

Al Ahli outclass Al Tadamun in handball league



Action from Al Ahli's game against Al Tadamun

TDT | Manama

Contenders Al Ahli defeated Al Tadamun 33-26 last night to kick off the fourth week of action in the 2022/2023 Khalid bin Hamad Bahrain Handball League, being played at the Bahrain Handball Association Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Ahli held a slim 16-13 lead at the half but were a class above their rivals after the break.

With the result, Ahli claimed

their second victory in three games while Tadamun suffered their third successive loss to start the new season.

League action continues tonight with defending champions Al Najma going for their fourth straight win when they take on Al Ettifaq at 5.30pm. That will be followed by Al Shabab going head-to-head with Al Ettihad.

Tomorrow, Bahrain Club and Samaheej face off in a single contest.

Bahrain highest risers on FIBA World Ranking

Senior men's national team go up a massive 18 places on latest edition of global classification

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Bahrain were the biggest risers on the latest edition of the FIBA World Ranking, going up a massive 18 places to 86th overall.

The classification of senior men's national basketball teams was released by international basketball's governing body FIBA.

The Bahrainis were previously ranked 104th but after improving to 116.5 points have



Bahrain national team players celebrate during a recent game (File photo)

cracked into the top 100 globally.

The nationals are also 16th amongst 43 teams in FIBA Asia,

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Amongst GCC nations, only Saudi Arabia are ranked higher in 73rd.

Bahrain's senior national team are currently competing in the Asian qualifiers for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

Andy Murray says coaching mere mortals could be a challenge for Roger Federer

Murray says he hopes Roger Federer will stay involved in tennis as he heads into retirement

AFP | London

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one



Roger Federer (L) and Andy Murray react during a match at the Laver Cup

He had the ability to play everything and he had so many options at his disposal that that's the challenging thing also as a coach sometimes, especially someone in his position

ANDY MURRAY

day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I

think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players.

"He had the ability to play everything and he had so many options at his disposal that that's the challenging thing also as a coach sometimes, especially someone in his position."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2 arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

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Federer declined to say what his plans are, when asked on Sunday, but said being Laver Cup captain was not on the radar

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really.

"If he ever would consider doing that, I'm sure that he's going to bring a lot of positive things to the improvement of that player, whether male or female, in every aspect on and off the court.

"He's undoubtedly one of the greatest players to play the game, the way he played it, with his style and effortlessness."

Both Murray and Djokovic tasted defeats on the final day to prevent a dream finale for Federer, who watched Team World win a maiden Laver Cup by a five-point margin.

England won't take risks with Buttler before T20 World Cup



England head coach Matthew Mott talks to Jos Buttler after a match (file photo)

Reuters | London

England's limited-overs coach Matthew Mott said Jos Buttler is itching to make his return from injury during their seven-match series in Pakistan but they will not take any risks with the batsman so close to the Twenty20 World Cup.

Buttler has not played in the series so far as he recovers from a calf injury he sustained while playing in The Hundred, with the team being led by Moeen Ali.

The World Cup takes place in Australia from Oct. 16-Nov. 13.

"With regard to Jos (But-

With regard to Jos (Buttler), he's still a while off, he's not a player we want to take a risk on at this stage, so close to the World Cup, and it was a reasonably significant injury that he had

MATTHEW MOTT

ler), he's still a while off, he's not a player we want to take a risk on at this stage, so close to the World Cup, and it was a reasonably significant injury that he had," Mott said.

Djokovic managing wrist issue, ATP Finals remains his goal

Reuters | London

Novak Djokovic said he was bothered by a wrist problem during the Laver Cup in London and that his lengthy absence from the Tour recently could be to blame.

The three-day tournament in London's O2 Arena was Djokovic's first event since the Serb won his 21st Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in early July.

The 35-year-old, who missed the North American hardcourt swing and the U.S. Open due to not being vaccinated against COVID-19, produced a dazzling performance on his return to



Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Felix Auger-Aliassime in Lavers Cup

the Tour on Saturday by winning his singles and doubles matches.

However, he lost to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime on the

Djokovic's Wimbledon victory guarantees him a spot in the Tour-ending Finals if he remains ranked in the world's top 20

final day of competition on Sunday.

"I have been struggling with my right wrist for the last four, five days, to be honest. I have been keeping it under control," Djokovic told reporters.

"The two matches yesterday probably had an effect. Today was not easy. I couldn't serve as fast or as accurately as I would

like to. That has affected the whole game."

Djokovic said qualifying for November's ATP Finals in Turin remained his goal and that he will play a tournament in Tel Aviv this week followed by an event in Kazakhstan next week and then the Paris Masters at the end of October.

His Wimbledon victory guarantees him a spot in the Tour-ending Finals if he remains ranked in the world's top 20.

Djokovic, who is currently ranked seventh, said the wrist issue could be due to a combination of factors.

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