

Shaikh Khalid discusses domestic clubs' needs and General Sports Authority's work policy

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee has held a virtual meeting with the presidents of the national clubs to discuss their needs and the work policy of the Authority.

This was HH Shaikh Khalid's first meeting with the clubs' presidents after being appointed as President of the General Sports Authority. The meeting was attended by HH Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa,



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the meeting

Deputy President of the General Sports Authority President of Bahrain Combat Sports Council, Dr. Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, CEO of the Authority as well as all the presidents of the national clubs.

At the beginning of the meeting, HH Shaikh Khalid welcomed all the attendees, conveying to them the greetings of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Thereafter, His Highness praised the efforts of the national clubs towards embracing the youth and juniors through the development of various programmes that help in honing their skills and capabilities

in order to empower them to reach their full potentials at the sports level, while, at the same time, bolstering their loyalty and sense of national belonging.

His Highness affirmed that the general climate is heading towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and getting back to normal, pointing to the recent positive indicators which came thanks to the efforts of Team Bahrain under the leadership of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, the meeting discussed the needs of the clubs through establishing direct

contact with the clubs in order to ensure speedy delivery and promote the clubs' corporate work as well as the application of quality standards and governance adopted by the General Sports Authority.

Furthermore, HH Shaikh Khalid stressed that the General Sports Authority will adopt the policy of open doors with all sports establishments, stating that extra organisational steps will be taken in the coming period to contribute to the implementation of plans that advance the administrative, financial and sports system in the clubs, according to indicators to measure performance and results.

Djokovic rolls at Olympics as Medvedev suffers in heat

Novak Djokovic books quarter-final clash with Kei Nishikori

● **Daniil Medvedev battled the heat and a tricky opponent to qualify for the quarter-finals at the Olympics**

AFP | Tokyo

Novak Djokovic set up a quarter-final with Japan's Kei Nishikori at the Tokyo Olympics yesterday as gold medal rival Daniil Medvedev struggled with the heat, even asking the chair umpire who would be responsible if he died.

World number one Djokovic continued his bid for a calendar Golden Slam by defeating 34th-ranked Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-3, 6-1 to extend his winning run to 21 matches.

The Serb, a singles bronze medallist in 2008, faced a quick turnaround as he was due to partner Nina Stojanovic in the mixed doubles later.

Medvedev stayed on course to meet Djokovic in the men's final as the Russian second seed overcame Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

But the two-time Grand Slam runner-up, who had urged organisers to delay start times after his opening match, again found the temperatures testing as the extreme weather policy



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns to Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, of Spain

was implemented.

"Even from the first set I didn't feel good enough with my breathing. I felt like my diaphragm was blocked, I couldn't breathe properly," said Medvedev, who took a medical timeout and received two visits from the trainer.

Asked by the umpire if he was OK during the second set, the Russian replied: "I can finish the match, but I can die. If I die, are you going to be responsible?"

"I think it was the most humid day we had so far, maybe the hottest," added Medvedev.

"The sun was pretty hot. At the end of the second set I just had darkness in my eyes. I was bending over, and I couldn't get my breathing together. I was ready to just fall down on the

court."

Following a 10-minute interval between the second and third sets, Medvedev broke Fognini and won the first three games of the decider.

He saved three break points at 4-2 before clinching victory, going through to a last-eight clash with Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

Tsitsipas sent packing

Medvedev renewed calls to start matches later as temperatures peaked at 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit), with the heat index topping out at 37C.

"They should start the matches later, I said it from the first round, and I continue saying it," said Medvedev.

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DANIIL MEDVEDEV

"I heard maybe from tomorrow they're going to change it, but let's see."

Stefanos Tsitsipas bowed out after the Greek third seed lost 2-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 to Frenchman Ugo Humbert.

Tsitsipas required a medical timeout for an injury to his right leg at the end of the second set as Humbert booked a showdown with Russia's Karen Khachanov.

Nishikori, the 2016 bronze medallist, beat Ilya Ivashka of Belarus 7-6 (9/7), 6-0, while fourth seed Alexander Zverev and Frenchman Jeremy Chardy also progressed.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, the highest-ranked player left in the women's draw, reached the semi-finals with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Camila Giorgi of Italy.

Murray casts doubt on Olympic future after doubles exit



Andy Murray of Britain reacts during his men's doubles quarterfinal match

AFP | London

Andy Murray said he was unsure if he would play at another Olympics after his bid for a third gold medal ended with a quarter-final defeat in the men's doubles yesterday.

Murray, a two-time Olympic singles champion, and partner Joe Salisbury lost 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 10-7 to Croatia's Marin Cilic and Ivan Dodig.

The British pair led Cilic and Dodig by a set and a break but suffered a late collapse as the Croatians prevailed in a deciding tie-break.

"I don't know. I don't know if I'll get the opportunity to play again," said Murray, asked if he would appear at a fifth Olympics in Paris in 2024.

"I love every minute of playing the Olympics. I wish that today would have gone differently. I had another chance with Joe to win a medal. We were so close and that is just disappointing.

"There was some stuff I wish I could have done at the end of the match to try and

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ANDY MURRAY

help out more. But yeah, very disappointing."

Murray pulled out of the singles in Tokyo due to a muscle strain. The three-time Grand Slam winner won gold in the event at London 2012 and Rio 2016.

"I don't regret that decision," he said.

"I think we put ourselves in a really good position to win and do well here. This is the one -- it hurts a lot losing that one because you get through it and you get two matches for a medal. We were just so close."

Richarlison fires Brazil into Olympics quarter-finals, Germany out

AFP | Tokyo

Richarlison continued his fine form at the Olympics with a double as Brazil eased into the quarter-finals after a 3-1 win over Saudi Arabia yesterday, as Germany exited the men's tournament and hosts Japan progressed with a thrashing of France.

Reigning champions Brazil, who won gold for the first time on home soil in Rio de Janeiro five years ago, finished top of Group D and will face Egypt in the last eight on Saturday.

Matheus Cunha put them ahead in Saitama yesterday,



Richarlison heads in the first of his two goals as Brazil beat Saudi Arabia at the Olympics



A draw would have been enough for Brazil to go through as group winners, but Richarlison netted in the 76th minute and again in injury time

but Abdulelah Al-Amri's goal brought the Saudis level before

the half-hour mark.

A draw would have been enough for Brazil to go through as group winners, but Richarlison netted in the 76th minute and again in injury time.

The Everton forward is now the leading scorer in the tournament with five goals after his hat-trick against Germany.

The Germans, runners-up to Brazil in 2016, bowed out after a 1-1 draw with the Ivory Coast.

Germany had to win to progress, but Benjamin Henrichs' own goal midway through the second half proved costly.

Eduard Lowen's equaliser shortly afterwards set up a tense

finale, but the Ivorians held on to seal second spot in the group and a quarter-final against Spain.

The Spaniards are one of the gold medal favourites after naming a strong squad featuring six members of the team that reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals. But they scored only twice in the group stage, with a 1-1 draw against Argentina enough to edge them through.

Real Sociedad midfielder Mikel Merino put Spain in front in the 66th minute. Tomas Belmonte netted a late equaliser for Argentina but the point sealed 1992 champions Spain first place in Group C.