**SPOTLIGHT**

**Mancini unveils Saudi squad**

Saud Al-Mumtazi/The National - Fathi Al-Mumtazi

**FOCUS**

**Andersen praises Hong Kong, teams get down to training**

Asiya Syed/AGENCIES

**LOPEZ NAMES QATAR SQUAD FOR ASIAN CUP DEFENCE**

Muntari and al-Tairi miss out due to injuries, with Khadeir Mohamed and Ismael Mohamed replacing them

By Sport Reporter

Qatar coach Joséantonio Lopez has named a 23-man squad for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup, scheduled for January 15 to February 1.

Muntari and al-Tairi, who were both expected to feature in Qatar's Asian Cup campaign, have been ruled out due to injuries sustained during training. Muntari has been replaced by Khadeir Mohamed, while al-Tairi has been replaced by Ismael Mohamed.

Lopez's squad includes several players who have played for Qatar in previous tournaments. The squad is led by captain Almoez Ali, who is set to lead Qatar's charge in the Asian Cup.

Qatar will face a strong group in the Asian Cup, with matches against China, North Korea, and Vietnam. Lopez's team will need to be at their best to progress to the knockout stages.

**SAUDI ARABIA PLAYERS AT STRIKING SONG IN SAUDI YOUTH**

Saudi Arabia's national team were in action against the Philippines in a friendly match recently. The team performed a striking song during the match, which was well-received by the fans in attendance.

By Sport Reporter

Saudi Arabia head coach Saud Al-Mumtazi has praised his team for their performance in the match against the Philippines. Al-Mumtazi said the team's performance was exceptional, and he expects them to continue their good form in upcoming matches.

**CRICKET**

India in control against South Africa after wickets tumble on Day 1

By Sport Reporter

India were in control against South Africa on Day 1 of the first test match in Durban. India's star pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami bowled the South African batsmen out for a low score.

India's bowlers were in full swing, with Bumrah taking 4 wickets and Shami taking 3. India's second string players also did well, with Ravichandran Ashwin and Wriddhiman Saha taking a wicket each.

India will look to build on their strong start and set a challenging total for South Africa to chase.
Pakistan fight back to frustrate Australia

DOMI PAKISTAN 6-1 back at the halfway stage of the third Test at Sydney yesterday (AP)

A record 21st century by the Pakistan batsman Naseem Shah, who hit 140 not out, inspired Pakistan to a 212-run victory over Australia yesterday and tied the series at 1-1.

Both teams were put into bat after a walkabout for the start of play. Australia's 318 was not a bad innings, but Pakistan's 418 was a magnificent performance. Naseem was the star with his 140, but the other Pakistan batsmen also did well. Shahzad, Azhar Ali and Babar Azam all scored fifties.

The Pakistan captain, who has been out of form in recent games, was in fine form yesterday and scored his first century in the series. His 140 included 12 sixes and 18 fours.

Naseem's innings was a fitting tribute to the late Mohammad Yousuf, who was(void)

Pakistan's Naseem Shah plays a shot during the first day of the third Test against Australia at the SCG in Sydney yesterday (AP)

Pakistan's victory over Australia yesterday (AP)

With a half-century behind him, was caught by Tim Paine off Plunkett for 58.


SECOND TEST

India in control after wickets tumble on Day 1

Hosts bowled out for 55 in their first innings. India lost 6 wickets for no runs

India's pacers, including Javagal Srinath and Waqar Younis, had bowled out Pakistan for 189 on the opening day of the second Test at the SCG in Sydney yesterday.

Pakistan were dismissed for 189 in their first innings, with openers Shafiqullah and Asif Ali both making double figures.

India's bowlers were in full swing from the beginning, with Srinath and Younis dismissing the Pakistan openers early on.

India's batting was also impressive, with Lokesh Rahul scoring 80 not out and Virat Kohli making 74.

The second Test is due to start on January 26. India lead the series 1-0.
Pliskova rallies to oust Osaka; Sabalenka wins

**EVER STEPPING ON THE COURT IS A PERSONAL WIN.**

App

**UNITED CUP**

**Djokovic wrist injury dooms Serbia to Australia defeat**

**Shocking loss for Djokovic as he is forced to retire with a wrist injury in the United Cup match against Australia.**

Djokovic, who had recovered from a back injury earlier in the year, was forced to retire from the match in the first set after feeling discomfort in his left wrist. The seven-time Grand Slam champion had not played since winning the Australian Open in January and was optimistic about his chances of featuring in the upcoming Australian Open.

**PODCAST AND PAST CHINA**

Djokovic was joined by former world No. 1 Novak Djokovic to discuss his future in the sport, his personal life, and his experiences in the past. The podcast was hosted by the former world No. 1, who reflected on his own career and the challenges he faced as a young athlete.

Djokovic discussed his early days in tennis, his journey to success, and the lessons he learned along the way. He also talked about the importance of mental strength and the role it played in his success. The podcast was a fascinating insight into the life of one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

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30-day countdown begins for World Aquatics Championships

Around 2,600 athletes from more than 190 countries will travel to Doha to compete in 75 medal events.

**SPORT**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Doha International Arabian Horse Show from tomorrow**

**Sheikh Ahmad’s Safi Al Zaman claims Umm Al Zubair Cup**

By Sport Reporter

The Doha 2040 Local Organising Committee has held a press conference today to announce the launch of the 30-day countdown for the World Aquatics Championships that will be held at the newly constructed Khalifa Aquatic Centre in Doha this summer.

The event will be attended by representatives from the International Swimming Federation (FINA) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC), including Sheikh Ahmad of Qatar, who is also the President of Qatar Athletics Association, and Sheikh Ahmad bin Hamad Al-Thani, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Swimming Committee.

"This event is a significant step in our preparations for the World Aquatics Championships, which will be held under the banner of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) at the Khalifa Aquatic Centre in Doha," Sheikh Ahmad said.

The LOC said that the event will help to promote the sport of aquatics in Qatar, build momentum for the World Aquatics Championships, and generate publicity for the event.

**Doha 2040**

Sheikh Ahmad bin Ali Al Thani, Qatar Olympic Committee president, thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts and thanked the LOC for their efforts.

Al Thani said that the LOC is"determined to deliver a world-class event that will set new standards for the sport of aquatics and leave a lasting legacy for Qatar and the region."