

Italy's Ulissi wins Giro 13th stage, Almeida in pink



AFP | Milan

Italy's Diego Ulissi won the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday as Portugal's Joao Almeida retained the race leader's pink jersey.

The 24-team tournament was a second stage victory for Ulissi, of the UAE Emirates team, on this Giro and an eighth career stage win.

Ulissi edged Deceuninck's Almeida and Austrian Patrick Konrad by half a wheel in a sprint finish to end a 192km stage.

Almeida gained bonus seconds for his finish, meaning he stretches his lead in the overall standings over Dutch rider Wilco Kelderman and Spain's Pello Bilbao. The stage, largely flat over the opening 150km, featured a seven-strong breakaway group that was reeled in gradually over two final climbs, the last of which was 17km from the finish.

Bahrain to host FIBA Asia qualifiers

National team to take on Iraq on November 24 and then play against India two days later

● **Second window of Group D qualifying matches for 2021 FIBA Asia Cup set to be held in Kingdom**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain will next month host the second window of Group D qualifying for the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup, the Bahrain Basketball Association (BBA) has confirmed.

The BBA made the announcement after getting approval from the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

The window will be held between November 24 and 26, and it will include games featuring Bahrain and the other three nations in Group D, including India, Iraq and Lebanon.

The Bahrainis will play two games in this period, first against Iraq on the 24th and then against India two days later. It will be the first time the nationals will be facing their Iraqi counterparts in qualifying, while Bahrain will be hoping for a repeat success against India, who they defeated by just one point last February in their first meeting.

Also in Group D on November 24, India will face Lebanon, while on November 26, Iraq and Lebanon battle.



Flashback: Bahrain's Hesham Sarhan was the hero in their one-point victory over India last February, hitting the winning three-pointer with just over a second remaining

Meanwhile, the BBA took note of the desire of FIBA Asia to host the games of up to two other groups in the Kingdom, given Bahrain's great reputation as hosts of international events.

A source with knowledge of the qualifiers believes one of the other groups is Group A, which consists of the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea.

An official decision is expected from FIBA Asia in the coming days.

The BBA has also agreed to keep ex-NBA coach and 1986 NBA champion with the Boston Celtics, American national Sam Vincent, as the senior men's national team head coach.

Vincent will remain in his post until the end of the FIBA Asia qualifiers in



Aside from Bahrain's pool, another group's qualifying matches could be held here next month, as desired by FIBA Asia, given the Kingdom's great reputation as hosts of international events

February of next year.

The former point guard has already guided Bahrain in their first two qualifying games for next year's continental showcase, including the home win over India and a 73-116 loss to Lebanon in Beirut.

Bahrain are hoping to finish as one of the top two teams from qualifying's Group D in order to book their tickets to the FIBA Asia Cup. If they finish third, they will have to play in another stage of qualification for a chance to claim one of four other spots up for grabs for the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup.

If they finish last, the Bahrainis will be out of the running for a tournament berth.

BRAVE CF 44: Cleiton "Predator" defends Lightweight world title against Amin Ayoub

TDT | Manama

After the successful Kom-Abat Kingdom series, BRAVE Combat Federation returns to its home in the Kingdom of Bahrain with two stacked fight cards, with the first of them, BRAVE CF 44, being headlined by a title fight. The reigning, defending Lightweight champion Cleiton "Predator" will put his crown up for grabs when he faces off against Amin "Fierceness" Ayoub.

Cleiton had a meteoric rise through the ranks at BRAVE CF after making his debut in early 2018, with a bloody victory over perennial contender Ahmed Amir. The Brazilian striker showed how well-rounded he has become after his next two BRAVE CF wins came by way of submission.

First, at BRAVE CF 15, he fought exciting young south-american prospect Marcelo Bustos, and locked in a rear-naked choke in



the first round. The win earned him a title shot against his compatriot Luan "Miau" Santiago.

The rivalry between the two men became the biggest talking point of Brazilian MMA in 2019,

as they exchanged heated trash talk in the build-up to BRAVE CF 25. In the end, "Predator" needed less than a minute to grab the title from Santiago with an incredible back take that led to another rear-naked choke win on his record.

Now established as the best Lightweight in the BRAVE CF roster, Cleiton will defend his title against Amin Ayoub, who is riding a six-fight win streak. "Fierceness" made his BRAVE CF debut last year and finished Djamil Chan with a guillotine choke in the third round.

Despite starting off his martial arts journey in kickboxing, Ayoub has developed a feared submission game, tapping out his opponents in 8 of his 14 pro wins. A former two-weight Arab champion, Amin is hoping to emulate this feat on the world stage at BRAVE CF, starting with a win over Cleiton "Predator".

BFA Cup final postponed

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The Bahrain Football Association announced yesterday that it has postponed the final of this year's BFA Cup, which was scheduled to take

place last night.

No new date has been given for the tie, which was set to be played between recently crowned King's Cup champions Muharraq and Busaiteen

Draw held for 2020/2021 King's Cup



The King's Cup draw taking place remotely

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Football Association (BFA) held the draw for the 2020/2021 King's Cup competition late Thursday night.

Due to the current health situation, the event was held remotely.

The competition is set to have a preliminary round,

which will determine the 16 teams for the main round.

This phase includes eight one-off matches. Muharraq, league champions Hidd, Riffa, East Riffa and Al Ahli are still to learn of their opponents; while Busaiteen take on Al Hala, Al Najma take on Al Malkiya, and Manama Face Al Shabab.

Mumbai back on top of IPL after crushing Kolkata

AP | Dubai

Mumbai Indians were back on top of the Indian Premier League after polishing off Kolkata Knight Riders by eight wickets with 19 balls to spare.

Dinesh Karthik gave up the Kolkata captaincy to concentrate on his batting and was out for 4 as his team posted a midling 148-5.

Mumbai made no race of the chase, as captain Rohit Sharma late cut the first delivery to the



Rohit Sharma plays a shot

boundary, and fellow opener Quinton de Kock finished on 78 not out off 44 balls to get them to 149-2 in the 17th over and their fifth straight win.

"It is special to win as comprehensively as this when chasing. It gives us confidence," Sharma said.

"It is always a challenge when you have won four in four. How you turn up is what matters. We turned up really well, and right from ball one we were in their faces."