to support CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023

Upon request of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) will be involved in the safety and security preparations of the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023, the biggest football tournament in Africa, whose kick-off is expected to happen on the 13th of January 2024.

As a part of its mission to protect major sporting events in all their dimensions, from venues to people, the ICSS will work closely with CAF and COCAN 2023 - the organising committee for the event, by providing capacity building, assistance in the development of key documentation and technical support through the deployment, during the event, of ICSS access control experts.

In this context, the ICSS will both mentor the Venue Safety and Security Teams during the tournament and provide reference materials for the Stadium Stewards.

"Since its establishment, the ICSS has been officially involved in the preparation of several large-scale football tournaments. We started with the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in 2014, assisting the Brazilian authorities in the design of their safeguards strategies, particularly with regard to the protection of minors during the event, then our flagship cooperation with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy - Qatar 2022, and now the Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast, working closely with CAF, one of our main international partners. We will make available all our knowledge, our



expertise, our tools, and our passion to make sure that athletes, spectators, families, and any other participant will feel safe across the days of the tournament." ICSS CEO Massimiliano Montanari said. As a first action, the ICSS has contributed last week to the delivery of a safety and security training workshop in Abidjan, providing assistance for the 2023 COCAN on a number of key safety and security aspects.

Delivered as a part of the framework cooperation established with CAF and the ICSS to protect the development of the African football, the training took place in the context of a workshop which brought together experts from CAF, the ICSS and the Sport Ground Safety Authority (SGSA).

Various safety and security representatives from the Gendarmerie Nationale, Police Nationale and Groupe-

(GSPM) participated in the training to learn about their duties and responsibilities as Safety and Security Officers Co-ordinators, Escort Commanders, Steward Supervisors, and Chief Stewards for the various competition and non-competition venues including stadiums, training sites, fan zones, and hotels.

"The training kicked-off the provision of a range of services we will be providing to the CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023 to ensure they are kept abreast of the industry's best practices. This training enhances our partnership with CAF which started a long time ago with the launch of the UNITAR-certified Sport Safety and Security Training and Advanced Education Programme for professionals in Africa," said Alain van Thiel, Head, Safety and Security Training Development at the ICSS.

Italy book place at Davis Cup finals with win over Sweden



Italy's Matteo Arnaldi celebrates after winning his singles match against Sweden's Leo Borg during their Davis Cup tie Unipol Arena, Bologna, Italy, yesterday. (Reuters)

Paris: Italy became the seventh team to qualify for the Davis Cup Final 8 yesterday with singles wins from Matteo Arnaldi and Lorenzo Sonego giving them an unassailable 2-0 lead against Sweden in Bologna. Arnaldi, 22, who reached the fourth round at the US Open, saw of Sweden's Leo Borg 6-4, 6-3 in one hour and 22 minutes. Sonego then overcame Elias Ymer 6-4, 6-4 to move Italy 2-0 ahead.

Victory means the Italians, who only needed to win one of their ties to advance ahead of Chile, progress to the showpiece event in Malaga in November alongside group winners and defending champions Canada.

Italy have now advanced to the Davis Cup quarter-finals five times since 2016. Serbia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Finland and Australia have also booked their tickets with the last place going to either Great Britain or France. In their winner-takes-all match in Manchester, Dan Evans gave the hosts the advantage with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory over 19-year-old Arthur Fils.

Ugo Humbert levelled the tie with a 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-5 win over Cameron Norrie which means it will come down to the doubles.

Finland beat USA to reach Davis Cup last eight for first time

Finland wrote a new page in their tennis history on Saturday, beating the United States 2-1 in Split to reach the last eight of the Davis Cup for the first time.

Australia and defending champions Canada also qualified while Novak Djokovic played doubles in a losing cause for Serbia against Czech Republic in a dead rubber with both teams already through to the final stages to be played in Malaga in November.

Otto Virtanen set the Finns rolling in the winner-take-all match against the Americans with a 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (9/7) win over Mackenzie McDonald. Emil Ruusuvuori then followed up with a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 victory against world number 13 Tommy Paul on his fourth match point, sending Finland through with Netherlands from Group D.

QATAR BEAT SAUDI ARABIA IN U-16 FIBA ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Host Qatar, led by a dominating performance from Mohamed Ndao, defeated Saudi Arabia 91-82 in their opening game of the FIBA U-16 Asian Championship 2023 at Al Gharafa Indoor Hall, yesterday. Al Annabi captain Ndao recorded 25 points on 10-17 shooting from the field, 18 rebounds, six assists, two steals and five blocks. Abdullah Yassin Mousa led the host team in scoring with 28 points. In other matches of the day, defending champs Australia crushed India 114-50, New Zealand held off South Korea 83-81, Japan came from behind to beat Iran 65-62, Jordan cruised to beat Bahrain 85-44 and Malaysia emerged victorious over Kazakhstan 79-71.

FOOTBALL

Heidenheim claim first win as Gladbach stage shock comeback

AFP
Berlin

Heidenheim's on-loan midfielder Eren Dinkci scored twice in a 4-2 win against his parent club Werder Bremen yesterday to give the promoted side their first ever Bundesliga victory.

Bremen-born Dinkci, who joined Heidenheim on loan from Werder in July, scored either side of half time as the Bundesliga newcomers prevailed in one of two six-goal thrillers in the Bundesliga yesterday.

In late game, another promoted side Darmstadt threw away a three-goal lead to draw 3-3 with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"It's a great feeling. My first brace in the Bundesliga, and it comes against Bremen of all clubs. My whole family is here today, so it doesn't get much better than this,"

Dinkci told DAZN after Heidenheim's win.

The club's first top-flight win came on a weekend when coach Frank Schmidt celebrated 16 years in the dugout, making him the longest-serving coach in German league history. Schmidt took over Heidenheim in the fifth tier back in 2007, but he dismissed talk of a fairytale yesterday.

"There was nothing cheesy about today's win. It was just an awesome game of football," he said.

Tim Kleindienst gave Heidenheim an early lead from the penalty spot after Bremen's Anthony Jung threw an elbow at the ball while defending a free-kick.

The home side then doubled their advantage on the stroke of half-time through Dinkci, who refused to celebrate after smashing the ball past former teammate Jiri Pavlenka in the Bremen goal.

The visitors looked down and out at half-time, but were given

a route back by an Omar Traore handball. Marvin Duksch hit the resulting penalty straight at Heidenheim goalkeeper Kevin Mueller before nodding in the rebound to make it 2-1.

Bremen missed a good chance to equalise through Romano Schmid before Mitchell Weiser pulled them level with a well-placed header on 64 minutes.

Dinkci restored the lead four minutes later, slotting the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the area after a cross from Jan-Niklas Beste.

Beste, who spent a year at Bremen's reserves in 2018/19, rifled in a fourth a few minutes later to seal the win.

Later Borussia Moenchengladbach staged a miraculous comeback in Darmstadt, in part thanks to a controversial red card.

Darmstadt started the game bottom of the table, but exploded into the first half with two goals in the first ten minutes.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Trossard strikes as Arsenal end Everton curse

CHELSEA'S WOES MOUNT AFTER BOURNEMOUTH STALEMATE

AFP
Liverpool

Arsenal finally ended their six-year wait for a Premier League victory at Everton as Leandro Trossard fired the title-chasing Gunners to a 1-0 success yesterday.

Mikel Arteta's side had to work hard for their first win at Goodison Park since 2017, with Belgian forward Trossard settling a scrappy encounter midway through the second half.

Arsenal were not at their fluent best but they earned their fourth win in five games this season by matching Everton's physical approach.

Arteta has warned his players they would only end their Everton curse if they are willing to put their bodies on the line and they rose to that challenge.

After leaving it late to beat Manchester United in their previous game before the international break, this was another tense affair for Arsenal.

But Trossard's goal lifted unbeaten the north Londoners into fourth place, two points behind leaders Manchester City as they aim to avenge last season's late collapse in the title race.

Winless Everton remain in the relegation zone as they face up to another relegation battle after narrowly beating the drop in the last two seasons.

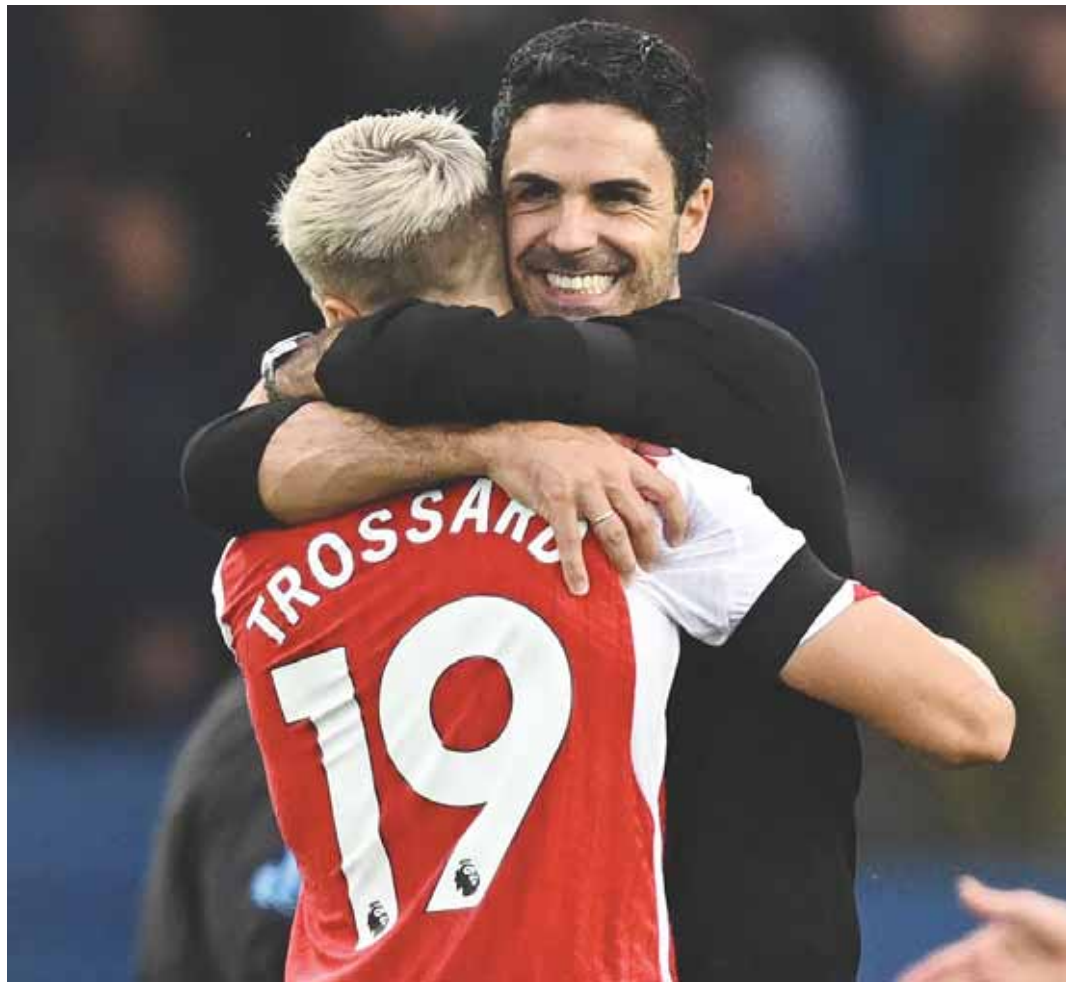
Sean Dyche's team headed into the game on the back of the news that the club is set to have new owners after Farhad Moshiri agreed to sell his 94 percent stake to American investment fund 777 Partners.

The takeover would bring to an end the tumultuous tenure of British-Iranian Moshiri, who first invested in 2016.

Everton's new owners got an early glimpse into the size of the task facing them as the Toffees suffered a fourth defeat in their opening five league games for the first time since 2005-06.

Arteta, a former Everton midfielder, has no such worries as Arsenal prepare for their return to the Champions League after a six-year absence against PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday.

The Spaniard was rewarded with a clean-sheet from keeper David Raya, who made his Arsenal debut following his move



Arsenal's midfielder Leandro Trossard is embraced by Arsenal's manager Mikel Arteta after their EPL match against Everton at Goodison Park in Liverpool yesterday. (AFP)

from Brentford as Aaron Ramsdale dropped to the bench. Raya was one of two changes, with Fabio Vieira making his first start since April in place of Kai Havertz.

Gabriel Martinelli thought he had given Arsenal the lead their dominance deserved when he slotted home from close-range in the 19th minute, but his effort was disallowed for offside against Eddie Nketiah in the build-up.

Gabriel's pass had bounced off Everton forward Beto when Nketiah was ruled to be interfering with play, much to Arsenal's disgust. Adding insult to injury for Martinelli, the Brazilian forward limped off with a muscle injury soon after that incident.

Arsenal were in such total command that Everton went the first half an hour without a single touch inside the visitors' penalty area.

Everton appealed in vain for a penalty when Abdoulaye Dou-

coure broke into the area and went to ground under William Saliba's challenge.

Ben White's effort was saved by Everton keeper Jordan Pickford, who produced an even better stop to keep out Marin Odegaard's rocket soon after half-time. Everton's Arnaut Danjuma fired onto the roof of the net from distance, but Arsenal finally made their pressure pay off in the 69th minute.

A flurry of passes opened up the Everton defence and Bukayo Saka deftly clipped the ball into Trossard, who guided a composed finish into the far corner for his first league goal this season.

Earlier in the day, troubled Chelsea had to settle for a disappointing 0-0 draw against Bournemouth as their dismal start to the season showed no signs of improving.

After losing 1-0 to Nottingham Forest in their last league game,

Chelsea dominated possession in the first half with Nicolas Jackson striking the foot of the post in the 14th minute and Conor Gallagher wasting a glorious opportunity just after the half-hour mark.

Dango Outtara enjoyed the best of Bournemouth's rare first-half chances as he connected with a low ball across the box, but Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez dived to smother his close-range shot.

The visitors had the ball in the net early in the second half as Raheem Sterling struck the angle of post and crossbar with a free kick and Levi Colwill blasted home the rebound, but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Chelsea almost got the winner five minutes from the end of normal time as Sterling picked out Cole Palmer, but Cherries keeper Neto made a brilliant one-handed reflex save to keep out the substitute's deft volley.

Qatar to take part in Jordan Four-Nation Championship

The Qatar national football team will be participating in the Jordan International Four-Nation Championship to be held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, from October 13 and 17.

Besides Qatar and hosts Jordan, Iraq and Iran are the other teams. Qatari team will meet Iraq on Friday, October 13, while on the same day, Jordan will play Iran. The winners of the first two matches will meet on October 17 to determine the winner of the championship title, while the two losers will meet on the same day in the third-place match.



LA LIGA

Returning Ramos guides Sevilla to first win of the season

AFP
Barcelona

Sergio Ramos played for Sevilla for the first time since he left the club in 2005 as they earned their first win of the season over Las Palmas yesterday.

The 37-year-old centre-back started in the 1-0 victory at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan, following his arrival from Paris Saint-Germain this summer.

Ramos, who left Sevilla for Real Madrid 18 years ago to the ire of many supporters in Andalusia, was largely cheered on his return. He produced a fine block with his chest to stop Las Palmas taking the lead.

The veteran defender also survived a penalty appeal when he tangled with Las Palmas forward Sory Kaba in the area.

Belgian winger Dodi Lukebakio sent Sevilla ahead when he fired home from close range after a rebound fell into his path after 71 minutes.

With Ramos at the heart of the defence, Sevilla kept their first clean sheet of the season, following four defeats across all competitions.

Elsewhere Pacheta got off to a winning start as Villarreal's

new coach thanks to Alexander Sorloth's 94th minute winner against Almeria in a 2-1 victory.

Getafe edged Osasuna 3-2, with Mason Greenwood making his debut after arriving from Manchester United on loan, his first appearance since January 2022.

The English striker, on loan at Getafe from the Premier League side, was charged with attempted rape and assault in October 2022 but the charges were later dropped.

Getafe coach Jose Bordalas sent Greenwood on for Juanmi Latasa in the 77th minute to applause from home fans at the club's Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium.

A group of Osasuna fans greeted the 21-year-old's arrival to Spanish football with chants of "Greenwood, die".

"I didn't hear them so I have nothing to say," said Bordalas. "I am very happy with the kid's debut."

The coach said Greenwood's arrival in Spain would be good for football in the country.

"I speak only in sporting terms - the fans are very excited, the truth is I think it's very positive for Getafe and for Spanish football, I have no doubt," he added.



Sergio Ramos (left) and his teammates celebrate a goal against Las Palmas at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium yesterday.

OMAN BEAT HOSTS QATAR IN T20I GULF CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

Formidable Oman handed hosts Qatar their first defeat of the T20I Gulf Cricket Championship winning by 19 runs at West End International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a target of 150, the home side could score 130-7 in stipulated overs with Oman pacer Mehran Khan bagging match-winning figures of 3-17. Opener Saqlain Arshad (31) and

debutant Jassim Khan (26*) were the top scorers for Qatar. Earlier, Mohamed Nadeem (36) top scored for Oman after they elected to bat first. Pacer Mohamed Jabir was the

pick of the bowlers for the hosts taking four wickets for 37 runs. Qatar, who defeated Bahrain in their opening match on Friday, will meet Kuwait in their next match today.