

Seef exit after quarter-final defeat

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Seef saw their Sofia Open 3x3 Palms Lite Quest campaign end yesterday in Sofia, Bulgaria, after a hard-fought quarter-final defeat in a tightly contested knockout run.

Seef had kept their momentum alive earlier in the day with a dramatic 21-20 win over hosts 3X3 Sofia in the last-16 stage.

The victory, sealed in the closing moments, sent the Bahraini side into the quarter-finals after a tense contest that went right down to the wire.

Their knockout journey ended later that evening when they fell 21-18 to Serbia's Uzice Zlatiborac. Despite staying within reach for much of the match, Seef couldn't respond to the Serbians' late push, ending their



Bogdan Dragovic

tournament in the last eight.

Seef's run in Sofia had already been shaped by fine margins from the opening day. They began Pool F with a narrow 13-12 defeat to Bulgaria's Levski Palms Bet before bouncing back strongly with a 20-17 win over Dublin to stay in contention.

Their progression was confirmed only after Dublin defeat of Levski 21-19, allowing Seef to

advance as group runners-up on standings, underlining how closely contested the group phase proved to be.

The Bahraini quartet of Bogdan Dragovic, Austin Ajukwa, Uros Ilic and Isa Jasim then carried that resilience into the knockout rounds, producing a statement win in the last 16 before eventually falling short against experienced Serbian

opposition.

The Sofia Open is part of the FIBA 3x3 Lite Quest circuit on the Road to the World Tour pathway, offering ranking points and qualification opportunities for Challenger-level events.

For Seef, the campaign ends with positives from a competitive showing in Europe, even though their run finished just short of the semi-finals.

Teen queen conquers Roland Garros

● 19-year-old Mirra Andreeva beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles

● The world number 114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings

AFP

Mirra Andreeva won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in straight sets in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Russian beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in 1992.

With her first-ever major crown, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand



Russia's Mirra Andreeva poses with the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen (Suzanne Lenglen Trophy) and her dog after winning the French Open tennis tournament women's singles final match against Poland's Maja Chwalinska (left) on day 14 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris

Slam.

The Coupe Suzanne Lenglen will now take centre spot in Andreeva's burgeoning trophy cabinet, which already features two WTA 1000 titles.

Defeat at the final hurdle

brought to an end an astonishing run which started in qualifying for Chwalinska, who won nine matches in the French capital to become the first qualifier to reach the final in the Open era.

However, the world number

114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings and be assured of competing regularly in tennis' biggest tournaments.

Bahrain shift focus to Syria friendly



Bahrain national team line up ahead of their previous fixture



Coach Talajic directs his players from the technical area

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Bahrain's senior men's national team has moved its training base to Antalya, Türkiye, as they prepare for their upcoming international friendly against Syria, scheduled for Tuesday at 5pm Bahrain time at the Gloria Sports Arena.

The squad resumes training today after a 2-0 defeat to Georgia in Tbilisi on Friday. In that match, Bahrain faced a strong European side in the first of two fixtures during their camp.

Georgia opened the scoring in the 51st minute through defender Luka Lochoshvili, who finished with a volley from a well-delivered cross by captain Khvicha Kvaratsk-

helia. The hosts doubled their lead in the 77th minute when Kvaratskhelia converted from the penalty spot. Bahrain were unable to respond and finished the match without registering a shot on target.

Attention now turns to the Syria fixture, with Bahrain continuing preparations in Antalya. The friendly will offer a different tactical challenge as the team adjusts after facing high-intensity European opposition in Georgia.

Team officials have stressed the importance of the camp in refining tactical structure and building cohesion ahead of upcoming regional competitions, including the defence of their Gulf Cup title (23 September-6 October) and the AFC Asian Cup (7 January 2027-5 February 2027).

Bahrain Celebrates Bay City Roller's Win at Epsom

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Bay City Roller, owned by Victorious Forever — the Bahraini-led racing operation associated with Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa — and trained in Newmarket, United Kingdom, by George Scott, delivered a dominant performance to win the Group One Coolmore Coronation Cup over 1½ miles (2,400 metres) on turf at Epsom.

The race featured a high-class field, including multiple Group One winner Calandagan, last year's winner Jan Brueghel, and Epsom Derby winner Lambourn. Bay City Roller asserted control in commanding fashion, pulling clear to win by 10 lengths from Jan Brueghel, with Lambourn finishing third.

The performance marked a first domestic Group One suc-



Bay City Roller, ridden by Oisín Murphy, on the way to winning the Coolmore Coronation Cup at Epsom Racecourse

cess for trainer George Scott and highlighted Bay City Roller's rise as a leading contender in the staying division at the highest level of international flat racing.

His Excellency Shaikh Duaij bin Salman bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Horse Racing Affairs Authority, extended his congratulations, noting that the achievement

reflects the continued development of Bahraini sport under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the sustained support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He said this support has played a key role in enabling consistent Bahraini success on the international sporting stage.

Shaikh Duaij also praised Bay City Roller's performance, describing it as a commanding Group One display that reflects the horse's quality, progression, and elite capability.

He concluded by wishing continued success to HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the Victorious Forever team in future international engagements.

India name Sooryavanshi in T20 squad

AFP | Mumbai, India

India named Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in their T20 squad on Saturday, handing the 15-year-old sensation his maiden international call-up after a string of breathtaking performances in the domestic league. Selectors also fired Suryakumar Yadav as captain following a poor run of form,

just three months after he led the country to World Cup glory at home.

Shreyas Iyer, who last played a T20 for India in December 2023, was named as the new skipper for the upcoming two T20 internationals in Ireland, five matches in England and the Asian Games to be held in September and October in Japan.