

HH Shaikh Khalid directs to celebrate International Olympic Day

TDT | Manama

The International Olympic Day will be observed on December 3, 2022 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa directed the celebration of the global event.

HH Shaikh Khalid instructed the committee to hold a string of sports events, programmes and activities targeting all social segments on this occasion.

In a statement, he stressed BOC's keenness to observe the annual event which aims at fostering noble Olympic values and support a community culture, and cement the spirit of unity, peace and fair play.

He underlined BOC's cooperation with the International Olympic Committee to spread noble Olympic values and principle, promote sports for all and encourage people to



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

exercise.

The world celebrates the Olympic Day on June 23 every year. However, each member state celebrates this day on the date it deems suitable, in coordination with the International Olympic Committee.

This Olympic Day celebrates the power of sport to bring people together in peace. In 2022, the theme for International Olympic Day is "Together, For a Peaceful World".

Klinsmann predicts 'World Cup of surprises'

Reuters | Doha

German legend Jurgen Klinsmann said on Saturday that an underdog could go far in what he is predicting will be a "World Cup of surprises".

"I think this could be a World Cup of surprises because if some of the kind of underdogs -- maybe if it's an African nation, if it's an Asian team -- if they are courageous I



Jurgen Klinsmann

think you can go actually far in this tournament," Klinsmann

England implode to hand second ODI and series to Australia

● Smith, Starc, Zampa help Australia seal series with big win

● Vince and Billings put up a fight for England

AFP | Sydney

Australia wrapped up the three-match one-day international series with a comprehensive 72-run win over England at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

Chasing 281 to level the series after Australia won the first match in Adelaide on Thursday, England appeared well on track as Sam Billings and James Vince shared a 122-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

But once Vince was trapped lbw by stand-in Australian captain Josh Hazlewood for 60, the English imploded, losing 4-13 to virtually hand the Australians the match.

On a tricky wicket at the SCG, Steve Smith continued the form he showed in Australia's six-wicket win in Adelaide with a hard-fought 94 to help Australia to 280-8.

The target always looked difficult on a surface that was playing slow with the occasional bad bounce.

"It looks easy to bat on when



Australia's Mitchell Marsh plays a shot

It looks easy to bat on when a partnership is going. But you're only a wicket away from causing a collapse on such a pitch. I was very happy with 280

AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN JOSH HAZLEWOOD

a partnership is going," Hazlewood said of the surface.

"But you're only a wicket away from causing a collapse on such a pitch. I was very happy with 280."

England got the worst possible start to the run chase when Jason Roy tickled Mitchell

Starc's second delivery down the leg side to keeper Alex Carey.

Three balls later Starc got the key wicket of Dawid Malan with an almost unplayable ball that pitched on leg stump then swung back to take the top of off, leaving England staggering at two wickets for no runs.

Phil Salt and Vince kept playing with the aggression that the England white-ball teams are renowned for, and took the score to 34 after five overs.

But Salt tried one big shot too many, stepping away to try and smash Hazlewood over cover only to miss the ball and see it cannon into his stumps.

Any hopes Australia may have had of crashing through

YOU KNOW WHAT

England wickets kept tumbling as Starc (4-47), Hazlewood (2-33) and Zampa (4-45) wrapped up the English tail

the England batting lineup were dashed by Vince and Billings.

The two mixed caution with aggression as they took the score to 156 before Vince was trapped by Hazlewood as he tried to hoist the Australian skipper over the square leg boundary.

England captain Moeen Ali came in and smashed leg spinner Adam Zampa for a four and a six, then missed a top spinner and was bowled.

At 168-5 after 28.3 overs, Australia were back in control and they tightened their grip one run later when Zampa bowled Billings for 71.

England wickets kept tumbling as Starc (4-47), Hazlewood (2-33) and Zampa (4-45) wrapped up the English tail.

"We were in a good position with the bat but we lost wickets," Ali said.

Bahrain to face UAE in Arab Gulf Cup opener

Kingdom's senior men's national football team set to begin title-defence in region's premier football competition against Emiratis

● Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation release tournament schedule

● Bahrain to play first game Group B against UAE on 7 January

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will kick off their long-awaited title-defence in the 25th Arab Gulf Cup against the UAE, it was revealed yesterday.

The competitions committee of the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF) issued yesterday the schedule of matches for the competition, which will be held in Basra, Iraq, from 6 to 19 January.

Eight teams are competing in the tournament. The Bahrainis and Emiratis are in Group B for the preliminary round along with Kuwait and Qatar.

Group A consists of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman and hosts Iraq.

Bahrain's game against the UAE will be on 7 January. Following that fixture, the nationals next take on Qatar on 10 January, before playing their final group fixture on 13 January against Kuwait.



Bahrain's senior men's national team before their Serbia friendly

Following a single round-robin in stage one, the top two teams from each group move on to the semi-finals, which will be played on 16 January. The winners of those two games then go through to the title-deciding contest, slated for 19 January.

Basra International Stadium will be the main venue for the matches, with a capacity of up to 60,000 spectators in the stands. Some games will also be played at Al Mina'a Stadium.

AGCFF secretary general Jassim Al Rumaihi said yesterday that Basra will be ready to host the Arab Gulf Cup on time and as scheduled.

Al Rumaihi commented: "We have continuous and joint co-

ordination with the brothers in the organizing committee of the championship and the Iraqi Football Association, and there is constant knowledge of all developments, and all other related organizational matters."

The Bahrainis have already begun their preparations for the Gulf Cup, which will be one of their main competitions of 2023.

The nationals played last week a pair of high-profile international friendly matches against FIFA World Cup 2022 participants Canada and Serbia, as part of their programme leading up to the tournament.

They drew 2-2 with the Canadians but were then dealt a 1-5 loss to their Serbian coun-

BETTER YOU KNOW

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terparts.

Bahrain won the previous edition of the Arab Gulf Cup in 2019. It was an historic achievement for the national team after winning the title for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Mohammed Al Rumaihi scored the decisive goal in their 1-0 victory against Saudi Arabia in the tournament final.

Bahrain hosted the first-ever edition of the regional competition in 1970 but had previously never won until then. They finished as runners-up four other times.

Aside from the Arab Gulf Cup, Bahrain will also be taking part in the AFC Asian Cup 2023. The continental showcase will be held in June and July.

Ronaldo 'motivated', Portugal atmosphere 'top' - Bernardo Silva



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates with Bernardo Silva after scoring (file photo)

AFP | Doha

Bernardo Silva insisted the atmosphere around Portugal's World Cup camp was "top, top, top," despite mounting controversy generated by Cristiano Ronaldo's recent interview in England.

Five-time Ballon d'Or winner and all-time top international goalscorer in men's football Ronaldo lashed out at his club Manchester United and coach Erik ten Hag earlier this week when speaking to TalkTV.

Questions about Ronaldo dominated Silva's press conference and the Manchester City midfielder was not keen

The news from England has nothing to do with the national team. It also has nothing to do with me, so I won't comment. I'm not a Manchester United player, even if I were, I wouldn't answer. They're a rival club, it's nothing to do with me

BERNARDO SILVA

to respond in depth, although he did say the forward was focused and motivated.