

**Best still to come from 'legend' Salah after signing new Liverpool deal**



Mohamed Salah

Reuters | London

Jürgen Klopp said Mohamed Salah's best years are still ahead of him after the Liverpool star ended speculation over his future by signing a new contract on Friday.

Salah's new deal will reportedly make him the club's highest paid player of all-time on £350,000 (\$425,000) a week until 2025.

The 30-year-old had entered the final year of his previous contract with talks stalling over his wage demands.

But tying Salah down to a new deal was key to Liverpool's hopes of continued success under Klopp.

In five years at Anfield, the Egypt forward has scored 156 goals in 254 appearances.

"This is a special treat for our supporters to enjoy their weekend even more. I'm sure there will be some celebrations for this news tonight," Klopp told Liverpool's website.

"It's the best decision for us and best decision for him. He belongs with us I think. This is his club now.

# Bahrain keep World Cup qualifying hopes alive

Senior men's national basketball team upset Syria 76-67 in Aleppo to claim first win in penultimate game of qualification competition for FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023

● Wayne Chism leads all Bahrain scorers with 20 points while Ahmed Hassan Alderazi adds 18

● Bahrain enjoy leads as big as 20 points in game and hold on to advantage in final moments

TDT | Manama

Bahrain kept their hopes alive in the qualifying competition for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 following an upset 76-67 victory over Syria last night at Al Hamadaniyah Stadium in Aleppo.

The Bahrainis gave up a 20-point first-half lead but managed to hold on to their advantage in the game's closing stages to come away with the all-important result.

It was the first win for the nationals after five tries so far in Group D of continental qualification. They avenged their earlier loss to the Syrians in their first meeting in Bahrain held in February of this year.

Bahrain play one more game in the qualifiers on Monday against Kazakhstan in Astana. They must win that contest and



Bahrain big man Wayne Chism is hounded by Syria's players during their game last night in Aleppo

hope Syria lose against Iran the same evening to have any chance of advancing to qualifying's next round. Only the top three teams in each of the four groups in Asia march through.

The Kazakhs, who are undefeated so far after their 68-60 win over Iran in yesterday's other Group D game, are already moving forward, along with the Iranians.

Naturalised big man Wayne Chism led all Bahrain's scorers with 20 points. He also had seven rebounds and four blocked

shots.

Court general Ahmed Hassan Aldurazi added 18 including an impressive five three-pointers. He did well to orchestrate Bahrain's offence and control the tempo of the game.

Brothers Mustafa Hussain and Ali Hussain provided a welcome spark off the bench, scoring 11 and eight points, respectively, while Maitham Jameel and Mohammed Ameer had seven points each. Jameel also dished out a superb 12 assists.

Subah Hussain rounded off



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the national team's scoresheet with four points.

Bahrain roared to a brilliant start and led by as many as 20 points in the opening half. They raced out to a 6-0 lead and then enjoyed their first double-digit advantage, 13-3, following a Jameel three-pointer.

They ended the first quarter ahead 20-8 and then continued to widen the gap in the second. An Ameer three-pointer from the left corner, a Mustafa Hussain fast-break lay-up and then a two-handed slam dunk by Chism then put them up 29-10.

A Jameel triple later gave

## Standings

	P	W	L	+/-	Pts
Kazakhstan	5	5	0	79	10
Iran	5	3	2	52	8
Syria	5	1	4	-25	6
Bahrain	5	1	4	-104	6

them a 32-12 cushion midway through the period, which helped the Bahrainis take a 39-27 lead into the break.

The Syrians, however, clawed their way back in the second half. The home side were able to cut Bahrain's lead to single digits in the third, but a late three-pointer in the quarter by Ali Hussain gave them some breathing room heading into the final canto up 54-48.

Back-to-back baskets by Chism and Ali Hussain from beyond the arc then gave the nationals a 60-48 lead at the start of the fourth, and then jump shots from Subah Hussain and Chism made it 66-51. Syria threatened once again but an Ali Hussain fast-break lay-up restored the Bahrainis' 13-point lead.

The home team continued to fight until the end and came to within single digits with under two minutes to go. But Bahrain had the answers in the closing stages and were able to close out the nine-point win with an Aldurazi triple.

## Sainz edges revived Hamilton in second Silverstone practice

AFP | Silverstone

Carlos Sainz outpaced local hero Lewis Hamilton in yesterday's second practice at the British Grand Prix, his Ferrari edging the revived Mercedes by one tenth of a second on a rain and wind-affected day.

The Spaniard, recording his first session-topping time since the Australian Grand Prix in April, clocked a best lap in one minute and 28.952 seconds to beat the seven-time world champion, who appeared to have rediscovered his verve, by 0.163 seconds.

Another Briton, Lando Norris of McLaren, was third fastest for McLaren, ahead of world champion and series leader Max Verstappen of Red Bull and Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari.

Fernando Alonso was sixth for Alpine ahead of Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, George Russell in the other Mercedes, Daniel Ricciardo and Aston Martin's Lance Stroll.

For Hamilton, who lost a



Carlos Sainz in action during practice

**Lewis Hamilton backed down in a spat with Formula One's governing body and removed a nose stud before taking part in practice for the British Grand Prix**

piece of his car's bodywork in the final minutes, it was a solid demonstration of the potential of his Mercedes.

After an embattled week during which he has rebutted offensive comments from various

critics, including revelations of a vulgar attack by Nelson Piquet, this was a classic Hamilton riposte.

On a blustery and cool day punctuated by more off-track news and reaction at the former airfield, the Red Bulls led the field out to make up for lost time after the wet opening session had allowed little meaningful running.

Alonso set an early fastest time for Alpine before Sainz and then Leclerc went top. Both Ferraris were running with more new parts for their power units.

## Lampaert wins first Tour stage

AP | Copenhagen

Belgian rider Yves Lampaert won the Tour de France opening stage while two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar finished third yesterday.

Pogacar placed ahead of his Slovenian countryman and main rival Primož Roglic, the 2020 runner-up, who was eighth in the time trial.

Lampaert is a former world champion in team time trial but this was his first stage win at the three-week Tour. He clocked 15 minutes, 17 seconds on the 13-kilometer (eight-mile) route around Copenhagen.

The Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl rider was five seconds ahead of countryman Wout van Aert — Roglic's Jumbo-Visma teammate — and seven ahead of Pogacar, who leads UAE Team Emirates. Pogacar was nine seconds clear of Roglic.

Lampaert could scarcely believe it when he realized he won, wiping away tears and putting his hands on his mouth.

The rain was teeming when Roglic finished under grey skies shortly after 4:30 p.m., and still lashing when Pogacar set off around 40 minutes later. Even



Yves Lampaert in action

**“To win a stage in the Tour de France, this is something I could never believe would happen and now I've done it. To beat Van Aert, Van der Poel, Ganna ... it's unbelievable”**

YVES LAMPAERT

though he is a specialist in the wet, Pogacar looked cautious taking the first turn.

It might have cost him victory.

Riders set off to loud cheers.

“There was so much noise you could hardly hear anything in the earpiece,” French rider David Gaudu said.

The noise level went up again when local rider Jonas Vingegaard — Roglic's teammate and the Tour runner-up last year — rolled down the start ramp. He placed seventh, one second ahead of Roglic.

Large parts of the Danish capital were shut down. The wet roads made the route treacherous — especially the section across the square of Amalienborg Palace, the main residence of Denmark's royal family, which is paved with cobblestones.