

HH Shaikh Khalid receives World Athletics president

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the GSA and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, received in his office at Al Wadi Palace on Wednesday the President of World Athletics and former Olympic gold-medallist Sebastian Coe, who is visiting the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Vice-President of the GSA, Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, CEO of the GSA, and Mohammed Abdullatif bin Jalal, President of the Bahrain Athletics Association.

At the outset, HH Shaikh Khalid welcomed Coe and conveyed to him the greetings of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and HM the King's wishes to him for continued success.

HH Shaikh Khalid then re-



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa with Sebastian Coe during their meeting

viewed with Coe the great development witnessed by Bahraini athletics who accomplished great results and achieved resounding successes at the continental and international levels, especially at the Olympic Games.

Thereafter, HH Shaikh Khalid discussed with Coe ways to enhance aspects of cooperation

and elements of excellence and sports competition, in order to push relations towards achieving joint successes in the interest of developing international athletics.

HH Shaikh Khalid wished Coe success and further accomplishments in his leadership for World Athletics, the sport's international governing body.

Bahrain-Japan tennis event set for today



A group of the Japanese citizens who play at RTC

TDT | Manama

Riffa Tennis Club (RTC) announced yesterday that it is holding a commemorative championship to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and Japan.

The club is today hosting the Bahrain-Japan Tennis Championship, sponsored officially by

the Bahrain Tennis Federation.

On this occasion, RTC director Iyad Al Alawi affirmed that organising the Bahrain-Japan Championship comes after a half-century of diplomatic relations between these two friendly nations.

He also indicated that this event comes in the spirit of friendship between the two countries and peoples through friendly sports competitions.

Al Alawi noted that the idea behind this championship came from the club's desire to promote relations in different areas, especially in sports where weekly, the club receives a number of Japanese citizens to play tennis.

For this reason, club management have found it a great opportunity to organise this championship between Bahrain and Japan players.

Ibrahimovic endured sleepless nights to deliver Serie A title for Milan



Zlatan Ibrahimovic

AFP | Milan

Swedish veteran Zlatan Ibrahimovic said yesterday he endured six months of sleepless nights due to a painful knee because he was determined to fulfil his promise to AC Milan of delivering their first Serie A crown in 11 years.

The 40-year-old striker underwent knee surgery on his left knee -- reconstructing his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) -- in Lyon on Wednesday and faces seven to eight months on the sidelines.

"For the last six months I lived without an ACL in my left knee," he wrote on Instagram.

"A swollen knee for six months. Took more than 20 injections in six months.

"(Drained) the knee once a week for six months. Painkillers every day for six months.

"Barely slept for six months because of the pain. I have never suffered so much on and off the pitch."

The former Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United player had an operation on the same knee in June 2021, which ruled him out of the postponed Euro 2020 finals, and an Achilles tendon problem further restricted his appearances for Milan last season.

Ibrahimovic revelled in his contribution to Milan's success.

"I made something impossible... possible," he said.

"In my mind I had only one objective, to make my teammates and coach (Stefano Pioli) champions of Italy because I made them a promise.

Swiatek racks up 30th successive win at French Open

Daniil Medvedev advances to third round at Roland-Garros with victory over Laslo Djere

Karolina Pliskova crashes out of women's singles

AFP | Paris

Unstoppable world number one Iga Swiatek racked up her 30th successive victory at the French Open yesterday as Karolina Pliskova became the sixth top 10 women's seed to exit Roland Garros when she was knocked out by world number 227 Leolia Jeanjean.

Swiatek swept past Alison Riske of the United States 6-0, 6-2 to reach the third round.

The 2020 champion in Paris is on the best streak since Serena Williams's 34-match winning run in 2013 and goes on to face Danka Kovinic of Montenegro for a place in the last 16.

Swiatek raced through the first set against 43rd-ranked Riske in just 21 minutes and was 3-0 up in the second before the American avoided a 'double bagel'.

The Pole still managed to take her record of 6-0 sets in 2022 to a season-leading 15.

"I'm pretty happy to play some solid tennis," said Swiatek.

Eighth-seeded Pliskova, last year's Wimbledon runner-up and a semi-finalist in Paris in 2017, lost 6-2, 6-2 to 26-year-old Jeanjean who cut her teeth as a leading college player in the United States.

Former number one Pliskova joins fellow top 10 seeds, defending champion Barbora Krejckova, Maria Sakkari, Ons Jabeur, Anett Kontaveit and former winner Garbine Muguruza in failing to get through to the third round.

Jeanjean is the lowest-ranked woman to beat a top 10 player at



Iga Swiatek returns the ball to Alison Riske



Swiatek's 30 wins is the longest winning streak in women's tennis since Serena Williams won 34 in a row in 2013

Roland Garros in 34 years.

Considered a future star at 12, she saw her career abruptly halted by injuries, including a triple dislocation of the knee.

She then left to study in the United States, only returning to top-level tennis at the end of 2020.

"No regrets"

"I wanted to come back so as not to regret anything. I think I made the right choice," she said.

Pliskova has made the second week at Roland Garros just once

in 11 visits.

"My plan is to fly away," said the Czech when asked about her immediate plans.

Jeanjean will next face Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu who was fortunate not to be defaulted in her 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4 win over 30th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Begu, in frustration, bounced a racquet into the crowd which then hit a child who burst into tears.

The supervisor was called but the 31-year-old escaped with a warning.

World number three Paula Badosa overcame a scare to defeat 68th-ranked Kaja Juvan of Slovenia 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Spain's Badosa, a quarter-finalist in 2021, recovered from a break down in the decider to set up a meeting with 29th seed Veronika Kudermetova.

New York-born Badosa has endured a mediocre clay court season with a semi-final run in Stuttgart but early exits at the elite events in Madrid and Rome.

"That competitive streak that I had lost in recent weeks has



Russia's Daniil Medvedev in action during his second round match against Serbia's Laslo Djere

"I think Laslo may have had an injury so he was making winners or making mistakes so I thought 'OK, well, his pain could go away

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

come back," she warned.

Also going through was US 11th seed Jessica Pegula who needed eight match points to defeat Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine 6-1, 5-7, 6-4.

Daniil Medvedev, the second seed, had few problems in making the third round with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win over Laslo Djere of Serbia.

Medvedev, who made the quarter-finals in 2021, goes on to face another Serb in Miomir Kecmanovic, the 28th seed.

Djere hit 39 winners yesterday but was undone by 68 unforced errors.

"I think Laslo may have had an injury so he was making winners or making mistakes so I thought 'OK, well, his pain could

go away,'" said Medvedev.

Danish teenager Holger Rune reached his first Slam third round with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win over Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen.

The 19-year-old fired 28 winners but managed to avoid a worrying injury when his foot became lodged in a tarpaulin cover on Court 12.

Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, the runner-up to Novak Djokovic last year, who had to come back from two sets down to defeat Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the first round, later faces Czech qualifier Zdenek Kolar, the world number 154.



Chair umpire Jaume Campistol helps Madison Keys to untangle her necklace which got stuck in her hair during her match