

Bahrain chase fourth win against Korea

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TDT | Manama

A group-defining test awaits Bahrain Today, when they face South Korea with a fourth straight win and top spot in Group A at stake at the 11th Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship in Amman.

The under-19 side meet the Koreans at Princess Sumaya Hall at 4pm Bahrain time, with both teams on six points after winning all three of their matches.

Bahrain are already through to Friday's quarter-finals. A win on Wednesday would send Mohamed Soliman's men through as Group A winners.

They sealed their last-eight place with a 36-28 win over Uzbekistan on Sunday, although Uzbekistan made them work for it.

Bahrain led only 17-15 at half-time before pulling clear after the break. Four of the first five goals took them 21-16 ahead, and the lead later grew to eight



Jubilant warriors celebrate after beating Uzbekistan

at 28-20.

Mohammed Marzooq led Bahrain with 11 goals from 15 attempts.

Mahdi Ali scored with all six of his shots, while goalkeeper Ali Mahroos made 11 saves and was named Man of the Match.

It followed two much easier wins.

Bahrain beat India 51-20 in their opener before beating hosts Jordan 41-19.

Three games. Three wins.

Bahrain have scored 128 goals and conceded 67.

South Korea have also won all three of their matches, although they had to come from behind against Jordan on Monday night.

The Koreans trailed 12-10 at half-time before recovering to win 25-24 and make it three victories from three.

That result followed a 47-29 win over Uzbekistan and a 37-27 victory against India.

Wednesday's meeting will decide the battle for first place between the only two unbeaten sides in Group A.

The other group fixture takes place two hours later, with Uzbekistan facing hosts Jordan at 6pm.

Bahrain are playing in the championship for the 10th time and are chasing a third Asian crown under Soliman, after winning the title in 2016 and 2018. They also took bronze in 2010.

The tournament doubles as Asia's qualifier for the 2027 IHF Men's Youth World Championship, which will be held from July 29 to August 9 next year.

The top four sides at the Asian championship qualify for the worlds, leaving Bahrain one knockout victory away from securing their place.

The quarter-finals will be played on Friday, followed by the semi-finals on Saturday. The bronze-medal match and final will take place on August 31.

Health company admits Maradona test mix-up in trial

AFP | Buenos Aires, Argentina

An Argentine health insurance company admitted that medical tests presented at the trial over the death of late football icon Diego Maradona were in fact those of his father, also called Diego.

In a letter seen by AFP on Monday, Swiss Medical admitted that tests it released to a medical commission investigating Maradona's death "remained mistakenly filed under the name Diego Armando Maradona" when in fact they belonged to his late father, Diego Salustiano Maradona.

The older Maradona died in 2015, five years before the man considered one of football's greatest ever players.

The blunder was spotted last week by a lawyer defending one of the seven healthcare professionals on trial over Maradona's death in November 2020 at age 60.

Maradona died of heart failure and acute pulmonary edema -- a condition where fluid accumulates in the lungs -- at a rented home in the Buenos Aires suburb of Tigre two



Maradona (R) embraces his father "Don Diego"

weeks after undergoing surgery for a brain clot.

His medical team is accused of providing grossly inadequate care in the lead-up to his death. It denies the charges.

His kidney health has been a core focus of the final stages of the trial, with a nephrologist testifying that his doctors should have paid more attention to the issue.

It turns out he based his analysis on the wrong test results.

The mix-up led to the suspension of the proceedings for a week, causing further embarrassment for the court after the collapse last year of a first trial over a conflict of interest involving one of the judges.

The latest trial, which began in April, resumes on Thursday.

Alonso makes winning start with Chelsea as Rogers scores on debut

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Xabi Alonso won his first game as Chelsea boss thanks to Morgan Rogers's debut goal and Joao Pedro's strike after just 31 seconds of a pulsating 3-2 victory against Fulham on Monday.

Alonso has been hired to revive Chelsea after their dismal 10th place finish in the Premier League last season.

The former Real Madrid boss has a point to prove after being sacked by the Spanish club following less than eight months in charge.

Alonso's side ensured he delivered a good first impression in a chaotic west London derby at Craven Cottage.

Pedro's opener inside the first minute was followed by a blunder from Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez that gifted

an equaliser to Josh King.

Rogers put Chelsea back in front on his debut after becoming the most expensive British player in history following his £117 million (\$159 million) move from Aston Villa in the close-season.

Cole Palmer increased Chelsea's advantage after half-time and the Blues survived a frantic finale after Gonzalo Garcia bagged Fulham's second goal following another Sanchez mistake.

On an evening when old friends were reunited on the touchline and on the pitch, Alonso emerged victorious against new Fulham boss Alvaro Arbeloa.

The pals played together for seven years with Real Madrid and Liverpool and also starred for Spain.

Ironically, Arbeloa was promoted from Real Madrid B to replace Alonso when he was axed at the Bernabeu in January.

Rogers is also close friends with Palmer and the pair gelled immediately to lead a dynamic attacking display from Chelsea.

Rogers was deployed on the left of Chelsea's three-man attack, with Palmer on the right and Pedro in the central role.

Palmer endured a difficult last campaign that saw him left out of England's World Cup squad and he played as if he was determined to make amends.

Keeping Rogers and Palmer fit and firing could be the key to Chelsea climbing back into contention for Champions League qualification this season.



Chelsea's Spanish Manager Xabi Alonso

Ethiopia bids to host 2028 AFCON

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ethiopia has formally submitted its bid to host the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2028, which would be its first in more than half a century.

The Ethiopian Football Federation confirmed its bid in a post on X late Monday. It last hosted the continental tournament in 1976.

Ethiopia has the second biggest population in Africa, with around 130 million people, and its capital serves as the headquarters of the African Union (AU). It has the highest altitude of any African capital at 2,300 metres. The bid faces numerous obstacles, including ongoing insurgencies in the country's two most populous states, Amhara and Oromia, as well as threats of renewed civil war between the federal government and the northern Tigray region.

The Ethiopian team ranks 143rd out of 211 by FIFA, and it last played in the biennial AFCON tournament in 2022, when it was eliminated in the group stage.

Sri Lanka trail India by 238 runs in second Test

● Sri Lanka need a further 39 runs to avoid being asked to bat again

AFP | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka were fighting hard to avoid the follow-on when rain brought an early end to play on day three of the second Test against India on Tuesday, with the hosts on 265-8.

Sri Lanka need a further 39 runs to avoid being asked to bat again, still 238 runs behind India's first-innings total of 503-9 declared.



Sri Lanka's Sonal Dinusha (L) plays a shot during the third day of the second Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo

Only 80.4 of the 98 overs scheduled for the day were possible due to rain.

India's fast-bowling coach Morne Morkel said the team intended to wrap up Sri Lanka's innings quickly on day four and enforce the follow-on.

"With the amount of rain that is around, it takes (a) lot of time to put the covers on and take covers off," he told reporters. "So given the lead we have, we want to ask them to follow on and put them under pressure."

Wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella was dismissed for a third-ball duck, reducing Sri Lanka to 173-7.

However, Sonal Dinusha added

57 runs for the eighth wicket with Keshara Nuwantha (18) to frustrate India.

Nuwantha was dismissed soon after tea but Dinusha found another able ally in fast bowler Lahiru Kumara, who batted for more than an hour as the pair added another 35 runs for the ninth wicket.

Dinusha, Sri Lanka's standout performer in the first Test, continued to impress.

The all-rounder, who scored 100 and 84 last week in Galle, ended the day on 85 not out.

Sri Lanka resumed on their overnight score of 8-2 but lost two wickets in the morning session. India made further inroads after lunch, picking up another three wickets.

Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who replaced Dinesh Chandimal as a concussion substitute in the second innings of the Galle Test, is in the starting side for the first time.

Sooriyabandara was the next-best Sri Lankan batsman with 80, but said he regretted not going on to score "a big one".

Prasidh Krishna was the pick of India's bowlers, claiming three wickets, often troubling the batters with extra bounce.

India lead the two-match series 1-0, having won the opening Test in Galle by 165 runs.