

Obed McCoy dedicates 'Man of the Match' award to his mother
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QNB STARS LEAGUE 2022-23 SEASON: WEEK 1

Al Arabi prevail over 10-man Qatar Sports Club 2-0

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

LAST season's quarter-finalists Al Arabi made a winning start to their QNB Stars League 2022-23 season campaign handing 10-man Qatar Sports Club 2-0 defeat in their Week 1 clash at the Education City Stadium on Tuesday.

Qatari Ahmed Fathi (70th minute) and substitute Ibrahim Nasser Kalla (90th minute) scored the goals for Al Arabi, fetching them three valuable points.

Qatar Sports Club suffered a setback when their captain Sebastian Soria was shown the red card by referee Salman Falahi in the 59th minute of the match. Soria, while trying to charge with the ball, had brought down Al Arabi's Fatehi who was running alongside.

Soria was earlier cautioned with a yellow card in the 16th minute after fouling against rival captain Abdulla Al Marafi.

Al Arabi coach Younes Ali said his team's victory of well deserved. "We played a good first half and dominated the game, but we lacked the finishing touch on the goal. In the second half the situation improved and the advantage was with us and opening goal paved the way for the second.

"The first matches of the season are always difficult, and it was important to win."

After a goalless first half and Soria's departure in the second, Al Arabi who had failed to make good of a few chances gained momentum. Their star winger Youssef Msakni had a chance to score in the 67th minute but failed to get hold of the ball, from a pass from forward Aaron Boupendza, when in front of the goal.

Eventually, Al Arabi scored the first goal in the 70th minute when Msakni set up a pass inside the box for Fatehi to score off a deflection from the rival goalkeeper Sataa Al Abasi, who till then had done a good job under the bar.

An alert Fatehi latched on to the ball after Aaron's kick from the right bounced back off the goalkeeper's hands.

The lead for Al Arabi saw the game slow down somewhat before substitute Kalla produced a super shot in the 90th minute. It was a thrilling strike as Kalla running in from



Al Arabi's Qatari player Ahmed Fathi celebrates scoring the opening goal against Qatar Sports Club in the Week 1 match of the QNB Stars League played at the Education City Stadium on Tuesday.



Action from the Al Arabi vs Qatar Sports Club match of the QNB Stars League played at the Education City Stadium on Tuesday.

the right swung into action straightaway and when inside the penalty area was given a superb back heel pass by Al Marafi. Kalla shot it perfectly and into the goal.

Earlier in the 24th minute, Msakni and Qatar SC's Khaled

Mahmoudi were involved in an unfortunate head collision while going for the ball.

The two players were immediately attended to by the medical teams for six minutes. Both players were back in action despite suffering cuts

go their cheeks.

Al Arabi were the more aggressive of the two sides and had 10 shots on target as compared to Qatar Sports Club's 3. And while Qatar Sports Club received 4 yellow cards, Al Arabi had 1.

Al Arabi coach praised the fighting spirit of his players and their determination to win.

Looking ahead he said, "We play Al Rayyan in the next round and we have to prepare well for it."



Gharafa celebrate one of their two goals against Al Sailiya in their opening QNB Stars League match at the Khalifa International Stadium on Tuesday.

Al Gharafa edge Al Sailiya 2-1 in exciting contest

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

AL Gharafa staved off a challenging Al Sailiya 2-1 for a hard fought opening win in the QNB Stars League clash at the Khalifa International Stadium on Tuesday.

The Cheetahs led 1-0 at half time. Muyad Hassan (31st minute) and Amro Seraj (47th minute) scored for the winners while Mohanad Ali (Mimi) pulled one back for Al Sailiya in the 67th minute.

It was a fast-paced contest between the two teams, played frantically towards the end. While Qatari goalkeeper Qasem Burhan stood out with his performance for Al Gharafa, Iraqi forward Mohanad Ali excelled for Al Sailiya.

Substituted in the 61st minute in place of Saied Eisa, Mimi was in the thick of the action for over 35 minutes of the match. It was his brilliant header off a corner kick that got Al Sailiya their only goal of the match but instilled confidence towards getting an equalizer. The team tried hard but was done in by some brilliant goalkeeping by Burhan.

Before Mohanad entered the field, it was Al Gharafa dominating mostly. Their first goal was a superb combination between Amro Seraj, Andri Syahputra and Muyad Hassan, who made a clean left-footed finish into the far corner of the net.

Early in the second half, Al Gharafa's lead was consolidated by Seraj whose left-foot kick from top of the box was deflected by Al Sailiya's Mostafa Mohamed and also beat goalkeeper Lecoumet Kloud with the ball going into the right corner.

The introduction of Mimi saw Al Sailiya make more



Al Gharafa's Qatari goalkeeper Qasem Burhan excelled under the bar.

attacking moves. Soon after their first goal, Mimi and Greek winger Giannis Fetfatidis combined effectively but a header from Mimi off Giannis' cross was well held by goalkeeper Burhan.

In the 90th minute, Al Gharafa survived another scare when Swede Carlos Strandberg's shot was stopped by Burhan who went down in the process.

The added time of the match also saw Mohanad Ali shouldering a cross into the goal but the goalkeeper stayed alert to deny Al Sailiya any hopes of fetching an equalizer.

Al Sailiya coach Sami Trabehi rued his team's missed chances. "The result does not reflect the way we played and our level against Al Gharafa," he said after the match.

"We made mistakes that was the reason for us to be at the receiving end. We conceded the two goals very easily. In the second half, we played much better.

"We will learn from our mistakes," he added.

Al Gharafa will play Al Wakrah in their second round match while Al Sailiya meet Al Shamal next week, both matches on August 10 (Wednesday).

Quick read

Rybakina loses first match since Wimbledon glory; Venus out in return

Elena Rybakina has been bundled out of the first round of the Silicon Valley Classic by Daria Kasatkina in her first game since her Wimbledon triumph last month. Rybakina won the first set comfortably before the Russian hit back for a remarkable turnaround win, 1-6, 6-2, 6-0 in one hour and 40 minutes on Monday.

Seventh seed Kasatkina was the runner-up at last year's edition of the San Jose event and found her groove to break her Rybakina six times in the second and third sets.

Rybakina sent down three of her four aces for the match in the first set, but Kasatkina adjusted to her serve and won 52.1 per cent return points for the match.

Eighth seed Karolina Pliskova fought back from a slow start to get past Katie Boulter 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, despite 16 double faults. American Amanda Anisimova overcame compatriot Ashlyn Krueger 6-2, 7-6 (7-5). US pair Madison Keys and Taylor Townsend were also winners, while world number 33 Alison Riske was knocked out by Elizabeth Mandlik 6-3, 6-3.

Two-time major winner Halep cruised past Spanish qualifier Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 7-5 in one hour and 20 minutes. Six-time major champion Venus Williams played her first singles match in nearly a year but bowed out 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to Rebecca Marino. (STATS Perform/DPA)

STATS PERFORM/DPA

BERLIN
FOUR-TIME major winner Naomi Osaka wants to simply get back to having fun upon her return to tennis at the Silicon Valley Classic in San Jose this week.

The Japanese 24-year-old has not played since her first-round loss to Amanda Anisimova at the French Open in May and sits 41st in the world rankings. Osaka, who missed Wimbledon due to a left Achilles issue, parted ways with coach Wim Fissette last month after two and a half years.

The injury is one of many that have plagued Osaka over the past difficult 15 months, during which she withdrew from last year's French Open citing "mental health reasons"

after boycotting her mandatory post-match media conferences.

She also announced a hiatus following her third-round US Open exit last year but appears in a better place now, with her father, Leonard Francois, stepping in as her coach.

"I just would like to have fun and I know I say that very often, basically every tournament for the last year now, but to genuinely have fun," Osaka told reporters.

"I was telling my dad literally this morning when we were practicing in the rain, years ago we would have to fight to practice on public courts. It was just me and my sister and my dad alone.

"Now I've gotten to the point where people pay to watch me play, and for that I



Naomi Osaka of Japan interacts with fans during the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic, part of the Hologic WTA Tour, at Spartan Tennis Complex in San Jose, California, on Monday. (Getty Images/AFP)

am very grateful. I would have never imagined that as a child. "Just having fun and being

grateful in the moment and trying to engage with everyone to the best of my abilities."

Osaka wants to have fun upon return to tennis in San Jose

Osaka moved to clarify there was nothing sinister behind her split with Fissette, having won the 2020 US Open and 2021 Australian Open titles alongside him.

"It was really good times with Wim and he's a really amazing coach," Osaka said.

"We didn't part on bad terms. I just felt I needed different energy, and at the same time, he's a very ambitious guy. I was getting injured and I'm sure he would have wanted to go to Wimbledon.

"It was two different mindsets, I would say. But he's a really cool guy still. So confirming that there were no bad things happening."

Osaka is due to face Qinwen Zheng in the first round at the Silicon Valley Classic on Tuesday.

LIV Golf offered Woods up to \$800m, reveals Norman



Bayern Munich's Senegalese forward Sadio Mane lifts the trophy after the German Supercup match between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich in Leipzig on Sunday. (AFP)

I don't see myself as global star at all, says modest Mane

DPA
MUNICH

New Bayern Munich forward Sadio Mane does not see himself as a global star despite his long success run with Liverpool and Africa Cup of Nations title with Senegal.

Mane told Bayern's club magazine in an interview published Tuesday that all that counts for him is the team which also shows in Bayern's motto *Mia san mia* (We are who we are).

"People say that about me, but I don't see myself as a global star at all. I don't know where to start with that phrase," he said.

"All I care about is being part of the team. I do everything for that. I want to go to the limit for my teammates: score goals, provide assists and win games. I'm here to give my absolute best for Bayern Munich.

"Everyone knows Bayern identity. For me, this '*Mia san mia*' means that the team always comes first. It's the togetherness that counts, not the

individual. That's what makes FC Bayern so special. I can identify with this philosophy very easily because I'm firmly convinced this is the path to success."

Mane won every club title on offer with Liverpool highlighted by the 2019 Champions League and 2020 Premier League titles. He led Senegal to the Africa Cup of Nations title this year and was two weeks ago named African Footballer of the Year for a second time.

Mane is Bayern's biggest-name summer signing along with Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt, and he scored in Bayern's 5-3 win over RB Leipzig in the German Super Cup on Saturday.

"I want to bring all my experience to the team and help make it even stronger so that together we can all achieve our goals. Nowadays, I'm an experienced player and know how to deal with this kind of pressure," he said.

Bayern's next match is the Bundesliga opener on Friday at Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt.

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

TIGER Woods was offered a package worth between \$700 million and \$800 million to compete in the LIV Golf Invitational Series, according to the competition's chief executive Greg Norman.

Woods, a 15-time major winner, has been an advocate for the PGA Tour, which has been embroiled in a tussle with the Saudi Arabia-backed breakaway league.

LIV Golf held its latest event last weekend in Bedminster, New Jersey, with Henrik Stenson - who was removed as Ryder Cup captain after deciding to join the new tour - claiming victory in his first outing.

Norman previously said that Woods had been offered a "high nine digits" sum to join LIV Golf, which has so far been unable to attract many of the world's best, though has snagged big names such as Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia and Dustin Johnson.

In an interview with Fox News with Tucker Carlson

that was broadcast on Monday in the United States, Norman confirmed that Woods had been offered in the region of \$700 million to \$800 million.

"That number was out there before I became CEO. So that number has been out there, yes," Norman said.

"And, look, Tiger is a need-mover and of course you have to look at the best of the best.

"So they had originally approached Tiger before I became CEO. So, yes, that number was somewhere in that neighbourhood."

Two-time major winner Norman has become a controversial figure within the sport, and was barred from attending the Celebration of Champions or the Champions' Dinner prior to The 150th Open Championship at St Andrews last month.

Woods failed to make the cut at that tournament, but backed the decision to disinvite Norman from the celebrations, saying: "Greg has done some things that I don't think are in the best interest of our game, and we're coming back to probably the most historic



Tiger Woods a 15-time major winner, has been an advocate for the PGA Tour, which has been embroiled in a tussle with the Saudi Arabia-backed breakaway league.

and traditional place in our sport. I believe it's the right thing."

Yet the Australian is unperturbed by any possible

damage to his reputation.

"I really don't care," said Norman, who claimed he is unaware why LIV Golf has caused such uproar.

"I just love the game so much and I want to grow the game of golf and we at LIV see that opportunity not just for the men but for the women."

Team head Al Madhahka applauds good performance

It's two-two for Qatar's team at Chess Olympiad

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

IT has been mixed fortunes for Qatar's chess stars at the 44th Chess Olympiad in Chennai, India, thus far.

On Tuesday, Qatar were upstaged in their battle on the 64 squares board by Finland in the fourth round. Earlier, Qatar had defeated Bolivia ranked No 70 in the world in the third round of the competition.

Following their loss to the 55th ranked Finnish counterparts, Qatar now have won two rounds while losing two in the 185-team event.

Qatar players International Master Husain Aziz, FIDE master Ghanim Al Sulaiti, Youssef Mohamed Al Mutawa and junior player Rayyan Erfan played against Finland's Kenanen Toivo, Sibylla Vielka, Neste Sampsa and Koika Pica.

Qatar's first win in the championship was against Papua New Guinea before they lost to Denmark in the second round by 3.5 points to half a point.

Qatar's mission to Chennai is led by head of Qatar Chess Association Mohammed Al Madhahka and also includes



A match between Qatar and Finland at the 44th Chess Olympiad being held at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, India, on Tuesday.

junior player Abdullah Al Hamid and international referee Youssef Khalil.

Meanwhile, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) will hold on Sunday its General Assembly on the sidelines of the Olympiad. It is noteworthy that Qatari former world champion and Grandmaster Zhu Chen has been serving as the Treasurer of FIDE after being elected at the previous General Assembly which took place in Georgia,

four years ago.

"Qatar is recording good performances at the Chess Olympiad. We succeeded in achieving two victories in a well-deserved manner over Papua New Guinea and Bolivia, thanks to our players who have done really well," Al Madhahka said.

"International Master Hussein Aziz, Ghanem Al Sulaiti, Youssef Mohamed Al Mutawa and Abdullah Al Hamid are doing well for Qatar.

We also presented a good confrontation against Denmark, which includes a number of grandmasters. Denmark are ranked 27 in the world.

"The Qatari presence in such a key tournament is very important for the development of our players.

"The federation is keen to participate at such events in order to raise their level of players and gain experience at various international events," he stressed.

Jota proud to sign new long-term contract with Liverpool

LONDON: Liverpool striker Diogo Jota has signed a new long-term contract, the Premier League club said on Tuesday. The 25-year-old, who joined the Reds in 2020, has committed his future to the club until 2027, the PA news agency understands. Jota has been a star since arriving from Wolverhampton Wanderers, scoring 34 goals in 85 appearances, and was key to last season's FA Cup and Carabao Cup double and run to the Champions League final. He is currently suffering a hamstring injury and will miss the season-opener against Fulham on Saturday.

"Really proud, I have to say," Jota told Liverpool's website. "Since I arrived two years ago I established myself as an important player in this team - that's what I wanted from the beginning. Now, signing a new long-term deal, it's obviously from the club's perspective proof of the belief in myself as a player. I'll be here for a while." (PA Media/DPA)



Quick read

Ajax ban signs asking for player shirts in stadium

AMSTERDAM: Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam have banned fans from bringing cardboard signs into their stadium asking players for their shirts after matches. Fan magazine Ajax Life said on Monday the club told them that a growing number of such signs had appeared at games at Johan Cruyff Arena, mostly held by children. The report said there had been too many signs lately, that players who walked by without handing over a shirt have been criticised as arrogant, and that Ajax have also deemed the cardboard signs a fire hazard. (DPA)

Alpine stunned by Alonso's Aston Martin move, unable to contact him

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

ALPINE expected Fernando Alonso to agree a new contract with the Formula One team right up until the moment his move to Aston Martin was announced, Otmar Szafnauer has revealed.

And Alpine team principal Szafnauer's attempts to subsequently get in touch with Alonso have proved unsuccessful.

Alonso has driven for Alpine since their rebrand ahead of the 2021 season, returning to Formula One after two seasons away.

The Spaniard had won world championships with Renault - the team under their previous name - back in 2005 and 2006.

Now a midfield runner, Alonso has secured only a single podium in his second stint with the French team, but his switch to Aston Martin on Monday came as somewhat of a surprise - not least to Alpine.

Alonso will replace the retiring Sebastian Vettel in 2023,

with his move the first of the mid-season break after Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

As of the end of that race, in which Alonso finished eighth, Szafnauer thought his superstar driver was returning next year.

"[The Aston Martin statement] was the first confirmation I had," the Alpine chief told Motorsport.com.

"Obviously, when we're in the paddock, there's all sorts of rumours, and I had heard rumours that Aston were interested.

"Once you hear that they're interested, there's probably discussions that took place, and there's some other indications that discussions took place, like walking out of the same motorhome at the same time, all that kind of stuff, which I saw.

"But I was confident that, even with the discussions, and there's nothing wrong with exploring, we were very close.

"So, yes, the first confirmation I had was the press release. I did ask the question [to



Alpine's French driver Esteban Ocon (L) and Spanish driver Fernando Alonso during the drivers parade ahead of the Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix at the Hungaroring in Mogyorod near Budapest, Hungary, on Sunday. (AFP)

Alonso]. And I was told: 'No, no, I haven't signed anything.' So, I was a bit surprised." Asked if he had since spoken

to Alonso, Szafnauer replied: "I haven't talked to him, since he's on a boat, I think, in the Greek Isles somewhere.

"I took this morning to address the staff. And the second thing I'm doing is talking to you. And yesterday, I fielded

Red Bull and Honda extend F1 assistance agreement until 2025

Honda will continue their technical assistance for Formula One top team Red Bull until 2025, Red Bull said on Tuesday. Honda officially withdrew as engine providers after the 2021 season but agreed to continue assisting Red Bull in an initial deal two-year until the end of the 2023 season.

The new agreement runs an additional two years until the end of the current power unit regulations - with new rules to be in place from 2026 and big speculation that Porsche could then return to F1 as Red Bull partners.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen is the world champion and season leader, and Red Bull are also on course towards their first constructors' title since 2013. "Red Bull's partnership with Honda has been an incredibly successful one and we are pleased that this will continue until the end of the current era of the FIA's power unit regulations in 2025," team principal Christian Horner said in a statement. (DPA)

a bunch of calls from other potential drivers." One obvious option is Oscar Piastri, the Alpine reserve driver who had appeared set for a year at Williams when Alonso was in line for a new contract.

However, Szafnauer faces issues on that front, too, amid claims Piastri has agreed to race instead for McLaren -

something Alpine have not agreed to.

"I'm not privy to whatever pre-arrangements he has with McLaren, if any at all," Szafnauer said, stating Alpine have "a legal contract" with Piastri for 2023.

He added: "Oscar and his camp are considering their options, whatever that means."

Message, vision, and objectives of Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation revealed

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF) has announced its message, vision and objectives and founding procedures during a press conference held at the Qatar Olympic Committee's headquarters on Tuesday.

The press conference was attended by the QCSF President Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi; QCSF Secretary-General, Rashid Saeed Adiba; QCSF board members: Dr. Salem Al Naimi, Asmaa Mohammed Al Naimi, Hamad Saleh Al Shaibah, Sheikh Khalifa bin Khaled Al Thani, Safiya Saleh Al Sheeb, Captain Hassan Muftah Al Kuwari and Major Rashid Ali Al Tamimi along with staff from higher education institutions, sport federations, QOC family staff and media.

Dr. Al Nuaimi gave the opening speech at the press conference with a message of thanks and gratitude to HH The Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for his unlimited support to the country's amazing sport movement.

The QCSF President has also appreciated the constant effort of HE the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, and QOC Secretary-



Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF) President Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi and QCSF Secretary-General Rashid Saeed Adiba address the media at the Qatar Olympic Committee headquarters on Tuesday.

General HE Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenain to high education sport activities and their immense help that made the QCSF's initiative became true.

Dr. Al Nuaimi said our message is to build up high education institutions that will play a center stage role in the sports at both regional and global levels. Our vision is to build better sport activities for students of higher education

"The QCSF is an entity acts as a complementary level to the sport activities being organized at the primary, intermediate and secondary schools throughout Schools Olympic Program"

institutions, namely, Universities, colleges, institutes in Qatar. We are leaving no stone unturned to discover the most talented students and taking our university sports to a new

level of excellence locally, regionally and internationally.

"Our key objective is to develop the sport and physical activities at the higher education institutions in a way that



Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF) Board members at the Qatar Olympic Committee headquarters on Tuesday.

could significantly strengthen the sport culture and encourage society individuals and high education students to exercise sports day in day out" said Dr. Al Nuaimi.

"The QCSF is an entity acts as a complementary level to the sport activities being organized at the primary, intermediate and secondary schools throughout Schools Olympic Program" added Dr.

Al Nuaimi.

Dr. Al Nuaimi said sport will continue playing a key role in Qatar 2030 National Vision, we aspire to see Qatar having a leading global sport status by bringing the world together throughout sustainable sport development.

"I'm truly proud to see our beloved country Qatar having a leading record in hosting the local, continental, and global

sport events" concluded Dr. Al Nuaimi.

For his part, the QCSF Secretary-General, Rashid Saeed Mohammed delivered a productive presentation on the QCSF's message, vision, objectives. He said that this pioneer federation will leave spare no effort to discover the most talented students who can support the Qatar's national teams and the sport clubs.

Bowling coach impressed with India despite loss to WI in second T20I

ANI
BASSETTERRE (ST KITTS AND NEVIS)

TEAM India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey was impressed with the performance of the bowlers despite the loss to West Indies in the second T20I at Saint Kitts and Nevis on Monday.

A destructive spell from pacer Obed McCoy (6/17) and superb half-century from Brandon King (68) powered an all-round West Indies to a five-wicket win over India.

"We did not have many runs. The idea was to get out there and pick wickets. Sometimes we give runs and that is fine. We pretty much came into the game thanks to our bowlers, the way we bowled the spinner Jadeja was good. Bhuvneshwar Kumar also bowled well. Everyone did contribute. Yes, it went down to the wire. We take a lot of positives from this game. Especially, the way we have gone about in the final five overs," said Mhambrey at the post match press conference.



India bowler Arshdeep Singh celebrates the dismissal of Rovman Powell of West Indies during the second T20I at Warner Park in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on Monday. (AFP)

The bowling coach was all praises for the young bowling attack comprising of the likes of Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh. "This is a young attack

we have right now. I am happy with the potential they have shown in the games as of late, the thought process they have shown and the ability to bear pressure as well. We are going to try different things and players. Bumrah and Shami are missing out. But I look at it as an opportunity for others to prove themselves and give the captain an option going ahead," he said.

Mhambrey said that he has been following Arshdeep Singh for a long time since IPL and was impressed by his ability to handle pressure and bowl crucial overs in the powerplay and at death.

"The composure he has

shown is fantastic," he added.

Mhambrey is happy that the team has a lot of options in bowling heading into the T20 World Cup, which will start in Australia from October onwards.

"The idea is to look at the different options that we have, give youngsters an opportunity. More options we have going ahead, easier it will be for us to plan. It is good that we have a lot of options. We have seasoned bowlers like Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar. But we will have to look for other bowlers, put them into pressure situations and see how they react. If we have more options, it will be better for us. If in case

something happens in future, we know we have options that can fill in," he added.

The five-match T20I series between West Indies and India is currently level at 1-1.

West Indies made a comeback in the second T20I, dismissing India for just 138.

Hardik Pandya (31), Ravindra Jadeja (27) and Rishabh Pant (24) played some decent knocks for India.

Chasing 139, West Indies were 3/83 in 12.3 overs at one point but a half-century from Brandon King (68) and Devon Thomas (31*) took the hosts to a series-levelling win.

We didn't apply ourselves: Skipper Rohit
Indian skipper Rohit Sharma said that the pitch was playing nicely but batters did not apply themselves.

"Firstly, there were not enough runs on the board. We did not bat well. The pitch was playing nicely but we did not apply ourselves. But this can happen. When you are doing something as a batting group, you might not always succeed. But we will learn from this. It is all about giving opportunities to these guys. [On the last over] We know what Bhuvni does for us; he has been doing it for years. Unless you give chances to guys like Avesh and Arshdeep you will never know," said the Indian skipper in a post-match presentation.

"But it is just one game. They have the skills and the talent and it is all about backing them. I am really proud of the bowlers and the team."

Pakistan set to host England for first time in 17 years

ANI
KARACHI

ENGLAND will play seven T20I matches against Pakistan at Karachi and Lahore for their first time in the country in 17 years.

The National Stadium will host the matches on 20, 22, 23, and 25 September, before the action will shift to the cricket headquarters at the Gaddafi Stadium where the remaining three matches will be played on 28 and 30 September and 2 October. All matches will start at 19:30 PKT.

The seven T20Is will be part of the first leg of England's tour of Pakistan and they will return after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Australia 2022 for three Tests in December.

The T20I series against the second-ranked side will launch Pakistan's bumper international season. Following the September and December matches against England, Pakistan will host New Zealand twice - first for two Tests and three ODIs in December/January and then in April for five ODIs and five T20Is - West Indies for three T20Is in late January and finally the 50-over ACC Asia Cup.

Complete schedule of England Test series as well as New Zealand and the West Indies series will be announced in due course.

Apart from five Tests, eight ODIs and 15 T20Is in the 2022-23 season, Pakistan will also stage 187 men's domestic matches in six senior competitions, 33 HBL Pakistan Super League 2023 fixtures and 19 Pakistan Junior League 2022 games.

Zakir Khan, PCB Director International Cricket said in a

statement: "We are absolutely delighted to confirm hosting England for seven T20Is in Karachi and Lahore as a curtain-raiser to a busy, entertaining and exciting season of home internationals. England is one of the top-ranked T20I teams and them playing the shortest format in the lead up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Pakistan will not only help the team management to finalise their preparations, but will also set the tone for December's three-Test series."

"We demonstrated our event planning and operational skills in the highly-successful series against Australia in March/April and I am confident we will be able to replicate these when England visit us for the first time since 2005. We have been able to confirm schedule of the T20Is following a successful tour by the England and Wales Cricket Board recee team, which was pleased and satisfied with all our arrangements." "I am confident that the cricket fans, like they did in the series against Australia, will turn up in big numbers to support both the sides and also make our Diamond Jubilee celebration year an unforgettable one."

Rob Key, ECB Managing Director England Men's Cricket, said: "We are looking forward to returning to Pakistan and playing these seven T20Is as the team builds up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. "We have been liaising closely with the PCB over arrangements for this visit and the Tests later in the year, and will continue to work closely with the PCB, British High Commission and other relevant authorities as we continue to prepare for these tours."



Obed McCoy of West Indies during the second T20I against India at Warner Park in Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on Monday. (AFP)

McCoy dedicates 'Man of the Match' award to his mother

ANI
BASSETTERRE (ST KITTS AND NEVIS)

FOLLOWING his match-winning spell against India in the second T20I, West Indies pacer Obed McCoy dedicated his Man of the Match award to his mother.

A destructive spell from pacer Obed McCoy (6/17) and superb half-century from Brandon King (68) powered an all-round West Indies to a five-wicket win over India in the second T20I of five-match series on Monday.

"This is for my mom. She is sick and she has motivated me to be a better player. The first ball wicket put pressure on the batsmen. I always look for wickets in the powerplay. I went in with a clean mind. In the previous game I was overthinking a bit. It gives me a challenge and I am just thankful for all the experiences and the challenges," said McCoy at the post-match presentation.

McCoy won the 'Man of the Match' award for his match-winning spell.

Much-anticipated India-Pak Asia Cup clash on Aug 28

ANI
NEW DELHI

September 3.

The final of the event will take place on September 11 this year.

"The wait is finally over as the battle for Asian supremacy commences on 27th August with the all-important final on 11th September. The 15th edition of the Asia Cup will serve as ideal preparation ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup," tweeted BCCI Secretary and President of Asian Cricket Council, Jay Shah.

THE much-anticipated Asia Cup cricket tournament will take place from August 27 onwards this year.

The tournament will start with a match between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan on August 27. The high-octane clash between India and Pakistan will take place on the following day. The Super-four phase of the tournament will start from

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced in late July that the much-anticipated Asia Cup 2022 will take place in UAE instead of Sri Lanka on account of the prevailing situation in the island nation.

India has not announced its squad for Asia Cup 2022 yet.

The previous edition of the tournament was held in 2018 and was won by India, its seventh title. They had defeated Bangladesh by three wickets in the final.

MATCH	DAY	DATE	TEAMS	GROUP	VENUE	TIME (EST)
1	Saturday	25-Aug	Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan	B	Dubai	18:00
2	Sunday	28-Aug	India vs Pakistan	A	Dubai	18:00
3	Tuesday	30-Aug	Bangladesh vs Afghanistan	B	Sharjah	18:00
4	Wednesday	31-Aug	India vs Qualifier A	A	Dubai	18:00
5	Thursday	1-Sep	Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh	B	Dubai	18:00
6	Friday	2-Sep	Pakistan vs Qualifier B	A	Sharjah	18:00
7	Saturday	3-Sep	BI vs B2	Super 4	Sharjah	18:00
8	Sunday	4-Sep	A1 vs A2	Super 4	Dubai	18:00
9	Tuesday	6-Sep	A1 vs B1	Super 4	Dubai	18:00
10	Wednesday	7-Sep	A2 vs B2	Super 4	Dubai	18:00
11	Thursday	8-Sep	A1 vs B2	Super 4	Dubai	18:00
12	Friday	9-Sep	B1 vs A2	Super 4	Dubai	18:00
13	Sunday	11-Sep	Final	Final	Dubai	18:00
			1st Super 4 vs 2nd Super 4			