

Lin Dan battles past Holst

Glasgow

China's Lin Dan came from behind to keep alive his hopes of a sixth world title yesterday as the 33-year-old saw off Denmark's Emil Holst 19-21, 21-8, 21-16 in a draining 81 minutes.

The decider was close, with the score tied at 16-all before Dan's greater experience helped him win the final five points and gain revenge for a defeat in the Danish Open earlier this year. Seeded seventh, Lin Dan admitted he was relieved to get through to the last 16.

"I am very happy to win and prove myself again at the world championships," he said.

"I have prepared very well and for a long time for this week and although it was a

long match I am now looking forward to tomorrow."

Holst, the world number 39, was heartbroken at missing out on a chance to claim the most famous of scalps.

"I am very disappointed," admitted the 26-year-old. "I had my chance to beat him, but I was very tired towards the end and he made me make tough decisions."

In the longest match of the championships, Vincent Wong Wing Ki, 12th seed from Hong Kong, survived a scare to overcome Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama.

The Japanese underdog had three match points -- and had to save two of Wong's -- before he went out 23-21, 15-21, 24-26 in a marathon one hour and 24

minutes.

"I wasn't too nervous when I was facing the three match points because I already prepared myself for a long and tough match," said the winner, who sank to his knees in relief at the end.

"I lost to him recently in the Asian championships so I knew it would be difficult. I am the 12th seed so the pressure is on me."

Defending champion Chen Long and top seed, Son Won Ho, both had easy passages into the last 16. Chen, the Olympic gold medallist and fifth seed, trounced Indonesia's Sony Dwi Kuncoro 21-3, 21-9.

South Korea's Son defeated Hungary's Gergely Krausz 21-13, 21-9. (AFP)



Lin Dan

Bahrain set to take on Brazil

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Manama

Bahrain under coach Yousif Khalifa Alasbool are set to take on Brazil at 5pm today in the Round of 16 of the 2017 FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

Bahrain qualified for the last 16 after finishing second in Pool B in the preliminary phase with a 3-1 win-loss with victories against Egypt, Puerto Rico and Tunisia and a solitary loss to the USA, while Brazil finished third in Pool with a two win two loss record.

Bahrain are captained



Team Bahrain

by Saif Yusuf, the libero is Hussain Abdulla and the rest of the squad comprises Sayed Mohammed Al Abbar, Jawher Rashed, Mohammed Jassim, Mohammed Haroon,

Hassan Haider, Hussain Thamer, Hassan Mohammed, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Yousif Saif and ayed Yousif Ashoor.

Also starting at 5pm are undefeated Iran who won all four of its Pool B matches and take on Turkey who finished fourth in Pool C with a two win two loss record.

Six other Round of 16 matches also take place today, starting at 1pm when Japan who were also unbeaten in all

four of its Pool B preliminaries, take on Puerto Rico, while Argentina face off with the Czech Republic.

At 3pm, France go head to head with the USA in a mouth-watering clash and Russia play China in the other match.

The final round of matches are at 7pm with Italy taking on South Korea and Egypt facing off with Cuba.

Also taking place to kick-off the day's action are the round-robin 17th to 20th

classification matches, which feature the four teams who finished bottom of their respective groups, with Tunisia playing Mexico and Poland up against Chile and conclude on Saturday.

The quarter finals follow tomorrow, the semi-finals on Saturday with the Gold and Bronze Medal matches on Sunday.

For more information, visit u19.boys.2017.volleyball.fivb.com.

Bahrain to host FIVB U21 championship

DT News Network
Manama

Bahrain are putting together a bid to host the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship in 2019, according to Bahrain Volleyball Association (BVA) Vice-President Jehad Khalfan, who is also the Organising Committee Director General of the ongoing 2017 FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship being played here in Bahrain.

Khalfan said hosting such competitions is part of the BVA's strategy to help boost the level of volleyball amongst the kingdom's up-and coming young players.

"When we thought of organising this under-19 championship, it was a part of our strategy at the BVA Board to help raise the level of our young teams so that they can compete with the top international teams from around the world," Khalfan said.

"Next year, we have already won the rights to host the Asian U20 Championship here in Bahrain for this same team that is playing right now in the under-19 tournament."

"Then, we are also bidding for the FIVB U21 World Championship in 2019 and are expecting to get a good report from the FIVB for hosting the under-19 competition. We hope that this can raise our chances higher than before to host the under-21 tournament," Khalfan added.

Bahrain has already hosted the FIVB Men's U21 World Championship twice in the past - first in 1987 and then again, 10 years later, in 1997.

Griezmann handed two-game ban

Madrid

France international forward Antoine Griezmann was handed a two-game ban by the Spanish Football Federation yesterday after he was sent off at the weekend for insulting the referee. The 26-year-old was dismissed during Atletico Madrid's 2-2 draw at Girona on Saturday during the opening weekend of the La Liga season.

He also received a 600-euro (\$700) fine, while Atletico were penalised 700 euros. Both have the right to appeal their

sanctions. Griezmann will miss league matches against Las Palmas on Saturday and Valencia on September 9.

He was shown a straight red card an hour into Saturday's match after insulting the referee for not awarding a penalty in his favour. He later apologised.

Real Madrid centre-back Sergio Ramos has also been handed a one-match ban after he was sent off for two yellow cards in the European and Spanish champions' 3-0 win at Deportivo La Coruna. (AFP)



Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Deputy General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar yesterday commended the contributions of the Bahrain Martial Arts Association during a meeting with General Secretary of the Bahrain Martial Arts Association (BMAA) Waleed Ajoor at the premises of the Olympic Committee in Seef. A report on the associations programme was presented on the occasion. Also present at the meeting were BOC legal adviser Salah Khodr and sports federations director Hisham Al Blooshi.